

DEEP IN SCRIPTURE

Verses & Notes December 26, 2007

Philippians 3:2-17

- 4: Though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also.
If any other man thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:
- 5: circumcised on the eighth day,
 of the people of Israel,
 of the tribe of Benjamin,
 a Hebrew born of Hebrews;
 as to the law a Pharisee,
- 6: as to zeal a persecutor of the church,
 as to righteousness under the law blameless.
- 7: But whatever gain I had,
 I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.
- 8: Indeed I count everything as loss
 because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
 For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse,
 in order that I may gain Christ
- 9: and be found in him,
 not having a righteousness of my own, based on law,
 but that which is through faith in Christ,
 the righteousness from God that depends on faith;
- 10: that I may know him and the power of his resurrection,
 and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,
- 11: that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
- 12: Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect;
 but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.
- 13: Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own;
 but one thing I do,
 forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
- 14: I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- 15: Let those of us who are mature be thus minded;
 and if in anything you are otherwise minded, God will reveal that also to you.
- 16: Only let us hold true to what we have attained.
- 17: Brethren, join in imitating me, and mark those who so live as you have an example in us.

Introduction:

*T'is the day after Christmas and all through the house
not a creature is stirring not even my spouse;
We spent all of yesterday opening gifts,
and eating and giving each other the fits;
The wrappings and boxes are piled over there,
I'll get to them when I get up off my [you know what ;-)].
But for now I'll just sip my first cup of coffee
And think of how blessed we all are 'cause of He.
Then I heard her exclaim as she came down the stairs,
Come on let's clean up! My mother is here!*

Discussion:

- Day after Christmas...the “time in between”
- Lexio Divina
- In Philippians, St. Paul gives us a personal glimpse into his own self-examination, as a model for us;

(1) He encourages us to follow his example:

15: *Let those of us who are mature be thus minded;
and if in anything you are otherwise minded, God will reveal that also to you.*
16: *Only let us hold true to what we have attained.*
17: *Brethren, join in imitating me, and mark those who so live as you have an example in us.*

(2) He begins by examining the “false gods” upon which he had built his hope before Christ;

4: *Though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also.
If any other man thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:*
5: *circumcised on the eighth day,
of the people of Israel,
of the tribe of Benjamin,
a Hebrew born of Hebrews;
as to the law a Pharisee,*
6: *as to zeal a persecutor of the church,
as to righteousness under the law blameless.*

(3) He evaluates this in relation to Jesus Christ;

7: *But whatever gain I had,
I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.*
8: *Indeed I count everything as loss
because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*

(4) He recognizes what his hope / his goals should be in Christ;

*For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse,
in order that I may gain Christ*
9: *and be found in him,
not having a righteousness of my own, based on law,
but that which is through faith in Christ,
the righteousness from God that depends on faith;*
10: *that I may know him and the power of his resurrection,
and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,*
11: *that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

(5) He performs a second examination: where does he stand?

12: *Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect;*

(6) What now is his plan of action?

12: *Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect;
but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.*
13: *Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own;
but one thing I do,
forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

▪ **What should be our plan of action for the coming year?**

- “Prayer, almsgiving, and fasting” (Mt 6:1-21)
- Lexio Divina:
 - “Read the Bible and Catechism in a Year”
 - “Liturgy of the Hours”

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- **Simplified Daily Office:**
 - Bible, set of multiple-ribbon marker (pref. 8) or bookmarks, and a pencil
 - Set ribbons or markers:
 - Psalm 95
 - Psalms
 - Old Testament
 - NT Epistle
 - Gospel
 - Luke 1: “Benedictus (67-80) and “Magnificat (46-55)
 - Each time of prayer:
 - Open with quiet;
 - Sign of the Cross and litanies, prayers;
 - Traditionally end each reading with the recitation of the *Glory BE*.
 - Ps 95 is traditional psalm for Invitatory for Morning Prayer
 - Read & meditate on Ps, OT, NT, and Gospel, marking with pencil where you stop; You can follow the *Read the Bible in a Year Guide*, or just start wherever you’d like: i.e., Psalm 1, Genesis 1, Acts 1, and Matthew 1. You chose how much to read of each section depending upon your available time.
 - Finish with Benedictus or Magnificat
 - Petitions: ACTS = Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, supplications)
 - End with Sign of the Cross.
- If you have any questions about any of this, please don’t hesitate to contact us:
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