

## **DEVOTED March 22, 2020**

God is good and His mercies endure forever. He's good all the time and His mercies endure for ever. Circumstances change; situations unfold – but our God is the same: yesterday, today and tomorrow – forever. News and reports keep changing, but the Word of our God stands firm, eternally. There are some things everyone needs to know and the biggest truth to grapple with and grasp is just how precious every soul is to God. He loves you, with an everlasting love – it's not dependent on who you are or what you do; He loves you. You are precious to Him and He's done everything He can to bring you to Himself; to connect you not only to eternal life one day! But to walk with Him and share His love one with another.

Things are looking a little different for us; bringing this devotion to you on online is new for us; new for a lot of people. We haven't walked this way – not many have. There are some things we don't know – and that's not unusual but what we must do is hold to what is true – not for our sake alone, but for the sake of others also, for God's sake!

The Bible says He commands a blessing when people work together – there's an agreement, a little word called 'accord' – people making good choices together – there's a greater word called 'concord' and this is where hearts and minds have met – for a purpose much greater than any individual; where hearts and minds have met to fulfil the purposes of God. Psalm 133, Philippians 2:1-11.

There are nations in our world that do not have the privilege to meet together corporately; although we yearn for that time again – to be with each other face to face – for a time, we need to meet in much smaller groups. The early church met in larger gatherings and in homes. They met publicly and privately.

Key verses for us today you'll find in Acts 2:42-47 and in particular v46-47:

*“<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” NIV*

This crew were trusting God and praising God – spending time together and you see a gladness in there, even a joy – glad hearts, sincere hearts; an authentic time, an organic time, a rich time; enjoying a time of favour and seeing God adding believers on a daily basis. We've got a beautiful opportunity right now – to shine; a powerful opportunity to stir each other for good; a super healthy opportunity to encourage each other.

Hebrews 10:19-24:

*“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ...” NIV*

*Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.* Each week we'll be bringing a devotion to you – we trust it will bring hope and build your life; help you with certain truths in a time when many things appear uncertain. We'll be in communication through social media and with any platform we can – to keep you updated but more than that, we know God wants you to prosper at any time; we know that God wants you strong; we know that God wants you not just saved but safe; we know that God is for you – whoever is hearing this today – God is for you.

Can you already see the sense and the good that God is doing? What at first might appear as adverse or perplexing ... from Romans 8:28: *"... we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."*

We can have 50:20 vision as from Genesis: Joseph had worked through some things and come to this conclusion: *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish **what is now being done**, the saving of many lives.*

May the love of God, His peace, the life and hope we have in Jesus Christ rest upon you powerfully; and be yours in abundance. (See) Jude 24-25

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**If you have never given your life to Christ**, you may consider these verses: John 3:3, John 3:16, Romans 7:7, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 10:9-10.

It is God's heart that no one be lost eternally; it is His intention that everyone comes to know Christ and the life He designed for us. While sin drove a distance between the presence of God and mankind, Jesus closed that gap and in doing so created a bridge to life. A simple prayer ignites the connection and if you will come to Him today, He will not refuse you.



*'God, I know I've done life my own way; I know I've done wrong; I believe Jesus came; I believe He died for my sin; I believe He rose again and in doing so made a way for me to come to You. I am sorry for what I've done, and I know I need to change, please forgive me. I ask you Jesus to be my Saviour and I give my life to you, that you would also be my Lord, to help and guide me in every step. I receive Your love and Your forgiveness; I receive Christ and thank You for receiving me; I pray in Jesus' Almighty name.'*

If that's the first time you have prayed that prayer, it would be our privilege to help you in what will be the best journey you've ever taken and Christ Himself promises never to leave you. We have a small booklet which can help you in case we never meet face to face. John 1:12 says 'to as many as received Him (Jesus), to as many as believed on His Name (the name of Jesus), he gave the power to be children of God.' God has done everything possible; we but believe and respond.

If there be anyone who have walked away from Christ, He waits. Repentance means re-turning; turning again to God; receive His forgiveness and love afresh; His mercies are new every morning and He is not willing that any should perish; He is patient, but/and the best of life is with Him.