



BARNES *on the Bay*

March 28, 2022

The Importance of Sharing Christ

SCRIPTURAL MEDITATION: 1 John 1:3

“[T]hat which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT: The Importance of Sharing Christ

The Apostle John makes an important statement about sharing what he knows to be true and what he experienced because of that knowledge. Such firsthand declarations provide readers with additional assurance of Scripture’s truthfulness because it comes from those who were present to see, hear, and witness Jesus’ person and ministry. They testify of what they know because they shared in the events through practical living.

Based on what he knows, John’s invitation is that others come within the fellowship of those who share that knowledge. But the connection does not exist only among a group of people; it is a fellowship gathering in the presence of the Father and Jesus! What greater community can there be than personally knowing and being in the presence of the Lord God Himself and His precious Son? John testifies and asks others to come within that fellowship. It’s a gospel call, the subject matter of which follows our devotional passage. What a great invitation, and what a wonderful company with whom to gather!

There are two applications to consider here. First, everyone needs to be within this fellowship of believers. Are you? Have you received Christ through the message of the gospel? John has provided the invitation for you, and the Lord Jesus would have you come to Him. The Scriptures end with this great invitation. “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17). This is an invitation for everyone to join within the fellowship of believers!

The second application concerns sharing our knowledge of Christ with others. Just as John shares what he knows and has experienced, we should do the same. This is not something for just a few; it is a universal privilege and responsibility. And the great news is that Christ promises not to refuse any who come to Him (John 6:37). Therefore, we have the opportunity to see lives changed by simply sharing Jesus with them. What do you share? Follow John’s example and share what you have seen and heard. By knowing the Lord personally, you have something personal to share about what you know of Jesus and what He has done in your life.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

As each day goes by, pray and look for opportunities to share what Jesus has done in your life. God often gives teachable moments, times where an event or conversation can be the opening to bless others with our knowledge of Christ. Jesus can bring hope, love, and peace to those who will come to Him. Let's share what we know and have experienced in Christ so others might follow this pathway with us. Great will be our fellowship together!

PRAYER THOUGHT

"Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between his will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer." -*Elisabeth Elliot*

Beyond the Devotion

We received good comments about last week's "Beyond the Devotion." We will continue this allowing us to reflect on similar Scriptures that concern the devotional theme for the week. Thank you for your responses. We're always glad to receive your feedback!

MONDAY: 1 Peter 3:15, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;"

TUESDAY: Daniel 12:3, "Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever."

WEDNESDAY: Mark 16:15, "And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

THURSDAY: Isaiah 43:10, "You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me."

FRIDAY: Romans 10:14-15, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!'"

SATURDAY: Colossians 1:28, "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

SUNDAY: Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."