

“EMBRACING THE PAST”: LETTING SCRIPTURE SHAPE US

Second Presbyterian Church, Norfolk

January 29, 2012

Certain Bible verses stand out to Christians, because they remind us of who God is, who we are, how we should live, and why faith matters.

The following verses are arranged in a manner that is intended to be logical:

--First, we focus on who God is. God is to be trusted. God cares for us.

--Second, we recognize that frequently we don't rely on God. We are separated from God.

--Third, we know that we are forgiven. We are loved by God. God always wants us first to recognize that love and then to respond with our lives in a way that shows our thanks.

--We respond with thanks and prayer, we respond by turning our lives to God, and we respond by treating others in new, loving, and forgiving ways.

RELY ON GOD / TRUST GOD

“For I know the plans I have for you” say the Lord, “plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” --Jeremiah 29:11

“For the Lord is good, and His love is eternal; His faithfulness endures through all generations.” --Psalm 100:5

“Cast your cares on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.” --Psalm 55:22 (NIV)

RECOGNIZING OUR SIN AND SEPARATION FROM GOD

“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”
--Mark 8:36

“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”
--Jeremiah 2:13

KNOWING THAT WE ARE FORGIVEN

“For God so loved the world that he gave His only son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.” --John 3:16

“What shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” --Romans 8:35, 37

RESPONDING WITH THANKS AND PRAYER

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” --Psalm 118:24

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” –Matthew 5:16

“Don’t worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God.” –Philippians 4:6

TURNING OUR LIFE TO GOD

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.” –Matthew 6:33

“Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship.” –Romans 12:1

“Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” –Romans 12:2

HOW WE SHOULD TREAT OTHERS

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” –Luke 6:31

“But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.” –James 1:22

“Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” –1 Peter 4:8-10

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”
–1 Corinthians 12:7

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”
–1 Corinthians 13:4-7

“Go teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”
–Matthew 28:19-20

In your life, as you come to read, rely on, and even memorize scripture, also remember the Lord’s Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and Psalm 23.
More importantly, find passages of scripture that personally speak to you and your hopes.