



The Monthly Beacon

"When Jesus spoke to the people again, He said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- John 8:12

Welcome

It has been years in the making and God has given me both the power and the inspiration to move forward in sharing Christ's gospel. Each month you will be presented with articles that awaken your spirit and encourage your faith. I also look forward to sharing the stories of other believers and events that impact our faith and our world. I can think of no better way to kick off this first edition than with the recognition of Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

Although Lent is not a biblical holiday it can be a season of sacrifice and an opportunity of development and growth. Through the practice of sacrifice, repentance, reflection and renewal, prayer and meditation we can grow closer to God. It is also a time of inspiration whereby you sense God's presence all around. It is a time of spiritual renewal and ongoing growth in you faith walk. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship (Romans 12:1)."

Sacrifice

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2:4

What takes first place in your life: your family, your career, your goals? All can be hindrances to a committed relationship with God. Sacrifice is about selflessness, seeking the will and the needs of others and putting others above selfish desires. Primarily it is about ridding yourself of overindulgence with a focus on the widows, orphans, the poor, and the most vulnerable people in our world and sharing the love of Christ to everyone you encounter. It is a natural expression of Christian service.





Repentance, Renewal and Reflection

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” Hebrews 12:1

Confession must never be devalued. Our lives as Christians are to be lived out loud withholding nothing that prohibits an open and honest relationship with God. Sin entangles and separates us from God but not only God it minimizes our witness to others. Sin is a snare but confession is liberating. Operating in such freedom brings light and clarity into our lives.

Prayer

“In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.” Psalm 5:3

God wants to hear from you and we do this through prayer. It is one of the most powerful weapons we have and it is what God commanded us to do. James 5:16 attests that the “effectual fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much”. It is a prayer of intensity, of feeling, of enthusiasm; it is a plea, a burning desire. And it comes from one who has confidence in the One whom he or she is praying too. But don’t forget James says a “prayer of the righteous” which are those whose conduct is ethical and morally upright. This is the kind of prayer that produces results and encourages our faith.

So during this time of Lent, seek to know God in a more intimate way and give yourself over to this time of self-discipline as you grow in the wisdom and knowledge of Christ.