

Thoughts & Prayers

June 28, 2017

Prayer of the Day

Lord of all power and might, you are the author and giver of all good things. Graft into our hearts a love of your name. Increase in us true faith, nourish us with what is good, and watch over all who are in your care. Grant this, we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Gelasian Sacramentary, 7th Century)

Prayer Concerns

Bill Pope, Jim Henderson, and Janet Wooten

All care givers.

The Common Thread

We are not divorced from keeping the law. Every one of God's righteous rules endures forever. The Ten Commandments remain in Scripture and we are to follow them. They are for our good and our guidance. The law, however, cannot condemn those who have faith in Jesus who fulfilled the law for us. Nevertheless, we are called to live in the Spirit at a higher level, bearing fruit for God. When we are obedient to Christ we take up our cross and lives worthy of him.

First Reading - Jeremiah 28:5-9

Oh! if only the peace prophets were right. Jeremiah responds to Hananiah's prophecy with an enthusiastic "Amen!" May it be as you say, Hananiah; but it will not be as you say. We are right to hope for peace; we are wrong to lead people astray by saying there is "peace when there is no peace" (Ezek 13:10).

Second Reading - Romans 7:1-13

The law is good and useful, so long as one is alive. When a man breaks the law by speeding in his car, then crashes into a tree and dies, the officer upon arriving, would never give the dead man a speeding ticket. As soon one is dead, the law has no use for a person. We have been crucified with Christ (Gal 2:20), so the law man cannot give us a ticket any longer. The law, now that we are alive to Christ (Rom 6:11), is still profitable for teaching us what is wrong, and how to live rightly. Yet, we are now released from the written law code so that we may live in the new way—the way of the Spirit (Rom 7:6).

Gospel - Matthew 10:34-42

We seek the peace of Christ, so it is surprising to hear Jesus say he did not come to earth to bring peace. Zechariah in Luke 1:79 say about Jesus "guide our feet into the way of peace"? Yet here, Jesus says he did not come to bring peace. Worse, he says that he came to bring a sword. Jesus must be speaking metaphorically, for he has brought us peace, though certainly not the absence of troubles. For example, taking up one's cross can lead to many things. When Jesus took up the cross on the way to Calvary, great violence was at the end of that journey. As obedient disciples who take up our crosses, we find the peace of Christ that over comes all fear making us steadfast in our faith in the face of all adversity.

Adapted from Sola on-line worship resource