

TELOS

Telos (Greek): def.: striving for a goal, completing your purpose . It means achieving maturity, and undivided wholeness in a person's behavior. For the Christian it means becoming like Jesus.

"We proclaim Christ, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ"

Col. 1:28

Volume 9 Number 5

Truthview Alliance Church

Testimony of Thanksgiving *Psalm 107*

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever."

This week my prayer is that we focus on God's awesome love and grace. Let's get back to the basics of our faith and rejoice in our salvation. Our lives are so busy these days and there are so many distractions that we lose sight of our first love.

I've thought a lot about Peter this week. You know, the time when he was all excited to see Jesus on the lake and he jumped out of the boat to greet him. After he jumps out, he gets distracted by all that's going on around him. He stops watching Jesus and sinks. Sound familiar? In fact, I sometimes think the waves that distracted Peter represent the things that we enjoy. Look at Psalm 107. It was the enemies, starvation, aimlessness, depression, bitter labor, affliction, illness etc. that caused them to find God and in turn, praise Him. Somehow in the darkest times- when we feel barren, and stripped of all we want- we begin to experience God's goodness. When we are spoiled, we become unappreciative and begin to demand more and our focus shifts.

Let's each take a look at our lives. Where have you been? What has God delivered you from? Are you still thankful? Where are you now? Are you rejoicing in God's redemptive love? Are you angry with someone? Is there too much happening in your life that you can't even see Jesus anymore? Are you praising or sinking?

Where are you going? Do you have a spot on the horizon picked out to sail toward? Or are you wandering in the desert aimlessly complaining about God's provision of manna?

Celebration of
Community

This week let's truly seek to lift our faces to Jesus. Let's petition Him to light our hearts' fires again. Let's sing and make music in our hearts to the Lord. Let's thank Him and praise Him because His love endures forever.

Memory Verse:

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
Colossians 3:16&17*

DAILY BIBLE STUDY

Monday

Read Psalm 107:1-16

The Message

1 Oh, thank God – He's so good! His love never runs out. 2 All of you set free by God, tell the world! Tell how He freed you from oppression, 3 Then rounded from all over the place, from the four winds, from the seven seas. 4 Some of you wandered for years in the desert, looking but not finding a good place to live, 5 Half-starved and parched with thirst, staggering and stumbling, on the brink of exhaustion. 6 Then, in your desperate condition, you called out to God. He got you out in the nick of time; 7 He put your feet on a wonderful road that took you straight to a good place to live. 8 So thank God for His marvelous love, for his miracle mercy to the children he loves. 9 He poured great draughts of water down parched throats; the starved and hungry got plenty to eat. 10 Some of you were locked in a dark cell, cruelly confined behind bars, 11 Punished for defying God's Word, for turning your back on the High God's council - 12 A hard sentence, and your hearts so heavy, and not a soul in sight to help. 13 Then you called out to God in your desperate condition; he got you out in the nick of time.

NIV

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good his love endures forever. 2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say this - those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, 3 those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south. 4 Some wandered in the desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. 5 They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. 6 Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. 7 He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle. 8 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, 9 for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. 10 Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom, prisoners suffering in iron chains, 11 for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the council of the Most High. 12 So he subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help. 13 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

14 He led you out of your dark, dark cell, broke open the jail and led you out. 15 So thank God for his marvelous love, for his miracle mercy to the children he loves; 16 He shattered the heavy jail-house doors, he snapped the prison bars like matchsticks!

14 He brought them out of the darkness and the deepest gloom and broke away their chains. 15 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, 16 for he breaks down the gates of bronze and cuts through the bars of iron.

1. Usually when we suffer we tend to focus on the things happening to us. We get angry at God and allow bitterness and complaining to take over. When we become complainers we are like the Israelites who wandered in the desert for 40 years (verses 2 & 3). How do we get rid of bitterness in our hearts (verses 6 & 8)?

2. When we become depressed because of our sins how do we become free?

3. Read Ephesians 4:17-19

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

When we harden our hearts due to selfish thinking (futile thinking) we become full of bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander and malice. How are we to get rid of these things (vs. 32)?

Prayer

Lord, please keep my heart soft when things are not going the way I think they should. Help me to decrease the effect of sin in my life by giving thanks to you for your unfailing love. Help me to then treat others with the love you have shown to me.

Tuesday

Read Psalm 107:17-32

1. According to verses 17-19, why do some people suffer and how do we end the

The Message

17 Some of you were sick because you'd lived a bad life, your bodies feeling the effects of your sin; 18 You couldn't stand the sight of food, so miserable you thought you'd be better off dead. 19 Then you called out to God in your desperate condition; he got you out in the nick of time. 20 He spoke the word that healed you, that pulled you back from the brink of death. 21 So thank God for his marvelous love, for his miracle mercy to the children he loves; 22 Offer thanksgiving sacrifices, tell the world what he's done – sing it out! 23 Some of you set sail in big ships; you put to sea to do business in faraway ports. 24 Out at sea you saw God in action, saw his breathtaking ways with the ocean: 25 With a word he called up the wind – an ocean storm, towering waves! 26 You shot high in the sky, then the bottom dropped out; your hearts were stuck in your throats. 27 You were spun like a top, you reeled like drunk, you didn't know which end was up. 28 Then you called out to God in your desperate condition; he got you out in the nick of time. 29 He quieted the wind down to a whisper, put a muzzle on all the big waves. 30 And you were so glad when the storm died down, and he led you safely back to harbor. 31 So thank God for his marvelous love, for his miracle mercy to the children he loves. 32 Lift high your praises when the people assemble, shout Hallelujah when the elders meet.

NIV

17 Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities. 18 They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death. 19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. 20 He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. 21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. 22 Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy. 23 Others went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. 24 They saw the works of the Lord, his wonderful deeds in the deep. 25 For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. 26 They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depth; in their peril their courage melted away. 27 They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their wits' end. 28 Then they cried out to the Lord in distress. 29 He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. 30 They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven, 31 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. 32 Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.

suffering?

2. James 1:14-16 says:
¹⁴ but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. ¹⁶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

So we are tempted because there is sin in our hearts and the actions will eventually follow. According to Psalm 107:19-22, what are some ways that we can overcome the temptations in our lives?

3. When you read verses 23-32, what are some thoughts the Lord places on your heart? Are there areas of your life where you need to cry out for deliverance?

Prayer

Lord please show me the sins in my heart that tempt me away from you. Please help me to turn away from these things and walk in obedience to you; then I will know the peace that comes from a right relationship with You

Wednesday

Read Psalm 107:33-43

The Message

33 God turned rivers into wasteland, springs of water into sunbaked mud; 34 Luscious orchards became alkali flats because of the evil of the people who lived there. 35 Then he changed wasteland into fresh pools of water, arid earth into springs of water, 36 Brought in the hungry and settled them there; they moved in – what a great place to live! 37 They sowed the fields, they planted vineyards, they reaped a bountiful harvest. 38 He blessed them and they

NIV

33 He turned rivers into a desert, flowing spring into thirsty ground. 34 and fruitful land into a salt waste, because of the wickedness of those who lived there. 35 He turned the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into flowing springs; 36 there he brought the hungry to live, and they founded a city where they could settle. 37 They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest; 38 he blessed them, and their numbers

3. How do these passages relate to the things we studied in Psalm 107 earlier this week?

Prayer: Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

“It is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Make me an instrument of your peace.
I want to know what it’s like to follow you.
When men look at me,
I want them to see the light of the world inside.”

Friday

Read I Thessalonians 5:12-24

¹² Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you ¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. ¹⁶ Be joyful always; ¹⁷ pray continually; ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not put out the Spirit’s fire; ²⁰ do not treat prophecies with contempt. ²¹ Test everything. Hold on to the good. ²² Avoid every kind of evil. ²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

1. What are some ways we can keep our focus on Jesus and keep blameless until his return?

2. a) Verses 16-18: What is God's will for your life?

b) How do you keep from putting out the Spirit's fire?

3. How does this passage relate to the passages studied earlier this week?

4. a) What are some areas in your life that God is speaking to you about?

b) Verses 23-24: How are these things going to be changed?

Prayer

Lord help me to live the way you encourage me to live in 1 Thessalonians 5. I realize that even as a Christian I turn and make life about myself. I am sorry. This leads to sin and hardness of heart. Help me to be thankful. Amen.

This week's writer:



Stacey Grose

Please spend time praying for the Pastor as he prepares to preach this Sunday.

⇒ If you have any comments or questions about TELOS please direct them to Pastor Ken at the church office:
phone: 773-4433 or email: ken.trailview@sasktel.net

The mission of TELOS is to help you develop the beliefs, practices and virtues of a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. TELOS is one component of our strategy at Trailview of living out our call to become a "community of servants who live to fulfill the Great Commission.

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, Copyright 1973, 1978, International Bible Society.

Memory Verse:

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Colossians 3:16&17***