

**Devotions – March 13-19, 2016**

By Dave Mason

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Escanaba, MI

**Sunday, March 13, 2016**

Text: Philippians 1:19-20

**For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death.**

Even though we as Christians are familiar with the Gospel, we are reluctant to share our faith. I have talked with some at Bible study. They are afraid because they feel they do not know enough to explain things. Our actions will truly show the Gospel, our personal lives reflect the Gospel.

Let us pray: *Heavenly Father, help me to be a proclaimer of the Gospel in the way my life and actions show. Amen*



**Monday March 14, 2016**

Text: John 16:23-24

**On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.**

What do we desire? In this complex world there are so many things that are pulling at us. If we are not sure what is utmost in our lives, things surely will go awry. When asking, seek what the Holy Spirit is directing us to do and what to ask for.

Let us pray: *Holy Father, sometimes I may go astray. Guide me in the way to go and know what you would have me ask for. Amen.*



**Tuesday March 15, 2016**

Text: Deuteronomy 10:12-13

**So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and His decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being.**

Do we walk the walk or do we just talk? We need to know that God keeps every promise and His promises lead to blessings. Keep the faith. His hand is extended, all we have to do is take hold of that hand and He will lead us in the right direction.

Let us pray: *O Lord this day, I pray for your direction. Take my hand, lead me home. Amen*



**Wednesday March 16, 2016**

Text: Matthew 5:14-16

**You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.**

Let us pray: *May our lights shine brightly. We may be the only light others may see. This is our witness. Amen.*



**Thursday March 17, 2016**

Text: 1Timothy 6:17-19

**As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasures of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.**

Stewardship is always on the mind of our congregations. My family is not rich monetarily but the blessings of the spirit have been fantastic. The one phrase that stands out in my mind is that "you can never out give the Lord".

Let us pray: *The riches that we have stored up are the riches that you have blessed us with. Thank you, Lord. Amen.*



**Friday March 18, 2016**

Text: Philippians 2:7-9

**...but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on the cross.**

It is a thrill to be busy in the Lord. What is our motivation? Are we doing it to be seen by others and wanting the recognition or are we doing it because the Lord has blessed us and loves us so much that we serve willingly. What a blessing it is to serve!

Let us pray: *Open our eyes to see where we can serve you, Lord, and help us to do so with joy. Amen.*



**Saturday March 19, 2016**

Text: Acts 6:4

**...while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.**

As we end another week, let us ask ourselves the question, “Am I serving God the way He wants me to? Are we doing all He asks?” There is so much to do and our time on this earth is so limited. I thank you for every day You have given me. My prayer every morning when I wake up is to thank God for a new day and to ask what and where do you want me to serve today?

Let us pray: *Precious Lord, may we give thanks for all the blessings and opportunities to serve you. Help us to listen to your voice and to do you will. Amen*

