

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Third Sunday in Advent – December 13, 2020

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16–22 -

I first paid close attention to these words of St. Paul when I was about 20 years old and was reading the holocaust account of Dutch author, Corrie Ten Boom, called, “The Hiding Place.” She and her family were watchmakers in Holland during WWII. Passionate, caring Christians that they were, they saw what atrocities were being enacted on the Jewish people and they took great risk to hide many Jews above their watch shop, and moved them to safety in other countries.

Eventually the Nazis figured out what the Ten Boom family was up to and arrested Corrie, her sister Betsy, and their father. They were sent to a concentration camp. Throughout, these verses of Scripture would come up in their study together. Corrie would ask her sister, “Give thanks in ALL circumstances?” And Betsy would answer, “Yes, Corrie, in ALL circumstances.” Corrie didn’t like that answer much, but eventually she would come to see God acting in ways that she never could have imagined.

One of those ways was how Corrie was able to smuggle a small Bible into the camp. It hung around her neck on a string. She was scared they would find it and she would be further punished for carrying such contraband. The guards frisked the woman in front of her, then the woman behind her in the line of prisoners, but somehow, miraculously, no one touched her. The Bible made it safely into the camp.

It was this Bible the sisters used to teach other prisoners, both Jews and Gentiles, about Christ. Each day they would huddle around the small volume and read with the sisters commenting on each text. Many came to Christ through these study sessions. The barracks where they taught were infested with fleas, which made life even more uncomfortable. Corrie questioned these conditions repeatedly, but Betsy always reminded her, “Give thanks in ALL circumstances.” Those fleas prevented the guards from entering the barracks. If they had, there would have been no Bible and no studies. God used fleas so that his holy Word could be heard!

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NEW! Livestreaming Service

Bible Lutheran is now livestreaming the 10am worship service every week.

This allows those who cannot come to the building to participate in the service in “real time” by accessing a video livestream through a link on the website. The service is also recorded and posted on the website (worship page) for viewing at any time.

www.biblelutheranchurch.org

The Sunday bulletin and children’s bulletin are posted on the website each week and can be downloaded and printed out.

The “family service” sheet is no longer be available.

If you need help accessing the Livestream Service, call Pastor Dave: (912) 661-8735.

The Voice

Find the 36 bold words from John 1:19b-28 (ESV)

A K W A T E R P T E I T N U A
R M N O C Z R J D E U H A I N
U O O I R I C O E O H W C S S
T D O N E T A H S J A P R S W
M V D S G P H N S S T M O T E
S E T T D A C Y E T Y N S R R
D S L R M B Q E F Y N A S A P
N H O A F S S E N R E D L I W
A L A P S I U A O U D R U G J
T Y E I R U H S C E Y O O H N
S N A A A T R M W C L J Y T M
O U H W E S W E S E T I V E L
I P W B S A I D J Y J Z J O Q
B A P T I Z I N G S A N D A L
C H R I S T G N I Y R C C E H

The Jews sent **priests** and **Levites** from **Jerusalem** to ask him,

“Who are you?” He **confessed**, and did not **deny**, but confessed,

“I am not the **Christ**.” And they asked him, “What then? Are

you **Elijah**?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the **Prophet**?” And

he answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We need

to give an **answer** to those who sent us. What do you say about

yourself?” He said, “I am the **voice** of one **crying** out in the

wilderness, ‘Make **straight** the way of the **Lord**,’ as the prophet

Isaiah said.” (Now they had been sent from the **Pharisees**.) They

asked him, “Then why are you **baptizing**, if you are neither the

Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” **John** answered them, “I

baptize with **water**, but **among** you stands **one** you do not know,

even he who comes after me, the **strap** of whose **sandal** I am not

worthy to **untie**.” These things took place in **Bethany** across the

Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Will of God

Find the 32 bold words from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (ESV)

L I V E X U N N B E Y L N P L
D X U O F A A L G C D G U R A
Y F I T C N A S O I O Q Z O B
F H R D P M T E D O B H X P S
A C O E E U L Y D J E C Q H T
S L A L O S T U A F E V N Q E A
T C E H D O P S F R I E O C I
E S T E S T X I I H G U K I N
S I S K N A H T S R T Q E E G
W U C C O M I N G E H I E S A
L B R L K R V J W U Y C A L Z
V O L E I P H E M O U A W F S
L I R P L H G S Y G O A R Q G
W F S D F Y F U C A Y K E P T
C E A S I N G S D S L L A C W

Rejoice always, **pray** without ceasing, give thanks in all

circumstances; for this is the will of **God** in **Christ Jesus** for

you. Do not **quench** the Spirit. Do not **despise prophecies**,

but **test** everything; **hold fast** what is **good**. Abstain from

every form of **evil**. Now may the God of **peace** himself

sanctify you completely, and may your whole **spirit** and **soul**

and **body** be kept blameless at the **coming** of our **Lord Jesus**

Christ. He who **calls** you is **faithful**; he will **surely** do it.