

Trinity News

September 26, 2010

Pentecost 18 Take Hold of the Life that is Really Life

The Pastoral Letters are I and II Timothy and the letter to Titus. They are called “Pastorals” because they address many of the central concerns of the early church. These letters also consciously address the formation of believers. It is held in these letters that “God’s plan” for each believer is central to living out the Christian life. This plan is known “by faith” (I Timothy 1:4). The specific use of “by” indicates that the avenue to the knowledge of God is by faith. It opens the door to the knowledge of God. Gregory of Nyssa has a saying that is appropriate here: “knowledge becoming love”. This emphasis on the connection between knowledge and love is made clear in I Timothy 1:5, “... the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith.”

Instruction and training are linked in the Pastorals. The key to this “instruction and training” is “sound teaching” or more literally, “healthy teaching.” This “healthy teaching” is summed up in crisp creedal-like statements, but it is referred to throughout the Pastorals.

The focus is on Christ is always in the foreground, linked to the formation and nurture of the members of the Church.

The exhortation to Timothy at 6: 11-16 is one of the highlights of the Pastorals. Timothy is called to follow the example of Christ and make a “good confession in the presence of many witnesses” (6:12). The historical basis of the faith is reiterated with the reference to the “testimony” of Christ Jesus before “Pontius Pilate” where he “made a good confession” (6:13). We recall this every time that we say the Nicene Creed in the liturgy. The example of Christ is always being placed before Timothy and the Christian community at Ephesus. What is said to Timothy in this exhortation could be applied to any ministry of the Church.

The connection that the Pastorals make between “faith” and “godliness” is again apparent here. This is, godliness in speech, deed and general conduct must match up in its inner and outer forms. The truth of the Christian faith is not just in doctrines, but in the living out of those doctrines. They may be enclosed in credal forms verified by Scripture, but without godly lives the words of doctrines have no self-authentication and public endorsement. They may be verified by logical argument and sweet reason, but putting into practice the doctrines underpinning the faith gives authenticity to the words and to their wider implications.

At I Timothy 6: 17-19 those who have wealth in the Church are charged with being generous and to have a true perspective on their riches, so that they may “take hold of the life that really is life” (6:19). This is a challenge for all of us. We sometimes suspect that life has passed us by, that we are unfulfilled, and that we have not achieved our destiny. What are the real riches of “the life that is really life”?

Bishop Arthur Jones

TO PLAN:

Sept. 26, TODAY.

- Confirmation class at the Rector's office, after the 9:30 service.

Sept. 28, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Bible Study, #3 Sta. Potenciana, Urdaneta Village, 7:15pm.

Sept. 30, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

Next week's readings:

Habakkuk 1:1-6,12-13; 2:1-4;

Psalm 37; 2

Timothy 1:6-14;

Luke 17:5-10

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Diana Croyston, JPeter, Beryl Tanner, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Cena Quiapos, Benjie Gonzales, Ron Jacob, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Ted Whale, Ema Duhaylongsod, Loy Solasco, Emerinciana Gatela, Amy Gonzales, Augusto Natividad, Avelina Collado, Eric Williamson, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Richard Kendall, Johnny Manning Jr, Carrie Angus, Jaqueline Acquiatan, Susan Dalmas, Sunny Cabanang, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Valerie Jones, Emilie Nauntofte, Marian Kermanshahchi, Rosaline Soulsby.

	Last Sunday	Year-to-date	Proportionate Budget	2010 Budget
Pledge	P40,650.00	P2,795,708.48	P2,850,000.00	P3,900,000.00
Loose Plate	P15,591.00	P645,855.73	P686,923.08	P940,000.00

The church's monthly **Sources & Uses** report is available for viewing in the Church Office. Please look for Maricel. For questions, feel free to email Edison at edisonyap@gmail.com