

TRINITY NEWS

October 17, 2010

Pentecost 21 Instructions to a Young Disciple II Timothy 3:10-4: 5.

When a Deacon or Priest is ordained, the Bishop reads a charge to them. This charge contains the expectations of the Church about their ministry. The charge to the priest is a literary gem. It also says much of what Paul tells Timothy.

Being a disciple of Christ is no easy matter. It is even more difficult when we put ourselves forward to serve in ministry. Every Christian who openly practises the Faith is in the public gaze. If we are not a model of Christ's teaching, then we are open to criticism. Some people excuse themselves from a commitment to Christ by saying that "There are too many hypocrites in the church. They say one thing and do another". That is so, but there are also plenty of hypocrites outside the church. But a greater stigma attaches to us because we are expected to do better. That is, we are expected to show in our lives that we are true followers of Christ. All of this may be a bit daunting when we do a little self-examination! But we don't have to do all of this on our own. The advice to Timothy is an assurance to all of us "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it; and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that we able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work." The writer does not seem very conscious here that his own writings will become sacred scripture. The inspired writings here are the Hebrew Scriptures, the Tanach, books that we still insist in calling the Old Testament. Timothy is not an adult convert. He came to faith in a family, as many people since have done. We cannot inherit Christianity, but we may grow up in an atmosphere of Christian belief and practice that encourages belief in God. If we are to learn, we need an instructor. We not only need the Scriptures to instruct us. We also need teachers who can model the Scriptures for us by exemplifying the teaching of scripture. Paul was Timothy's model as a young adult.

In fact, his respect for Paul may have led him to be one of the first to see Paul's writings on a par with the sacred writings of Israel. Together with the model of Christ that Paul represented, he would also devour Paul's writings as words from the Holy Spirit. In the Scriptures, the Model and the Instruction must go together.

Calvin said that the scriptures are inspired because God speaks through them. We don't bow down to the Bible, but to God. Yet the Bible is a sure channel of the voice of God. Like any product of speech, elucidation of the meaning requires interpretation. The Bible is not just written words, "inspiring" though they may be. They are also spoken words, verbal, requiring outcomes for every encounter in which we are engaged every day. We may brush aside the written words, but the word spoken through them it much harder to evade.

That voice is personal, not an abstract word, and it demands our attention and our response. In Hebrew Dabar is both a written word and a spoken word. Jesus' use of the written words of the Tanach as the spoken words of God is very evident in his responses to the Devil in his Temptations.

When you read the Scriptures, listen for the voice of God speaking in and through the words. Do the same when you hear the readings of Scripture at worship. What you hear may well change your life. The passage at II Timothy 3:16-19 has often been used to justify literal interpretations of Scripture that give power to harsh interpretations that flail those on the receiving end. The word *theopneustos* mean “divinely inspired. For us it conveys the voice of God through the Holy Spirit. There is no other voice of God for us except through the imprint of Jesus on the Spirit which proceeds from the heart of the Father. We do not read Scripture in a vacuum. We read it in the context of our relationship with Christ. We read it in the context of our life in a Christian community, in some place, somewhere. We read it through our culture and our social imprints, and through the many-faceted contours of our own individuality. Certainly, it is invariably useful for teachings, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness: Where else are we to go?

Listen, listen, and live. We belong to God. Therefore, we should be proficient in the heart matters of our faith, and “equipped for every good work”.

Bishop Arthur Jones

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, Emma Duhaylongsod, Loy Solasco, Emerinciana Gatela, Amy Gonzales, Carrie Angus, Augusto Natividad, Avelina Collado, Eric Williamson, Susan Dalmas, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Richard Kendall, Jaqueline Acquiatan, Johnny Manning Jr, Sunny Cabanang, Valerie Jones, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Emilie Nauntofte, Marian Kermanshahchi, Rosaline Soulsby, Fr. Barry Cumberland, Divinagracia Benitez, Les Vye-Parminter.

TO PLAN:

Oct. 17, TODAY.

- Confirmation Class, 9:30am

Oct. 18, Monday.

- Finance meeting, 5:30pm, Parish Office
- Vestry meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory.

Oct. 19, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am.

Oct. 21, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Jeremiah 14:7-10,19-22; Psalm 84;
2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18; Luke 18:9-14

	Last Sunday	Year-to-date	Proportionate Budget	2010 Budget
Pledge	P18,916.66	P2,931,125.14	P3,075,000.00	P3,900,000.00
Loose Plate	P14,060.00	P686,583.73	P741,153.85	P940,000.00

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