

KSW41 to Oct 12

October 6 Su Reading 279 — Colossians 3:12-17 — Clothed in Holiness

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Signs of Holiness — Followers of Jesus are described here as being “God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved” (v. 12). Those things are what God has done for us and how He views us. Twice in this passage, Paul commands us to “*put on*” something, picturing putting on a garment. These are things we are expected to do. Dress properly! There are 13 garments listed as signs of holiness: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with others, forgiving, love, thankfulness, knowing Scripture, teaching, admonishing, and singing. How are *you* dressed? Are these character qualities and actions seen in us by others? This is how we let our light shine. Several of these are also “*fruit of the Spirit*” qualities (Gal. 5:22), resulting from our relationship with Him. Be dressed in holiness!

[Be a Light for Jesus - YouTube](#)

Thousands grope in darkness that can never see,
Be a light for Jesus every day;
Until we point them up to Mount Calvary,
Be a light for Jesus every day.

— B. F. Sims (b. 1868)

October 7 M Reading 280 — 2 Corinthians 3:7-11 — Comparing Glory

⁷ Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, ⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? ⁹ For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. ¹⁰ Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. ¹¹ For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

The Ministry of Glory — The New Covenant is referred to here as “*the ministry of the Spirit*” (v. 8). The death of Jesus initiated this new era, but the Holy Spirit empowers it. That is what the Old Covenant lacked, the power to change lives; it only set the rules. Although it was God-given and glorious, it resulted in “*condemnation*” for disobedient people. On the other hand, “*the ministry of the Spirit*” is called “*the ministry of righteousness*” (v. 9) because that is where it leads and what it provides. The Holy Spirit’s ministry is not only powerful, but it is also permanent (v. 11). It is the end of God’s plan until Jesus returns. We are living in the time and experience of the Spirit’s ministry, so

we need to draw on the divine power made available to help us live the godly lives we want to have. That is a life of glory.

[All Glory Be to God on High - YouTube](#)

The following verse was not included in the video.

O Holy Ghost, Thou precious Gift,
Thou Comforter unfailing,
O'er Satan's snares our souls uplift
And let Thy pow'r availing
Avert our woes and calm our dread.
For us the Savior's blood was shed;
We trust in Thee to save us.

— Nicolaus Decius (1525)

October 8 Tu Reading 281 — 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 — The Veil Removed

¹² *Since we have such a hope, we are very bold,* ¹³ *not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end.* ¹⁴ *But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away.* ¹⁵ *Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts.* ¹⁶ *But when one^[fn] turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.* ¹⁷ *Now the Lord^[fn] is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.* ¹⁸ *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,^[fn] are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.^[fn] For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

ESV Footnotes

(3:16) Greek *he*

(3:17) Or *this Lord*

(3:18) Or *reflecting the glory of the Lord*

(3:18) Greek *from glory to glory*

Benefits of the Spirit — The three places “*the Spirit*” is used in this passage have caused some controversy: “*the Lord is the Spirit ... the Spirit of the Lord*” (v. 17) and “*the Lord who is the Spirit*” (v. 18). All three certainly involve the Holy Spirit, but each of these expressions are used in combination with “*the Lord*.” Christ is often referred to as “*the Lord*” in the NT, which seems to be implied in the expression “*the Lord is the Spirit*” (v. 17a) because Paul was just speaking of Christ in verse 14 and seems to be referring to Him when he wrote, “*when one turns to the Lord*,” in verse 16. On the other hand, throughout the Bible, Yahweh is often referred to as “*the Lord*” (or “*the LORD*”), which might be the case here as well. This is not suggesting that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one Person, however. Instead, it is reflecting the intricate unity of the three Persons within the Godhead. All three are involved in our salvation and in our gradual growth in holiness. The two benefits mentioned in this passage are freedom (v. 17) and sanctification (v. 18). We are freed from the bondage of sin when we come to know the Lord, and we are being sanctified as we are “*beholding the glory of the Lord*” (v. 17). We behold this glory every day as we read God’s Word.

[Glorious Freedom - YouTube](#)

Once I was bound by sin's galling fetters,
Chained like a slave, I struggled in vain;
But I received a glorious freedom,
When Jesus broke my fetters in twain.

Glorious freedom! Wonderful freedom!
No more in chains of sin I repine!
Jesus the glorious Emancipator—
Now and forever He shall be mine.

— Haldor Lillenas (1917)

October 9 W Reading 282 — 2 Corinthians 5:1-5 — Our Heavenly Dwelling

¹ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on^[fn] we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

ESV Footnote

(5:3) Some manuscripts *putting it off*

The Spirit as a Guarantee — Paul figuratively sees our human body as a temporary tent and our resurrected body as a permanent structure. Our earthly body is limited, deteriorating, and affected by sin, whereas our heavenly body will be perfect. How can we be sure of this? “*God ... has given us the Spirit as a guarantee*” (v. 5). Our real experience of the Holy Spirit dwelling in our lives provides confidence that the resurrected body that we anticipate is assured. We read about this just a week ago, where Paul wrote that God “*has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee*” (2 Cor. 1:22). The next time you are experiencing pain from an injury, or you are lying in bed because of an illness, let it remind you of the perfect and eternal body God has promised for you in heaven. It is true, and the Holy Spirit is our guarantee of it.

[He'll Make It Alright - YouTube](#)

Wherever you are, He's listening;
Whatever you pray, He knows.
Whatever the answer, He's got me;
We know He's sovereign;
He's in control.
He'll make it alright.

— Charles Jenkins (2020)

October 10 Th Reading 283 — 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 — Highs and Lows of Ministry

¹ Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For he says,

"In a favorable time I listened to you,

and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³ *We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,* ⁴ *but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,* ⁵ *beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;* ⁶ *by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love;* ⁷ *by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;* ⁸ *through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true;* ⁹ *as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed;* ¹⁰ *as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.*

Commended by the Spirit — Our lives as Christians are testimonies to the people in the churches where we worship and serve, and to the sinful world around us. Paul wrote that “*we commend ourselves*” (or “*prove ourselves*” v. 4) by how we conduct our lives. He first concentrated on the hardships he had gone through in verses 4-5. One powerful witness to the world that we are truly different is how we handle life’s difficulties. We all face them, but does it result in bitterness, like it does for most people, or in trusting acceptance as something God can use to strengthen us? People are watching how we handle trials. In verses 6-7, Paul shifted to positive qualities that others can see in our lives, like purity and kindness. In the middle of that list, he includes “*the Holy Spirit*” (v. 6). Why? This is an invisible quality. They don’t see the Holy Spirit, and neither do we, but they see the effects of His divine presence in our lives. He is our empowering presence. We Christians are changed people and people notice the positive qualities He is producing in our lives.

Father, Hear the Prayer We Offer - YouTube

Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
But for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

Not forever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be
But the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

— Love Maria Willis (1859)

October 11 F Reading 284 — 2 Corinthians 13:11-14 — Farewell Greetings

¹¹ *Finally, brothers,*^[fn] *rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another,*^[fn] *agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.* ¹² *Greet one another with a holy kiss.* ¹³ *All the saints greet you.*

¹⁴ *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

ESV Footnotes

(13:11) Or *brothers and sisters*

(13:11) Or *listen to my appeal*

Fellowship of the Holy Spirit — Paul’s final comments in his last letter to this trouble-filled Corinthian church centers on the need for unity. He gave them five commands: “...rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace” (v. 11). That is not a normal attitude for most groups of people. Criticism and division are attitudes that better fit the human tendency of being selfish. Groups of Christians should stand out in their unity as being unusual. What makes us different is the presence of God in our lives. As a promise, Paul said that if we concentrate on unity, “God ... will be with you” (v. 11), and in a prayer he asked that “the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you” (v. 14). The Holy Spirit is “with us” in fellowship. When we are in fellowship with Him, He enables us to overcome our human, selfish tendency so we can have harmonious relationships with other Christians.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds - YouTube

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.
— John Fawcett (1782)

October 12 Sa Reading 285 — Philemon 1:4-7 — Ministering to Saints

⁴ *I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,* ⁵ *because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints,* ⁶ *and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.*^[fn] ⁷ *For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.*

ESV Footnote

(1:6) Or for Christ’s service

Refreshing Love — Onesimus was a slave who had run away from his master, Philemon. After leading Onesimus to Christ in Rome, Paul sent him back to Philemon in Asia Minor with this letter of explanation. Paul wrote that “I hear of your love ... for all the saints” (v. 5). From whom did he hear this? It seems that it was Onesimus who had told Paul about the kindness of his master. That is a very good testimony of Philemon’s character. Although the slave had run away from his master, he praised him for his goodness. The second mention of “saints” here was when Paul wrote of Philemon that “the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you” (v. 7). Philemon had a church meeting in his home (v. 2), which was one way that he was refreshing the saints. How do you refresh other believers? Do you have a ministry that aims at encouraging them? Philemon had found his niche in serving the Lord by ministering to His saints.

No Longer Slaves - YouTube

From my mother's womb You have chosen me;
Love has called my name.
I've been born again into Your family;
Your blood flows through my veins.

I'm no longer a slave to fear;
I am a child of God
— Brian Johnson, et al. (2014)