



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Steadfast come what may ... by Gareth

Read 1 Corinthians 15 v 58

- The dictionary describes Steadfast as loyal, faithful, committed, devoted, dedicated, dependable, reliable, steady, true, constant.
- Steadfast in trial/ in prayer / in holiness / in hungering after God / in having a passion for God / in every circumstance. Duncan Campbell said I think you would all agree with me this morning that the state of the world today presents a challenge to the Christian Church.
- There are forces at work that are out to defy every known Christian principle. Indeed those who have eyes to see can already detect ominous signs that the world is ripening for either repentance or judgement.
- The church today (by which I mean the believers in Christ as opposed to some domination or creed) is living far below that which is spoken of in the New Testament. Her witness is characterized by shallowness and a lowering of standards to worldly conformity.
- If this was true in Duncan Campbell's day and it was how much more is it true in our day. *Proverbs 24.21: "Meddle not with those who are given to change"* In other words we have got to be steadfast.
- We must not always be wavering in what we believe, unsettled or changing. Paul says in *1 Thes. 5v21: "prove all things; hold fast that which is good"*.
- I believe we need to heed Paul's advice. Failure to do so often allows things which may appear to be quite legitimate in themselves, divert us from what ought to be the supreme purpose of our life. Failure to enter into that supreme purpose means we stay in shallowness, allowing shadows to surround us.
- Rest assured those who want to walk righteously before the Lord are going to face trials. In fact those who have a passion for God like David of old, those who desire a deeper walk with Christ, will face the more intense our furnace of testing will be. Scripture tells us that.
- You may be going through a time of trial right now, God would say to you today fear not my child for this trial is necessary so that you will be refined more into my likeness and image.
- All who are hungry for Jesus, all who have a passion for Him will be satisfied however expect trials and troubles to come your way. David who according to scripture was a man after God's own heart. Ps 108 v1. Had many troubles Ps 138 vs 7-8
- One of the most difficult things for Christians to accept is the suffering of the righteous. Anyone who tells you to come to Jesus and you will never suffer again is preaching error.

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WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Issue 45

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- One of the greatest things that you can be told when you are new in the faith is that no matter how dark or difficult a situation is. God will be with you no matter what.
- *Heb 11 vs 36-38* speaks of many who endured hardship. One of God's greatest servants the apostle Paul, who walked closely with God, was shipwrecked, beaten and imprisoned - *2 Cor 11 v 25*.
- Many of the brethren in Pakistan, China etc are suffering because of their Faith. The apostle Peter encourages us with these words - *1 Peter 4:12-13 & 1 Peter 1:6-7*.
- We should not look at the commands of scripture as a set of must keep rules, but rather delighting in them to bring out the character of Christ from within us. When Jesus allows suffering and trials in our lives, He is after one thing the same thing He sought when He asked Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac.
- God allowed Abraham to lead Isaac all the way up the mountain and raise the knife. Only then did the Lord say stop. What was God really after? Abraham, do I mean more to you than the object of your deepest earthly affections?
- Abraham proved he was willing to lay down his son's life. During this time of testing we do well to check our attitudes. David in *Ps 119v67* "before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept your Word." *Ps 139 v 23* "Search me, O God and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts". Some times we may be tested by a delay in answer to prayer. Many of us as Christians desire to have a speedy answer to our prayers. That's no different to David in *Ps 102 v 2* or in *Ps 69 v 17*. David felt he needed a quick answer or response from God.
- But on some occasions it seems God is in no hurry to answer the prayer. Then we may start to ask questions, is there sin in my life? Am I asking for something amiss?
- I believe He is desiring us to obey the command found in *Luke 18 v1*. The Greek word for lose heart or faint means: to relax, become weak or weary.
- *Luke 18 vs 2 -8*: The widow is avenged v5 But through these various trials/tests. God is desiring that we remain steadfast in or walk with Christ and in the place of prayer and meditation of God's Word.

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Carol service is scheduled for Sunday 18th December @ 7.00pm (provisional)**

