

## **MEDITATIONS FROM OCTOBER 2017 SUNDAY BULLETINS**

### **THE HARMONY OF EXPERIENCE**

October 1, 2017

Rev. Janet Friedline

Many individuals consider the world to be a chaotic place, filled with confusion and doubt. They base their conclusions on the uncertain conditions reported by the news of the day, influenced by what others have to say. Establishing our ideas and beliefs in a world of change, means we are working without a foundation. Without a foundation, there is nothing to build on and no place to go. Living in this way leaves us feeling overwhelmed and insecure.

The one, who looks in an inward way, establishes himself in a place of harmony and order. There is a realm of life that is not touched by the world of circumstance and condition. The Bible urges us to build our house on solid ground, to dwell in a place in consciousness that is absolute, sure and certain. Let us be the one who looks in an inward way. The attitude, established on Truth, is the firm foundation. It is ours and we may live it now.

### **DIVINE DESIRE**

October 8, 2017

Rev. Donna Gatewood

Psalm 37, Verse 4 gives us a promise that can often strike us as too good to be true when it tells us to “Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of thine heart.” This is God’s personal promise to each of His children. God would never break His promise.

But the human condition leads many to believe that God does not want to give us what our heart desires. So in order to get what we want we believe that we need to go and get it by ourselves, by our own means, by our own power and by our own ways. This way of thinking and believing will lead us down the path of regret until we recognize that God’s ways are the best ways.

Psalm 37, Verse 5 gives us another truth: “Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.” God wants us to trust Him by committing the entirety of our lives, desires, hopes, and dreams to His care, perfect timing, planning, and giving. He doesn’t want us to do things our own way, walking by our human sight and wisdom, but rather with the faith and wisdom which only He can provide.

As we trust in Him, we can be sure that God will do what is good, right, and pure. When difficult circumstances and situations come into our lives, we can be sure that God will cause these things to work for our good because we are His children whom He loves.

### **BEFORE CHRIST COMES**

October 15, 2017

Rev. Donna Gatewood

We live in a world of materiality and mistaken beliefs and faulty opinions based on our judging by appearances. In this world the Christ is completely overshadowed and is not experienced. The doors of heaven are closed. But in each and every one of us there is that spiritual urge leading us to the Promised Land.

In the parable of the wineskins Jesus told them “No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wine skins will be ruined. New wine must be poured into new wine skins and no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, ‘The old is better.’”

Jesus’ disciples had just received new teachings from the Lord and they needed to know how to relate them to the old Jewish teachings. With this parable, Christ taught how to relate the old and the new.

To put new wine into old skins would destroy both just as to try to mix Law and Grace would effectively destroy both. Some things cannot be mixed. When God reveals a new thing, He sometimes wants us to totally forget the old. “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.” Isaiah 48:18-19

### **BARRIERS AND LIMITATIONS**

October 22, 2017

Rev. Janet Friedline

There are times when we look around us and we don’t like what we see. We had definite expectations for ourselves, anticipating that we would accomplish and achieve certain things. But now it appears that this has not happened and we are left to wonder “why.” It is a very human trait to blame others for what we consider to be our “lot” in life. We are certain that individuals, or conditions, contributed to what we consider our inadequate level of good.

It is very difficult for us to accept responsibility for ourselves, but do so, we must. We are responsible for our attitude, our thoughts and our reactions. It is our view of life that determines what our life will be, and we are the one who places the barriers and limitations that restrict and deny. Our view of life is established in consciousness. We cannot blame others for what we carry around and accept in consciousness. There is work for us to do. Be still and know is the higher way. Let us go there and be at peace.

### **MIND STAYED ON GOD**

October 29, 2017

Rev. Janet Friedline

We have been told that the mind is a wonderful thing. It is in that place that we become aware in an individual way, allowing us to think and to reason. And as human beings, we do so, permitting our thoughts to travel all over the place. Consequently, we enjoy or suffer the results of what we have done. We have been told to be mindful of where it is we place our focus, and to what we give our attention. Our external conditions are the result of our thoughts, our beliefs and decisions.

We have also been told that there is but one Mind, the God mind. It is spirit that thinks, wills and feels. The individual thought is the instrument of the creative power of the one Mind. When our focus and attention are stayed on God, our thoughts are God thoughts. Thoughts directed inwardly do not travel into time and space. We are the instruments for his expression on this earth plane. Let us be the one with the “eyes” lifted on high, so that we see as God sees and think as God thinks. This is our reason for being.