Devotional

Read Romans 5:6-11

Christ took our place. Paul tells us that while we were still sinners, God sent His Son to take our place. Why? This was God’s way of demonstrating His love for us. He wanted to save us from His wrath. When Jesus died for us, He appeased the wrath of God. As a result we have peace with God through faith in His Son.

Can you believe that even when we were God’s enemies we were reconciled to Him through Jesus’ death? We are reconciled because we have been justified by Jesus’ blood. Ephesians 2:13 says, “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ.” Jesus’ shed blood brought us near to God when sin had separated us from Him. When the time was right, God reached out to a world that was perishing and rescued us through His Son.

In the Spotlight

“If God has called you to China or any other place and you are sure in your own heart, let nothing deter you. Remember, it is God who has called you and it is the same as when He called Moses or Samuel.”

Gladys Aylward was born in Edmonton, North London. She worked as a domestic worker at an early age but she longed to go overseas and work as a missionary. She worked hard to make this happen but was turned down because of her inadequate academic background. The China Mission she applied to was convinced that she couldn’t learn the language at her age.

In 1932, she spent her life savings on a train passage to Yangcheng, Shanxi Province, China. This perilous trip took her across Siberia with the Trans-Siberian Railway where she was detained by the Russians. However, with local help, she managed to evade them and take a lift from a Japanese ship. She travelled across Japan with the help of the British Consul and took another ship to China.

When she arrived in Yangcheng, she worked with Jeannie Lawson,
an older missionary. Together, they founded the Inn of the Eight Happinesses, named for the eight virtues: Love, Virtue, Gentleness, Tolerance, Loyalty, Truth, Beauty, and Devotion. They provided hospitality to travelers and shared stories about Jesus. For a time, Gladys was the assistant to the Chinese government as foot inspector. She toured the countryside to enforce the law against foot binding in young Chinese girls.

Gladys became a Chinese citizen in 1936 and was revered among the people. She took in orphans, adopting several of them. When the Japanese invaded the region, she led over 100 orphans to safety over the mountains although she was wounded. She cared for them and converted many to Christianity. She never married but devoted her entire life to Christian work with the Chinese people. In 1948, she returned to Britain, but when she tried to enter China ten years later she was denied entry by the Communist government. She settled in Taiwan where she founded the Gladys Alyward Orphanage and worked there until her death in 1970.

Gladys Alyward wanted to be a missionary overseas and thanks to her determination, she became one. She dedicated her life to loving and caring for the Chinese people and to them she was known as “the Virtuous One”.

Sources: Wikipedia; Quotter Net

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**Bible Study**

Christianity is the only religion that teaches God in three Persons—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

How do we know that all three Members of the Godhead were involved in creation? Read Genesis 1:1, 26; Job 33:4; Colossians 1:15, 16; Psalm 104:30

How are the three Members of the Godhead linked together? Read Isaiah 42:1; 61:1, 2; 63:8-11; Luke 1:35; Matthew 3:16, 17; Matthew 12:28; Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:33; 2 Corinthians 1:21, 22

How do these texts show the divinity of Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Read Mark 2:8-10; John 5:16-18; John 8:58; Matthew 26:63-66; Luke 4:40, 41; Philippians 2:5-7; Colossians 1:10-20; John 10:33; Hebrews 1; 4:14-16; 7:20–8:6; Matthew 13:41; John 20:26-28; Matthew 12:31; Hebrews 10:29; Acts 5:3, 4; Romans 8:26, 27; Hebrews 9:14; Psalm 139:7; 1 Corinthians 2:10, 11