

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, September 2, 2018)

Share:

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.
God's steadfast love endures forever.
Every generous act is a gift from God
Who gives birth to us through the word.

Read these words from a hymn today: *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*

How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call:
To live according to your word, and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That you are Lord of all, and will not let us fall.

In what you give us, Lord to do, together or alone,
in old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to you,
the cross you hung upon – all you endeavored done.

Read this scripture from worship: James 1:16-27 (The Message)

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures.

¹⁹⁻²¹ Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God's righteousness doesn't grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life.

²²⁻²⁴ Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. *Act* on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.

²⁵ But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God—the free life!—even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a man or woman of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action.

²⁶⁻²⁷ Anyone who sets himself up as “religious” by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world.

Talk together, responding to these questions:

When do we say one thing but do another?

What does this passage say about the relationship between faith and works?

When do our words and deeds connect?

Where and how are we putting our faith to work?

Pray together:

Lord Jesus, help me walk blamelessly and do what is right, to speak the truth in love, to avoid gossip and slander, and do good to all I meet, that I may abide in your presence and dwell in fellowship with you. May I be an active “doer” today and in the week ahead as I put my faith to work. Amen.

Bless one another:

Take each person's hand and say. "God's grace is for you, God's love is upon you, God's call is within you. Be kind to yourself and others this week as a child of God."