

# Roots

**February 18, 2015**  
**Wednesday**

Read John 8:12-16

Do you know where you are going if you follow Christ? As we begin our journey this Lenten Season, I invite you to consider where you are going. Where is Christ inviting us as we walk toward his light? He is literally inviting us to death, both his death and ours. That is what his cross promises. Death. But, we do not follow Jesus there not knowing what will happen. He enlightens us to his purpose. That is to kill our old selves in order to make us alive again in him. This Lenten season I invite you to walk toward the light. Walk toward the light of the Christ on the Cross that after death you might find life.

**Thursday**

Read John 1: 1-13

The Light came and no one recognized him. Have you ever gone into a really bright room from a really dark room? How welcome is the light to your eyes at first? To me that light hurts. That light isn't welcome at all. Much like that light in your eyes after coming from a dark room, the Light of the World was not welcome, and in many cases is not welcome today. Jesus' message was that the coming reign of God was fulfilled in him. People weren't ready for that, and they really weren't ready for what that meant. The fulfillment of the reign of God meant the culmination of his age-old promises. Jesus came to rid the world of sin. In order to do that there had to be a death, blood was

to be spilled. Jesus spilled his blood for you in order to take your sin away and banish it to hell. During

Lent, he leads us to the Cross to show us that with him our sinful selves were slain. Like the pain in your eyes when transitioning from a dark room to a light room, the death of the sinful self is painful. But, Jesus bore our suffering that we might transition from the dark to the light, from death to life without the pain of hell but with the joy of heaven.

**Friday**

Read John 3: 19-21

Have you ever hidden something you did from the people in your life? Have you ever been ashamed of the way you conducted yourself? Christ came to shed light on all of those times. He came to reveal the dark deeds. But, his goal is not our shame and humiliation. Instead, he came to expose that darkness in our lives to take the shame and humiliation of it on himself, so that we could live in the light unashamed of our lives and humbled by the grace of God's free gift of forgiveness. Now, we can live in the light of and in light of Christ whose deeds are perfect, whose deeds have made us right with God.

**Saturday**

Read 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-5

On our journey to the Cross of Christ this Lenten Season, I invite you to remember that you are children of the light, children of the day,

because of what Jesus accomplished for you on the Cross. From there he sealed you away, so that on the final day you would not be caught unaware. Take a few minutes every day this Lent to remember Jesus is coming, and he has given us the forgiveness and freedom to act like it. Act like it!

***Sunday***

Come to Church to receive Christ's blessings and strength.

***Monday***

Read Matthew 6: 9-13

What does it mean to forgive? You are forgiven people, so how does it feel to have the greatest debt in the world forgiven? Why then would we not forgive the sins of others against us? Please pray the Lord's Prayer now. Remember that he provides all you need for your body and soul. That means he provides salvation by forgiveness through faith. Now, go and live in the humble knowledge of what the cross means for you and show other people that grace which Christ gives you from the cross that they might share in the blessing of the Gospel with us.

***Tuesday***

Read Matthew 5: 1-6

In the cross of Christ we are satisfied, we are comforted, we become heirs to the promise and we gain salvation and eternal life in heaven. Jesus' sermon to his disciples and the crowd on that mountain foreshadows in a way what his work on

the cross did for those who trust in him. In the weakness of death, Jesus makes us the richest, most joyful, and satisfied heirs ever. The world cannot fill the needs that we have. Without Christ we truly are poor, mourning, meek and emaciated. It is only through Jesus' Cross that we see this fact though. As you walk in Jesus' footsteps toward the cross, remember that it is only through him, the Light of the World, that we see our true condition and our need for his life-giving death.

*Pastor Carl Jh*

