



COD LENTEN NEWSLETTER NO. 4.

Dear Reader,

Special greetings and mercy to you as we continue on our Lenten walk.

Let not your heart be troubled, believe in God believe also in me (Jesus). We are four weeks into the Lenten period. Are your goals still realistic or did you shift them in the interim period? Section one needs to be worked through. Maybe after four weeks the strain might have set in. Maybe you feel that you have faltered on the way. It was more difficult than you thought? Hang in there (read section 2).

1. **WHAT'S YO TAKE?**

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire, besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever

(Ps 73: 25, 26).

Is Jesus the price, the goal for you?

Let us just recap the goal for our Lenten walk. Is it possible that we have longed only for God's gifts and blessings from His hand? Or were His presence, protection, guidance the goal? Is it possible that we could long for the fragrance of the rose only as the rose comes with the thorns? Where does Christ *really* fits into my plans/life?

Relationships are supreme. Sometimes, too late, we realized we have pursued an inferior/ wrong goal. It is like reaching your dream, but with no true companion to share it with.

May we strive for nothing less than companionship with God; to be where He is, to belong to Him forever. Let Him reign as King of your heart and all the other things will fall into place.

To some He is the Desire of the Ages, what about you?

2. CHRIST'S CHURCH DURING LENT

In your efforts and self-discipline towards a closer walk with God you probably now have become aware that the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. This can discourage us as our relationship with God and our neighbor is at stake. We had such good intentions for this Lent. But now holes are picked in our flag. What to do? Persevere!

We need to know that honesty before God is crucial. Do not pretend to Him or your fellow pilgrims. He is not expecting super Christians to emerge all of a sudden.

Temptations sometimes escalate when we put the hand to the plow. Satan will not allow a plain sailing. So many times we hear that the journey is sometimes more important than the destination. What did you learn from your temptations? How can you prevent them?

When you feel discouraged, it is then that you need to remember that when we were sinners, ungodly, enemies of Christ (Rom 5) He died for us. He did not love us for our (successful) efforts or possibilities, rather when we were useless, He took our place. Fortunately, God is not into performance appraisal, but unconditional love.

We are still fallible and yet with the efforts of the Spirit in us, we can reach the goal.

Suffering produces perseverance, perseverance character, character hope...Rom 5: 3.

3. PRAYER / HYMN

The Passion of the Christ will always be beyond our scope of comprehension.

And can it be that I should gain, an interest in the Savior's blood?

Died He for me who caused Him pain, for me, who Him to death pursued?

Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

4. WHOSE WILL IS SUPREME?

Take a moment to reflect on the hymn: *Take my life* (and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee). We usually sing this with enthusiasm, but do we really mean what we are saying? Can God really take our will and make it His? What about our voices-we say one thing and yet we do not want to attend the choir do we? And what about that silver and gold we do not want to withhold? Are we serious? Maybe it is time to edit/change some of the verses in our hymns as not to lie to God and ourselves.

Please give a little more attention to what we sing. On the one hand, gems are slipping through our fingers in the promises of God, whilst we make promises that we never intent to keep.

