

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Pentecost 20 – October 18, 2020

“For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.”

– 1 Thessalonians 1:8 –

When I was a young person I never would have thought of myself as being a missionary. As I’ve gotten older and more mature in the faith, I have come to recognize that all of us are missionaries for Christ, even if we don’t leave our own home town. Wherever we go, we carry with us the message of the Good News of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. It is so much a part of us that we cannot help but proclaim the goodness of the Lord and the promises that have been fulfilled in his son, Jesus.

As missionaries, each of us has a circle of influence – those people that we interact with regularly, who look with favor on us, and who listen when we speak. It is to those people that we share the news of Christ most often and most easily. These are the ones who are most receptive to the message.

As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Thessalonica, he commended them for their “missionary” work. He described the word being spoken as a trumpet sounding a clarion call. Their faith was strong and steady and they did the work of sharing it with those in their circle of influence. That circle was Macedonia and Achaia, and beyond.

I don’t know about your town, but where I live it’s a pretty small community when compared to the big, bustling cities that many are used to. Word spreads quickly here. Sometimes I learn about something I did before I even know I did it! (Just kidding!) But, seriously, news does travel fast around my town. It isn’t always accurate, but it does move swiftly. Oh that the Gospel message would travel so fast and be so interesting to talk about on the front porch of all who live around me. Oh that the best news of all, Jesus’ love for us, would spread like wildfire in the way that some rumors and gossip do. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to hear through the grapevine that people were receiving the news about Christ and responding to his love and mercy by the droves? That would make my day! Or my year! But sadly we tend to chat about others sorts of news when we could be spreading the gospel. Jesus helps us sound forth his saving word! May we be missionaries in our own neighborhoods! Amen.

Sola Worship Resource — Weekly Devotional © 2020, Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.com), written by Amy Little. Scripture taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Pentecost 20 – October 18, 2020

“For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.”

– 1 Thessalonians 1:8 –

When I was a young person I never would have thought of myself as being a missionary. As I’ve gotten older and more mature in the faith, I have come to recognize that all of us are missionaries for Christ, even if we don’t leave our own home town. Wherever we go, we carry with us the message of the Good News of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. It is so much a part of us that we cannot help but proclaim the goodness of the Lord and the promises that have been fulfilled in his son, Jesus.

As missionaries, each of us has a circle of influence – those people that we interact with regularly, who look with favor on us, and who listen when we speak. It is to those people that we share the news of Christ most often and most easily. These are the ones who are most receptive to the message.

As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Thessalonica, he commended them for their “missionary” work. He described the word being spoken as a trumpet sounding a clarion call. Their faith was strong and steady and they did the work of sharing it with those in their circle of influence. That circle was Macedonia and Achaia, and beyond.

I don’t know about your town, but where I live it’s a pretty small community when compared to the big, bustling cities that many are used to. Word spreads quickly here. Sometimes I learn about something I did before I even know I did it! (Just kidding!) But, seriously, news does travel fast around my town. It isn’t always accurate, but it does move swiftly. Oh that the Gospel message would travel so fast and be so interesting to talk about on the front porch of all who live around me. Oh that the best news of all, Jesus’ love for us, would spread like wildfire in the way that some rumors and gossip do. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to hear through the grapevine that people were receiving the news about Christ and responding to his love and mercy by the droves? That would make my day! Or my year! But sadly we tend to chat about others sorts of news when we could be spreading the gospel. Jesus helps us sound forth his saving word! May we be missionaries in our own neighborhoods! Amen.

Sola Worship Resource — Weekly Devotional © 2020, Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.com), written by Amy Little. Scripture taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.