

Responsive Reading

Romans 15: 1-7

1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

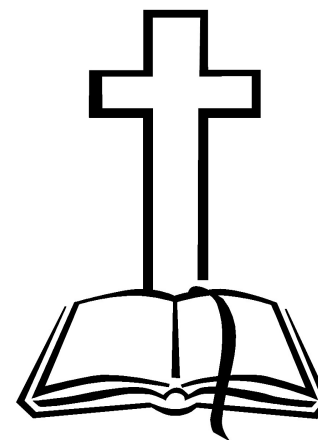
4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

Worship Service



Help the Weak

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"Help the Weak"

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Closing Prayer

Poems

by John Greenleaf Whittier

from, "Andrew Rykman's Prayer:"

If there be some weaker one,
Give me strength to help him on;
If a blinder soul there be,
Let me Guide him nearer Thee.

From "Worship:"

"Pure religion, and undefiled, before God and the Father is this: to visit the widows and the fatherless in their affliction; and to keep himself unspotted from the world." – James 1:27.

For he whom Jesus loved hath truly spoken:
The holier worship which He deigns to bless
Restores the lost, and binds the spirit broken,
And feeds the widow and the fatherless!

O brother man! fold to thy heart thy brother;
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
To worship rightly is to love each other,
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

Follow with reverent steps the great example
Of Him whose holy work was "doing good;"
So shall the wide earth seem our Father's temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

"Help the Weak"

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, You are worthy of our love. You are worthy of our worship. Forgive us of our sins and receive our praise to You today. Amen.

Devotion:

Text: *"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves."* Romans 15:1

"The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary."
Isaiah 50:4

Surely, many of you remember the sermons and Sunday School lessons you heard about "loving one another." Well, the verses in our Text today point out two things you can do as practical expressions of your love for others.

I know you may think you were through being a help to others. You may feel pretty helpless sometimes in the situation you find yourself in now. Though you face your own struggles, your own disappointments, your own pain - look around you. Everyone who lives with you here knows what suffering is all about.

As weak as you may feel sometimes, when you think about your neighbors, you probably know some who are especially weak today. Maybe their family has disappointed them. Maybe they are very sad and lonely. Maybe they are having an unusually hard time with sickness or pain. Maybe one of the residents or one of the staff has really gotten on their nerves today. Maybe they are just particularly bitter or angry today and they don't know why.

"Well," you may ask, "what has that got to do with me?"

This is exactly the challenge in our text! When our difficulties are

"Help the Weak" continued

not overwhelming, when we are able to think and feel for others, the Lord has asked us to look around and help those who are weaker, those who are struggling today.

How do we help? Remember, we looked at two things. These two things are not hard to do but they are extremely valuable to the weak. The first is *"to bear the infirmities of the weak."* No, this does not mean you get sick for them. The best way I can think of to bear someone's sickness is to pray for them. Carry their plight to the Lord Jesus in prayer. You can identify with their pain - take it to Jesus for them. Wouldn't you appreciate it if someone prayed for you when you were down?

The second thing our text points out for us to do is *"to speak a word in season to him that is weary."* SPEAK! Give a word of encouragement. Let the weary know you are thinking about them and praying for them. And speak of the lessons the Lord has taught you in your own suffering. Tell them you love them. Remind them that the Lord still loves them. Who can say the value of one simple sentence to a hurting soul if that sentence gives them strength to make it through the day?

So, you see? You are not totally retired! You still have a job to do for the Lord. And how often do we miss our opportunities to bless others with prayer and encouragement because we are not paying attention. Be sensitive to your neighbors - see them - see their needs. God will bless you for your obedience.

Closing Prayer: Dear Father God, we want to be faithful to the work you have given us to do right here in this facility. Fill our hearts with love for others. Strengthen us to be aware of the struggles of those You have placed around us. Give us grace to pray for them and to speak a word of encouragement to them at just the right time. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.