

## Daily Devotional for the Week of Monday, February 11, 2008

### Opening Prayer:

Almighty God, thank you for meeting with me in this time. Please walk with me through this season of Lent and this day, that I may experience your presence in a new and refreshing way, through Jesus Christ my Lord, Amen.

### Daily Reading and Reflection Questions

**Prayer:** for the church, for others, and for myself

**Hymn:** “Dear Master, in Whose Life I See”

Dear master, in whose life I see  
All that I would, but fail to be,  
Let thy clear light forever shine,  
To shame and guide this life of mine.

Though what I dream and what I do  
In my weak days are always two,  
Help me, oppressed by things undone,  
O thou, whose deeds and dreams are one!  
– John Hunter

### Benediction:

Almighty God, be present in my life today as I seek to walk in the abundance of grace available through Jesus’ work on the Cross. Amen.

## Monday

**Read:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

**Reflect:** What was the immediate impact of sin on Adam and Eve? What does this passage tell us about God? What does it tell us about people? How does this passage inform our thinking about sin?

## Tuesday

**Read:** Matthew 4:1-11

**Reflect:** What does this passage teach us about the tactics of the tempter? How do Jesus’ responses teach us to escape the tempter? What does this passage, specifically Jesus’ responses, teach us about sin itself?

## Wednesday

**Read:** Psalm 32

**Reflect:** There is more than one person speaking in this Psalm, and we only know who is speaking based on the words of the speaker. We can understand that one of the voices comes from a person who has experienced forgiveness from sin. What did the Psalmist do in order to be forgiven? Another voice in the Psalm is from God. What does God promise to the one who has been forgiven? How does this Psalm inform our understanding of sin and forgiveness?

## Thursday

**Read:** *Church of the Nazarene Manual: Article of Faith V*  
V. Sin, Original and Personal

5. We believe that sin came into the world through the disobedience of our first parents, and death by sin. We believe that sin is of two kinds: original sin or depravity, and actual or personal sin.

5.1 We believe that original sin, or depravity, is that corruption of the nature of all the offspring of Adam by reason of which everyone is very far gone from original righteousness or the pure state of our first parents at the time of their creation, is averse to

God, is without spiritual life, and inclined to evil, and that continually. We further believe that original sin continues to exist with the new life of the regenerate, until the heart is fully cleansed by the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

5.2 We believe that original sin differs from actual sin in that it constitutes an inherited propensity to actual sin for which no one is accountable until its divinely provided remedy is neglected or rejected.

5.3 We believe that actual or personal sin is a voluntary violation of a known law of God by a morally responsible person. It is therefore not to be confused with involuntary and inescapable shortcomings, infirmities, faults, mistakes, failures, or other deviations from a standard of perfect conduct that are the residual effects of the Fall. However, such innocent effects do not include attitudes or responses contrary to the spirit. We believe that personal sin is primarily and essentially a violation of the law of love; and that in relation to Christ sin may be defined as unbelief.

**Reflect:** This is our denominational stance on sin (I hope it wasn't too boring to read!).

Are you surprised by anything in this article of Faith? What questions does it raise? Does it answer any questions you had before reading it? How does it change or inform your thinking about sin?

### Friday

**Read:** Quote from Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

*“Christianity tells people to repent and promises them forgiveness. It therefore has nothing (as far as I know) to say to people who do not know they have done anything to repent of and who do not feel that they need any forgiveness. (However) When you know you are sick, you will listen to the doctor. When you have realized that our position is nearly desperate you will begin to understand what the Christians are talking about. They offer an explanation of how we got into our present state of both hating goodness and loving it. They offer an explanation of how God can be this impersonal mind*

*at the back of the Moral Law and yet also a Person. They tell you how the demands of this law, which you and I cannot meet, have been met on our behalf, how God Himself becomes a man to save man from the disapproval of God.”*

**Reflect:** What do you think Lewis means by saying “our position is nearly desperate”? How does Lewis say God saved us from God's disapproval? What does this passage teach us about sin?

### Further Reading:

Can't get enough reading about sin? Here are some extra verses, suggested by the *Manual*, for your consideration.

Original Sin: Genesis 6:5; Job 15:14; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Mark 7:21-23; Romans 1:18-25; 7:1-8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4; Galatians 5:16-25; 1 John 1:7-8

Personal Sin: Matthew 22:36-40; John 8:34-36; 16:8-9 Romans 3:23; 6:15-23; 8:18-24; 14:23; 1 John 1:9-2:4; 3:7-10