

CHRISTIAN LIFE NOTES

OREGON DISTRICT LWML VOLUME 6– APRIL 2017

Giving Up Read and Reflect COME

Giving Up.....

What did you give up for Lent? Was it chocolate, lattes, or meat? Maybe it was TV, Kindle, or Facebook. Or have you done what I did several years ago: gave up giving up?

Lent isn't really meant to be about giving up something to better ourselves. It's meant to be a time for confessing. We spend the Lenten season being reminded that we truly are sinners and as sinners we are enemies of God. When we think of who might be an enemy of God, we first think of the devil and his demons. However, when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, all human-kind became enemies of God. Do we want to be God's enemies? Of course not. Can we give up being enemies of God even for six weeks of Lent? No. There is nothing we can do to become sinless. Nothing we give up changes what we are. Only what God has given up can remove our guilt, that 'enemy' label from us.



Amazing Grace! God chose, from the very beginning, to give up His Son. As we read the passion story found in the four Gospels, we realize how much was given up for us. It brings tears to our eyes as we realize how much Christ endured because of our sins. But it doesn't end there!

**HE IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED
HALLELUJAH!**

Out of boundless love for us, God has freed us from the punishment for our sins. He has called us to faith in Him. Do we need to give up anything? **Only ourselves to follow Him. JUST COME!** (PW)

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| 1. COME to Calvary's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the Fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows to you, to me, to all,
In a full, perpetual tide
Opened when our Savior died. | 3. COME in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind.
Here the guilty free remission
Here the troubled peace, may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
He that drinks shall thirst no more. |
| 2. COME in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light. | 4. He that drinks shall live forever;
Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified. |

May the Joy of Easter fill your hearts and homes all year long.
Christian Life Committee

Read and Reflect

Read: Jeremiah 29: 11-13, John 3:16-17

Reflect: The simple truth is: God doesn't want to harm you; He wants to give you hope and a future. Jesus didn't come to condemn you but to save you. And He did this for all people! We know hope and salvation come only through Jesus Christ, and we are called to share that truth with others. We have a chance to view every circumstance as either a curse or a blessing, and our reaction has the ability to reflect God's light into the world.

How will you look at the events of your life today?

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Reflect: It has been said that without the lows in our lives, the highs would not be as sweet. Without understanding the dismal lives we once lived, we cannot fully enjoy the immensity of the gift of salvation. So don't lose heart! Take the time today to revel in the glory of the Savior who died so that we may never die. Don't worry about the unimportant things. Instead, when you struggle today, take the time to ask, **"Does this matter in the scope of eternity? Will this affect someone's eternal life?"**

Read: Philippians 4:12-13

Reflect: Challenges in life can lead us to trust God and learn to be content. Once you're been through the lows and seen God carry you through, how much easier it is to overcome the next obstacle. **Take the time today to thank God** for the hardships you have already endured, for His grace to see you through them, and the reassurance that no problem is too big for him.

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