

dec25

first, before all, i want to wish everyone a very merry christmas. and more than that, i pray everyone knows and appreciates what we are really celebrating on this day. it is not just His birth, but the fact that He was born and brought redemption with Him.

perhaps we don't all really appreciate what it means to be called a christian. it means to be christ-like. it means trying our best to be a representation on Him. to be His body part that are no longer here; His eyes, His ears, His hands, His heart. to minister to others as He ministers to us.

that can only happen if we remain close enough to feel His very breath on us. "abide in Me, and I in you. as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." john 15:4

i am sure we have probably all heard the following sermon. i hope you enjoy hearing it once again.

One Solitary Life

adapted from a sermon by Dr James Allan Francis

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself ...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

why has this life made such an impact? because, even as the Father confirmed our Lord while He was on this earth, the Father confirms Him today in our hearts.

You know, faith is the most powerful thing in the world. men and women throughout the ages have accomplished impossible things through faith. they still do today. how strong is it? "so Jesus said to them, "assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." matt 17:20

the word also says that He has dealt to everyone a measure of faith. it's so easy for us to believe for something bad. why cannot we also believe for something good? i believe i will get that job. i believe my family and me will be provided for. i believe that loved one will come to the Lord. and, i believe "i can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." phil 4:13

believe today - in Him and His love. believe He is coming soon that we may abide with Him forever. i do!

linda