

March 2020

From the Pastor



A Month of Lent

The liturgical church calendar, which is used by many churches has seasons in it for the church. One of the seasons is Lent, which lasts for forty days. The thirty-one days of March this year will all be part of the forty-days of Lent. Here is a definition of Lent from the Oxford English Dictionary:

A period of fasting and penitence, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending shortly before Easter, observed in the Christian Church in commemoration of the time Jesus spent in the wilderness. Now also: a period of fasting or abstinence observed at the same time in secular culture.

Lent reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice for us. Jesus started His ministry on earth with a forty day fast.

Mark 1:12-13 ¹² *The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.* ¹³ *And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. (ESV)*

To understand His sacrifice, consider what the apostle Paul was inspired to write about Jesus.

Colossians 1:15-18 ¹⁵ *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.* ¹⁶ *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible*

and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things were created through him and for him.¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. (ESV)

Jesus, a Person of the Trinity, is mighty. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Look at what Jesus did for us.

Colossians 1:19-20 *¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (ESV)*

Philippians 2:8 *And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)*

Lent is a forty-day season of the church to remind us what Jesus did for us. Some take this time to make small sacrifices to be reminded of Jesus' sacrifice. Examples are people who have stopped dessert for Lent. Others have stopped watching TV or playing video games. It is a way to remind us that Jesus suffered

Lent also reminds us to live a lifestyle throughout the year. That lifestyle is described in the book of Philippians.

Philippians 2:5-7 *⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (ESV)*

The life God would want us to live is a life that is humble. A life that serves those around us. A life that is willing to suffer for others. This month consider what Jesus did for you and how you can imitate Jesus to those around you.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive style, and "Art" is written in a more stylized, blocky cursive.