

May 9, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

This morning we continue our examination of the Seven Godly Virtues with a look at the virtue of Diligence. Diligence is that virtue that counters the vice of Sloth.

It has often been argued that Love is the most important gift that a parent can bestow upon a child - and I would not argue with that in the least. However, I would argue that a close second to the gift of love is the gift of internal discipline - or diligence. A child who learns the virtue of Diligence is one who will have a lifetime of dedicating themselves to hard work and not immediate gratification.

In my ministry over the years God has blessed me by allowing me to work off and on in prison ministry. In that ministry twice a year I would visit inmates either short term or long term at Terminal Island Federal Penitentiary, San Diego Federal Jail, Fred C. Nelles California Youth Authority or RJ Donovan State Prison. These are strikingly different facilities and the inmates were all very different serving sentences or awaiting trial for everything from multiple murders to drug smuggling to white collar crimes. However, one thing was consistent with everyone of the prisoners I met with... pursuit of immediate gratification which is the root to the vice of sloth.

To cultivate the virtue of Diligence requires demonstrating and instilling godly convictions in our children that their character counts - they are too be the same when people are watching and when they are alone. This is the same advice and example that St. Paul set for his apprentice Timothy when he wrote: ***"Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."*** (1 Timothy 4:15-16)

To cultivate the virtue of diligence in our spiritual lives requires developing a routine of daily prayer and scripture reading - as individuals and as a family. If we want our children to be diligent in prayer parents need to demonstrate that same steadfastness for the importance of prayer and scripture reading understanding that the reward may not be immediate but in time the prayers and scriptures seep into our minds and hearts and souls and shape our very beings. We want to follow the example of St. Paul when he visited Berea and taught the scriptures in the synagogue: ***"Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so."*** (Acts 17:11)

To cultivate the virtue of diligence requires demonstrating a strong



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work ethic that desires to complete a job not simply for the pay but for the pride of doing a job well done. Of course there is a reward for the diligent as Proverbs tells us: ***"The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied."*** (Proverbs 13:4)

My prayer for you and my prayer for me is that we will seek by God's grace to develop the virtue of Diligence!

Blessings to you all!

Bishop Menees

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[April 2013 Edition of The San Joaquin Anglican](#)

Check this edition of the San Joaquin Anglican
for current news of the Diocese!

[Diocesan Calendar](#)

Check the Diocesan Calendar for information on upcoming events!

May 12th - Bishop @ Disciples Anglican in Anaheim

May 18th - Diocesan Council @ 10 a.m.

May 19th - The Feast of Pentecost

Bishop @ St. Francis in Turlock

May 25th- Bishop @ St. Peter's in Kernville

May 26th - Bishop @ St. Michael's in Ridgecrest

August 2-4th - Anglican Church Women's Annual Retreat
at Camp San Joaquin

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