

LENT

A SEASON OF RENEWAL

Lenten Reflection 2018

Dear People of God,

We give glory and praise to God our Father who art in heaven. He sets before us times and seasons to provide a well-formed circumstance of growth and nurturance care for us. Just as the seasons of the year, summer, fall, winter and spring, each in its own varied ways nurture and sustain all creatures of the earth.

In the same way, within the variegated seasons of the Church liturgical year, the Season of Lent is given to us that we may enter the Desert for the forty days of introspective encounter with the self so that we may re-emerge at Easter with a refurbished and aligned self identity with Christ the Lord. This is penitent because, often times, as a result of us having been enmeshed with the ephemeral, our true identity gets distorted; perhaps, as a result of those unintended unpleasant encounters with the world.

Our true identity is righteousness. That's why we call God "Righteous Father" and the scripture calls Him "love". *God is love...whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them (1 John 4:16)*. God is a generous lover, for He loves us all any time, any day. He wishes us well and holds us dear to His heart. To share eternity with us is His grand plan and so He constantly reminds us by way of the seasonal Lenten desert experience to be mindful of whom we are; His sons and daughters ordained for heaven. As righteous Father, He knows that we might be lured to treasure instead, on those things that are intangible and illusory.

Dear people of God, we are enjoined to eschew all vestiges of ungodliness, savor a life of generosity to God, to others and to yourself. Be transformed by the renewal of your mind that you may know first and foremost that God is to be worshiped and adored. Seek to give Him your most excellent acts of praise and worship. Change and choose not to prioritize anything else above your Sunday experience and encounter with the Lord in the assembly of his people. Be ready to say, "*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.*" (*Psalms 122:1*).

In the desert experience, resolve to be generous so as to outdo one another in charity and self-giving love (*Romans 12:10*). Prepare to forgive and lay down the burden of anger, resentment and unkindness. Let it be known in words and deeds that you are a true child of Our Father who art in Heaven. At the same time, be generous to yourself by maintaining your Christian ethical and moral ethos. Think highly of yourself as very expensively made and crowned with glory and honor (*Psalms 8:1-9*).

Friends, this is God's longing and plan for us this season of grace. Enter the forty days desert encounter with the Lord and it shall be well with you. Amen!

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