

For Sunday, October 18, 2020:

This week we will consider Jesus responding to the Pharisees who were once again trying to trick and trap Him with their questions. Jesus responds with the famous verse, “Render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s”. This is His response to their question about paying the imperial tax. If He said don’t pay it, they would report Him to the authorities for treason. If he say’s to pay it, then He is seen as honoring the Roman pagan empire. Jesus responds in a way they never expected. The scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit will give us the words we need when we are put into a difficult no win situation. All we need to do is have faith and trust God’s provision.

In Exodus 33, God tells Moses: “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest”. The Lord passes by Moses to remind him that He is still with him and guiding him. God hides Moses in the cleft of the rock as He passes by. God seeks to protect and assure Moses....and us as well.

Finally, in I Thessalonians 1, Paul commends the faith of the Thessalonian Church who turned to God and away from their worthless idols. He told them that their lifestyle changes became a model to the believers and the Lord's message "rang out" through their actions.

The scriptures this week are very rich in their content and application. We hope you will join us in church as we safely worship together.

Scripture for this week:

Old Testament: Exodus 33:12-23

New Testament: Thessalonians 1:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Hymn for Inspiration: "Onward Christian Soldiers"

Onward, Christian Soldiers

"Onward, Christian Soldiers" is a hymn from the 19th century that remains popular today. The hymn's theme is taken from references in the New Testament to the Christian being a soldier for Christ, for example, 2 Timothy 2:3 (KJV): "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." It was written to encourage Christians in their ongoing battles with temptations within themselves and the evil forces throughout the world.

1 Onward, Christian soldiers,
marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
going on before!
Christ, the royal Master,
leads against the foe;
Forward into battle,
see his banner go!

Refrain:
Onward, Christian soldiers,
marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
going on before!

2 At the sign of triumph
Satan's host doth flee;
On, then, Christian soldiers,
on to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver
at the shout of praise;

Brothers, lift your voices,
loud your anthems raise! [Refrain]

3 Like a mighty army
moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading
where the saints have trod;
We are not divided;
all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine,
one in charity. [Refrain]

4 Onward, then, ye people,
join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices
in the triumph song;
Glory, laud, and honor,
unto Christ the King;
This thro' countless ages
men and angels sing. [Refrain]