

Tuesday, December 5

Scripture Reading: Colossians 1: 3-14

Text for Today: *We have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.*

During this Advent season, it is my hope that we will do what is truly pleasing in the eyes of God. When Jesus came into this world, he came not only for our salvation, but to transform the world and to help us better understand God and what God wants for us. Although that's a pretty simple idea, it is not always easy to put into practice. It takes prayer as well as study and contemplation to try to figure out what God really wants us to do.

Sometimes we make mistakes. Some decisions may have long term consequences for us, our family, our friends, our neighbors or those we don't even know in another city, another state or another country.

As we move on with our lives, goals that seemed so important last year, last month or even last week may seem less significant now. So a good first step is determining what things are really important and what things are not. Then we are ready to try to discern the will of God and to gain insight into how our thoughts and our actions will affect us. And, hopefully, we will be more aware of the world around us and more sensitive to the fact that our actions and inactions have both positive and negative consequences beyond our families and circles of friends.

So join me in asking God for direction and counsel that we may grow in the knowledge necessary to recognize what is pleasing to the Lord. When we call on Jesus and follow his example, it is more likely that our actions, individually and as larger groups, will be acceptable to God. Our quest to discern the will of God takes study and prayer and, yes, it may take time. But the time and effort will be worth it, if we are at least

partially successful in gaining the insight needed to know which direction God wants us to go. As we try to be Disciples of Christ, let us attempt to discern the will of God.

Prayer: God of wisdom, help us in our journey as we attempt to discern your will. Show us how to be mindful of our neighbors, near and far, as we strive to do what is pleasing in your sight. As we prepare for the long expected Jesus, give us the knowledge that we need to accomplish your purpose for us. Guide us to lead lives worthy of this incomparable gift of your son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Larry Pepper

*He will be great and
will be called the
Son of the Most High.*

Luke 1:32

