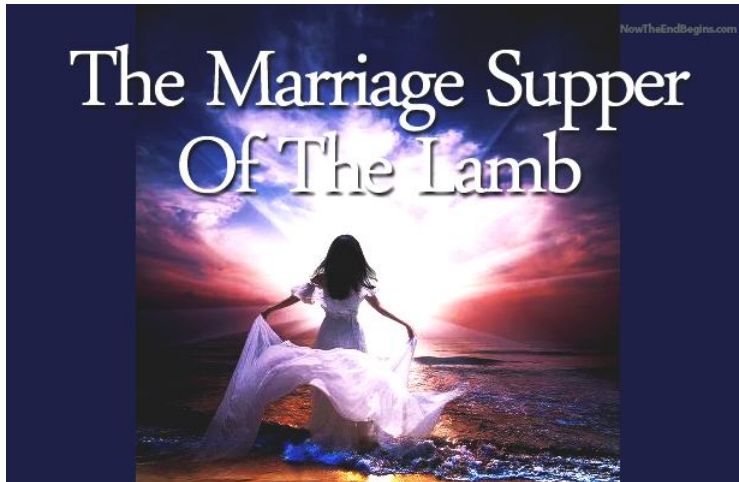


Preparation Guide for September's Devotionals



Revelation 22:14-17

Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city...I Jesus have sent Mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

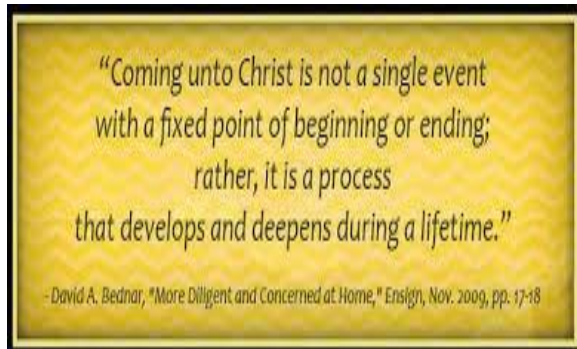
I think it is always exciting to get an invitation in the mail. They usually come on a nice heavy-grade paper and are often embossed and decorated. Such an invitation tells you that someone thinks enough of you to request your presence at a special event.

All through the scriptures we find the invitation to, "Come unto Jesus." I recently read this statement, **"To be invited to 'Come unto Jesus' is the most important invitation you will ever receive, the most important invitation you will ever accept and the most important invitation you will ever offer to others."** I thought how true, for this invitation comes from the very one who created the heavens and the earth upon which we stand. Talk about a special invitation!!



All through the scriptures Christ invites us to come unto Him. This month's devotionals are an in-depth study of the core meaning of the invitation to "Come unto Jesus" and they are wonderfully done. I found this body of work extremely meaningful and feel encouraged in my own life to answer that invitation with a fuller and a more complete response than ever before. Coming unto Christ is a life-long process and each of us can strive to accept that invitation to "Come unto Christ" in deeper and more meaningful

ways as we grow spiritually and understand more fully the meaning of such an invitation.



I also really appreciated Rachel pointing out that there are wonderful promises that are made to us if we will answer this invitation with a resounding “Yes.”

We receive many promises that are not true every day, such as, buy this pill and I promise you will lose 10 lbs. the first week; buy this stock or invest in this company and I promise you, you will become rich; buy this product and I promise you it will make your hair grow. Many promises are made by untruthful individuals—we see them every day on T.V. and in Magazines, etc. Sometimes even those we love make us promises they do not keep.

But He who gives us this invitation, with a promise, is totally truthful and totally dependable. What He says He will do, He will do. It is the Lord Jesus Christ, God's own Son, Who extends this invitation along with His Promises.

Matthew 11:29 Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

I found this quote concerning the promises made by Jesus, by J. C. Ryle:

“He is ABLE to do what He promises. He has all power in heaven and on earth. He has the keys of death and hell. The government is given to Him in time, and all judgment committed to Him in eternity.

“He is FAITHFUL to do what He promises. He will not lie, nor deceive, nor break His promise. What He speaks that He will do and what He undertakes that He will perform. Heaven and Earth may pass away—but His Word shall not pass away.

“He is WILLING to do what He promises. He has long since proved this by the love He has shown to man and the sacrifice He has made for man's soul. For man He came into the world; for man He suffered and died; for man He endured the cross and the shame. Surely He has a right to be believed.

“Beloved brethren, see that you refuse not Him who speaks to you this day. If a letter came to you from the ruler of this country you would not despise it. If you were sick, and advice came from a wise physician, you would not reject it. If you were in danger, and counsel came from your best and truest friend, you would not make light of it. Then hear the words that Jesus sends to you this day. Listen to the King of kings.”

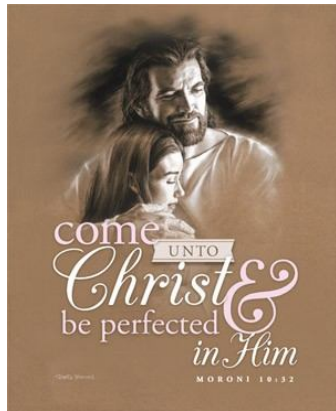
My sisters in the faith let us respond to this wonderful invitation to “Come unto Jesus” that we might lay claim to all the promises that He so willingly offers to us.

Even though we may have made our Covenant in the waters of baptism and profess to follow Jesus, we often go astray, we often feel weary, discour-

aged, cast down and burdened. Why is that? Because we do not abide in His presence as we should.

In our daily lives, His daily invitation to “Come unto Him,” is replaced by many other activities. His invitation is not our first priority. Often His invitation goes to the bottom of the stack.

In the days ahead let us come again into His presence through prayer, meditation and study. Let’s make the invitation to meet with Him and walk with Him in our daily lives our first priority. We must accept the invitation daily.



Our God desires us to “Come unto Him” that He might give us great

blessings. We are His children and He loves us so very much. He only seeks good for us. He invites us to “Come unto Him” over and over again because of what He knows it will do for us. He ever has our best interest at heart.

May each of us respond to this most wonderful invitation in ever more meaningful ways is my prayer.

As I read the devotionals this month I realized why the patriarchs have encouraged us to accept this invitation to “Come unto Jesus.” It truly is the most important invitation we will ever receive and our response is vital to our salvation.

Revelation 22:14-17 Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. I Jesus have sent Mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Challenge in the guide prepared by the Patriarchs of the church:

7. We are required to come unto Jesus.

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Revelation 22:16-17

Action: "Come unto Jesus"

This Month I will make every effort to truly accept this most important invitation to "Come unto Jesus." I will do this by obeying His Commandments and by being repentant. I will accept this invitation by having a contrite heart and ever seek out my Jesus through daily prayer and study. I will make this invitation a priority in my daily life. I will follow His example. I will seek to carry His image in my countenance and be like Him in my actions.

My Plan to Accomplish this Discipline:

Week #1

Week #2

Week #3

Week #4

My Partner to Assist Me & Help Me Be Accountable Is: _____

Self Evaluation:

How Am I Doing & What Do I Need to Do to Be More Successful:
