

THIS WEEK'S DRINK FROM THE SPRING – 3/1/10

This Week's Thought: Self-Denial: *“The denial of one's own desires or pleasures.”*

This Week's Quote: *“A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to let alone.”.....Henry David Thoreay*

This Week's Prayer Concern: Dorothy Eppley was admitted to Conemaugh Hospital last Saturday. We certainly want to pray and do what we can for the recent earthquake victims in Chile and Haiti.

This Week's Scripture: *“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. (Luke 9:23)*

As you know, we are now in the Lenten Season. Many people say they are giving up something during Lent. Perhaps it's television that some will give up? Perhaps it's chocolate? Perhaps it's a favorite CD that some will not listen to during Lent?

Is Lent a time of self-denial for you? Jesus really isn't concerned with chocolate, television or CDs. Jesus is concerned about what's going on in our hearts. Lent is a good time to give up those sins our lives. Perhaps it's a little pride, or hypocrisy, or self-centeredness, or laziness?

To me, Lent is really an attitude. (There's that word again.) It's an attitude of honesty and humility, as we confess our sins to God. But Lent is also an attitude of relief and joy, knowing that our sins have been forgiven, that our Lord has washed away all our sin because of what Jesus did on the cross.

If you temporarily give up certain things for Lent as a sign of love for your Savior, that's fine. But what Jesus is really concerned about is what's in our heart. Have you allowed Him to cleanse your heart and make it whole? I trust that you have. We all need to ask God to do that from time to time. *“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me,” (Psalm 51:10 N.I.V.).*

Serving With You,
Pastor Guy