

**Trinity Tidings**

**March 2018**



***And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. “For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light”***

[Colossians 3:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A17&version=ESV)

Watching the Winter Olympic Games at Pyeongchang may have given us pause to consider what we, ourselves, are capable of when we put our minds to such extraordinary tasks. To participate at an Olympian level is difficult and requires courage and commitment where the “best of the best” present their gifts and talents before millions of viewers. They risk everything, putting themselves out there, regardless the outcome. An Olympian hopeful begins early in life with a promise to be self-disciplined. The devastation, then, between a win and a loss is monumental...even though a loss (especially at this level) is nothing to scoff at. Just qualifying and given a chance to share the result of such hard work is to be celebrated. And I would imagine having spent the first 1/3 of one’s life preparing for these moments, this kind of tenacity and determination becomes a way of life.

Imagine, then, putting your whole self out there for Christ. Imagine disciplining your days to include more time in prayer and devotion, filling yourself with God’s wisdom and sustenance so that you can be an Olympic witness to Christ. Imagine the heavenly hosts rejoicing as you stand at the pinnacle of your learning and risk that moment to give your all as you share God’s unconditional love. To have the audacity to share the gospel with the world requires the strength and endurance of an Olympian. Though we go in knowing we might fail, we give it our all with a smile on our face. The Olympian athlete devotes his or her whole life to reach this point in their lives and a Christian is asked to strive for the same. Our faith and trust in a faithful trustworthy God affords us the tools needed to succeed. We strive to do our best through countless hours of practice and unrelenting purpose knowing we may not always win.

Lent offers us a time to examine ourselves inside and out. Giving up or giving away, that which we take for granted or cherish, can cause us to dig deeper in to our normal lives. When we dare commit to Christ’s work we have to make changes in our lifestyle that will, ultimately, stay with us for the long haul. Although the commitment and risk feel like a sacrifice, the joy received is unparalleled. Jesus’ ministry began at the River Jordan where God claimed Him as His beloved Son. We, too, are claimed by God as beloved children. Christ faced many challenges in the wilderness, such as temptation and self-preservation, but He also knew He was never alone. Just as the angels were there to tend to His needs so we are protected and supported by His divine presence. When we thirst for a closer walk with God or see only a faint light shining upon our path rest assured God has never been closer to you and me than now. At this very moment, as you give the best of the best, remember, within you runs eternally the fountain of life!

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.* [Philippians 4:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A8&version=ESV)

***Pastor Cheri***