

HomeTouch

is a weekly ministry of
Orange Coast Church



Pastor Ken Studer

Sunday, September 23, 2007

Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

TODAY'S THOUGHT: *Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.* —Robert Louis Stevenson

There once was a rookie lumberjack who started out determined to chop down more trees than anyone else. He made it his goal to beat his company's average tree count of 15 trees a day.

On his very first day, he felled 10 trees. He said to himself, "That's pretty good for my first day." But on the second day, he chopped down 10 again. No progress at all. Then on the third day, he managed only seven! Now he was puzzled, but not discouraged yet. He simply doubled his efforts the next day. Imagine to his surprise when he finished with only five trees down! Every day it got worse; no matter how hard or often he swung the ax, when each day ended, he had felled fewer trees than the day before.

After two weeks of discouragement, the young man approached a grizzled old veteran. "I don't understand what's going on. I work hard every day, swinging my ax from dawn to dusk, but I keep doing worse and worse. What can I be doing wrong?"

"Young fella," the old man replied after a long pause, "I can see them calluses on your hands and bigger muscles in your arms, to prove you been swingin' your ax. But let me ask you something: When was the last time you sharpened your ax?"

Good question. When is the last time we've sharpened our ax? Every day, we must take time out to pray, give thanks and read our Bible. It is this regular practice that will keep our "axes" sharp as we face each day.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for reminding me that it is important to take time to be renewed and "sharpened." Help me not to neglect the time I should spend in prayer and meditation. Amen.

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Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday: 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- Monday: 2 Chronicles 23-25
- Tuesday: 2 Chronicles 26-29
- Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 30-32
- Thursday: 2 Chronicles 33-36
- Friday: Ezekiel 1-3
- Saturday: Psalms 103-105

VERSE TO REMEMBER

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits — who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases ... who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

—Psalm 103:2-5



Football season is well underway, and the baseball playoffs and World Series are right around the corner. Here is a little quiz to test your knowledge of sports. All you have to do is match the terms with their sport. For example, “home plate” would refer to baseball, whereas “end zone” would refer to football. *Draw a line between matching pairs.*

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|------------------|---------------|
| 1. balk | A. basketball |
| 2. fair catch | B. golf |
| 3. two-line pass | C. football |
| 4. takedown | D. tennis |
| 5. dismount | E. baseball |
| 6. fault | F. hockey |
| 7. over and back | G. gymnastics |
| 8. hazard | H. wrestling |

DOWN & ACROSS

Directions: This is a simple and fun game involving four words that can be read “down & across.”

Use the following hints:

- Row 1: Ocean-going boat
- Row 2: Hawaiian dance
- Row 3: Sickneses
- Row 4: Long ago

Answers:
 The Sports
 Page: 1E, 2C, 3F, 4H, 5G, 6D, 7A, 8B.
 Down &
 Across:
 Row 1: ship;
 Row 2: hula;
 Row 3: ills;
 Row 4: past.