



Info about the Corpus Christi conference 2022

Time:

25th to 29th of July

Place:

Göteborg, Sweden

Theme:

Fear Not!

Main Speaker:

Rev. David Preus

How much?

€ 129 Early Bird Fee
(incl. accommodation)

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www.corpuschristi.eu

Please keep in your prayers:

- the planning of the conference
- an end to the covid crisis
- peace in Europe, especially in Ukraine
- unity in faith and truth amongst Christians

Work restarted: In January six Board members met in Stockholm after two years of break, in order to discuss the coming conference and the development of the association. From left to right: Jordan (USA), Michael (Germany), Silje (Norway), Hanna (England), Lukas (Sweden), Chairman Samuli (Finland)

Bible Reading and Devotional:

„Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.“ (Ephesians 6:18)

Before this verse, the apostle Paul has just described the armour of God. Through Baptism and the Gospel God has equipped us: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Quite an extended protective gear!

Finally, after recounting all of those gifts the apostle talks about how we fight against the schemes of the devil. How do we stand firm? How do we edify the fellowship of believers? How do we stay in contact with the defender and leader of the Christian army, God himself? All of this is done by praying, by talking to God, by showing him what's on our heart. Being equipped does not mean we have to pretend that we are ever-confident, self-reliable warriors now! What does Paul teach us about praying?

1. Pray „at all times“! That is, pray daily, pray on a regular basis, in the morning after getting up and in the evening before going to bed. It's beneficial to have a rhythm of prayer. In addition, you may also pray before certain activities. For example, before meeting other people pray to have a fruitful encounter. Or ask your Heavenly Father to be kept safe before driving by car or going on a journey.

We must admit that even when we do all of this, we won't keep this apostolic instruction literally. „At all times“? Besides prayer God also wants us to work, to sleep, to use time for our hobbies, and so on. But don't forget. We are in this together! If you think about your brothers and sisters in faith throughout the world, you see: this instruction is kept by the whole of Christianity. Others keep on praying while you sleep, work, or do sports.

2. Pray „in the Spirit“! That is, in the Holy Spirit. He guides us into prayer, he reminds us to pray. He wakes our conscience when we need to say a prayer for forgiveness. He fills our hearts with joy which makes us say a prayer of thanksgiving and praise. He leads us into saying fitting words to our Father in heaven and to our Brother and Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit talks to us in the Bible. The Bible is inspired. That means that the Holy Spirit was present and at work when the authors wrote down the Scriptures. Thus, praying „in the Spirit“ means praying shaped by the words of Holy Scripture. We read the Bible in order to shape our minds and hearts, and thus the way we pray. This also includes taking prayers from the Bible like the Psalms or the Lord’s Prayer.

3. Paul also writes: „Keep alert“! Be on your guard! The enemy of God and your old Adam want to distract you from praying, want to make you forget it. He lures us away and offers bad alternatives: becoming angry and letting this anger grow instead of bringing it before God. Or, becoming haughty and thinking: „that’s something which I can accomplish without God’s help“. Or, becoming desperate. Yes, there’s that particular lie the devil uses: There’s no use in it. God doesn’t listen. Haven’t you prayed for this and that and he hasn’t listened? Keep alert, when you feel angry, haughty or desperate! Don’t listen to the devil’s lies! God very closely listens to every word we speak to him, especially when it comes from the bottom of our hearts. He sometimes tests our patience, but he never ignores us when we pray in the name of Jesus, his beloved son. The words that we speak to him he holds very dearly. And he will certainly act on your behalf when he decides that it is best for you.

4. „For all the saints“: We are encouraged to pray for our neighbors, for our congregation members, for our own church body, for godparents and godchildren, for friends and family. But also „for *all* the saints“, for all the believers who God has sanctified by the waters of Baptism. For the whole of Christendom on earth. That’s why there is a part in the divine services which is called „prayer of the church“. But we can also include this in our daily prayers: For example, pray for friends abroad, maybe some who you have met at a Corpus Christi conference. Pray for the persecuted saints. Pray for the many churches which are under pressure from inside and outside to accommodate to the demands of those who disregard the Word of God. Peter writes: „Resist the devil, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.“ (1 Peter 5:9) Part of this resistance is praying for all the saints!

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Quote from a Church Father:

Martin Luther about The First Commandment. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

„That is: Thou shalt have and worship Me alone as thy God. What is the force of this, and how is it to be understood? What does it mean to have a god? or, what is God? Answer: A god means that from which we are to expect all good and to which we are to take refuge in all distress, so that to have a God is nothing else than to trust and believe Him from the whole heart; as I have often said that the confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol. If your faith and trust be right, then is your god also true; and, on the other hand, if your trust be false and wrong, then you have not the true God; for these two belong together faith and God. That now, I say, upon which you set your heart and put your trust is properly your god.

Therefore it is the intent of this commandment to require true faith and trust of the heart which settles upon the only true God and clings to Him alone. That is as much as to say: "See to it that you let Me alone be your God, and never seek another," i.e.: Whatever you lack of good things, expect it of Me, and look to Me for it, and whenever you suffer misfortune and distress, creep and cling to Me. I, yes, I, will give you enough and help you out of every need; only let not your heart cleave to or rest in any other.“ (Large Catechism)

Bible Verse of Encouragement: „Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.“ (Psalm 100:3)