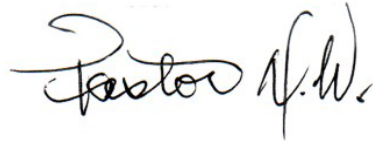


The Barnabas Letter

The month of February is a month of minor feasts of the church and, this year, one major one. On the second of the month we celebrate the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple at Jerusalem, you will find a full account of this in the Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter Two beginning at verse 21. Then on the fourteenth of this month we remember St. Valentine, no, this isn't about your sweetheart, it is about a priest of that early church who was beaten and beheaded for refusing to deny Christ Jesus! Finally, on the twenty-fifth of this month we have Ash Wednesday and we begin our Lenten journey. Now then, about now you are probably wondering why I am bringing all of this up. It is simple, really, if we wish to live for Christ then we had better keep our minds focused upon him! The feasts of the church help us to do just that. As we make our way through the liturgical year we find ourselves amazed and humbled by the faith and perseverance of our forebears in the faith. We find ourselves witnessing the life of our Lord as we pay attention to the various remembrances that the Church year points out to us. All of this serves to increase our faith and it gives us great strength in time of adversity. The Church year is very much like the liturgy; it focuses all of our attention upon our Savior and Lord. If we pay attention to the Lord more than we pay attention to ourselves we find ourselves living out the Gospel and by living out the Gospel we fulfill our Lord's command to preach the Gospel to every living creature! It is for this reason that the Church year was instituted in the first place. As we live through this year we will have many different experiences and some of them will be good and some may be very bad indeed. But if we keep our eyes upon Jesus and trust completely in him we will be just fine. The various feasts of the church help us to do just that, keep our eyes and our hearts

stayed upon our loving Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Let us follow the church calendar and not worry too much about the other one, that calendar only contains dates that mark the passage of time, the church calendar tells us that our God does, indeed, love us. Until next month, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Your brother in Christ Jesus:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor J. W." The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive script, and "J. W." follows in a similar style.