

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Charge and Prayer for the 2010 Graduates

Charge:

It is the long tradition at Columbia to give you a charge as you go, drawn exclusively from God's Word. So I now invite you to hear words of *calling* and words of *sending*.
Hear God's Word to you—from Jeremiah, Isaiah, Paul, and Joshua.

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you:
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am *inexperienced*."

But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am *not yet ready*';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord."

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth;
and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put *my* words in *your* mouth.
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

Isaiah 43:1-4a

[Indeed]...thus says the Lord who created you, O Jacob, the One who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear,
for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm
you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia
and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you...

2 Corinthians 4:1, 5-7

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry,
we do not lose heart.

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

I Corinthians 4:1

I think of you in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries.

Philippians 1:3-6

[thanking] my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for *all of you*, because of your sharing in the gospel for the first day until now.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will bring in to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Joshua 1:9

Therefore, I charge you:

Be strong and courageous;
do not be frightened or dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Thanks be to God!

Prayer:

As I charged you with God's word, so now I lead you in prayer through God's Word, from the words of Jeremiah, Solomon, Hannah, Nehemiah, Moses, Elijah, and Paul.

Jer. 29:11-13

Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
When you call upon me and pray to me, I will hear you.

I Kings 8:22

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hand to heaven:

"O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart.

I Sam. 2:2

"My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

Neh. 1:5-6a

“O Lord God of heaven, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray for your servants.

Deut. 9:29

“For they are the people of your very own possession, whom you brought out by your great power and by your outstretched arm.

I Kings 18:36

“O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that we are your servants and have done all these things at your bidding.

Ephesians 3: 7-21

“[So] We bow before you, O God, the one from whom every family in heaven and in earth takes its name. We pray that, according to the riches of your glory, you may grant that *these your servants* be strengthened in their inner being with power through your Spirit.

And, O Christ, that you may dwell in their hearts through faith, as they are being rooted and grounded in love.

We pray that they may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that they may be filled with all the fullness of you. And that by your power at work within them, they may be able to accomplish far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine,

To your glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”