



the
bread of life
devotional

“And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” - Luke 4:4

Dear Readers,

We would like to thank you for your continued support of *The Bread of Life Devotional*. Every month pastors and laymen submit devotionals. We also have staff that edits, creates, and prints *The Bread of Life*. Our prayer is that every month you are encouraged, challenged, and blessed by the contents of this devotional.

Have a blessed summer, and keep on being faithful for the glory of the Lord!

The Bread of Life Devotional Staff

Sunday

August 1

The Fruit of Repentance

“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.” Matthew 3:8

John the Baptist was baptizing at the river Jordan when he looked up and saw some of the Pharisees and Sadducees. They would not normally have had any dealings with this uniquely dressed prophet, but the news of what he was preaching and doing had become known among them. So in “religious concern” they came to investigate.

John was preaching a very simple message. Repent of your sins because the Kingdom of Heaven was coming. John knew that Jesus was the promised Messiah and that He alone would take away the sins of the world.

When he saw the “religious” leaders, he wondered at the motives for their attendance at the baptism. In line with his inner wonderings, he called them snakes and poses an outward question, ***“Who hath warned you of the wrath to come?”*** He was not convinced that their hearts were in an attitude of repentance. He believed that they were coming to cause trouble. He called upon them to bring fruits of repentance. In other words, let your actions and the condition of your heart reflect what your mouth speaks.

Many times, we, like the Pharisees and Sadducees, come to an altar or before God in prayer confessing our sin but not repenting of it. Real repentance requires some work. It is more than just a few emotionally charged words or walking down an isle. Real repentance bares the fruit of a changed heart. Real

Morning: *Psalm 65-67*

Evening: *Romans 2*

repentance requires a directional course change. It may mean finding new friends or sharing the truth with the ones you have. Fruit could be altering your viewing habits, purposing to adjust your language, throwing away ungodly music, disposing of an addictive habit.
~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”
James 4:14-15

Bible Quiz

True and False: Put an *F* in the blank if the answer is false and a *T* in the blank if the answer is true.

____ 1. Abihail was Esther’s father. (Es. 2:15)

____ 2. Mordecai was a Jewish captive in Persia and the foster father to Esther. (Es. 2:5-7)

____ 3. Haman was Esther’s cousin and was second in command in Persia. (Es. 3:1-2)

Quote of the Day

“Great trials seem to be necessary preparation for great duties.”
~Thompson

Monday

August 2

Exceptional in Ordinary Things

“And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.”
Luke 19:17

Most people would admit to having dreams of grandiosity occasionally. In the realm of our spiritual lives, we can often lift up a spiritual grandiosity as something worthy to be achieved for God. I often feel inspired to “do great things for God” and ponder how that might look. This dreaming is not necessarily wrong if it spurs me to righteous action, but the pitfall is that while dreaming of great things for God we forget the small things He wants us to do well today.

Oswald Chambers put it well when he wrote, “It is inbred in us that we have to do exceptional things for God; but we have not. We have to be exceptional in the ordinary things, to be holy in mean streets, among mean people, and this is not learned in five minutes.” We may long for a spiritual level of “achievement” that puts us beyond the “ordinary” struggles. In reality, it may be the ordinary, mundane, annoying struggles of everyday life that do the most to conform us to Christ if we patiently allow God to work in us through our necessary tasks. Someday we may have authority over ten cities, but the humility to do that job well may be learned doing servile tasks with faithfulness.

The ordinary may become meaningful and holy as we do it in a spirit of excellence and gratitude for God’s glory despite the result.
~AJD

Morning: *Psalms 68-69*

Evening: *Romans 3*

Scripture Fill-In

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the _____ . For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.” James 4:14-15

Bible Quiz

Who Said? Label each quote with the Biblical character who said it.

_____ 1. “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.” Mt. 12:25

_____ 2. “Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.” Mt. 14:28

_____ 3. “A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.” Jn. 3:27

_____ 4. “How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers hath given you?” Josh. 18:3

_____ 5. “Why, what evil hath he done?” Mk. 15:14

Quote of the Day

“Yesterday’s hits won’t win today’s ball game.”
~Anonymous

Tuesday

August 3

Trust in God = Fear Not Man

“In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.”
Psalm 56:11

David wrote when he was being pursued by his Philistine enemies. When we look at this verse, we can see two things that David did to help himself through his difficulty.

First, David declared an act of faith. ***“In God have I put my trust.”*** Today, just as in David’s day, people trust in many different things. Some trust in their own strength, some in relationships, some in their experience, even others in money. David could have trusted in any or all of these things, but he chose to trust in the Lord. This was a wise choice because God knows all about our circumstances. He knows about our abilities, and He created each of us to accomplish His specific plan. Who better to trust than the One who loves us the most, knows us the best, and has the greatest ability to help us accomplish our distinct purpose.

David also made a conscious choice not to fear man. Faith and fear never blend well. In verse three of this same psalm, David wrote ***“What time I am afraid, u I will trust in thee.”*** He understood that through faith in God we can conquer any fear. Whether we are facing a physical, financial, or emotional giant, when we understand that God is on our side and that all things work together for good for those who are saved, we can replace panic with peace.

Are you facing an enemy? Who or what are you trusting? If our faith is in God, we have no need to fear. ~DLW

Morning: *Psalm 70-72*

Evening: *Romans 4*

Scripture Fill-In

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the _____ . For what is your _____ ? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”
James 4:14-15

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Biblical character with her description.

_____ 1. Abi (2 Ki, 18:1-2)

_____ 2. Abiah (1 Chron. 2:24)

_____ 3. Adah (Gen. 4:19-20)

_____ 4. Michal (1 Sam. 19:9-17)

_____ 5. Miriam (Ex. 15:20-21)

A. Rescued David from death

B. Mother of King Hezekiah

C. Sang a song after the destruction of Pharaoh and his army

D. Wife of Lamech

E. Wife of Hezron

Quote of the Day

“Sometimes God makes his people’s troubles to contribute to the increase of their greatness, and their sun shines the brighter for having been under a cloud.”
~Henry

Wednesday

August 4

The Only Acceptable Payment

*“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”
1 John 2:1-2*

Many times, when one is accused of a wrong doing, he will secure an advocate to plead his case. In simple terms, an advocate is a lawyer. In most court cases, a lawyer is necessary due to the intricate details and idiosyncrasies of the legal system. The defendant must find someone who knows the law and can effectively prove his innocence.

The Apostle John calls Jesus Christ the advocate for the believer. When a believer sins, Jesus Christ becomes the sinners advocate. The only problem is our sin makes us guilty. It would not be just for Jesus Christ to defend a sinner. The guilty party must receive his punishment.

In verse two, however, the Apostle John renders a second title to Jesus Christ. He calls Him the “propitiation” for our sins. As the advocate, it would be necessary for Him to prove our guilt. As the “propitiation,” it allows Him to pardon the sin of the one He is defending and satisfactorily take the blame and the punishment for the sin that was committed.

The word “propitiation” means, “a satisfactory atonement.” In other words, Jesus Christ is

Morning: *Psalm 73-74*
Evening: *Romans 5*

the only acceptable payment for the offense that has been committed against God. As Jesus argues for our cause, He appeals not to our innocence but to the fact that He is the payment for our sin. Our sin has been paid for and we no longer are guilty! How have you thanked Him today for His wonderful works for you? ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the _____ . For what is your _____ ? It is even a _____ , that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.” James 4:14-15

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Answer the following questions in the spaces provided. Refer to 2 Timothy 1.

1. According to verse 15, who were the people mentioned that deserted Paul?

2. Who was the man mentioned in verses 16-18 that ministered to Paul?

Quote of the Day

“There’s no better book with which to defend the Bible than the Bible itself.” ~D. L. Moody

Thursday

August 5

Live Up to the Standard

“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” Philippians 1:27

"Whatever" has been a common word, particularly among teens, for several years. But did you know that this word is also found 173 times in Scripture? My personal favorite use of this word—and a use that has become important for my team—is here in Philippians 1:27. Paul instructed the believers that “whether” he be with them or be absent, they should conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Wow! That over-used word "whatever" suddenly seems a lot more serious.

Is Paul saying that even if my opponent tries to cheat me, I can't retaliate? What about if the referee misses a crucial call? What about when my coach doesn't play me when I've earned a spot? I think in each of these situations, Paul would simply say that “whatever” has no parameters—our behavior can't depend on circumstances, because circumstances in this life are rarely fair or simple.

We are called to live at a higher standard. Even when the world tells us we have a right to get even, God calls us to humbly submit to His higher purposes. ~AP

Morning: Psalm 75-77
Evening: Romans 6

Scripture Fill-In

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the _____ . For what is your _____? It is even a _____, that appeareth for a little time, and then _____ away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.” James 4:14-15

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Are you living up to God’s standards? In the space provided write some areas of your life where you are falling short. Then, pray and ask God to help you overcome the shortcomings.

Quote of the Day

“True repentance hates the sin, and not merely the penalty; and it hates the sin most of all because it has discovered and felt God's love.”

~Taylor

Friday

August 6

The Call to Be Christ-like

“Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.” Matthew 5:42

It was evening when the call came. I had just ordered a pizza for my family and was anxiously anticipating a leisurely night. The person on the other end of the line explained her need for help. To be quite honest and to my dismay, I had absolutely no desire to help the person. Quickly, I had assessed the situation, and in my estimation her call was unwarranted. Wanting to dismiss the call, I said I would call her back. After a brief discussion with my family, I realized that I must answer the call for help and give of myself and my resources.

To say that I delightfully went to Wal-Mart for supplies would be far from the truth. But, I did what I thought was the right thing to do and helped this woman in need. During the escape, I realized that I would not gain anything for my “good deed.” Maybe I would get a “thank you” on this side of Heaven but that was it. My heart was not in the right place.

The Bible says, ***“Give to him that asketh of thee.”*** In so doing, when we give to those in need, we are obeying the second greatest commandment to, ***“love thy neighbor as thyself.”*** And, in loving our neighbors unconditionally, we are exhibiting a Christ-like life. Being Christ-like shows the love of our Savior.

It is not always easy and convenient to do the right thing, but you never know the results of a “good deed.” Showing the love Christ will draw men to our loving Lord. ~MFV

Morning: *Psalm 78*

Evening: *Romans 7*

Scripture Fill-In

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the _____ . For what is your _____? It is even a _____, that appeareth for a little time, and then _____ away. For that ye ought to say, If the _____ will, we shall live, and do this, or that.” James 4:14-15

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer. Refer to 2 Chronicles 22:10-12.

1. Who was the father of Joash?
A. Hezekiah C. Ahaziah
B. Ahaz D. David
2. Who rescued Joash from being slain?
A. Dalphon C. Darius
B. Gideon D. Jehoshabeath
3. How many years was Joash hid?
A. A year C. Six
B. Two D. Ten
4. Who reined while Joash was in hiding?
A. Athaliah C. No one
B. Ahaziah D. Jehoshabeath

Quote of the Day

“Wicked men obey from fear, good men, from love.”
~Aristotle

In God We Trust

By Pastor Paul O'Bradovic

In late 1861, a pastor from Ridleyville, Pennsylvania, wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase. In his letter he wrote, *“One fact touching our currency has hitherto been seriously overlooked. I mean the recognition of the Almighty God in some form on our coins. You are probably a Christian. What if our Republic were shattered beyond reconstruction? Would not the antiquaries of succeeding centuries rightly reason from our past that we were a heathen nation?”*

Within a week, Secretary Chase wrote a letter to the Director of the Mint in which he said, *“Dear Sir: No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins. You will cause a device to be prepared without unnecessary delay with a motto expressing in the fewest and tersest words possible this national recognition.”*

As a result of this exchange, the motto “In God We Trust” began to be inscribed on our nation’s coins. By 1864, the new two-cent coin carried the motto “In God We Trust.” In 1956, the motto became our official National Motto. According to Public Law 84-851, passed by the 84th Congress, the adopting of “In God We Trust” as the National motto “‘is proper’ to ‘remind all of us of this self-evident truth’ that ‘as long as this country trusts in God, it will prevail.’”

Because it is a law that our currency must contain the words “In God We Trust,” many non-believers and atheistic people have complained about a “national endorsement” of God

and that such an endorsement is an establishment of a religion and therefore is against the First Amendment. This thought has not been adopted by the Supreme Court, and as a result the motto remains on our currency. The reason that such the words “In God We Trust” have not been removed from our currency is because it has, according to the Supreme Court “lost through rote repetition any significant religious content.”

How sad to think that in 1861 the pastor in Pennsylvania assumed that the Secretary of the Treasury was a Christian and would agree that God must be recognized on our currency, yet today that same recognition only remains because it has “lost through rote repetition any significant religious content.”

The Bible reminds us that **“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.”** Does our nation really trust in God or is it just another phrase on our money? It is sad to think that we have such a strong fear of man that our trust in God is beginning to fade. As the trust fades into motto, the words of the 84th Congress ring eerily to our nation, “As long as this country trusts in God, it will prevail.” It is interesting to note that the currency that contains the motto without “any significant religious content” has steadily declined in value over the last few years. How much longer can we prevail? Do the words “In God We Trust” mean anything to you, or have they lost “any significant religious content?” Does it matter to you, or is it a motto to you?

Saturday

August 7

A Higher Standard

“Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”
Matthew 5:43-44

Yesterday, I told a story about a woman calling to ask for my help. In the end, I helped her, but my heart was not in the right place. Our verse yesterday, ***“Give to him that asketh of thee . . .”*** (Mt. 5:42) is located in the midst of the Sermon on the Mount, given by our Lord Jesus. The section where it is found deals with loving your enemies.

In the Old Testament, we are commanded to love our neighbors, but in the New Testament, Christians are held to a higher standard. Not only are we to love our neighbors, but we are also supposed to love our enemies. This is Christ-like behavior. When Jesus was on the cross being treated worse than an animal at the slaughter, He prayed to God the Father, ***“Forgive them; for they know not what they do.”*** (Lk. 23:34) Oh, to have the mindset of Christ!

Loving our enemies is not an easy thing to do, but it is the standard to which we, as Christians, are held. Are you struggling to love someone? Pray daily for that person, and pray that God would give you unconditional love. Through Christ-like love others will see Christ!
~MFV

Morning: *Psalm 79-81*
Evening: *Romans 8:1-18*

Scripture Fill-In

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the _____, For what is your _____? It is even a _____, that appeareth for a little time, and then _____ away. For that ye ought to say, If the _____ will, we shall _____, and do this, or that.” James 4:14-15

Bible Quiz

Completion: Complete the statement based on today’s devotional.

1. The Sermon on the Mount was given by _____.
2. In the _____ Testament, Christians are held to a _____ standard.
3. Not only are Christians commanded to love their neighbors, but they are also supposed to love their _____.
4. Jesus said, “_____ them; for they know not what they do.”
5. Through Christ-like _____ others will see Christ.

Quote of the Day

“Love is the image of God, and not a lifeless image, but the living essence of the divine nature that beams full of goodness.” ~*Luther*

Sunday

August 8

By Faith Not Works

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1

Stand firm in your Scriptural belief in salvation through Jesus Christ. Paul clearly tells the early believers that if they trust in circumcision for righteousness, what value is their trust in Christ? As a matter of fact, in verse four, he says Christ has become of no effect. Be strong in your faith, and do not allow anyone to hinder your belief.

There are many good individuals trusting in God for their salvation through Jesus Christ, and they are led astray by false religious teachers. These well intending individuals believe in Jesus but feel they must confirm or secure their faith by some other act beyond trusting in Jesus.

Some tell us that we must be baptized, or we must join the church. Some say that we must attend communion, or we must work in the church. Do not be easily persuaded by these false teachers. Remember that those who teach such false doctrines shall bear God’s judgment. Such teaching is offensive to the cross, denying the power of it through the works of man. Therefore, let us stand firm in our belief. Can you defend your faith? ~OV

Morning: *Psalm 82-84*
Evening: *Romans 8:19-39*

Scripture Fill-In

“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” James 5:7-8

Bible Quiz

Fill-In: Complete the following verses from Galatians 5.

1. (Vs. 1) “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us _____, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”
2. (Vs. 2) “Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you _____.”
3. (Vs. 3) “For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the _____ law.”
4. (Vs. 4) “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from _____.”
5. (Vs. 5) “For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by _____.”

Quote of the Day

“Faith, as Paul saw it, was a living, flaming thing leading to surrender and obedience to the commandments of Christ.” ~A. W. Tozer

Monday

August 9

Liberty in the Spirit

“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.” Galatians 5:13-15

Praise God, we have been called to liberty. We are no longer under the bondage of the law, nor the doctrines of man, but have perfect liberty in Christ. How do we use our understanding of the life of Christ living in us? (Galatians 2:20).

From Galatians 5:13-15, answer the following questions:

1. How should we not use our liberty?

2. How should we use our liberty?

3. How is the law fulfilled?

~OV

Morning: *Psalms 85-87*

Evening: *Romans 9*

Scripture Fill-In

“Be _____ therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” James 5:7-8

Bible Quiz

True or False: Put an *F* in the blank if the answer is false and a *T* in the blank if the answer is true.

- ____ 1. Jesus said, “If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove.” Mt. 17:20
- ____ 2. Jesus told the woman with the issue of blood that she was healed because of purity. Mk. 5:25-34
- ____ 3. In Luke 8:22-25, Jesus rebuked the disciples for their unconfessed sin.
- ____ 4. The just shall live by prayer. Rom. 1:17
- ____ 5. Justification comes to man through performing the law. Rom. 3:28

Quote of the Day

“If you have been born of the Holy Spirit, you will not have to serve God . . . it will become the natural thing to do.” ~D. L. Moody

Tuesday

August 10

The Winnowing Fan

“Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” Matthew 3:12

In this passage John the Baptist is speaking with the well known religious leadership of his day. He has informed them of the coming of the Kingdom of the Lord and the wrath will follow. He is pointing them to the Messiah. At this point, Jesus Himself walks on the scene making it clear that He is the subject of John’s speech.

The winnowing fan that John speaks of was a sort of half basket used to toss the grains of the Middle East into the air. The grain, as it was tossed, was heavier than the chaff or hull and would fall back to the basket while the chaff was blown away eventually to be burned.

John was calling these religiously pious people chaff. They looked similar to the grain, but their empty religion was worthless. As long as they refused Christ, they were doomed for the fire. Such is the course that many “spiritual” people run today. They look like a Christian, but they are chaff to be thrown in the fires of Hell in the end.

The life of believers can also have chaff. God seeks to put us into His winnowing fan, shaking loose all the parts of us that look good but are not. He wants to winnow us until all that remains are the good grains of a life that resembles Him. It might hurt sometimes, and we may not understand each toss of the fan. In the end, we will be able to stand before our

Morning: *Psalms 88-89*
Evening: *Romans 10*

Father looking more and more like His Son.
~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

“Be _____ therefore, brethren, unto the _____ of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” James 5:7-8

Bible Quiz

Who’s Who: Label the Biblical character

_____ 1. He raped Dinah, the daughter of Jacob and was slain by Jacob’s sons. Gen. 34

_____ 2. She was the mother of Jehoahaz. 2 Ki. 23:31

_____ 3. He began to reign at the age of 25 and reigned for 11 years in Jerusalem. 2 Ki. 23:36

Quote

“Plunge into the “fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel’s veins,” and in an instant you are whiter than snow. Every speck, spot, and stain of sin is gone, and gone forever.”
~Charles Spurgeon

Wednesday

August 11

Looking Inward

“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts.” Psalm 139:23

Self-deception is rampant. The common phrase “Ignorance is bliss” sums up the way some people think of knowledge. The less we have, the less we are accountable for, is what seems to be the conclusion. We can all find people living lives marked by the effects of self-deception. When we turn our eyes to ourselves, the waters get murky. How do we know if we are deceiving ourselves? It is a troubling paradox.

One way we self deceive is by avoiding those people, places, or books that would challenge our worldview. Sometimes, we do not pray for this reason. We may avoid new information because we sense that grappling with it may require a change in behavior. Because we want to continue doing things in a comfortable way, we guard ourselves from anything that would makes us take a look inward.

The natural inclination is to move away from things that challenge our presuppositions, but we should instead pray that God would search us, remove self-deception, and transform us with the truth. We may never completely escape self-deception, but with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can move in the direction of humble wisdom. ~AJD

Morning: *Psalm 90-92*
Evening: *Romans 11:1-21*

Scripture Fill-In

“Be _____ therefore, brethren, unto the _____ of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman _____ for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” James 5:7-8

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. John the Baptist baptized in what body of water? Mk. 1:4-5
 - A. Jordan River
 - B. Red Sea
 - C. Caspian Sea
 - D. Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
2. Prophetically, in Revelation 16:12, what body of water will dry?
 - A. Jordan River
 - B. Euphrates River
 - C. Red Sea
 - D. None of the above

Quote of the Day

“The Lord is my Shepherd,” not was, not maybe, not will be. “The Lord is my Shepherd” - is on Sunday, is on Monday, and is through every day of the week; is in January, is in December, and every month of the year; is at home, and is in China; is in peace, and is in war; in abundance and in poverty. ~Taylor

Thursday

August 12

Known By Works

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”
1 John 2:3-4

Have you ever met someone who claimed to be saved but did not live like a Christian? Recently, while at teen camp in West Virginia, we made a visit to the New River Gorge Bridge. The Bridge is the highest vehicular bridge in the Americas and the second highest in the world. While we were there, a tourist asked us to help him with his phone so he could take a picture. After chit-chatting with him for a few minutes, we turned the conversation toward salvation. He made it very clear to us that he had a “relationship” with Jesus Christ. However, the more we talked, the more it became apparent that he fit the description that the Apostle John gave in 1 John 2:3-4. He told us about his drug habits, his “treason” during Vietnam, his hippie days, and his disbelief that Jesus was born of a virgin. The more he talked, the less we were convinced of his “relationship” with Jesus Christ, or Yeshua ben Joseph, as he put it.

The Apostle John pulls no punches with his readers. In verse four, he bluntly reminds his readers that when someone claims to know Jesus and refuses to keep His commandments, he “is a liar and the truth is not in him.”

Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ? If someone took a good look at your life and how you lived would they conclude

Morning: *Psalm 93-95*
Evening: *Romans 11:22-36*

that you have a relationship with Christ or would they conclude that you are a liar? ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“Be _____ therefore, brethren, unto the _____ of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman _____ for the precious _____ of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” James 5:7-8

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the miracle with the place in which it was performed.

- ____ 1. Dorcas was raised from the dead.
Acts. 9:36-43
- ____ 2. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.
Jn. 11:1-57
- ____ 3. Jesus brought a fish with a coin in its mouth to Peter. Mt. 17: 24-27

- A. Bethany
- B. Capernaum
- C. Joppa

Quote of the Day

“The greatest hindrances to the evangelization of the world are those within the church.”

~John R. Mott

Friday

August 13

Do His Will—Finish His Work

“Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.” John 4:34

In the chapter where our verse is found, Jesus’ disciples had just returned from going into town to get food. They asked Jesus if He wanted some meat to eat. His response was that his meat, or the source of His strength, was to do the will of His Father in Heaven and to finish the work that He had given Him to do. While the disciples were taking care of themselves, Jesus was revealing His Father’s plan of salvation to the woman at the well. She received the gift of salvation, and through her testimony, the majority of the town came to Christ also.

Jesus came to do the will of the Father. The heart of the Father’s will is to see people get saved. Jesus not only did the Father’s will, but He also finished the work that the Father had for Him to do. His work for Jesus involved triumph over Satan’s attacks and temptations, healing the sick, teaching the truth of the Word, training the disciples, and enduring the cross. As we look at all that Jesus did, we realize that He did it to set an example for us to follow. We are to do the Father’s will and to finish His work.

As you go about the events of your day, are you concerned with doing the will of the Father, or are you like the disciples, only looking to meet your own needs? If we are really concerned with following Jesus, we must discern God’s will and do His work. ~DLW

Morning: *Psalm 96-98*

Evening: *Romans 12*

Scripture Fill-In

“Be _____ therefore, brethren, unto the _____ of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman _____ for the precious _____ of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; _____ your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” James 5:7-8

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: What prayers have you had answered in the past couple weeks? Reflect on God’s goodness as you list your answers.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

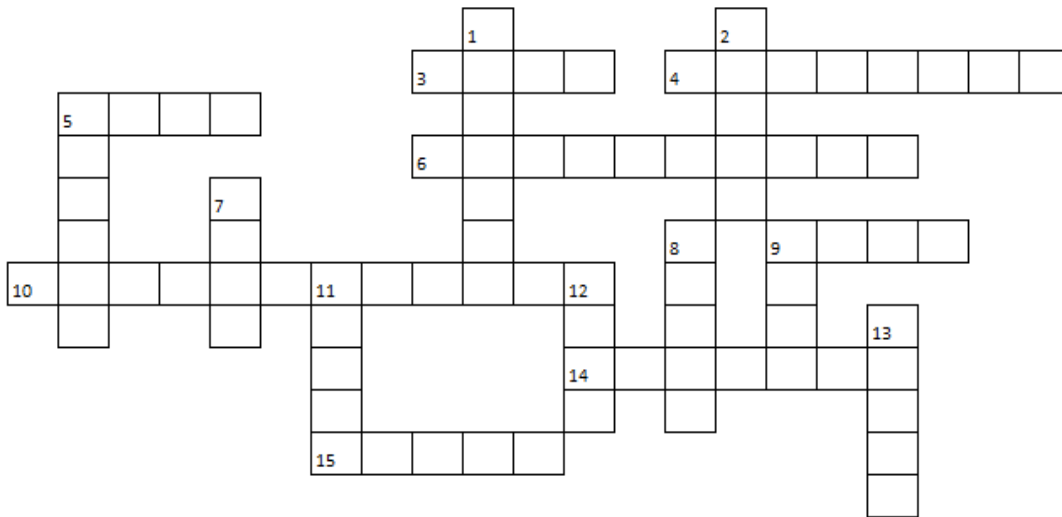
5. _____

Quote of the Day

“Satan is not such a fool as to fish without bait.” ~Anonamous

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The Book of Proverbs



ACROSS

3. "The way of a ___ is right in his own eyes." (12:15)
4. The Lord loves those that He ___. (3:12)
5. A person who controls his lips is ___.
(10:19)
6. "In the multitude of ___ there is safety." (11:14)
9. "The ___ of a strange woman drop as a honeycomb." (5:3)
10. Bind these to your heart. (6:20-21)
14. "Rejoice not when thine enemy ___."
(24:17)

DOWN

1. Principle author of Proverbs (1:1)
2. "He that winneth ___ is wise." (11:30)
5. The principle thing (4:7)
7. "The ___ of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge." (1:7)
8. "___ thine heart unto my knowledge." (22:17)
9. The fear of the Lord adds ___. (10:27)
11. Righteousness delivers from this. (11:4)
12. "A ___ answer turneth away wrath." (15:1)
13. The promotion of fools (3:35)

**"For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh
knowledge and understanding."**

Saturday

August 14

Sit Still

“Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.” Ruth 3:18

A couple months ago, we put our house up for sale in preparation for relocating. But before we went to the realtor, we changed some door knobs, straightened the garage, organized the basement, and completed other small tasks around the house. When we felt like our home was in order, we listed it with one of the local realty companies. Then, we started the hardest part of selling your home—WAITING!

Ruth found herself in somewhat the same scenario. After the death of her husband, she moved with her mother-in-law, Naomi, to Bethlehem, a foreign land to Ruth. She began providing for herself and Naomi by gleaning the left-overs in the field of Boaz. She was faithful with her duties. Then, her mother-in-law told her to go to Boaz and ask him to fulfill the role of her kinsman redeemer. Basically, Ruth was instructed to ask Boaz to marry her. Ruth did everything according to Naomi’s bidding. Then, she had to do a very difficult task—WAIT. Can you imagine? Her whole entire future hung in the balance—her marital status, her financial situation, her opportunity to finally become a mother. And yet, Naomi said, “Sit still.”

Are you waiting for something in your life? Maybe you’re waiting for someone. Whatever your circumstance, God wants you to tell him all the details. He cares about the simplest mat-

Morning: *Psalm 99-102*
Evening: *Romans 13*

ter that is troubling your soul. Sit still in the knowledge that He has it all under control, and in His time, He will bring everything to light.
~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“Be _____ therefore, brethren, unto the _____ of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman _____ for the precious _____ of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; _____ your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth _____.”
James 5:7-8

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer based on today’s devotional.

1. Naomi told Ruth, “_____,” after the proposal to Boaz.
 - A. Go and ask him again
 - B. Wait patiently
 - C. Think of another plan
 - D. Sit still
2. How did Ruth provide for herself and Naomi?
 - A. Selling cloth
 - B. Begging
 - C. Gleaning left-overs
 - D. Making bread

Quote of the Day

“Life is wasted if you do not live for the glory of God.”
~Anonymous

Sunday

August 15

Talk to Men about God

Feeding on the Word, worshiping the Lord, and witnessing to the lost make up the triad of a balanced Christian life. There is a world all around us going to Hell, and most people do not care. Do you? Do not let those around you die and spend eternity in Hell without offering them an opportunity to go to Heaven.

Jesus offered the woman at Jacob's well a drink of the water of life (John 4). Married five times and now living with a man to whom she was not married, she was an unlikely prospect. She drank of that "living water" and then persuaded the whole city of Sychar to come to the fountain of living water. Many more drank of the water of life as she did.

My wife and I were on visitation in five below zero weather. We went to a home, not on our list, through a very unusual circumstance. As we shared the Gospel with the lady of the house, she burst into tears and was gloriously saved. She and her husband were ready for divorce. She was so miserable and thought about suicide. That very day, while washing dishes, she threw a plate at the wall and broke it into a hundred pieces. Then she told us, "I have prayed all day that God would send someone today to tell me how to be saved." ***The harvest truly is plenteous.*** (Mt. 9:37)

Do you aspire to be used of God? Do you want to be used like this too? Keep on praying for souls, and you will run into those already prepared. Praying will prepare you, and God will prepare them and bring you together. You help change the world when you do! Isn't that thrilling beyond comprehension?

Morning: *Psalm 103-104*
Evening: *Romans 14*

The bottom line is God wants to bless you and make you a blessing. Remember Sennacherib taunted Hezekiah and his people, ridiculing Hezekiah, trying to discredit him before the people. He told the people that Hezekiah's God could not deliver them and not to trust Him.

There is no immunity from the attacks of Satan and his henchman today. You will hear voices tell you, "You can't do this. You cannot see miraculous answers to prayer." Don't you believe those attacks. Be like Paul and say, "I believe God," and let the power of God and power through prayer permeate your life until you see "rivers of living water" flow through you. ~SW

Scripture Fill-In

"Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door." James 5:9

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: List your unsaved loved ones, and then, pray that God would use you to bring them to salvation.

Quote of the Day

"Lord, give me Scotland or else I die."
~John Knox

Monday

August 16

Using God-Given Talents

*“For unto everyone that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance.”
Matthew 25:29a*

No matter what sport we play or coach, each one of us has been given specific gifts. Whether we compete at the middle school, high school, college, or professional level, each one of us has been given gifts. When we put those gifts to use according to God’s purpose for them, great things happen.

God is the giver of every good thing. No matter where we are at in our athletic lives, God gave us what we are using. He is the reason we can run, jump, and throw. He is the reason we can swing a racquet, club, or bat. There are even some world-class athletes who do not run, but still use God’s gifts of athleticism. For instance, did you know that this year’s Boston Marathon was covered in less than two hours by an amazing athlete in a wheelchair?

No matter how we play a sport, the fact that we are able to play at all is truly a gift from God. When we realize that God created the universe, it is easier to comprehend that He gave us athletic ability. The question then comes down to whether or not we are using those gifts to bring glory to Him or to ourselves. ~AP

Scripture Fill-In

“_____ not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.” James 5:9

Morning: *Psalm 105-106*
Evening: *Romans 15:1-20*

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. How many chapters are within the book of Isaiah?
A. 50 C. 56
B. 60 D. 66
2. Isaiah was the son of whom? (Is. 1:1)
A. Jotham C. King Solomon
B. Judah D. Amoz
3. Which of the following kings was NOT alive during the time of Isaiah? (Is. 1:1)
A. Uzziah C. Ahaz
B. Hezekiah D. David
4. “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as _____; though they be red like _____, they shall be as wool.” (Is. 1:18)
A. Snow, crimson
B. Leprosy, blood
C. Crimson, snow
D. Purity, cloth

Quote of the Day

“To accept the will of God never leads to the miserable feeling that it is useless to strive any more. God does not ask for the dull, weak, sleepy acquiescence of indolence. He asks for something vivid and strong. He asks us to cooperate with him, actively willing what he wills; our only aim is his glory.”

~Amy Carmichael

Tuesday

August 17

He Is Strong Who Executeth His Word

“And the LORD shall utter His voice before His army: for His camp is very great: for He is strong that executeth His word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?” Joel 2:11

I can only imagine what the voice of God must sound like. Perhaps it is as awe inspiring as the breath of creation. Maybe it is heard as the gentle breeze wooing the lost and weary soul.

Joel seems to have a very different testimony regarding God’s voice. He calls it terrible not because of its intent but because of its power. It is not weak or uninvolved. It is the sound of the ages that when employed causes all things everywhere to tremble beneath its command.

As the troops assembled before their decorated General or the people who stand before their mighty King, so all those in the army of the Lord will rise when they hear His call and prepare to heed His every charge. This is the Commander of whom Joel speaks, not an overconfident man with a power trip but the very Creator and Author of all that is. He is the LORD! And He is strong to execute His Word.

He spoke and all came to be. He thought it, and the fountains of the deep and the rains of the air covered the earth with the flood. In the same voice, He commanded the waters to resend, and they obeyed. By His voice, the blind could see again, the lame walked, and the dead

Morning: *Psalms 107-108*
Evening: *Romans 15:21-33*

were made alive. With His Word all mankind would be freed from the curse. He is strong to execute His Word. We can rest in this knowledge. God is the Lord, and one day His voice will sound the end of all death and the destruction of all evil! Hallelujah from the mighty Commander of the Army of the LORD! ~DJJ

Scripture Fill-In

“ _____ not one against _____, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.” James 5:9

Bible Quiz

Five or Ten?: Answer each question with either the number five or the number ten.

- _____ 1. How many times did Laban change Jacob’s wages in Genesis 31.
- _____ 2. How many lepers did Jesus heal in Luke 17?
- _____ 3. How many loaves of bread were given to the five thousand in Matthew 14?

Quote of the Day

Perhaps there is no book more neglected in these days than the Bible. I believe there are moldier Bibles in this world than there are of any sort of neglected books. We have no book that is so much bought, and then so speedily laid aside and so little used, as the Bible.

~Charles Spurgeon

Wednesday

August 18

Let Every Man Be Fully
Persuaded

*“One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.”
Romans 14:5*

This verse is speaking to what many people call gray areas. These gray areas are not directly addressed in Scripture. How do we discern what is right or wrong regarding these things? Because some issues and activities have no Biblical guidelines, debates arise concerning them. In this chapter, there were questions about diets and holy days. The Apostle Paul gives us some insight to help guide us.

Paul directs us to be fully persuaded in our own minds. In other words, I am the one who will stand before God to give an account for my actions and what affect they have had on others. I should be convinced that what I am doing is right or else I must refrain from doing it. Here are some questions that I can ask that will help determine what is best:

What principles can I draw from Scripture? Is there an issue similar to this one that the Scriptures do address?

Will I cause others to stumble? We should seek to be stepping stones rather than stumbling blocks.

Will it edify other people? We need to seek to build other people up rather than do things that might tear others down. We need to remember that Christ loved them enough to died for them. We need to be willing to love them

Morning: *Psalms 109-111*
Evening: *Romans 16*

enough to make a sacrifice in order to help them. ~DLW

Scripture Fill-In

“ _____ not one against _____, brethren, lest _____ be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.” James 5:9

Bible Quiz

True and False: Put an *F* in the blank if the answer is false and a *T* in the blank if the answer is true.

- ____ 1. Miriam was Moses’ older sister.
Ex. 2:1-10
- ____ 2. Miriam fetched her own mother to be a nurse to Moses. Ex. 2:1-10
- ____ 3. Miriam was stricken with leprosy when the plague hit the Israelite camp. Num. 12:1-16
- ____ 4. Miriam was healed as a result of her vow to God to never marry. Num. 12:1-16
- ____ 5. Miriam died and was buried on Mt. Nebo. Num. 20:1

Quote of the Day

“Trust Christ and you shall live. The bloody sacrifice of Calvary is the only hope of sinners.”
~Charles Spurgeon

Thursday

August 19

Good in God's Sight

“And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.”
1 Samuel 3:18

Determination to know what cannot be known always works harm to the Christian heart. Ignorance in matters on our human level is never to be excused if there has been opportunity to correct it, but there are matters which are obviously "too high for us." These we should meet in trusting faith and say as Jesus said, *“Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.”* (Mt. 11:26)

Human curiosity and pride often combine to drive us to try to understand acts of God which are plainly outside the field of human understanding. We dislike admitting that we do not know what is going on, so we torture our minds trying to fathom the mysterious ways of the Omniscient One. It's hard to conceive of a more fruitless task. A blind confidence which trusts without seeing is far dearer to God than any fancied knowledge that can explain everything. To the adoring heart, the best and most satisfying explanation for anything always will be, *“It seemed good in thy sight.”*

"Lord, help me today, no matter what difficult circumstances I may face, to pray with Jesus, *'for so it seemed good in Thy sight,'* and with Eli, *'It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him.'* Amen." ~SW

Morning: *Psalm 112-115*
Evening: *1 Corinthians 1*

Scripture Fill-In

“_____ not one against _____, brethren, lest _____ be _____: behold, the judge standeth before the door.” James 5:9

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. Who was the son of Anath that slew 600 Philistine men with an ox goad? _____ Jdg. 3:31
2. Who was the king of Canaan who heavily oppressed the Israelites for 20 years? The captain of his host was Sisera. _____ Jdg. 4:1-3
3. What was the relationship between Mahlon and Chilion? _____ Ruth 1:2-4

Quote of the Day

“Whether the story of Christ is told in a huge stadium, across the desk of some powerful leader, or shared with a golfing companion, it satisfies a common hunger. All over the world, whenever I meet people face to face, I am made aware of this personal need among the famous and successful as well as the lonely and obscure.”
~Billy Graham

Friday

August 20

Security in the Faith

“But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him.” 1 John 2:5

For many people who have grown up in the Christian faith, especially those who accepted Jesus Christ at a young age, the assurance of salvation has been an issue. It is clear from Scripture that salvation is eternal. The Bible is replete with verses affirming that fact. The very words “eternal life” are witness to the fact that when one receives salvation he acquires life that has no end. However, it is all too common for believers to doubt, not God’s sufficiency to keep them saved, but their own seriousness at the point of salvation; and oh, how the devil loves doubt!

With exception of a backslidden Christian, there is no one less effective to the faith than a Christian who is unassured of his own salvation. The Apostle John, however, reminds his readers that there is a way to combat doubt. If you want a test as to whether you are really saved, John says to take a look at your actions. Although it is clear from Scripture that what we do does not help us acquire salvation, our actions are witness of a genuine relationship with Christ. For those who wonder if their relationship with Christ is real, John reminds them to “keep His word.” The one who keeps the word of God, “in him is the love of God perfected.” The more you obey God, the more mature in the faith you become. The more mature you are, the more secure you will feel. (“Hereby know we that we are in Him.”) When

Morning: Psalm 116-118
Evening: 1 Corinthians 2

you keep God’s commands, not only do you show others your genuine relationship with Christ, you also strengthen understanding of how secure you are in Christ. ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“ _____ not one against _____, brethren, lest _____ be _____: behold, the _____ standeth before the door.” James 5:9

Bible Quiz

Where?: Label the description with the place.

_____ 1. Paul had a vision about this place in Acts 16.

_____ 2. Solomon gave King Hiram of Tyre 20 cities in this land. 1 Ki. 9:11

Quote of the Day

A young Christian packing his bag for a journey said to a friend, "I have nearly finished packing. All I have to put in are a guidebook, a lamp, a mirror, a microscope, a telescope, a volume of fine poetry, a few biographies, a package of old letters, a book of songs, a sword, a hammer, and a set of tools." "But you cannot put all that into your bag," objected the friend. "Oh, yes," said the Christian. "Here it is." And he placed his Bible in the corner of the suitcase and closed the lid. ~Anonymous

Your Eternal Retirement Fund

By Sumner Wemp

When my wife and I began to think seriously about retiring from full time ministry (There were serious factors that were forcing us to do so.), we began to put more and more into retirement funds. We are so glad we did; it is paying off immeasurably now.

The more that "day of His appearing" approaches, the more I am moved to put more and more into our eternal retirement fund. I will be ever so glad I did for all eternity. I surely hope you are doing the same. It just makes a whole lot of sense.

Today, there is a constant roar with the whole earth shaking. Any day now it will stop suddenly, for those of us who are believers, and we will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. It will all be over for us here, but it will be only the beginning in eternity with our Lord. There will be no more praying, witnessing, leading people to Christ, or laying up treasures in Heaven. Then, and perhaps it will be uncanny, will come the Judgment Seat of Christ where we shall all give an account of everything done in the body, whether good or bad. We will be able to change nothing then, but we can now.

It was a sad day when the prophet lamented, ***"And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee."*** (Isa. 64:7). Thank God that day has not yet come to us. Will you stir up yourself to pray and take hold of God on behalf of yourself, your loved ones, your country, and the whole world?

Are you disturbed at what is happening in our world today? Would you love to behold sweeping, dramatic changes made for God and for good? Remember, ***"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."*** (Eph. 6:12) Let's enlist in the army of Christ, our Commander-in-Chief. Let's go to war for Him. Put on the whole armor of God, and enter the spiritual battle for the souls of mankind, the salvation of our country, and His glory.

You and I can change the world. Oh, we will not bring in the kingdom or make the world perfect, but we can make an impact to turn the world right side up and fill our Jerusalem (whether it be your neighborhood, your school, your place of employment, or the "uttermost part of the earth") with the Gospel, which is ***"the power of God unto salvation."*** (Rom. 1:16)

Let's pray to God with our hearts and preach the Gospel to "every" person with our lips until we experience genuine revival in our time.

**"God can do great things
through consecrated individuals,
through yielded lives."**

~G. S.

Saturday

August 21

The God of Second Chances

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words.” Acts 2:14

God can use YOU. Do you believe that? Do you truly believe that despite all your past mistakes, failures, and inadequacies that God can use YOU? There have been times in my life where I felt completely incapable to complete the tasks God gave me to do. But, the Bible says, **“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Cor. 12:9)**

Peter must have went through a period of time when he felt completely inadequate to serve the Lord. Before Jesus’ death, Peter denied three times that he knew Jesus Christ. After his betrayal, we are told, **“And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.” (Mk. 14:72)** The emotional agony that Peter endured was probably agonizing. He denied Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in Whom he had be so close for three years.

Thankfully, that is not the end of the story. We know that Jesus came and communed with Peter after His resurrection. Also, in our verse for today, we see Peter as a beacon of light shining on behalf of the Lord. About five to six weeks after Peter’s betrayal, he is preaching the sermon at Pentecost. Don’t we serve an amazing God? He is a God of second chances! No

Morning: Psalm 119:1-48
Evening: 1 Corinthians 3

matter what your past mistakes, He can use YOU! ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“_____ not one against _____, brethren, lest _____ be _____: behold, the _____ standeth before the _____.” James 5:9

Bible Quiz

Who Said?: Label each quote with the Biblical character who said it.

_____ 1. “What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you.” Mt. 26:14-16

_____ 2. “For I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” Mt. 9:13

_____ 3. “Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.” Jn. 14:8

Quote of the Day

“If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper. But if we and our posterity neglect its instruction and authority, no man can tell how suddenly a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury our glory in profound obscurity.”

~Daniel Webster

Sunday

August 22

The Race to Glory

“Let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” Hebrews 12:1

Remember this; digest it into your being - you were created in the "image of God." That is awesome! You are not some heap of junk, some beat up and battered Model T Ford. You were redeemed, not with silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ. You are ever valuable to God. You are an heir of God and joint heir with Christ. Howard Hugh's heirs got a paltry 2.5 billion dollars. No royalty in the world are heirs to such great treasures as you are! You have a mansion reserved for you in Heaven. The Taj Mahal, as exquisite as it is, the Biltmore Estate, as lavish as it is, Buckingham palace as unique as it is, all pale into nothingness compared to your home in Heaven. Finally, you have been called of God to be an ambassador for Christ. Now, be the best one you can be to the glory of God.

Recently, while preaching in Indianapolis, I went to see the Indy race track. They took us around the race track in a van. They had only one race a year with 400,000 fans. It is the largest sporting event in the world. Then, we went through the museum and hall of fame. We saw the pictures of all the winners, the trophies, the films of rare moments, and the hall of fame. It was fabulous. Finally, they had a 15 minute movie of the history of the races. At the close, beautifully done, they showed the theme of the Indy 500, "THE RACE TO GLORY." I almost came unglued as I thought, "No, we, Christians, are the only ones in the real "RACE TO GLORY." Run that race well. There are no trial

Morning: Psalm 119:49-104
Evening: 1 Corinthians 4

runs. There is a great prize to be won. You can be a winner. Go for it!

In 1978, it was my privilege to preach on the beautiful Island of Fiji. Thirty minutes before the service, a man invited his neighbor to come and hear this man from the United States. He came, and God broke his heart over his sin; he received the Lord Jesus. God called him to preach. He started a church that is now flourishing. A year ago, I met a student studying for the ministry from Fiji who was saved in that same church. He is my grandson in the Lord. What a privilege! God wants to do the same for all of us. Let's get in on it. Let's run "THE RACE TO GLORY." ~SW

Scripture Fill-In

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16

Bible Quiz

True and False: Put an *F* in the blank if the answer is false and a *T* in the blank if the answer is true.

- _____ 1. Hananiah was one of Israel's kings.
2 Chron. 26:11
- _____ 2. Sampson was of the tribe of Dan.
Judges 13

Quote of the Day

“Magnify what God has already done.”
~Anonymous

Monday

August 23

Why Judge Thy Brother?

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” Romans 14:10

This verse both asks a question and makes a statement. The question is, why do you judge your brother? The statement is, Christ will be our judge. First, let us consider the statement. Jesus will judge us all. We are warned that we will be judged with the same harshness that we exact from others. I don't know about you, but I would much rather have Christ be gracious in His judgment than to experience harsh justice.

The question this verse is addressing is, if Christ is our Judge what business do we have judging others? Let me give you three reasons why we should not waste our efforts judging others. First of all, Christ will do a better job than we will. Christ will be unbiased in His judgment. He has perfect righteousness, and we are stained from sin that will affect our ability to judge.

Christ is also a superior judge because of His perfect knowledge. He is capable of exacting a perfect judgment because He knows all of our motives, circumstances, and abilities. He knows why things happened the way they did, and He understands our responses to every situation that we have faced.

Finally, the people that we are tempted to judge do not belong to us; they belong to God. He can take care of His own. So, why judge thy brother? ~DLW

Morning: Psalm 119:105-176

Evening: 1 Corinthians 5

Scripture Fill-In

“_____ your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. What did Jacob use as a pillow?
Gen. 28:10-17
A. Stones C. A sheep
B. The ground D. Wadded cloth
2. What did Jochabed use to hold the bulrushes together in making the basket in which to put baby Moses. Ex. 2:2-3
A. Mud C. Slime and pitch
B. Twine D. Cloths
3. Figuratively, false prophets are like what in sheep's clothing? Mt. 7:15
A. Lions C. Wolves
B. Bears D. Snakes

Quote of the Day

“In judging and censoring our brethren, we meddle with that which does not belong to us: we have work enough to do at home; and, if we must needs be judging, let us exercise our faculty upon our own hearts and ways.” ~Henry

Tuesday

August 24

Allegory: Abraham and Sarah

“Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.” Galatians 4:21-23

Paul asks a pointed question which is even vital today, “Do you desire to be free?” Do you desire to have a personal relationship with God, based on what Jesus did for you, or do you want to try establishing one on another foundation? Paul was trying to free the early believers from the letter of the law... Step out from under its strictly legalistic salvation doctrine, into the world of religious freedom found in Jesus Christ. In doing so, He uses the story of Abraham and Sarah.

Read the story of Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 16 and 21) and answer the following questions: Who was Abraham’s first son by the bondwoman? (The code of Hamurabi states that a son of a slave woman was a slave.) How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? Which child was by promise? (New Jerusalem is that which comes from out of Heaven. It will be freed from legalism.) Who had more children....Sarah or her handmaiden? ~OV

Scripture Fill-In

“_____ your _____ one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16

Morning: Psalm 120-123
Evening: 1 Corinthians 6

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. How old was Joshua when he died?
Josh. 24:29 _____
2. Joseph’s bones were buried in what land?
Josh. 24:32 _____
3. When Israel caught Adonibezek, what did they do to him before he died? Jdg. 1:4-7

4. What was the name of the man who had idols and had a Levite dwell with him to be his personal priest? Jdg.17-18 _____
5. What was the name of Deborah, the prophetess who judged Israel, husband’s name? Jdg. 4:4 _____

Quote of the Day

“I took up that word Love, and I do not know how many weeks I spent in studying the passages in which it occurs, till at last I could not help loving people. I had been feeding on love so long that I was anxious to do everybody good I came in contact with. I got full of it. It ran out my fingers. You take up the subject of love in the Bible! You will get so full of it that all you have to do is to open your lips, and a flood of the Love of God flows out.”

~D. L. Moody

Wednesday

August 25

Where Is God?

“Where is their God?” Joel 2:17

Today, this is a question heard far too often. It is heard from the courthouse to the classroom, and even in the homes of millions across our country. People are wondering where the God of Christian America has gone.

The answer for the nation of Israel and in principle us lies in Joel’s address here in verse seventeen. He begins with the priests and ministers. They stopped weeping over the nation and its sin. They no longer beseeched God on behalf of a fallen people. Today, preaching the truth of sin and judgment has been replaced with a social gospel that says let’s feed the hungry but allow their soul to go to Hell.

Many who are called pastor have become the “itching ear preachers.” Choosing the easier way of tolerance and acceptance, they bow before the heathen and say that He is good. The heritage of a Godly nation is laid at the alter of liberal theology, moral relativism, and spiritual harlotry. Rather than tears for their mortgaged spiritual future, they join hands with corruption and dine with the reprobate refusing to address his iniquity.

Joel calls them and us to weep before the alter of the Lord. Pleading for the repentance and pardon of our people should be the rule not the exception. We need to beg God not to allow His name and in turn ours to be marred by the unconfessed sin of our nation.

Where is our God? He has not moved. He is seated in Heaven and waits for our spiritual

Morning: Psalm 124-127
Evening: 1 Corinthians 7:1-24

return. As we heed His call, we will see His hand move, revival erupt, and healing begin.
~DJJ

Scripture Fill-In

“ _____ your _____ one to another, and _____ one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: The Bible says in Psalm 147:1, “ Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God.” List three ways in which God has been good to YOU.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Quote of the Day

The Bible is a harbor where I can drop down my anchor, feeling certain that it will hold. Here is a place where I can find sure footing; and, by the grace of God, from this confidence I shall never be moved. ~Charles Spurgeon

Thursday

August 26

Looking for Strength

*“I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.”
Psalm 18:1*

Often, it is only when we have pushed far beyond our capabilities that we turn to another for strength. We like to feel like we are in control, and we do not like to admit dependence on another. When the self-effort has been used up and the burdens continue to pile on, we then survey our landscape for help.

When we allow God to be our source of strength, it requires a self-humbling and sense of dependence. The benefit of admitting our need is that then we realize the ability and strength of God for every area of our lives. When we see His strength on our behalf, the result is love. We love God as we acknowledge Him to be our source of life and turn over the weights in our lives, both large and small, to Him.

This doesn't mean we always understand why He allows certain things, but it does mean that we trust Him more as we turn to Him and see His strength in our weakness. ~AJD

Scripture Fill-In

“_____ your _____
one to another, and _____ one for
another, that ye may be _____.
The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man
availeth much.” James 5:16

Morning: Psalm 128-131
Evening: 1 Corinthians 7:25-40

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Biblical character with his description.

- _____ 1. Aaron (Ex. 4:14-16)
- _____ 2. Achim (Mt. 1:14-16)
- _____ 3. Abagtha (Es. 1:10)
- _____ 4. Abdon (Jdg. 12:13-15)
- _____ 5. Abiel (1 Sam. 14:51)

- A. A judge of Israel in the time of the judges
- B. A Persian chamberlain
- C. Spokesman for Moses
- D. Saul's grandfather
- E. Ancestor of Jesus

Quote of the Day

“The heart of Christ became like a reservoir in the midst of the mountains. All the tributary streams of iniquity, and every drop of the sins of his people, ran down and gathered into one vast lake, deep as hell and shoreless as eternity. All these met, as it were, in Christ's heart, and he endured them all.” ~Charles Spurgeon

Friday

August 27

Christian Leadership

“For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand.” Psalm 84:10

While talking with his son, John Wooden told him that he needed to shave because he was going to see his bride very soon. The basketball coaching legend knew his final breath was coming, and he wanted to be ready to meet his Maker and his wife. Going home to glory at the age of 99, Wooden left an example for all coaches, no matter what the sport, to follow. NBA great Jerry West said, “He did not have two sets of rules for his players...they all played under the same rules.” Wooden was true to his faith in Christ, true to his family, and true to his fundamentals of life, which had been taught to him by his parents back in Indiana so many years ago.

As great a coach as Wooden was on this earth, and as many titles and trophies he won, I have no doubt that he would have traded them for a single day in the presence of the Lord. I’m sure that even the greatest feeling of a national title was nothing compared to the moment when Wooden met Christ face-to-face. Coach knew that Heaven, not Westwood, was his true home. He lived a simple life and passed it on to many. ~AP

Scripture Fill-In

“_____ your _____ one to another, and _____ one for another, that ye may be _____. The effectual _____ prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16

Morning: *Psalm 132-135*
Evening: *1 Corinthians 8*

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer. Refer to Judges 3.

1. For punishment for turning their backs on God, the Lord delivered the Israelites into the hand of the Moabites. How long did Israel serve Eglon, king of Moab? (vs. 12-14)
A. 6 months C. 10 years
B. 1 year D. 18 years
2. After Israel served Moab, God raised what man to lead Israel to victory over the Moabites? (vs. 15-30)
A. Joshua C. Deborah
B. Ehud D. Samson
3. When God delivered the Moabites into Israel’s hand, how many men of Moab were killed? (vs. 29)
A. 1,000 C. 10,000
B. 5,000 D. 20,000
4. After Moab was subdued under Israel, how long was there rest? (vs. 30)
A. 4 years C. 40 years
B. 8 years D. 80 years

Quote of the Day

“If you want your neighbor to see what the Christ spirit will do for him, let him see what it has done for you.” ~H. Beecher

Saturday

August 28

Love Others

*“He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.”
1 John 2:9*

The Apostle John, throughout the book of 1 John, uses contrasting ideas to stress his point. In chapter one, he uses the idea of “light and darkness” to parallel those who are truly saved and those who are not. In the first part of chapter two, he uses the idea of those who obey the commandments of God and those who do not. In the middle of chapter two, he returns to the “light and darkness” illustration as he discusses the relationship that those who claim the name of Christ have with their fellow believers.

Again, in this passage, John rather bluntly makes his point. Another test of genuine faith in Christ is how one treats his brother in Christ. He reminds his reader that the person who claims to be “in the light” and hates his brother is really “in darkness.”

So, test yourself. How is your relationship with others? Your willingness to obey the commandments of God is testimony, either for or against your genuine relationship with Him. Your relationship with others is also witness, either for or against your genuine relationship with Him.

Is there anyone that you hate? True believers, while not perfect, do not hate others. Are some people difficult to deal with? Sure. Are there brothers and sisters in Christ whom you would rather not spend a great amount of time? Without a doubt! However, the love of God, that according to verse five helps us mature,

Morning: Psalm 136-138
Evening: 1 Corinthians 9

should be extended to those with whom we would rather not fellowship. True believers do not hate each other. They should know we are Christians by our love one for another. ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“ _____ your _____ one to another, and _____ one for another, that ye may be _____. The effectual _____ prayer of a _____ man availeth much.” James 5:16

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. Who warned Gadaliah against Ishmael? Jer. 40:13-16
A. Johanan C. Jehu
B. Jeremiah D. Joshua
2. Which of the following was NOT a daughter of Zelophehad? Num. 26:33
A. Mahlah C. Tirzah
B. Noah D. Sheva

Quote of the Day

“What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has the eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.”

~Saint Augustine

Sunday

August 29

What Is Man?

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?” Psalm 8:3-4

Recently, I visited the Creation Museum near Cincinnati, Ohio, owned and operated by the Answers in Genesis Organization. My favorite part of the museum was the Planetarium. The goal of the presentation was to show Earth in reference to the vast universe God created. Wow! It was quite humbling. As I reclined in my chair gazing at the ceiling, they showed the Earth in reference to other planets and the sun and then proceeded to show the size of Earth compared to the stars in our little Milky Way Galaxy; our planet was like a speck in comparison. As if that wasn't enough, our galaxy was then shown in light of other galaxies, making the Milky Way barely visible. Surely, there is even more in space that is not visible with the most powerful instruments used by scientists. God's creation is unbelievable!

Getting a faint glimpse at the size of God's world made it more unfathomable that God knows all about ME! He knows my name, the number of hairs on my head, my every sin, and my struggles and triumphs. Not only does He know me, He also sent Jesus to DIE for me.

In Psalm 8, David expresses his wonder at God's creation in light of the grace and mercy He bestows on mankind. Matthew Henry says about this passage, *“David. . . goes on to magnify the honor of God by recounting the honors*

Morning: Psalm 139-141
Evening: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

he has put upon man, especially the man Christ Jesus. The condescensions of the divine grace call for our praises as much as the elevations of the divine glory. How God has condescended in favor to man the psalmist here observes with wonder and thankfulness, and recommends it to our thoughts.”

God is not only mindful of you and me and all mankind, but He also became MAN to pay the sin debt of the world. Oh, how we should stand in awe and wonder and praise our Creator!~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” Hebrews 2:9

Bible Quiz

Fill-In: Complete Hebrews 2:6-7.

“But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is (1.)_____, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the (2.)_____; thou crownedst him with glory and honor, and didst set him over the works of thy hands.”

Quote of the Day

“Nature is the art of God.”

~Sir Thomas Browne

Monday

August 30

Reciting and Meditating

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”
Joshua 1:8

The Hebrew word for the term "recite" is "hagah" meaning "to meditate, talk, study, speak, to reflect." This is a command, to be thoughtful with a purpose, to obey "all that is written" in the HOLY SCRIPTURES.

Reading and recounting the HOLY BIBLE is for our own advantage, for the man who is blessed is the one whose *“delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”* (Ps. 1:2) Our happiness and success correspond to our being guided by the HOLY WRITTEN SCRIPTURES.

In the New Covenant this fact is reassured where Paul commands us to *“Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine . . . Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.”* (1 Tim. 4:13, 15)

The importance of doctrine is vital, for doctrine is "what you believe and hold to be true." Thus, *“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed: For he that biddeth him*

Morning: Psalm 142-144
Evening: 1 Corinthians 10:14-33

Godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds.” (2 John 9 – 11) ALMIGHTY HOLY GOD wants us to recite and meditate on "these things" for they contain life giving words and directions. Truly, the KING ETERNAL has supplied ALL our needs for which we gratefully thank and praise and adore HIM! ~SW

Scripture Fill-In

“But we see _____, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” Hebrews 2:9

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer. Refer to Acts 16:1-5.

1. Timothy was a native of _____.
A. Lystra C. Capernaum
B. Rome D. Macedonia
2. Timothy’s father was of what nationality?
A. Greek C. Roman
B. Israeli D. None of the above

Quote of the Day

“Where there is faith, there is love;
Where there is love, there is peace;
Where there is peace, there is God;
And where there is God, there is no need.”

~Leo Tolstoy

Tuesday

August 31

Paul's Personal Appeal to His Converts

*“Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all.”
Galatians 4:12*

Who are your real friends? Are they the ones who will tell you anything to gain your confidence or gain your favor? Who are your real friends? They are the ones who are truthful and honest in their conversation and manner of life toward you? Honesty has a price... it may create a temporary loss of fellowship with some friends but be not alarmed. Paul said to those he was trying to help, *“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”* (vs. 16)

Paul told the truth to help. Some friends want to be helpful to you, but in their zeal to help, they create more harm because they lack the wisdom of God. Your pastor seeks to help you just as your family physician does. Both must examine you to determine problem areas. The physician examines through medically approved procedures to expose the tumor, infection, etc. The pastor examines through God's proven procedures within His Word, to expose spiritually damaged areas. Both the physician and the preacher must tell you the truth about your condition before they can help. Can you imagine going to a doctor and being diagnosed healthy because he did not want to hurt your feelings when in reality you were dying of cancer? Now, what about your pastor... Is he still your friend when he exposes you to the Word

Morning: Psalm 145-147
Evening: 1 Corinthians 11:1-5

of God? Don't be upset with your pastor when he shares God's Word and you are confronted by its condemning power. Remember, your friend will always be honest with you – even when the truth hurts. ~OV

Scripture Fill-In

“But we see _____, who was made a little lower than the _____ for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” Hebrews 2:9

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. What was the name of Rebekah's nurse?
Gen. 35:8
A. Leah C. Abigail
B. Deborah D. Lydia
2. Who is the angel of the bottomless pit?
Rev. 9:11
A. Lucifer C. Abaddon
B. Satan D. Abiezer

Quote of the Day

“To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer.”
~Martin Luther

