

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of March 4, 2018**

**THEME: "God's Promises to the World"**

**PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**Sunday .....Read Philippians 2:1-11**

*"Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."* What a statement! What an incentive! Is not God promising to the world that everyone will confess to His Son that He is indeed Lord? Every person shall bow and confess that Jesus is Lord! How much better now than later, and the sooner the better! Every Muslim, every Hindu, every Buddhist, every agnostic, every atheist will come to realize that Jesus is indeed Lord! Failing to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord now during our time on earth means a person will have to face Jesus as Judge and suffer the consequences for sin. In His great love for humanity, God sent His Son into the world to be the propitiation for their sins. His Son agreed to do that, and all will one day realize it. Since Jesus was willing to make it possible for us to be restored into a proper relationship with God, you would think that all of us would want to make sure He is indeed the Lord of our lives. Why would we not want to make a total commitment to Him and seek to live our lives in such a way as to please Him? That is why God gave us His Holy Scriptures, to be a guidebook for our lives. The best way to start every day is to meet with our Heavenly Father in the name of the Lord Jesus by reading His Word to gain spiritual nourishment and even Divine direction for the day ahead. After all, having Jesus as Lord gives us an eternal purpose for all we do every day. We live for His glory!

**PERFECT LAW**

**Monday .....Read Psalm 19:7-14**

*"The Law of the Lord is perfect."* God, and only God, can make this promise to the world: *"My law is perfect."* His law as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, is a law on which no one could make any improvements. It is a holy law and perfectly righteous. Any nation whose law is based primarily on God's law are the better for it. Praise God our founders realized this; their testimonies reveal that they had a high regard for the Bible. The Ten Commandments were placed in many public buildings; they still hang in the Supreme Court building of the United States of America despite that fact that modern judges have erroneously declared such action to be unconstitutional. Obedience to God's law brings great blessings! Disregard for God's law brings trouble! The truth is that all people will be personally judged on the basis of God's law. Yes, we are told that all will one day stand before God to give an account of their lives in Hebrews 9:27: *"It is appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgment."* Violation of God's law means eternal death, as we are told in God's Word in Ezekiel 18:4: *"The soul that sins, it shall die."* Since the soul is the eternal part of man, that is an eternal death, not termination, but dying forever! Since all are sinners, man must be pardoned to be set free from eternal condemnation. That pardon is available!

**PERFECT FULFILLMENT**

**Tuesday ..... Read Matthew 5:17-20**

*"I am not come to destroy the law and the prophets, but to fulfill."* Praise God for these words of Jesus when He had come to earth to be the Savior of the world. Why is Jesus called the Savior? That was the announcement the angel made to the shepherds at the birth of Jesus in Luke 2:11: *"I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord."* How could He be the Savior? Why? Because of what He said in today's Bible reading: He fulfilled the law in that He was virgin born without a sin nature, and He lived a sinless life. When He died, which is the penalty of sin, God counts His death and the shedding of His blood as the all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. When Jesus arose from the grave in a glorious resurrection, He conquered death, the penalty of sin. Jesus gave to all the possibility of victory over death. No wonder He gave

this most meaningful shout on the cross of Calvary as recorded in John 19:30: *"It is finished."* I think He meant by that He had completed His mission to earth; He had paid the price of sin for all of sinful humanity!

### **PENALTY PAID**

**Wednesday..... Read I Peter 1:18-19**

*"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot."* God makes it abundantly clear that eternal life cannot be purchased with worldly goods or worldly efforts. Not that good works are not noticeable to God, but they serve no eternal purpose until a person has responded favorably to God's offer of a pardon for sin. Once a person has accepted God's gift of eternal life, which is another way of describing the regeneration of the spirit, then good works have eternal value. The monetary offerings become a means of, as Jesus put it in Matthew 6:20, *"laying up treasures in heaven."* But to have the advantage of offerings and good works gaining eternal value, one must understand that he can be reconciled into a personal relationship with God only by repenting of his sin and opening up his heart to Jesus, who paid the penalty of sin with His shed blood on the cross. That was the thing that fulfilled God's law of forgiveness mentioned in Leviticus 17:11: *"It is the blood that makes an atonement for the soul."* His blood was the cost for the gift of eternal life!

### **PERSONAL VICTORY**

**Thursday ..... Read I Corinthians 15:55-58**

*"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through the Lord Jesus Christ."* The greatest victory in life is the victory over the grave. Death is not the end for a believer, not for anyone because we have been created an eternal being with an eternal soul. That means all have an eternal destination. Every individual in this world is on one of two roads that Jesus mentioned in Matthew 7:13-14: *"The road that leads to life and the road that leads to destruction."* According to Romans 5:18-19, we were all born and placed on the road of condemnation leading to destruction, however good a person tries to be in his or her lifetime. Wise King Solomon made that very point in Proverbs 14:12, where this solemn truth is recorded: *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."* Getting off the road of condemnation, however delightful that may seem, and on to the road that leads to heaven is by far the most important decision a person can make. That decision is to receive Christ as Savior! When a person does that, he has eternal life: physical death, likely, but resurrection unto life eternal: certain!

### **PARDON OFFERED**

**Friday ..... Read Isaiah 55:6-7**

*"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found: call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."* Because of His great love for every human being, God made a way for people to get back into right standing with Him. Being holy and perfectly righteous, God can not overlook sin or explain it away. To be perfectly just, the penalty of sin had to be imposed, or God would no longer be holy, and heaven would be marred. The penalty of sin is death, exactly as God had warned Adam. Adam and Eve sinned and, hence, all humans were born with a sin nature. The divine nature, God's nature that had been breathed into the human, according to Genesis 2:7, was lost. The only way to have that divine nature, eternal life, restored is to receive Christ as Savior. That is the whole point of the precious truth of II Corinthians 5:21: *"For He hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."* God grants a pardon to all who receive Christ!

### **PENALTY IMPOSED**

**Saturday..... Read Revelation 20:11-15**

*"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* The family of God is registered in heaven. The names of those born as citizens of the United States are recorded in the capitol city of the state of their birth. The names of the citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven are recorded in the Lamb's book of life in heaven. That is the greatest joy of any individual: to know that our names are written in heaven as part of God's eternal family. Jesus made that point in

Luke 10:20: *"Rejoice, because your name is written in heaven."* Life's greatest tragedy is not having your name in that eternal registry in heaven. Not being a part of the family of God by having failed to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus, the Savior of the world, means eternal condemnation with the sentencing at the Great White Throne judgment described in today's Bible reading. Saying you don't believe that does not mean it is not true. I have had people tell me that they don't believe that, and hearing it made me extremely sad for them, and I pray that some day they will be convinced of the tragic error that is. Accept Jesus: now!