

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of June 17, 2018

THEME: "Praising God" GIVING THANKS

Sunday Read I Chronicles 16:7-17

*"Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to thank the Lord into the hand of Asaph and his brethren. Give thanks unto the Lord." Notice "David delivered first..." I see that a high priority for David was to give thanks to the Lord! He did that first! It was foremost in his thinking. Should it not be the same for us? At the end of each day, and many times during the day, I believe we all have good reason to thank the Lord! He does so much for us! There are probably times of Divine intervention when we may not even realize it. All of us know of some dramatic times, and we quickly give thanks and praise to God. That is good, but how about all the other times when things seem to be routine. It is possible that our loving Heavenly Father has kept things from our paths that made them "routine." It does not take a prayer meeting to have a favorable time to express thanks to God, although it should be done there. We are told this about prayer in I Thessalonians 5:18: *"In everything give thanks."* Now we all know that there are some things that happen to us that are not so desirable, that we wish never happened. What about those times? Well, God said *"In everything give thanks."* If we can't truthfully give thanks for something we wish we didn't want, we can give thanks that God will make good out of what we think to be bad. That's right! That is the point of Romans 8:28-29: *"And we know that all things work together for good to them who love God and are the called according to His purpose...to mold us into the image of Christ."* God uses those things we may not like to help us to become increasingly Christlike! Now that's a good thing! Give thanks!*

CALLING ON GOD

Monday Read Ephesians 6:10-18

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." This is the final detail in this Biblical passage detailing the armor for Christians to wage spiritual warfare in this world of darkness, morally and spiritually speaking. The world thinks we are living in an advanced age, and that is true from the standpoint of technology. But we are now living in what I think to be the darkest period of time in our history. The lights of education contradicting Biblical truth and manmade religions are the false lights of which Jesus spoke in Matthew 15:14: *"They are blind leaders of the blind..."* Christians are in spiritual war and need spiritual armor and weapons. All the pieces of armor are vital, but without prayer, a key piece would be missing! Prayer brings in God with His omnipotence into the picture. I wonder how many battles have been prolonged and maybe lost because of the failure to call on God. Remember the words of David when faced with an intimidating giant: *"The battle is the Lord's."* Notice the focus God places on our prayers in this particular instruction in today's Bible reading: *"For all saints."* We must seek God's direction in prayer for our own lives, and it is important to pray for others!

MAKING KNOWN HIS DEEDS

Tuesday Read Mark 5:15-20

"Jesus said unto him, Go home to your friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for you, and hath had compassion for you." The instructions given by our Lord to the one from whom He had cast out the demons apply to all who have come to be followers of Christ: "Go back home and tell the others." The man had wanted simply to follow Jesus wherever He went; that seems honorable to travel with our Lord! Jesus said "No, go back to your own neighborhood! Each of us knows people that others do not know, and many are people who don't go to church and don't tune in to Christian broadcasts or telecasts; they avoid any "religious" information on the internet. I have an idea that the friends of the demon-possessed man whom Jesus sent back home would compare to those whom today we may call "druggies" or "drunks." Well, Jesus wants them to hear of Him and what He has done for them to turn their lives around

to have life with eternal meaning! If we don't tell them, who will? The last command of our Savior was to be His witnesses, first back home, Jerusalem; for us that would be where we live. The future may take us elsewhere, but for now, our mission field are those people with whom we have close association now! Tell them about God!

SINGING OUR PRAISE

Wednesday Read Ephesians 5:15-20

"Singing to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Music can lift our spirits in a way that is special. Music is a way to express our feelings, whether it be somber to share those emotions, or joyous to give praise to God for the good times. Either way the songs have a good effect in that they are a release, and a communication that is good for our own hearts and allows listeners to share our feelings if others are present! In that regard, it is vital in worship as our expression to God, to whom we are instructed to lift our hearts! I think it to be noticeable that there are three types of music mentioned in our Bible reading. Does that not mean that God is honored by more than one type of music? That is worthy of note because the adversary, who works hard to cause division among true believers, is using music as one of his key weapons in that it is in the area of music where there is a strong difference of taste. I think it is quite obvious that older Christians have a preference for the "good old hymns of the faith," and rightfully so. The younger seem to have a preference for what is called "contemporary music." Realizing that, the devil licks his chops! Now, all Christians should have a desire to honor God with their musical tastes, and I believe all Christians recognize that some music is Satan-honoring. All should avoid music that is disgraceful, and repugnant to God. The question for which all of us are responsible in judging our musical tastes is this: "Does the music I enjoy honor my God?"

SEEKING GOD

Thursday Read Psalm 105:4-5

"Seek the Lord, and His strength; seek His face evermore." Our Heavenly Father is omnipotent and omniscient! He is all powerful, nothing is too hard for God! He knows everything! His wisdom is indescribable and unattainable. That is the point made in Romans 11:33: *"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out."* As His children by virtue of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, we have access every day to His wisdom and power. Our Father in heaven has the answer to every problem in our lives, and the power to overcome every obstacle we face. Jesus warned us that there would be problems in this world with this alert in John 15:33: *"In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."* We must not let problems get us down; they are an opportunity for God to show Himself strong. Remember I John 5:4: *"Faith is the victory!"*

REMEMBERING GOD'S WORKS

Friday Read Daniel 4:1-3

"How great are His signs! And how mighty are His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and His dominion is from generation to generation." It is important for believers to remember the works of God because it brings to a conscious level that our God is sovereign over all the earth. In our day, the world scene is not pretty with international terrorism, the all too common acts of violence, and the total disregard for Biblical virtues in the American culture with the acceptance of rampant immorality and predominance of hate. God knows all that is going on; as a matter of fact, the best description of world events today is in the Bible. God knew of these times long before they would happen, and He had prophets even before Christ warn of them. The Bible describes many of God's acts relative to Israel. Think of God's freeing the Jews from Egyptian bondage, the rise of David as a king, and then His divine intervention in Babylon and the use of captives to name a few. In our day, we've seen the return of the Jews to Israel, and now her being the target of other nations just as had been prophesied in God's holy Word. Remember His works, and the best is yet to come!

REMEMBERING GOD'S COVENANT

Saturday Read Matthew 26:26-30

"For this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Just as married couples do well to remember their wedding vows as they go through life, so ought Christians remember God's covenant that Jesus inaugurated just before He went to the cross to make it possible for us to be reconciled to our Creator. This union we are able to have with God by entering into a personal relationship with Christ, however, was made possible by what is perhaps the most horrific experience of any human being. Just the fact that Jesus took on a human body was a huge sacrifice, but then to suffer the penalty of sin is the greatest act of love ever! Yes, what would seem to be cruel on the part of a Father to plan the crucifixion of His Son turns out to be an amazing act of love. Because of the shed blood of Christ to satisfy God's holy law, we all can have an abundant life on earth with victory over sin and an eternity in the bliss of heaven. That is God's covenant!