

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of October 14, 2018

### THEME: "The Scriptures" GOD'S WAYS

#### Sunday .....Read Psalm 119:5-16

*"O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes."* The only way to learn the ways of God is to read the Bible, God's Holy Word. Those who ignore the Holy Scriptures will never know the eternal truth about the world or about human beings. They leave themselves wide open to the fabrications of the enemy of God, the devil himself propagated by those who refuse to accept the Spirit-inspired Scriptures as truth. So by rejecting truth, they believe lies. So sad: spiritually blind! Because of this stubborn rejection of God and His ways, they miss the joy of knowing their Creator and the countless blessing of living their lives as God had planned; they can only enjoy temporal pleasures: so limited. Those who believe God's Word and have responded to His love and His offer of forgiveness of sin through the Lord Jesus enjoy both the physical and spiritual world; we have both temporal and eternal goals in life that continue forever. Yes, that is the abundant life of which Jesus spoke in John 10:10 where He said this: *"I am come that they might have life, and have in more abundantly."* Not believing the Word of God is the most ignorant and dangerous thing a person can do in this lifetime. I say that because that willful ignorance keeps a person on the road that leads to an eternal hell. The Bible teaches that all humans will stand before God in judgment. To do so never having received Christ as Savior means facing the God who so loved the world that He sent His Son to pay the penalty for sinners. So tragic that a person will have to face such a loving God and try to explain why that loving gift of eternal life was rejected. Because He is holy, God must carry out the sentence of eternal death because of the individual's refusal to accept His gift of life when it was offered. Ignorance is no excuse!

#### OUR SWORD

#### Monday ..... Read Ephesians 6:10-18

*"Put on the whole armor of God...and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."* The earth, ever since Adam and Eve, has been involved in the spiritual war that began when Satan rebelled against God and became God's eternal enemy. When God created humans and placed them in the garden at Eden, Satan turned that paradise into a battlefield, a spiritual battlefield. His weapon were distortion, deception, and doubt. Adam and Eve fell for them and ate of the forbidden bringing death into the human experience when God had planned for them to have eternal life. Satan continues that same plan of attack on all humanity today. He does not need to do so through a serpent now, because there are a lot of human beings to be his agents and propagate his falsehood. We are given that warning in II Corinthians 11:14-15: *"And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is not great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the members of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."* That is spiritual warfare, not physical as we are told in verse twelve in today's Bible reading: *"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world."* That is a not a blackout of the physical lights of this world: the sun, moon, stars, and electricity; it a darkening of truth, an attempt to black out God's truth as revealed in the Bible. How do God's people fight? We use the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God! Christians must learn the truth of Scriptures and light up their world by living it and sharing it when given the opportunity. We are told in I Timothy 6:12 and II Timothy 2:3 to *"fight the good fight of faith" as "soldiers of Jesus Christ."* Learn to use the sword!

#### WARNINGS

#### Tuesday ..... Read Acts 20:31-32

*"Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."* As soldiers of Jesus Christ, we are where we are to give warnings about the coming crisis of God's judgments! People in the paths of hurricanes do well to heed the warnings of an approaching hurricane. Well, the coming judgments of God as mentioned in Revelation should be heard and heeded. People need to be warned about all the false teaching in opposition to Biblical truth; to ignore those warnings is far worse than ignoring a weather forecast! Your eternal destination, not your earthly home, is at stake. Jesus promised to come

back again. Are you ready? Have you asked Him to be your personal Savior? If you have, you are ready! If you have not, you will miss the only way to escape hell and lose your chance to be in heaven. Consider yourself warned!

### OUR ROCK

**Wednesday ..... Read Matthew 7:24-27**

*"Therefore he who heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man who builds his house upon a rock."* A rock is another metaphor describing the Bible. That is the term Jesus used when He spoke of people heeding His words. His whole lesson that day was comparing building a life to building a house. He emphasized that those who build their lives on the truth of God have a strong foundation capable of withstanding the storms of life, and those that don't will eventually collapse when confronted with the storms that come. If the skeptic has a strong enough personality to deal successfully with the troubles that come, that final test of God's wrath will do them in. Only eternal truth can shed light on eternal life. The most important thing in life is to know God's Word, but we must realize that to know God's truth is not enough! We must do them! Head knowledge is wonderful, but of little value if not put into practice. I Corinthians 8:1 tells us this: *"Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up."* Becoming proud about knowledge can be really valuable or counter productive depending on the use of that knowledge. If it is used to gird up our lives and share with others to strengthen their lives, God is honored. If used only to store in the memory back, it is of no value. But to apply it and to share it is great for the believer and for those with whom he shares!

### OUR LAMP

**Thursday ..... Read Psalm 119:97-105**

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."* Another metaphor used in the Bible to describe the Scriptures is a lamp. We all know how valuable a lamp is, especially when you otherwise would be in total darkness. I am sure we have all had that experience when suddenly the lights go out because of an electrical failure. To be out of light means some bad things will happen. As troublesome as that is for that particular time, it is tragic when it has eternal implications. People who live without faith in the Word of God are living in spiritual darkness, and have to rely on guesswork on that which has the eternal perspective on life. Whereas, unbelievers may have an enjoyable life on earth because of God's goodness to all, they are limited to the things God has placed on this earth. They have no sense of fellowship and communion with God. Because they have an inborn hunger for fellowship with God but stay ignorant of His revelation in Scriptures, they form false gods that are totally misleading about the mysteries beyond the wisdom of man. Those who place their faith in Scripture have freedom from the penalty and power of sin and have eternal purpose and eternal life. By looking into the Word of God, they have light on all things, and are not duped by the world's false teachings, and there is plenty of that, particularly since public education has abandoned the Bible as the foundation for our learning. Our nation has fallen deeply since the courts made that decision.

### SURE FOOTING

**Friday ..... Read II Samuel 23:1-5**

*"He hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for that is all my salvation, and all my desire."* All who place their faith in the Bible have sure footing as they travel this path of life. David makes mention of a covenant with God. Let us be reminded that the Bible is made up of what we call the Old Testament and the New Testament. A synonym for testament is a covenant or promise. We have God's promises. The old covenant was dependent on man's faithfulness, and it served to prove to man that he would fall short, opening the need for a new covenant, which depended on God's faithfulness alone. By paying the penalty of sin with His blood on Calvary, our faith in Christ gives us the power to understand the Bible and to put it into practice. That is a sure footing for life! We do not have to wonder whether or not the steps we take are sure. If our decisions and our thoughts and behaviors are in accordance with what God has said, they are the right choices.

### DAILY GUIDANCE

**Saturday ..... Read Psalm 5:1-3**

*"My voice shall thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up."* To have the benefits of God's word, we are compelled to read it and follow the Spirit's leading us to understand it. It is the best way to start a day; time with God in His Word! It provides food for our souls: a spiritual breakfast! In teaching us to pray, Jesus said to include these words: *"Give us this day our daily bread."* The best time to pray for a daily provision is in the morning. Reading the Bible in the morning enables the Holy Spirit to give wisdom for decisions, sometimes for a specific situation with which we are faced. No wonder the psalmist said what he did in our Bible reading for today. He dared not enter into a day without meeting with God. A good idea for us!