

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of October 21, 2018

**THEME: "The Christian"
A SPECIAL PEOPLE**

Sunday Read I Peter 2:1-10

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a special people, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light: which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God." Christians are in the world to do the work of God on His earth. He has chosen those people who have placed their faith in the Lord Jesus to be His priests, their having been made holy by the blood of Jesus upon their sincere confession of their sins. The work of God is twofold in our day: the completion of the Church and the preparation for the return of Christ to take the throne of David in Jerusalem to rule the world for one thousand years. As we witness so much of the fulfillment of Biblical prophetic signs of the times, it appears that both of those works of God are nearing completion. The role of Christians is working toward the completion of the building of the Church of which Jesus spoke in Matthew 16:18, where He said this: *"I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."* That Church Universal is made up of living stones, the souls of men and women. The actual work in building the Church is called soulwinning in Proverbs 11:30: *"He that winneth souls is wise."* Winning a soul is working together with the Holy Spirit to free a person from the darkness of this world and into the marvelous light of the eternal truth of God by becoming a follower of Jesus Christ. That is called by Jesus *"being born again:"* a birth of the spirit giving spiritual life and spiritual understanding. Yes, the ambassadors for God's kingdom of heaven is a high calling and is worthy our complete devotion and passion!

CULTURAL CORRUPTION

Monday Read I Timothy 6:3-5

"Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." It is easy to see the successes of Satan, who from the time of the Creation has attacked humans by trying to discredit the word of God. He did it then as a serpent in the garden; today, he is doing it with some people who are in the world of education, the world of religion, and the halls of government. His success is demonstrated by the corruption of culture that is becoming ever increasingly evident in our own nation since the removal of God's truth in public education over fifty years ago. With that Supreme Court decision, our nation lost her moral authority to the point where the unthinkable is now a reality as acceptable teachings and behaviors. God calls propagators of such immorality and amorality people with corrupt minds, destitute of truth. This explains why Jesus admonished His followers to be the *"salt of the earth."* Our nation desperately needs a preservative influence. By taking heed to the Scriptures, which is the guidebook for Christian living, believers are in tune with that which God calls right and wrong. There is a firm command of God for His people to withdraw from any teaching that deviates from His truth. There is no room for compromise of Biblical truth. It is God's law: the basis for final judgment, of individuals and nations.

LAWLESSNESS

Tuesday Read II Thessalonians 2:1-7

"For the mystery of lawlessness doth already work." One of the evidences of our nation straying away from the righteousness of God by ignoring Biblical truth is the ever increasing lawlessness. We have some leaders and would-be leaders in our national, state, and local government who actually are in favor of accommodating and rewarding law breakers with all these illegal immigrants instead of insisting on legal entry. They disguise their law breaking accommodation as being kind and merciful without realizing the damage done by encouraging law breakers. That has now infiltrated civic life by their endorsing violence under the disguise of freedom of speech. Sadly, without their realizing it, they are puppets of the devil himself. It now appears that there is an

open push for Satanic gatherings as apparently a legitimate form of open dialogue. This is exactly what the Bible tells us in our Bible reading for today would happen in the perilous days of the last times. The world needs salt!

DIVINE NATURE

Wednesday Read II Peter 1:1-7

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world." The escape from the corruption of the world is to have a divine nature, without which there is no escape. God had originally created man with a divine nature, but he lost it when he sinned. The moment Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, they died spiritually: they lost their divine nature and were left with a sin nature. That sin nature was passed on to every baby born of a man and a woman. All of us were born with a dead spirit devoid of the divine nature that is essential to escape the wiles of the devil, or the corruption that the evil one has brought into God's earth. This is why Jesus emphasized the need for a person to be born again in John 3:3-7. That new birth comes by applying the truth of John 1:12-13: *"But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to be called the sons of God...who are born not of blood, nor of the will of man, nor of the will of the flesh, but of God."* That decision to receive Christ gives a person the divine nature that is necessary to escape the corruption that is in the world.

SEASONED SPEECH

Thursday Read Colossians 4:1-6

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be seasoned with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how to answer every man." With all the corruption in our culture, God is good enough to provide a preservative to counteract the complete erosion and maintain a degree of decency. Christians must fill that role and be faithful to God's calling to rescue all we can from decadence. It is a battle against the devil to free people from his clutches. How sad that our youth have to grow up in a corrupt culture; but praise God for the hope God has provided through His people to be the salt. How can the salt have an influence? The answer is that we must keep pouring on the preservative with our seasoned speech. What is that? It is not a boisterous condemnation, but rather an alertness to the Spirit's leading to speak in a word of wisdom in due season. That is the instruction in Proverbs 15:23: *"A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word fitly spoken in due season, how good it is!"* By working together with the Spirit, who opens up doors at the right time, a lot of good can happen. Only God knows whose hearts are ready to receive the truth, and God will call upon one of His own to provide the salt necessary for a given conversation. It is so necessary to *"walk in wisdom,"* being led by the Spirit while in the company of the lost.

AN HONORABLE VESSEL

Friday Read II Timothy 2:19-26

"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work." We learn in this passage that the corruption of the world is not only the gross immorality of physical lusts, but includes the corruption within the realm of Christendom. There is a lot of corrupt teaching with the infiltration of false doctrine. Moses had to deal with it in his day as did some others, and the adversary will plant some of his people with a religious appearance to come across as apostles of Christ, the warning of II Corinthians 11:13-15: *"Such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light; therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."* This is the importance of the command in verse fifteen to *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightfully dividing the word of truth."* It is important to notice how to respond to false teachers in verse twenty-four: *"The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves...that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil."*

A WELLSPRING

SaturdayRead John 7:35-38

"He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." People are thirsting for truth; it is the nature of man. Satan has provided them with a lot of poisonous water; so it is important for God's people to be there with pure water, the water of the Word of God, absolute, eternal truth. The thing that attracts people to a spring of water may be our appearance. How vital that the lifestyle of the believer indicates that there is something refreshing about that person. So often it is the lifestyle people read that causes them to give an ear to the truth! Living in the Spirit is different from living a worldly lifestyle, and it will catch the attention of seekers!