

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of October 28, 2018**

**THEME: "Our Lives on Earth"  
LIFE'S CHOICES**

**Sunday ..... Read Joshua 24:15-21**

*"And if it seem evil unto you this day, choose ye this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that serve on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye have dwelt: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."* Life is made up of choices. They begin in childhood when children decide whether or not they will obey their parents. That is the first test of obedience! The better choice is to obey; disobedience has consequences, or at least should have consequences for a child to get a good start in life. Now that does depend on the choices of the parents. From obedience, the children progress to their making decisions that will honor their parents. So people fundamentally are forced into making choices; and those choices are important because there is a final judgment by God. So the fundamental question in making choices is whether or not a person chooses to obey God! The criteria for determining good and bad is to go to the Creator of human beings, which is God. God has been considerate enough to give us a Manual for living and for making the right choices; that is the Holy Scriptures which serve the purpose given in II Timothy 3:16: *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...and is profitable for instruction that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto good works."* As the child develops through adolescence into adulthood, he or she becomes totally responsible for the choices made! The earlier an individual makes that decision, the better the quality of life for many years; but it is wise to make that choice at whatever age, because it's never too late as long as we are alive, because eternity looms!

**BUILDING OUR LIVES**

**Monday ..... Read Matthew 7:24-29**

*"Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who builds his house upon a rock."* Jesus used the metaphor of a building to describe life on earth; we are building our lives. The point Jesus is making by encouraging people to see their lives as a work in construction is to consider the foundation on which we choose to build our lives. If there is a solid and secure foundation, the individual should be able to stand in the times of adversity. What Jesus taught by using this metaphor is that the only solid foundation that will stand the tests of time and eternity is the life built on the teachings of the Word of God. That building called life built with things other than God's truth may have successes while on earth, but will fail the tests determining eternal life. That is important because every individual is an eternal being. It is well to prepare while in our working years to plan properly for retirement years; but it is even more critical to prepare for eternity, not just the end of life on earth. Not to build a life on the solid Rock of faith in Jesus and the Word of God will mean eternal failure. There will be a total collapse which is eternally dying, not good!

**THE JOURNEY OF LIFE**

**Tuesday ..... Read Matthew 7:13-14**

*"Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many there be that go in thereat; because straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life, and few there be that find it."* Jesus also used the metaphor of a journey to describe our lives on earth, a journey from the cradle to the grave. He pointed out that there are only two main highways to travel on throughout our lives on earth; the road that leads to heaven and the road that leads to hell: the two eternal destinations. Now the truth is that we are born on the road that leads to hell, the road of condemnation, because we are born sinners without spiritual life. Without spiritual life a person cannot enter into heaven. So the biggest decision in life is to get off the road that leads to eternal destruction and get on the road that leads to eternal life with God in heaven. It is a narrow road with only one on ramp! That ramp is Jesus! He, as He stated in John 14:6, is the only Way to

heaven. That quote from Jesus reads this way: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father, but by me."* When an individual makes a decision to receive Christ, he immediately moves on to the highway to heaven!

## **TWO DESTINATIONS**

**Wednesday .....Read Luke 16:22-23**

*"And it came to pass, that the beggar died and was carried into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried: and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torment, and seeing Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."* Jesus gave this very profound lesson to the Pharisees about earth and the hereafter that is recorded to help us understand the experience of death. Without this and other teachings in the Bible, death would remain a complete mystery. God wants us to know so we can be properly prepared! There are writings of humans; but obviously, they are speculation because the writers never experienced death or spoke with any who are dead. Only God can speak with authority, and Jesus on this occasion gives some valuable insight. This was before His death and resurrection, but we have clear teaching in other passages which speaks of the change for believers since His resurrection and ascension back to heaven. It is obvious from this teaching that placing a body in the grave is not termination of that individual. Having departed the physical body at death, the person arrives at a destination: the unbeliever to a place of torment and the believer to a paradise. That is the description Jesus gave the dying thief who made a commitment as a believer in his dying moments. With that profession of faith, Jesus said this to the dying criminal in Luke 23:43: *"Today thou shalt be with me in paradise."* Sadly, the unbelieving rich man experienced a conscious suffering after death. On the contrary, the poor man who had a tough life on earth, was experiencing indescribable joy!

## **LIFE, A RACE**

**Thursday ..... Read Hebrews 12:1-2**

*"Let us run with patience the race that is set before us."* In this letter to the Hebrews, life is described as a race. That has a lot of implications. Among other things, the implication is that there is a goal to reach, and a prize to attain. There will be a lot of competition, and it will take endurance. I say that because this is a long distance run, not a quick dash, at least for most people! Now the question for each person is to establish a goal in life, and the reading from Hebrews gives to us the best goal in life: the Lord Jesus Himself, both as the One to whom we are racing, and to run the race in a way that we will not be distracted from Him, from Him as a person and from His teachings as recorded in the Word of God. Yes, the Bible tells us how to run the race of life. To follow its teaching, we will stay on track; not to follow its teachings will get us moving away from the goal, and require whatever to get back on track. We are told it will take patience implying that there will be snags along the way, things will go differently from what we may expect and require patience on our part because of obstacles and delays. It is during those times that we keep our focus on our goal: the things that we are called to accomplish for our Lord and coming King. It is His Spirit who will give us the stamina, and the determination to keep moving with the assurance that there is a coming victory and crown.

## **THE FINISH LINE**

**Friday ..... Read II Timothy 4:7-8**

*"I have fought a good fight; I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness..."* Paul testifies to his younger friend that he is nearing the finish line, and he is doing so with a confidence in victory! As he looks back, he testifies that he has kept the faith, after he gave his life over to our Savior. He mentions that it was a tough battle many times, but he fought his way through them, and he kept moving ahead despite the obstacles that were placed in his path, and he did meet with a lot of opposition working against him. But because he diligently worked through them and was used of God to touch many lives for the glory of God, he had the assurance that he would receive a winner's trophy: the crown of righteousness as a reward!

## **THE BATTLE OF LIFE**

**Saturday .....Read I Timothy 6:11-12**

*"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."* One more description of the Christian life is that it is a war! And that war is against the most formidable enemy possible, the arch enemy of God, Satan himself with all his forces. Satan's first invasion on earth was to attack the first family God put on earth, and he has been on the attack ever since. His target is the people of God and those who may be potential believers. Satan will do all he can to discourage and divide believers, and prevent those in his camp from ever switching sides to become part of God's army. Fortunately, God has given His soldiers, another description of believers, the armor necessary for victory. Two that are extremely vital are the sword of the Spirit and the shield of faith. So vital to learn God's Word and believe every word!