

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of February 3, 2019

THEME: "Jesus, His Person"

THE QUESTION

Sunday Read Matthew 16:5-15

"He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?" This is the most important question every person in this world will ever have to answer! I say that because their answer to that question determines where they will spend eternity. If they give the right answer, they will be in heaven. If they give the wrong answer, they will be in hell forever. That makes it a very important question. In this discussion, Jesus had asked His disciples what others were saying about Him. The answers were pretty much the same as when the question is asked today: a good man, a prophet. When asked, Peter got it right: *"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God."* His was a two-fold response emphasizing the deity and the humanity of Jesus. Jesus is the anointed One, the Messiah for whom the Jews were waiting. The Deliverer from bondage, not only freedom for Israel, but for all, both Jews and Gentiles who would confess themselves as sinners and trust Jesus for their salvation, setting them free from the penalty and power of sin. It is interesting that so many who were well read in the Scriptures did not get it right. Apparently they used the "pick and choose" method in their reading: picking out portions of Scriptures that satisfied their preconceived ideas. The Old Testament did speak of the Messiah coming to take the Throne of David and restore Israel to worldwide dominance; in that many non-followers of Jesus were right, but they missed the Scriptures that spoke of His being a crucified Lamb as revealed in places like Isaiah 53 and Daniel 9. As Jesus Himself testified in Matthew 5:17, He fulfilled all the law and the prophets: *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law and the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill."* Jesus is the Lamb of God and the Lion of Judah: our Lord!

SON OF GOD

Monday Read Matthew 3:16-17

"And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, Lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lightning upon Him, and a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Jesus, the Son of God, often referred to Himself as the Son of man, placing an emphasis that He became a man. He had to become a man to pay the penalty for the sin of all humanity in order for God to maintain His perfection and absolute holiness and purity. Jesus was totally God and totally human, unlike any founder of manmade religion. Jesus was virgin born and entered the world like all other humans: a baby out of a mother's womb. All other religions in the world were formed by individuals born of man and woman; and, consequently, born a condemned sinner. It was the Holy Spirit who came upon Mary for that miraculous conception. She became impregnated by Divine power. Jesus often spoke of His Father in such places as His prayer in John 17:1: *"Father, the hour is come, glorify thy Son, that thy Son may glorify thee."* Jesus is part of the Trinity, the Triune Godhead mentioned in Matthew 28:19: *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost."* Jesus taught us to begin our prayers this way: *"Our Father;"* His Father and ours!

CREATOR

Tuesday Read John 1:1-8

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made." Jesus was there at the creation of the heavens and the earth. Some may ask for the true identification of *"the Word"* who was there at the beginning when all things were created? The answer is in the 14th verse of this first chapter of John's Gospel and confirms that it was Jesus with these details: *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."* Jesus is the part of the Godhead that became flesh, that took on a human body. Back in the Genesis account of the creation, we read about the planning stage for the creation in Genesis 1:26

after the creation of everything but the human being: *"And God said, Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness."* Notice the words "us" and "our." They are plural words. Jesus is the Creator!

CLIMATE CONTROLLER

Wednesday Read Hebrews 1:1-3

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by His power." In this statement in Paul's letter to the Hebrews, we see that Jesus, God's Son, has been given power to *"uphold all things"* on earth. It may be good for all those people who are concerned about climate control to be assured that the One who is the *"upholder of all things by His power"* has everything under His control. A careful study of world history and a study of our own nation's history will reveal how God used climate to determine the outcome of all the major battles to get done what He was trying to accomplish. This truth about the power of Christ in controlling all things as He sees fit is confirmed in Colossians 1:17: *"And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist."* Maybe it would be good for all those concerned about air pollution to focus on entertainment pollution or media pollution or educational pollution or government pollution. The way to deal with any pollution is to become purified by God and His Word!

SAVIOR

Thursday Luke 2:8-14

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord." When a person is called a Savior, the legitimate question is *"Saved from what?"* An awareness of God's law and God's perfect righteousness is helpful in understanding why mankind needed Christ, the Son of God to be their Savior. If God's righteousness and holiness is to be maintained, then there must be a complete application of His law. Any compromise would mean He would no longer be holy and perfectly righteous. God's law for Adam was very simple: "Eat of the forbidden fruit and you will die." The seriousness of that is that Adam had an eternal soul that lasts forever. All humans do. The physical body houses the eternal soul and as long as the body is alive it can enjoy God's physical world. God is a Spirit, and for Him to have fellowship with humans, God gave us a spirit in addition to a body so we can also have an understanding of the spiritual world, the world of heavenly things as well as earthly things. Adam and Eve's violation of God's law caused both spiritual and physical death, spiritual death instantly; physical death later. As offspring by the union of both man and woman, all natural born babies are spiritually dead. Being virgin born, Christ was sinless. If He were to die, His death would satisfy God's law and could be applied for all sinners. When Jesus, the only sinless human being died, God accepts His death for all humans. All humans who confess sin and receive Christ as Savior are immediately granted a Divine pardon and saved from eternal death. Oh, what a Savior!

SHEPHERD

Friday Read John 10:11-14

"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine." One of the best metaphors to describe Christians is to see ourselves as sheep with a shepherd. David, in whose line our Savior was born, used the idea of the Lord as his shepherd in the very familiar 23rd Psalm. He saw his Shepherd as his provider with these words: *"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters."* It was his Shepherd who provided him with assurance when he had a troubled spirit: *"He restoreth my soul."* David looked to his Shepherd for guidance in decision making within the will of God: *"He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."* His shepherd provided him with protection: *"For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me."* As Christians, we have the luxury of having the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the coming King of kings as our Shepherd. That is love, joy, and peace!

SOVEREIGN OF THE EARTH

Saturday Read Isaiah 9:6-7

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever." In the future of the earth, perhaps sooner rather than later, Jesus will be the Sovereign Ruler over all the earth! After the Rapture and the seven year tribulation, Jesus will return to earth as He promised, and take the Throne of David in Jerusalem to rule this earth for a thousand years. It will be when He exerts Himself as the Prince of the long awaited peace on earth.