

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of May 5, 2019

THEME: "Honor our Savior" LIVING WITH HONOR

Sunday **Read I Thessalonians 4:1-4**

"Every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor." One of the most important commands in the Bible that God gives to Christians is this one in today's Bible reading in Paul's letter to the Thessalonians where He is basically telling us to live our lives in a pure and honorable way. That pleases God! Not to live with purity and honor makes a life counterproductive to the kingdom of heaven. We have all heard that axiom "actions speak louder than words." There is a lot of truth in that. As a matter of fact, Paul implied that in this teaching in II Corinthians 3:2: *"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men."* One of the first Biblical instructions given to children in the home for family life is to *"Honor your father and mother."* Honor is a must in spouse relations as commanded in I Peter 3:7, which says this: *"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together in the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered."* We have this instruction for relationships among believers in a local assembly of believers in Romans 12:10: *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another."* The Bible emphasis acting with honor in the workplace with this comment on our work ethic in I Timothy 6:1: *"Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, that the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed."* Finally, and most importantly, we have this command in the exercise of our faith in Christ in I Timothy 6:15-16: *"Which in His times, He shall show, who is the blessed and only potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man approaches: whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor, and power everlasting. Amen."* Living with honor is the true hallmark of the faithful believer!

HONORING OUR SAVIOR

Monday **Read John 5:20-24**

"That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honors not the Son, honors not the Father who hath sent Him." It was the willingness of God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come to earth that enables human beings to have fellowship and communion with God. Had it not been for Jesus coming to earth to be our Redeemer and pay the penalty for our sins, we would be forever separated from God, who is holy and righteous. Every human being has a craving for God and a desire to worship Him. For the most part, humanity has come up with false religions of phony idols to satisfy the inner desire because they have rejected the eternal truth of God's Holy Scriptures. To reject Christ is to miss out on a reconciliation with God, our Creator. It was Jesus who died to pay the penalty for sin as the Lamb of God on the cross of Calvary, and then who arose from the tomb in victory over death. He, and He alone has conquered death with His glorious resurrection. He is the Savior of the world, and the One who can restore fellowship with God. The only way to honor the True and Living God is to honor the Son. That is the clear message of today's Bible reading: *He that honors not the Son, honors not the Father."*

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Tuesday **Read Romans 5:8-11**

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." The love of God that compelled Him to send His Son to fulfill the law for all sinners by paying the penalty of sin is an unconditional love. Notice in today's Bible reading that God's love demonstrated by His sending His Son to suffer the sentence of death for sinners is an unconditional love, an undeserving love, a love that sinners cannot earn. God loves sinners! Ours is a holy God who hates sin, but loves sinners. That is not a contradiction! There are those that seem not to understand that in this culture of hate that is plaguing our country in which those hollering "hate" are the ones perpetuating the hate. They claim that people who speak up against wrongdoing hate wrongdoers. The truth is that people who speak out against wrongdoing are showing love for the wrongdoers, the kind of love that God shows. In family life, loving parents, who hate wrong and do not want their child whom they love to continue doing wrong, correct the child because of their unconditional love for their children. God's love for people is so great that He actually allowed His Son to die a cruel death on the cross for us because sin has consequences. Hell was made for the devil and demons, but it is also the destination for all

unsaved sinners. Jesus was willing to pay the penalty of sin for us! Skeptics say that a loving God would not allow anyone to go to hell. Not true, a loving God provided a way for sinners to be pardoned through His Son. Those who reject His Son choose to reject a loving God's pardon. God's love will not compromise His holiness. It is the blood of Jesus that cleanses from sin, and only the blood of Jesus. Surely we should live in such a way to honor our Savior!

INSEPARABLE LOVE

Wednesday Read Romans 8:38-39

"For I am persuaded that, neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Another reason that we should want to honor our Savior, the Lord Jesus, is that His love is inseparable. His love is not dependent on our love and loyalty. Our Heavenly Father will never disown any of His children, who have become part of His eternal family by virtue of their accepting His Son as personal Savior. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Talk about eternal security: the truth in today's Bible reading confirms that. To say that a person can lose his or her salvation is saying that God's love is contingent on His child's behavior. That is an insult to God, who is a perfect Father. God will discipline a persistent erring child, but will never disown one because His love is inseparable. That is the kind of love God wants husbands to have for their wives according to the teaching of Ephesians 5:25: *"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it."* It must be mentioned also that the wives, for whom God compelled their husbands to have an inseparable love, are given this instruction by God in Ephesians 5:24: *"Therefore as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing."* Obviously, that wonderful marriage partnership is much easier if both are committed to the wonderful love of God!

ABUNDANT LIFE

Thursday Read John 10:7-10

"I am come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly." The apostle in His gospel gives another compelling reason for all believers to want to live their lives in such a way that will honor our wonderful Savior and Lord. John quotes our Savior with the words above in today's Bible reading: that He has come to give us the abundant life: life to the fullest! What a blessing this is for true Christians, those who have been born into God's family! It is a shame that all people who have ignored or rejected Christ and have never been born again, according to His teaching in John 3:1-7, have a limited life on earth and have to suffer an eternal death in hell. They may think they have a full life, but it is limited to the physical world and ends with physical death, which takes a person into the outer darkness of a world with Satan. The abundant life is one that has all the joys of the physical life, and the opportunity to enjoy the spiritual world as well. The abundant life by faith in Christ is eternal; physical death is simply an entrance into the glory of heaven, the abode of God. Living on the same wavelength as God is the abundant life. It is a life which has an understanding of the origin of life and the meaning of life, the life as God intended when He originally created humans back in the garden of Eden. Fellowship with God is the abundant life!

TRUE UNDERSTANDING

Friday Read Psalm 119:97-104

"I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation." Our faith in Christ gives us spiritual life and the ability to understand things revealed in Scriptures that are beyond the capability of people to explain. There are those who have tried, but things beyond the minds of men result in guesswork, seemingly logical, but in error. One great illustration is on the origin of things. Man's curiosity resulted in the idea of evolution which was and remains and always will remain a theory because it cannot be verified. Creation is understood only by faith in God, as mentioned in Hebrews 11:3: *"Through faith we understand the worlds were framed by the word of God."* Only people of faith in God will ever have true understanding of the origin of things! Man has speculated on the future of things, at their own risk; for to be in error about this has eternal consequences. The Scriptures debunk the ideas of death is a termination or everyone goes to heaven. Praise God that the Holy Spirit has inspired writers to pen God's inerrant, unchanging Word! Secular

teachers and professors have a lot of knowledge, but lack understanding in matters beyond human understanding. That is where their students of faith surpass them!

GLORY AND HONOR

Saturday Read Revelation 4:9-11

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things,, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." This scene revealed in the final book of the Word of God is a scene in heaven. Yes, the heart of angels and believers will forever have a desire to bring honor and glory to God, especially when we are in His presence! We can only imagine now! Worship of God will be a major activity in heaven and should be for every believer now: to give Him honor and glory! Why not? After all, we are told that all things are created for His pleasure. Personalize that! Each of us was created to bring pleasure to God! Do we? God has given us His Word to instruct us on how we can bring Him pleasure. Surely, this is the best way to life, especially since there is a final judgment! How vital to read and practice Biblical truth. Such a life brings pleasure to God, and it prepares us for that final judgment!