

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of May 19, 2019

THEME: "Honor Our Own" TEAMWORK

Sunday **Read I Corinthians 3:1-10**

"For we are laborers together with God." When people receive Jesus into their hearts as personal Savior, they immediately become workers in God's vineyard. The field is the world as Jesus teaches in Matthew 13:38, where He said this: *"The field is the world."* Believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit to empower them to be witnesses for Jesus where they live and work, that part of the world where God has placed them and as part of the work force that are in the local church where they have been led. All people have been born into this world as condemned sinners who are lost on the road that leads to hell as their eternal destination. Jesus said this in Luke 19:10, as one of the reasons He came into the world, *"The Son of man came into the world to seek and to save that which was lost."* At the time of His birth, the angel announced to the shepherds in the field that he was bringing *"good tidings of great joy that shall be to all people; that unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."* He is the world's Savior because He paid the penalty of sin with His blood on the cross to satisfy God's law for condemned sinners. All sinners who receive Him as Savior are granted a Divine pardon by God from eternal death in hell. He is the only way to heaven, according to His own testimony in John 14:6, where He says this: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father but by me."* Believers are working together with God to bring the good news to all people. It is the task of believers to plant seeds of Scripture into the minds of people and water the hearts into which seeds have been planted to give the Holy Spirit the opportunity to have the seeds bear fruit. It is not so much working for God as it is working with God to rescue souls from the road that leads to hell. That requires working together with others!

ASSIGNMENTS

Monday **Read I Corinthians 12:18-21**

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body as it hath pleased Him." God never intended that His people go at it alone. In His Divine plan for the Church Age, God has raised up local assemblies of people for the purpose of worship for His glory. That band of people in their communities are to be God's witness as the light where they are. To do this right requires people of all different talents. Every believer has been endowed with at least one spiritual gift. All believers have been formed with special gifts to bring honor to God. God likens a local church to a body with many parts, each of which is vital. Each part has a special role to play in working together with the other parts to have the body do what is intended. No part of a body works in isolation; it needs the other parts, and the other parts need it! Not to have all parts working makes the body handicapped, and others must make up for the part not operating. God places His people where He wants them and where a local church needs them. Picking a church to call home is not so much a believer choosing a church as it is following God's guidance to a church of His choosing. I have marveled how God knows just who to bring into a church at the exact time when there is a need for the talent that a *"visitor"* has! Always there is a need for people to worship, to be a friend to others, to show love and support in their own personal way. All Christians can be sure they are on a Divine assignment when the Spirit leads them to a church. They have the exact personality and gift that the church needs for that time. Yes, the devil tries to plant some traitors to mess things up, so all believers in the church must be careful not to be tricked. God tells us to stay alert!

ATTITUDES

Tuesday **Read Philippians 2:1-5**

"Let this mind be in you, that was also in Christ Jesus." To be what God wants us to be, it is imperative to have the mind of Christ. Attitudes are so important, and to be Christlike should be the goal of every believer! That can be done only by yielding to the Spirit! A regular study of the Gospels gives Christians a look at the life of Christ and should help immensely in the Spirit's efforts to mold us into the image of Christ, which, by the way, was God's original intent when He created the human being. The point of emphasis in today's Bible reading in Philippians 2 is the humility of Christ. How important that all in a local church try to emulate that. Along with that, how great it would be if all would practice a genuine love and concern for each other, with an understanding heart and patience. Would that not truly honor our Savior? Yes, there will be mistakes, but remember our Savior's heart for forgiveness! When wronged, let us do as He did and for sure never hold grudges! Putting others first is really a

more rewarding life than trying to promote self! We have some good advice, as a matter of fact, a command in I Corinthians 12:26: *"And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the member rejoice with it."* Yes, our attitudes have much to do with success and failure. Let us be Christlike! **ADMONISHING**

Wednesday Read Colossians 3:12-16

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another."

A strong implication of this Biblical mandate is that a person must be familiar with Biblical truth. There are a couple of things mentioned that makes that a likelihood: teaching and admonishing. Just what is that? I believe we all know what good teaching is, but how about admonishing? Admonishing also is teaching, but it also implies correcting. Teaching is explaining things so listeners learn new things or have better understanding of things in order for them to make better application of things they may already know. Good teaching should result in learners gaining wisdom! Admonishing is providing instruction for making corrections that may have been misunderstood or the calling to the attention of the learner things for which they may have been in error in their thinking or in their behavior. Good teaching and proper admonishing with a spirit of love should result in a more rewarding Christian life for both the instructor and the learner.

ACTIONS

Thursday Read James 1:22-25

"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only." It is one thing to read and memorize Scriptures; it is still another to put into practice what we read! Learning the truth of God is wonderful in that it gives us an understanding of life as God intends it to be. It is absolute truth and the moral authority for human behavior and interrelationships! To know the Scriptures is to have access to a treasure chest of valuable knowledge far more valuable than all the books of human writers in the world combined. But to know the Scriptures and not practice them is foolish and perhaps the most tragic thing in the world. The psalmist had it right when he said this in Psalm 119:133: *"Order my steps in thy word, and let not any iniquity have dominion over me."* All believers should attempt to increase their knowledge of God's Word, but they should be even more eager to apply Biblical truth and Biblical instruction to their daily living. This is especially important in carrying out our Lord's command to be His witnesses, because unbelievers seem to be far more influenced by what they see in the lives of believers than in what they may hear from them.

WARM WELCOME

Friday Read Romans 15:4-7

"Wherefore receive one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God." One of the most important things the people in a local church can do to honor God is to give all who enter the doors of the church a warm welcome! And the second most important thing may well be to greet as many as practical in fellowship after the service, especially any newcomers. Yes, the preaching of the Word and the singing and playing of Christ-honoring music is extremely important, but to have all of that without showing the love of Christ in greeting others is counter productive. God is honored by the worship, and every effort should be put into making the worship bring glory to God. Never should that be taken lightly! God also is delighted to see people come into his house to worship and He loves each one of them. He wants His family to show the love of Christ to each other. That brings a warm and friendly and Christ-honoring atmosphere to the worship service! This means that every believer in a church can have a vital part in every service, whether or not they are directly involved in the preaching, the singing in the choir, the playing of an instrument, the ushering of people, or manning the sound system. The people are the big thing, and God loves each one. Barnabas in the early church at Jerusalem did a wonderful thing when he extended the hand of fellowship to a visitor by the name of Saul. That was step number one in this man becoming a powerful servant of God for the rest of his life. Every person should receive a warm welcome!

FELLOWSHIP

Saturday Read I John 1:1-7

"If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another..." To engage in corporate worship should never be neglected if we are to be obedient to God. We are told in Hebrews 10:25: *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is."* The primary purpose of our getting together is to honor God by worship; but our Heavenly Father enjoys

seeing His family of believers enjoy one another. That seems to be a point the apostle John is making in our Bible reading for today. Do notice the prerequisite for having fellowship with other believers, because if this is lacking, a believer will probably not look forward to this wonderful time he or she could enjoy. On the other hand, if this is true of a believer's Christian life, those times of fellowship with other believers will be approached with eager anticipation! The requirement for Christians to enjoy being with fellow believers is to be walking in the light. That is simply living in accordance with the light of the Word of God. If there is anything in a Christian's life that is in violation of God's Word, fellowship will be lacking and not as enjoyable as when any and all known sin is confessed. Jesus is the light of the world, and the Scriptures provide that written light as a guide for our living and our fellowship with God and His people!