

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of July 28, 2019

THEME: "Divine Providence"

CONFIDENCE IN GOD

Sunday **Read Psalm 139:1-12**

"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?" God is omnipresent! Nothing on earth escapes the eye of God! That the founders of this nation realized this is evident by their closing statement in the Declaration of Independence: "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortune, and our sacred honor." They knew that they were risking their lives by doing something that could be considered treasonous by the British crown. Patrick Henry verbalized that when he said "Give me liberty or give me death." But after "appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world," they were willing to commit to the cause of beginning a new nation on the world scene. They placed themselves in the hands of God, and God honored their trust. Perhaps they were aware of that same Divine Providence that had guided their ancestors a century and a half before in their trip to the New World. Yes, the Puritans and Pilgrims trusted God to be with them in what could have been a treacherous journey. That God was with them was proven by His Divine intervention in taking them off course and redirecting them to Plymouth, Massachusetts, when their planned destination was Virginia. God knew that there was a friendly native there in New England who would welcome them rather than having them head to their planned destination where they would have likely dealt with some hostility to the "white man." Oh, yes, this nation had her beginnings with the protection of Divine Providence causing those later to make our national motto: "In God We Trust."

DIVINE GUIDANCE

Monday **Read Romans 8:10-14**

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Those people who look to God for His guidance on this journey through life are the beneficiaries of God's love and His willingness to show the way. He has given to the world in writing His eternal plans and how to make them a part of our lives. The Holy Spirit, who was involved in the creation of the world, is the part of the triune Godhead present on earth today. All who have been born of the Spirit are empowered by the Holy Spirit who is within them to guide them on the paths of righteousness. That the Holy Spirit is in the body of all believers is revealed in I Corinthians 6:19: *"What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you?"* The psalmist said this about the Spirit's guidance in Psalm 23:3: *"He leads me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake."* Our Savior and Lord assured us of this truth about the indwelling Holy Spirit in John 16:13: *"And when He, the Comforter, is come, He will guide you into all truth."* Obviously, for the Spirit to guide us into truth, we must read the truth. Always in reading the Bible, the Christian is being fed spiritually; and there are occasions when the Spirit will actually give a definitive direction for a decision on an issue about which a person may be seeking advice. I have been personally amazed on occasions when the Spirit reveals a new meaning or a new application on a Scripture that I may have read many, many times before. One such example is when I read about Moses having to deal with "fake news," an expression that has come into common usage today. We read this in Exodus 23:1: *"Thou shalt not raise a false report."* Praise God for His Word, and for the personal tutoring of the Holy Spirit as we read it!

THE WILL OF GOD

Tuesday **Read Romans 12:1-2**

"I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you might prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." The most important thing in any person's life is to know and to do the will of God. I believe that God has a purpose and plan for every life. In a general way, we can say that the very purpose for God's creating man was to manage His earth. We are told that in Genesis 1:26, where we read this about God's plan for man: *"Let us make man in our own image after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth."* In a more specific and personal way, we have this message in Jeremiah 1:5: *"Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee: and before thou camest forth out of thy mother's womb, I sanctified thee, and ordained thee..."* How then can we know the will of God personally? First is to make a personal commitment to doing things God's way! Then we must determine that we will see

things from God's perspective as opposed to worldly teaching that is inconsistent with God's word. Then we must have a renewed mind, one that is focused on God's way by reading His Word and then doing it. He will direct our paths!

DIVINE PROVISION

Wednesday Read Philippians 4:13-19

"My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Another great promise of God to each of us is that He will meet our needs: He will provide all we need if we place our faith in Christ and His Word. That is the condition: to come to Christ by faith and be faithful in our commitment to Him and to live in obedience to His Word as our top priority. That is the condition that Jesus emphasized in Matthew 6:33: *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you."* Now if we are not committed to doing things God's way as He instructs in His Word, we cannot expect Him to meet our needs, and we may struggle. Our commitment must be total surrender to do things God's way! If we do, He promised to meet our needs. That is not to say we will get every thing we may want. There may be things that seem desirable, but could be counterproductive in doing that which God has planned. That is a warning in James 4:3: *"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lust."* Christians can be certain that God will provide all we need to get done what He wants us to get done. There is no better way to live our lives during our time on God's earth.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Thursday Read II Thessalonians 3:10-12

"If any would not work, neither should he eat." The normal way for God to meet our needs is to provide a job for us, to earn a living. The usual plan of God is for the man of the house to have a job; and there are times when both husband and wife have jobs to meet the needs. It should be emphasized, however, that both parties working should never hinder the rearing of children because that is the highest responsibility of the father and his wife, who was created by his *"help meet"* as noted in Genesis 2:18, the words of God in the planning for a man to have a wife. I find it interesting and very meaningful that God gave Adam a job before He gave him a wife and family. We read about Adam's employment in Genesis 2:15: *"And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."* God's creation of the woman and the union of the man and woman are detailed in the verses that follow. Now God does teach in His Word the responsibility of His people to help the poor, but His characterization of the poor is regarding those who cannot work, not those who are averse to working for whatever their reasons. Fathers' abandoning their children, a serious problem in our nation, is disobedience to God. Charity is not for those who are negligent; it is for those who can't work, not for those who won't.

DIVINE PROTECTION

Friday Read Psalm 23:1-4

"I will fear no evil, for thou art with me." Those who place their faith in God and are determined to do the will of God can make the same claim that the psalmist made when he referred to God as his Shepherd. Our Lord used the same metaphor in His teaching in John 10:14, where He said this: *"I am the good shepherd, and I know my sheep, and am known of mine."* As children of God by virtue of our faith in Christ, we have Divine protection! It was this assurance that our founders were willing to confront the most powerful nation in the world at that time. They were certain that they had the protection of God when they said that it was "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence" that they took that courageous step that led to God's forming the nation in which we now have the privilege of living. You can better believe that God knew that this new nation would be one in and through which He could spread His word. Yes, this nation became a stalwart for true Christianity for many, many years. It was a sad day when the Supreme Court redirected things when they determined that it was unconstitutional to read the Bible in their public schools. In essence, it was doing the opposite of what the founders proclaimed. It was as if they were saying that the nation no longer needed to have the protection of Divine Providence: foolish!

DIVINE PURPOSE

Saturday **Read Romans 8:28-29**

"All things work together for good to them that love God, who are the called according to His purpose." Whether or not the nation collectively sees its need for God in residing on His planet earth, individuals can still realize that they have a personal, Divine purpose. The Bible is God's handbook for living with instructions on how to do things His way and for His glory. The promise of God to those who are committed to demonstrate their love for their Creator and Lord and coming King is that He will indeed work *"everything in our lives for good."* That is not to say that things we would call bad will not happen, but that God would even use things we may not like for our good. He will turn the "bad" into something good for us. Maybe the loss of something will turn into something better. Maybe a tough experience may lead to something far better than we could have imagined. God is molding our lives into that which has an eternal purpose, something that is beneficial for the eternal kingdom of the Most High God. We can trust our God!