

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of September 27, 2020

THEME: "Our Lives: a Book"

AN OPEN BOOK

Sunday Read II Corinthians 3:1-11

"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men." What Paul is telling the believers in Corinth is that their lives are being read by those around them. The same is true for all of us! God is alerting us to the fact that people are reading our lives! Our lives are like an open book for others to enjoy, hopefully! It may be good to ask ourselves this question: when others read my life, are they seeing the demonstration of my faith in Christ? Are they seeing a life lived in the power of the Spirit that shows the love of Christ that He displayed when He was walking on earth in His earthly journey? Do people see that I am different from the world? Do others see that I have a peace and joy that is somewhat magnetic and has a favorable impact on others? Would other Christians who are reading my life think that it is a life displaying Biblical principles? Is my Father in heaven pleased with what He sees?

THE AUTHOR

Monday Read Philippians 1:3-6

"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." This Scripture tells us that a believer in Christ as Savior and Lord is a work of God, a life being molded by the Master Craftsman! We are told in Revelation 13:8, a passage giving details about the coming period of tribulation and the worship of the beast, that God knew who would accept Christ as personal Savior even before He created the world: *"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him (the beast) whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."* God begins the work of those who will become believers while they are babies in the womb of their mothers. We know that from what we read in Psalm 139:13-14 and Jeremiah 1:4-5: *"Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knows right well...Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."* God planned the career for Jeremiah while He was forming him in his mother's womb; and God gave him the personality and talent to do just that. He does the same for each person who will become a follower of Christ. I know that from what I read in Acts 10:34: *"God is no respecter of persons."* God treats all people alike; He planned for us the same as He did for Jeremiah.

EARTHLY FAMILIES

Tuesday Read Psalm 127:1-5

"Children are an heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is His reward." Each of us is in the family for which God had planned for us to be: to have the parents, brothers and sisters He wanted us to have. That is what the psalmist is telling us in this detail portraying God's purpose for families and children born into the homes of His choosing. His purpose in providing the home with children is basically to pass on His heritage, that future generations will have the joy of knowing and doing things God's way and bringing glory to God with the conduct of their lives! Parenthood is a partnership with God in His work of His

planet earth! Would it not be wonderful if all parents realized this fundamental purpose of God for blessing them with children to be part of their marriage and home? My earthly family is a Divine assignment!

BEFORE CHRIST

Wednesday Read Ephesians 2:1-6

"Wherein in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience." Just as our calendar is based on the appearing of Christ in that 2020 is how many years have passed since His birth, so is Christ the turning point in the lives of all who have made the decision to receive Him as personal Savior and Lord. Before Christ, a person has worldly interests and ambitions, seeking success in the temporal affairs of this world and life on earth with little or no concern about what God is thinking. The exception to that is when there is an impending emergency or tragedy when we hear so many say, "We're praying for you." Christ changes all of that when an individual invites Him into his or her life. That life is forever changed!

AFTER CHRIST

Thursday Read II Corinthians 5:14-19

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things become new." Although God keeps His people in the world after their decision to receive His Son to become His children, He changes the focus of their lives. By the indwelling Holy Spirit, they become sensitive to spiritual things which have both temporal and eternal value, a brand new perspective and increasingly so as they become more and more familiar with the Christian life. As a child of God, they have a new family identification, a desire to honor their Father in heaven. The dead spirit with which they were born has come to life and exciting and meaningful fellowship and communion with the Creator is now possible. With spiritual life in addition to physical life, the abundant life of which Jesus spoke in John 10:10 becomes a real possibility: He said this: *"I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly."* Living a life on earth with both temporal and eternal goals surely is the abundant life!

THE READERS

Friday Read Matthew 5:14-16

"Ye are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." When Jesus was on earth, He made this claim in John 8:12: *"I am the light of the world."* When Satan brought spiritual darkness into God's earth and dragged humans into that darkness, there was a groping for truth. Jesus came to bring God's light so people could again enjoy life as God intended. No longer would people have to be blind to truth! Before Jesus left, He alerted His followers that they would be the light of the world. He urged all believers to let their light shine and not allow worldly things to block the light. With Christians around, those still blinded by the world system can have the benefits of God's truth to enrich their lives. By reading the lives of believers empowered by the Spirit, unbelievers can see God's joy and peace and what they could have by receiving Christ!

THE QUESTIONS

Saturday Read I Peter 3:12-15

"Be always ready to give an answer to every man who asks you a reason of the hope that is in you in meekness and fear." As unbelievers observe the lives of Spirit-filled

Christians, they should see a difference. This often prompts them to ask a reason for why a Christian does or does not do certain things. That gives a believer an opportunity to speak of their wonderful Lord who has given them an amazing purpose for each and every day. Our answers should be a combination of both boldness and humility. Jesus, our Lord, in His life on earth, was both the boldest human alive and yet the humblest at the same time. That is not a contradiction. We, as the ambassadors of Christ, should boldly proclaim God's Biblical truth and do so with a Christ-honoring humility. If not done in a spirit of meekness, there is a danger of coming across as condescending; not good! Believers have only God to praise; our worthiness is all for His glory!