

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of October 4, 2020

**THEME: "Our Families"
THE HOME**

Sunday Read Genesis 2:18-25

"And the rib, which He had taken from the man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man." Our Bible reading for today is the record of the first marriage in human history, the marriage of Adam and Eve officiated by God Himself in the Garden of Eden. God had first created Adam as a triune being described this way in Genesis 2:7: *"The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, breathed into his nostrils and man became a living soul."* All humans, made in the likeness of God, are eternal and triune: body, soul, and spirit. After giving Adam a job, and the responsibility of managing His earth, God stated that *"It was not good that man should be alone."* The man needed help. After having Adam give names to all the animals He had created, God created the woman. I find that gap interesting! I wonder if God paraded the animals two by two so Adam would recognize that he was alone and needed a help meet. Whatever, he surely needed the woman to fulfill the command of God to replenish the earth. The marriage resulted in a home in which God placed children. It is important to note that the marriage was bisexual. Homosexuality is not a plan of God; man came up with that idea. God quite often condemned such an arrangement and actually destroyed Sodom because of that practice. In Romans 1:18-27, God mentioned in the Church Age that homosexuality would become an accepted practice when people came up with a falsehood about the origin of things different from God's creation. But, as always, God's Holy Scriptures are inerrant!

THE SPOUSES

Monday Read Ephesians 5:21-26

"Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it." God gives specific instructions on the respective roles of the husband and wife in His Word, the emphasis of today's Bible reading. After instructing believers to *"be subject one to another."* God assigns the man to be the *"head"* of the home, the one ultimately responsible for the home to be managed according to the ways of God. The idea that this makes a woman slave to her husband is the epitome of false teaching, it simply is saying that the husband is the one whom God holds responsible. Successful organizations have a manager as a leader to avoid confusion and conflict, which is particularly important in a home! God orders the husband to show the same love to his wife as Christ shows to the Church. Although the love of Christ is actually beyond description, it certainly can be described as unconditional, sacrificial, and inseparable. The wife whose husband shows that kind of love is fortunate indeed, more a queen than a slave.

THE CHILDREN

Tuesday Read Proverbs 1:1-9

"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother." The psalmist in Psalm 127:3 said this: *"Children are an heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is His reward."* God wants His ways to be passed through families from generation to generation, a fundamental purpose for His bringing children into this world in a family! Way back in Moses's day, God gave this instruction to fathers as recorded in Deuteronomy 6:6-7: *"These words, that I teach you this day, shall be in thine heart. And thou shalt teach them diligently to thy children, and thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house,*

and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." The best thing fathers and mothers can do for their children, and their grandchildren, is to teach them the ways of God.

GOD'S FAMILY

Wednesday Read Galatians 3:22-29

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Is there any higher privilege in life than to be a member of what God calls His family, to be one of His children? It is a great thing to be a member of the family of the human race, but the Bible speaks of something far different and far more meaningful than that. God is talking about a personal relationship, the intimate father/child relationship in which the father is deeply interested in every aspect of His child's life! That is the reality of all who have made the conscious decision to accept Jesus, the Son of God, as personal Savior. God's throne in heaven is always open to His children, and He is delighted when His children come to speak with Him; what we call prayer. That is a privilege extended to the family of God, who come to Him in the name of Jesus. Those who are outside God's family, having never invited Jesus to be Savior, may pray, but their prayers are in vain.

HEAVENLY FATHER

Thursday Read Matthew 6:9-13

"Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name..." Throughout the days of the Old Testament before the introduction of God's New Covenant, the Israelites saw God as the Supreme, Sovereign Almighty Power of the Universe, and rightfully so. What Jesus was emphasizing is that the Almighty God may be approached in the personal intimacy of a loving Father. Yes, we must all respect the shining glory of our Creator, but He is desirous that we see Him as we do our family in this physical world. Indeed, by faith, we are in God's spiritual family with an eternal home in heaven. From the eternal viewpoint we are away from home on our earthly mission, someday to return to our Father's house in heaven as Jesus pointed out in John 14:1-6: *"In my Father's house are many mansions, I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am you can be also."* The day is coming when Jesus will take us to our home in our Father's house!

RELATIONSHIPS

Friday Read Romans 12:10-15

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love: in honor preferring one another." The Christian family of God is a tight knit group of people from all different backgrounds and different ages. There are new believers mingling with those who have been in God's family for many years. Those in God's family from long ago are greatly blessed by the newcomers; and those new to the family are enriched by the companionship with those who have been around the block a few times. The family of God is comprised of people from all different economic groups, from the very wealthy to an abundance of people who are not considered among those with a great deal of material wealth, but spiritually rich! There is a bond of love unique to God's children, and that is the very thing of which Jesus spoke in John 13:35: *"By this shall all men know ye are my disciples if you have love one to another."*

CHURCH FAMILY

Saturday Read I Corinthians 12:18-25

"But God hath set the members of the body as it hath pleased Him." When individuals become members of God's family by faith in the Lord Jesus as personal Savior, God places them in a local church family as part of that body of believers. Those people bring with them some special God-given talents to fit into that body and work together with other believers to

do all that God has in mind for that special body within His Church Universal! Now it is true that there may be people attending a church who are not part of the body as a member of God's family in that they have never accepted Jesus as Savior. They are more or less visitors; that is, until they make that all-important decision, after which they will have an important role to play in the functioning of that local assembly of believers. God did not intend for His people to be isolated.