

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of October 11, 2020

THEME: "Friends" A TRUE FRIEND

SundayRead Philemon 1:10-19

"If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, charge it to my account." Paul showed that he was a true friend of Onesimus by offering to cover for his friend's financial obligation. Whether or not he ever had to make good on this offer is unknown, but his willingness to do so was an indication he was a true friend. It is one thing to call someone a friend; it is quite another to prove that with actions. Words can be cheap; actions are always meaningful; that is, if the actions are kind! Christians who want to honor Christ will do things for others, placing the interests of others at a higher priority than their own. That is how Jesus lived His life on earth; and He is our supreme example. We are told this in Galatians 6:10: *"As we therefore have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."* Living to help others is truly a life worth living, a lifetime of many friends!

FRIENDLINESS

Monday Read Proverbs 18:22-24

"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly." It is not God's plan for people to live in isolation! Proof of that is that God established homes so people would have companionship right from the start. It may well be there will be a brother or sister, either at birth or in the future. But God had other relationships in mind for people, relationships outside the family. Homes are usually in neighborhoods made up of people from other families, so new and meaningful relationships are formed, a wonderful plan of God! To make friends outside the family, God tells us to be friendly. How does a person be friendly? It could be simply by taking the initiative to extend a friendly greeting. It could be a deed of kindness, offering to help in some way if the occasion calls for that. Or it could be asking for help as Jesus did with the Samaritan woman at the well, detailed in John 4. By showing oneself to be friendly will surely lead to a harmonious relationship and may well lead to a meaningful friendship. Hey, be friendly! It enriches your life!

LIFELONG FRIENDS

Tuesday Read I Samuel 18:1-4

"And it came to pass when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit unto the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." Little did David realize when he was placed in the palace to be a servant of the king of Israel that God would arrange a lifetime friendship with Jonathan the king's son that would be a key in his entire future. As time went on, the jealousy of King Saul for this young man intensified, and David would become the king's target for assassination. The king tried such a thing on several occasions, and eventually David had to flee for his life. So God used David's friendship with Jonathan not only as a meaningful encouragement, but actually to save David's life. They worked out a plan that would enable Jonathan, the son of the king, to alert David of any devious plot, and the plan worked to David's benefit! Now God could have done anything He wanted, but I think

it significant that God used a friend to help David. I think God is showing us the value of friendships.

COURAGEOUS FRIENDSHIP

Wednesday Read Acts 9:22-27

"When Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him..." The salvation experience of every believer is special and is celebrated in heaven, as we read in Luke 15:7: *"I say unto you, that joy shall be in heaven over one sinner who repents."* Saul's conversion was particularly dramatic in that God Himself intervened with a brilliant light that caused him to be blinded. The Savior Himself called out to get Saul's attention. So unlikely was Saul's conversion that the believers in Jerusalem could not believe it was real. As a result, his visit to the church at Jerusalem was not a warm reception. But God had a man who would befriend this reformed persecutor: Barnabas. Is not God pointing out that He can make great use of those who are willing to reach out and make others welcome in their visits to a church as a result? Only God knows how important that can be in the life of another believer to be a faithful servant of our Lord!

PRAYING FRIENDS

Thursday Read Acts 3:1-7

"Peter and John went up into the temple at the hour of prayer." It seems as though God had partnerships in mind as a plan for action in doing His work on planet earth. Marriage is an example of that in that God began the human race with a partnership. We read of many partnerships in the Biblical accounts of God working through people to further His kingdom. In today's Bible reading we are shown a prayer partnership: two praying friends. I feel certain that Peter and John would testify that taking time to pray together made their friendship stronger than it otherwise would have been. Prayer has a way of bringing people together in a way that surely honors our Lord who so much desires harmony and unity. Prayer has a way of defending against division!

FRIENDSHIP TOWARD UNBELIEVERS

Friday Read Acts 8:26-35

And Philip ran thither to him and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, Do you understand what you are reading?" In following the leading of the Spirit, Philip was directed to go to this major highway coming out of Jerusalem. God knew there was a man who had some gospel literature that he had gotten while in Jerusalem. When Philip saw the man reading the booklet, he approached him and asked him about what he was reading. That act of friendship was warmly received, and the eunuch asked for help. The door was open for Philip to share with this man God's plan of salvation by faith in Christ. I would love to have a recording of the whole conversation, but it is refreshing to know how it started! All of that was because of Philip sensing the leading of the Spirit and then politely opening dialogue. What a blessing to be able to work together with the Holy Spirit to reach seeking souls with the gospel. It starts by being kind, gentle and helpful.

FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST

Saturday Read John 15:12-17

"Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I have commanded you." The epitome of friendship is to be a friend of Jesus! How about the Son of God and the coming King of kings wanting to be my friend! We all have special friendships, but none can supersede a friendship with Jesus, and He wants to be our friend. How can this be? He is telling us here that He considers us His friend if we do as He commands. That requires our paying careful attention to His commandments as recorded in the Scriptures and then doing them. If we do, Jesus considers us His friends! Although there are many other benefits to obeying the commandments of God, being a friend of Jesus is worth it all!