

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of November 8, 2020**

**THEME: "The Compositing Church"  
THE COMMAND**

**Sunday ..... Read Mark 16:15-20**

*"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."* This command of our Savior to His people is to preach the gospel to everyone in the world. Jesus wants everyone to know that He paid the penalty for their sin with His blood on the cross to satisfy God's law. He then conquered death with a glorious resurrection that gives all people who receive Him personally as their Savior the assurance they have a regenerated spirit and an eternal home in heaven instead of an eternity in the hell prepared for the devil. That is the gospel that Jesus wants everyone to know! It is a proclamation of the love of God for all humanity. God does not want anyone to perish, as we read in II Peter 3:9: *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, and some men count slackness: but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to a knowledge of the truth."* Jesus is relying on us to share this truth to all the people in our part of the world. We are the ones now responsible to build the church.

**ALL NATIONS**

**Monday ..... Read Matthew 28:18-20**

*"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."* In Matthew's version of the Great Commission of our Savior to His people, there is an emphasis on teaching, an important follow-up to the preaching of the truth. Preaching is to make sure people are aware of the truth; teaching is to make sure people understand the truth! That implies some interaction to determine whether or not learning had taken place. Baptism is a public testimony of one's faith in Christ by being immersed and rising up from the water as a sign of identification with the Lord Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection. Both preaching and teaching God's truth are our responsibility in our efforts to build the church by reaching lost souls for our Savior and Lord.

**MANMADE DOCTRINE**

**Tuesday..... Read Matthew 15:1-3**

*"He answered and said unto them, Why do you transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?"* Why is it that some religious leaders feel it to be necessary to add manmade doctrine to what God has revealed? Do they think that God's Word as inspired by the Holy Spirit is insufficient? Jesus called out the scribes and Pharisees for inserting manmade doctrine into their Jewish belief system; and over the years, there have been many under the umbrella of Christianity that are adding man's thinking to their church's doctrinal statements. Jesus was very emphatic in His warning and stated that such teaching was *"the blind leading the blind."* Placing one's faith in manmade doctrine not only has no eternal merit; it is also an offense to God! In II Peter 1:16, God calls these doctrines of men *"cunningly devised fables."* We read this

solemn warning about attempts to add to God's truth in Revelation 22:18: *"If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book."*

### **SATANIC DOCTRINES**

**Wednesday ..... Read I Timothy 4:1-5**

*"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils: speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their consciences seared with a hot iron: forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe the truth."* The truth is that manmade doctrines in churches that use them are actually Satanic doctrines! That is the warning God gives in today's Bible reading. The big picture from the creation of man is that there is an ongoing spiritual battle between God and His archenemy, the devil. One of the favorite strategies of the devil, in addition to promoting evil, is to perpetuate false religious doctrine. He has many professing Christians believing that they can get to heaven by good works and church identification. That is in direct conflict with the teaching of our Lord in John 14:6, where He said this: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father but by Me."* Really, if there were any other way to heaven, Jesus never would have gone to that cruel cross. He even mentioned that in His prayer in the garden of Gethsemane.

### **UNBIBLICAL PRACTICES**

**Thursday ..... Read Matthew 23:7-11**

*"And call no man your Father upon the earth: for one is the Father, which is in heaven."* I don't know how professing Christians and even Christian leaders miss this clear command of our Savior. It is common in the Roman Catholic Church and certain churches in the Protestant denominations for parishioners to address their pastors as Father, a clear violation of the teaching of our Lord and Savior. One would think that those leaders so addressed would correct any who show their ignorance of this teaching by addressing them in a way contrary to our Lord's command. Not to do so seems to me to be acting in defiance of the teaching in the Holy Scriptures. God is our Father in heaven!!

### **IMPROPER PRAYERS**

**Friday ..... Read Matthew 6:1-10**

*"When you pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do, for they think they shall be heard for their much speaking."* This is a clear teaching of our Lord on how not to pray. He had just given instructions to His disciples directions on how to pray, properly addressing God as *"Our Father who art in heaven."* Notice the emphasis that God considers all who have received Jesus as personal Savior as His children, members of His family! We are told in this prayer commonly known as the Lord's Prayer to ask our Father in heaven to reveal His will to us, to provide for our needs, to protect us from the evil in the world, and to use us to get glory to Himself. Those prayers are a delight to God as opposed to what Jesus referred to as *"vain repetitions."* Vain repetition is abomination.

### **FALSE DOCTRINE**

**Saturday ..... Read II Corinthians 5:1-8**

*"We are confident, I say, and willing to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."* This truth exposes the false teaching on such things as purgatory as an intermediate place between earth and heaven. When a believer dies,

that person goes to heaven to be with the Lord, not to some holding place for a while. This is the experience of believers who die ever since our Lord was resurrected from the dead in that greatest victory ever. Now the death of an unbeliever is tragic, as our Lord clearly taught in Luke 15. We read there that the unbelieving rich man died and his body was buried, but he ended up in Hades to await the Great White Throne Judgment at which time he will be sentenced to hell as we are told in Revelation 20:11-15.