

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of November 15, 2020

**THEME: "The Protestant Reformation"
GOD'S PERFECT LAW**

SundayRead Psalm 19:7-14

"The law of the Lord is perfect." You cannot improve upon perfection! Yet religious leaders over the centuries have for whatever reasons added manmade doctrines and practices to that which God has proclaimed in His Holy Word. They seem to put their thinking on the same level as what God has told us in the Scriptures, which is actually ridiculous. We see how it happened in the Jewish faith by the scribes and Pharisees, and then the clergy in Rome to the Christian faith. Obviously this is contrary to what God had in mind, and Jesus rebuked the religious leaders for so doing. He called their worship vain worship and hypocritical. In the Church, this resulted in the Protestant Reformation, and now some Protestant denominations have felt the need to do the same thing. With all of that, God has, by His Divine power, managed to keep a faithful remnant who stick with pure Biblical truth as revealed by the Holy Spirit. God's law is perfect!

ABSOLUTE TRUTH

MondayRead John 17:6-17

"Thy word is truth." In this great prayer of intercession by the Lord Jesus for true believers, Jesus calls on His Father in heaven to bless His followers in their ministry in the same way that He had been blessed during His time on earth. The responsibility of believers in the true church is to proclaim God's truth. It would appear that Jesus anticipated some fragmentation would occur because He kept repeating in this intercessory prayer for God to maintain a unity among His people. Well, those divisions have indeed happened so that it seems difficult to list all the denominations that have sprung up for whatever reasons, many with different extra-Biblical doctrines and practices. If God's law is perfect absolute truth, there is no need to add to it. As a matter of fact, it is wrong, and an insult to God! It is so vital for local churches, and particularly the responsibility of the Elders to maintain a total commitment to preach and teach the Bible, and the application of its instructions to the lives of believers! The individual members should make that same commitment.

PERSONAL MEDITATION

TuesdayRead Psalm 1:1-5

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night." The truly healthy church is the one whose individual members are committed to applying Biblical truth to their personal lives, to be *"doers of the Word and not hearers only,"* as instructed in James 1:22. The teaching of the psalmist emphasizes an important responsibility for that to be the case; that is for the people to meditate on the Biblical teaching in their thought lives. That is the same instruction given in Romans 12:1-2 in knowing the will of God and then doing it. The emphasis is on our thought life as we read this: *"Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good,*

and acceptable, and perfect will of God." The renewed mind is the mind that meditates day and night on the truth of Holy Scriptures. If it controls the mind, the actions will honor God!

PROTESTANTISM

WednesdayRead Romans 1:16-19

"The just shall live by faith." This Scripture pierced the heart of a Roman Catholic priest while he was reading the Scripture in a monastery. It caused Martin Luther to realize that the Roman Catholic Church had deviated from God's pure truth and inserted doctrine into the church that was not Biblical. He set out to purify the Church doctrine, but his trip to Rome to see the Pope resulted in his excommunication from the church. He posted his thesis there in his local community and quickly gained a following of people who were referred to as Protestants. It was Luther's determination to have worshipers heed the Holy Scriptures and have the Bible alone as the doctrine of their faith.

FALSE TEACHINGS

ThursdayRead II Corinthians 11:13-15

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness: whose end shall be according to their works." This warning of God about Satan interfering with the Christian church proved to be so important as Christianity spread throughout the continent of Europe. Just as God was determined to get the truth of the Gospel of Christ to the whole world, Satan was committed to challenge that effort with false doctrine within the Christian church. He had some success in Rome and it turned out that he had success in England where a state religion was established: the Anglican Church. It brought in manmade doctrine causing a problem for believers who were committed to pure Biblical teaching. This resulted in the imprisonment of many, but God used that to extend the gospel to the whole world. Nothing can stop God!

CONFLICTING LOYALTIES

FridayRead Acts 5:27-29

"And when they had brought them, they set them before the council; and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did we not straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? And, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men." When the Anglican Church, the state church of England, deviated from pure Biblical truth, genuine believers had a problem. Christians, in obedience to God, are the most cooperative and loyal citizens in a country. However, when civil authorities demand actions that would cause believers to violate their loyalty to God as revealed in His Holy Word, then believers are compelled to obey God. God is the Supreme Judge of the world, and true believers are committed to His Supreme Law!

PURE TRUTH

Saturday.....Read Titus 1:13-14

"This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth." Puritans were so called because they were committed to pure Biblical truth, and resisted turning away from that. This resulted in the imprisonment of many

and eventually their determination to leave the country. The decision was to migrate to America where they could be self-governed and have freedom of religion and honor Christ by taking His gospel to the uttermost part of the earth. The Mayflower voyage was the result and the Mayflower Compact included their main purpose as being the spread of the gospel of our Lord to this new land. God honored that commitment and used His control of the wind to take them by Divine Providence to Plymouth where they were met with friendly natives.