

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of January 10, 2021

THEME: "Church at Galatia"

ALL-INCLUSIVE CHURCH

Sunday Read Galatians 3:1-10

"And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel by Abraham beforehand saying, In you shall all the nations be blessed." God established the nation of Israel through the line of Abraham. It was from that nation that the Son of God, the Jewish Messiah, would rule the world. That was the hope and expectation of the Jewish people throughout the days of the Old Testament as well as in the days that Jesus walked on earth. The followers of Jesus were shocked when Jesus was crucified, but had a new hope when He arose from the grave. But God was not finished His work on earth before His Son would take the throne of David in Jerusalem. It was God's plan to include people from all nations of the world to be part of His eternal kingdom, both Jews and Gentiles alike. The angel plainly stated that the news of the Savior being born that day in Bethlehem was *"for all people."* Jesus Himself said in His last command before leaving earth to return to heaven. We read these words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19: *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..."* The same command is given in Mark 16:15, where Jesus said this: *"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."* The apostle in II Peter 3:9: *"The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to a knowledge of the truth."* All people in the world, both Jews and Gentiles, are blessed by the sacrifice of Jesus, the Messiah born into the line of Abraham, the father of the nation of Israel.

SAVING FAITH

Monday Read Galatians 3:7-11

"But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident: for the just shall live by faith." The first law given by God was to Adam stated back in Genesis 2:17: *"Of all of the trees in the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, you may not eat thereof; for in the day you eat thereof, you will surely die."* When God chose Moses to lead the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt to go to the Promised Land and establish the nation of Israel, He gave him the law for the new nation. That law applied to both social and religious expectations. As it turned out, the law served the purpose of showing that no one could live up to the law in its entirety, that all are guilty of breaking the law of God. For man to be admitted into heaven, it would require God's mercy and grace. Being a holy God in a perfectly righteous heaven, God had to fulfill the requirements of His law, the sin of man had to be punished. Praise God that He is a God that He had a provision for forgiveness, but it required the death of an innocent substitute. In the Old Testament, the priests had to offer the blood of a perfect lamb for the sins of the people. That was clearly stated in Leviticus 17:11: *"It is the blood that makes an atonement for the soul."* All that pointed to the day that Jesus would take on a human body of flesh and blood and offer His blood on Calvary. That fulfilled the law of God and provided a way for sinners to have God's forgiveness simply by placing faith in Christ as personal Savior: that is saving faith!

DIVINE PARDON

Tuesday Read Isaiah 55:6-7

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy on him: and to our God for He will abundantly pardon." Because Jesus was willing to offer His blood as a sacrifice by dying on the cross, there was a way for God to grant sinners a Divine pardon without compromising His holiness. What God does require for a person to receive that pardon is to confess his sin and give his heart to Christ, the

Savior of the world. As a follower of Jesus Christ, the Son of God who came to be the Lamb of God, those people are indeed granted a pardon from the penalty of sin and have an eternal home in heaven!

ETERNAL FREEDOM

Wednesday Read Galatians 4:28-31

"So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free." The whole Bible has redemption as a central theme to which other Scriptures provide illustrations or details. Such is the case of Abraham, the one God chose to start the nation which would provide the Savior. Due to his impatience, Abraham had a son born of a woman other than his wife. He then had a son by his wife as God had promised. So he was the father of two nations, nations that would be at odds throughout the history of the world. But God's way prevails, and the people who placed their faith in the Savior of the world, the Son of promise, are the ones pardoned by God and set free from the curse of sin. Those who choose to place their faith in someone other than Christ Jesus remain guilty sinners and in bondage to sin, as well as the eternal punishment! Believers are free!

LIFE OF FAITH

Thursday Read I John 5:3-4

"For whosoever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith." Ever since Satan was successful in causing Adam and Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit, all humans, except God's virgin-born Son, have been born with a sin nature into a world of spiritual darkness. The only true light is that provided by God; the light of Biblical truth and the Light of the world, which is Jesus, God's Son. To reject Scriptures as the absolute truth of God is to live in spiritual darkness, blinded to truth. Placing trust in the Scriptures is living in the light, a life of faith in God's Word. Ignoring Scriptures is a decision to live in the darkness of the world, a critical mistake. Putting man's wisdom above God's is what Jesus called out when He said this in Matthew 15:14: *"Let them alone; they are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall in the ditch."* The life of faith in God and His Word is fulfilling now, and lasts forever!

SPIRITUAL FRUIT

Friday Read Galatians 5:22-23

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." The moment a people receive Jesus into their heart, the dead spirit with which they were born is regenerated. It is then a person has spiritual life and can live a productive life with eternal value. Without Christ, a person can live only for the realm of time that ends with physical death. It is a life of human relationships only. That can bring a lot of happiness and fulfillment, but is void of fellowship and communion with our Creator. To have faith in Christ brings a person spiritual life and spiritual fruit, the details of which are in today's Bible reading in Galatians 5. Divine love and peace with God is living on the highest place. Humans have never been able to have worldwide peace, the reality of which will only exist when Jesus comes to rule the world. Worldly peace is short lived and peace with God is non-existent without Christ.

REACHING OUT

Saturday Read Galatians 6:7-10

"As we therefore have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." The victorious life is the life of faith in God and His Word, which results from placing our faith in Christ as Savior and Lord of our lives. The eternal soul is lost apart from Jesus; it is living in the darkness of the world and under the control of the enemy of God; Satan himself. Knowing Christ as Savior and Lord is gaining freedom from the darkness of the world and the penalty of sin. The soul of a person is the real person: the personality and intelligence. The body gives the soul an awareness of the physical world, and the spirit a conscious awareness of God and a sense of His presence. All souls at birth are lost in terms of knowing God and the real meaning of life. To win a soul means to bring a person to the place of faith in God. That happens when a person receives Christ as Savior. That can only happen if a person opens his or her heart to Jesus and asks Him in. Reaching out to unbelievers with God's truth so they have an opportunity to place their faith in Christ is what the Bible calls soul winning. Working together with the Holy Spirit to get that done is life's greatest thrill. It is delivering God's gift of eternal life!