

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of September 5, 2021

**THEME: "Ye Are the Light"
SHINING LIGHTS**

SundayRead Matthew 5:8-16

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Jesus is instructing His followers to live their lives in such a way that our Heavenly Father is glorified! That is not only a great privilege, but an awesome responsibility! There could be no higher calling or more difficult assignment because we are commanded to be the light in the world, and it is a very dark world. Now the devil has created a lot of false lights as stated by our Lord in Matthew 6:23: *"But if thine eye be evil, the whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"* Anything that is inconsistent with the truth of God as recorded in the Word of God is a false light. That goes for the field of education and religion. True Biblical Christianity in the Church Age is the light, exactly what Jesus said in today's Bible reading. Our founders made the Bible the basic text in our public schools. Darkness hit public education in 1963, when the Supreme Court declared Bible reading in public schools to be unconstitutional. That was the epitome of darkness when you realize that those who wrote the Constitution began their sessions with prayer and Bible reading. Talk about darkness; they were really in the dark with that ruling. We need the light!

GOD'S LIGHT

Monday..... Read I Peter 2:9

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a special people, that ye should show forth the praise of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." By receiving Christ as Savior, Christians have become part of God's select group of people. There is nothing more special than to be the children of God representing the Kingdom of Heaven! God has His people scattered around His earth to be the light that counterattacks the darkness of the world. So many are blinded to God's truth as recorded in the Bible. God has assigned Christians to be the light of the world, by the conduct of their lives and by their sharing His Word. Having our spiritual eyes opened to God's truth is life's greatest blessing; being blinded to God's truth is life's greatest tragedy! Accepting Jesus as personal Savior is moving from the world's darkness into God's glorious light! That decision to receive Christ, the light of the world, is the only escape from Satan's darkness: his falsehood, his distortions and deceptions. It is so good to live in the light!

LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD

TuesdayRead Psalm 119:133

"Order my steps in thy word; and let not any iniquity have dominion over me." God has inspired writers to put His truth about life into the Bible. It provides the way to live in the light of God's plans for humanity. Satan, the enemy of God, has done and will continue to do all he can to keep people blinded to the truth of God's Word. The key to have God's blessing and God's best is to read and put into practice the instructions of the Word of God. God, according to II Timothy 3:15-16, has give us instructions for living a blessed life: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto good works."* The way to live is there for the reading, It is wise to start every day with the reading of God's Word,

and to do all we can to live according to what we read! The best protection from the curse of sin is a knowledge of the Word of God. And then it is vital to put what we read into practice! Let your light shine!

SATAN'S DECEPTIONS

WednesdayRead Galatians 6:7

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." It is so important to realize that God is aware of what is going on here on earth. It is good every day to be conscious of what we are told in Ecclesiastes 12:14: *"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be bad."* That is good news for all those who have, by receiving Jesus as personal Savior, been the beneficiaries of God's mercy and grace. It is bad news for those who have ignored God's offer of forgiveness on the merits of the shed blood of Christ on the cross that was the payment for the sins of the world. By receiving Christ to become part of the family of God, Christians face only the judgment seat of rewards for faithful service. By rejecting Christ, unbelievers face the judgment of eternal condemnation.

SATAN'S LIES

ThursdayRead Romans 1:25

"Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." The most obvious and widespread acceptance of the lies of Satan is our nation's inclusion of teaching the ridiculous theory of evolution in our public schools. That is the focus of today's Bible reading. God calls that theory a lie. That lie is one of the real successes of the "father of lies," the title Jesus gave Satan in John 8:44 in a discussion He was having with some of His religious opponents: *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of lies,"* Satan's first attack on the human race was the lie he told Eve in the Garden of Eden recorded in Genesis 3:4: *"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die."* Eve ate, and she died!

SATAN'S DECEPTIONS

FridayRead Genesis 3:1-3

"Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall eat of every tree of the garden." Before lying to Eve, Satan resorted to a distortion of the Word of God. He misquoted God; it sounded correct, but he placed an emphasis on the negative rather than the positive; the one tree of forbidden fruit, causing Eve to forget all the other trees which were fine from which to eat. It is so important to enjoy the blessings God has provided for the abundant life than to indulge in those forbidden things, no matter how tempting they are. God loves us and wants the best for us. Satan hates God, and will use all kinds of distortions and deceptions to destroy our fellowship with God.

SATAN'S APOSTLES

Saturday..... Read 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." Satan truly is a great deceiver! Not only does he promote evil in the world, but he is most dangerous when he comes across as angel of light. Yes, he operates under the cloak of religion, his most deceptive and dangerous field of endeavor. And that is not limited to the religions of the world other than Christianity; he is actively engaged in churches that call themselves Christian. Any church that deviates from pure Scriptures is being victimized by Satan. Manmade doctrine is not of God. This is why it is important for every believer to heed the command of Acts 17:11 to *"search the scriptures daily, whether these things are so."*