

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of September 12, 2021

**THEME: "Ye Are the Salt"
HEALING**

Sunday Read II Chronicles 7:12-20

"If my people who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways: then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land." One of the most tragic days in our nation's history was the one we remembered yesterday, September 11. That was the day terrorists bombed key buildings, most notable of which were the twin towers in New York City. It would be well, as Christians reflect on that sad day, to realize we have the most powerful weapon to combat such evil: the power of prayer! That was God's instruction to His people in Israel in Solomon's day. It also is the command we have in I Timothy 2:1-2: *"I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men: for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may live a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."* This command of God in today's Bible reading was actually His answer to a prayer, the prayer of Solomon in which he asked God for wisdom on how to govern. There was a lot of healing needed at the time of that bombing, and even moreso now with so much hate and anti-Christian activity. Christians are the ones to whom God responds, and He responds in proportion to our prayer. That may well be the most important responsibility we have in being the salt of the earth. We know about the healing quality of salt by virtue of the use of Epsom salt in treating some ailments. How much more important for the spiritual salt of believers lives to be a healing agent in our suffering society!

OPEN BOOKS

Monday Read II Corinthians 3:2-3

"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: forasmuch as ye are declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God: not in tables of stone, but in the fleshly tables of the heart." In addition to its healing qualities, salt is used more commonly to add flavor to food so it tastes better. That suggests the lives of Christians, as the salt of the earth, should be in good taste from God's perspective. People read our lives, and judge us far more by our actions than our words. Words can be cheap if not followed up by actions. That means our lives should bring out the best in behavior, actions commanded in God's Word giving us instructions for living. Resisting wrongdoing and doing right by God's standards for behavior are essentials in being God's salt to add good taste to our homes and communities, and, collectively, to our nation. Lives of others are enriched by Christians living in accord with the teaching of Holy Scriptures! Yes, our lives are open books being read by others!

CHRISTIANS IN GOVERNMENT

Tuesday Read Daniel 2:46-48

"The king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over the wise men of Babylon." It is sometimes the plan of God for His people to assume government positions and being involved in making and enforcing laws. Daniel and Joseph were two good examples of that! As a matter of fact, that was common in the early days of our nation, and the Bible was considered the main source for determining laws and amending laws. God honored that commitment to

obeying His commands. In our prayer lives, we should especially be praying for Christians in government and for Christians to seek public office. They really can be valuable as the salt to bring flavor to our lives!

ADDITIVES

WednesdayRead John 7:37-38

"If any man thirst, let him come to me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." The lives of Christians should add favorably to the world in which they live. The enviable fruits of the Spirit should be flowing out of the lives of Christians for the benefit of those around them. Just as a good drink of water refreshes a weary body, so should the lives of believers refresh the souls and spirits of others with whom they have contact: in their homes and communities. Being the salt of the earth means that the presence of Christians adds flavor to the atmosphere for the benefit of all around! Think of food without salt and compare it to food that has been properly salted. And we should be reminded that too much salt has a negative impact. Our Christian witness is vital to society, but we should not let our eagerness for others to turn to God cause us to become an irritant. It is so important to do what we can, and then let the Holy Spirit do the work of bringing change to the lives to whom we witness!

CHRISTIAN WORKERS

Thursday Read John 6:26-28

"Labor not for the meat that perishes, but for that which endureth unto everlasting life." It is the plan of God for people to work, and not expect their needs to be delivered on a "silver platter." The first thing God did for Adam after the creation of man was to give him the job of taking care of the garden of Eden. It was then that God created the woman and ordered them to start a family. Labor is a plan of God, and our place of employment is far more than a place to earn a living, it is our mission field where we work to honor God, by the way we perform our duties and capitalizing on those times the Spirit opens for a verbal witness. I believe we are going to meet a lot of souls in heaven because of the doors that opened to us as we labored for eternal values in the workplace.

CURATIVES

Friday Read James 5:15-16

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Salt also has some healing value as well as prevention of maladies. All of us have been the beneficiaries of the healing value of Epsom salt. The ingredients of magnesium and sulfate in Epsom salt fill what otherwise could be deficiencies in these important physical ingredients. So also do Spirit-filled Christians bring healing to the culture in which they live. One of the most important ways in which Christians bring healing to their culture is prayer as mentioned in our Sunday devotional. Our Lord taught us in Matthew 7:7 that asking God to intervene is the first of a three-step process: *"Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."* It is very important in taking action after we have prayed, not just sit around and expect God to do all the work. How many prayers seemingly go unanswered because the ones praying fail to seek

and to knock. Those who pray fervently and expectantly had better get up and at it for the prayers to avail much!

SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday..... Read Galatians 6:6-10

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." As salt of God's earth, we should be looking for opportunities to witness for our Lord. A lot of doors will open as a result of our doing a good deeds for those in need. Think of the wonderful way Jesus had an opportunity to give verbal witness of spiritual things at a public fountain as recorded in John 4. God does a lot of work in the church building in worship services and activities, but most of His work in reaching souls is out there in the world where His people are seeking opportunities to do good unto others. But notice in our instruction to do good, that we should be seeking ways in which we can help other believers! Yes, God is trying to tell us that edification is just as important as evangelism! Attending to the needs of people in the family of God are vital. Let us capitalize on the wonderful opportunities to help people of like faith!