

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of September 26, 2021

THEME: "Ye Are My Witnesses" WITNESSES

Sunday **Read Acts 1:1-8**

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." The most basic reason for true Christians being on planet earth is to be witnesses for Christ. Upon receiving Jesus as personal Savior, our eternal home is in heaven, where Jesus was heading when He gave this command to His followers who were remaining on earth. He promised that the Holy Spirit would come to empower believers to do what He asked them to do. Being the third person in the trinity, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the bodies of believers would equip them to overcome the power of devil who would resist their efforts to obey Christ's command. Satan, from the very outset of human history, has opposed God and has tried to entice people away from fellowship with God with his deceptions and falsehood. He will surely resist all efforts of Christians to share God's truth with others. The Holy Spirit, however, is more powerful than the devil, so His presence will equip believers to be the witnesses for their Lord. Jesus came to be the Savior of the world; something He did by fulfilling God's law in paying the penalty of sin. By shedding His blood as the perfect human Lamb, Jesus provided a way for God to grant a pardon to all people who would repent of sin and invite Jesus into their hearts to be their personal Savior. That is the message Jesus wants us to share with others!

INVITING OTHERS

Monday **Read John 1:35-46**

"And Nathaniel said unto him, Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see." One way to be a witness for Jesus is to invite others to church and other places where they will hear the gospel message. We have all invited others to something, whether it is to a family affair or an event at school or in the community. So every believer is capable of being a witness for Christ in trying to reach others as He commanded. There are those Christians who do not consider themselves capable of explaining Biblical truth to other people or engage in deep theological conversation. Even if that is true, that does not disqualify a believer from being a witness. As a matter of fact, it could be an advantage because many unbelievers could be turned off by theological discussion. Most people do enjoy new experiences, and going to a church service or activity may be very appealing to them. All it takes is for someone to invite them. "Come and see" resulted in a life-changing invitation for those of which we read in the gospel of John, and your invitation to a friend or acquaintance may do the same for them!

THE NEW BIRTH

Tuesday **Read John 3:1-7**

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I say unto thee, Ye must be born again." In this teaching, Jesus made it very clear that an individual must experience a new birth to get into heaven. The devil has been highly successful in blinding people to this vital truth! Many people who consider themselves Christian feel that by living a good life and faithfully attending a Christian church they are going to heaven. If that were true, Jesus would never had to go to the cross and give his life as a ransom. God's law states that the blood of a perfect Lamb had to be offered as a payment for sin. Jesus became the Savior of the world by doing just that! Born of a virgin without the sin nature of a human being and having lived a perfect sinless life, He was that perfect human

whose blood satisfied God's holy law. Repenting of sin and receiving Jesus is the only way to have God's pardon! That decision to receive Christ as personal Savior places a person in God's family. It is the birth of the Spirit of which Jesus spoke.

COMPASSION

Wednesday Read Matthew 9:35-38

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd." A sheep without a shepherd will wander aimlessly around: lost! That is how Jesus describes people who have never become one of His followers; they are lost from the eternal viewpoint. They are living only for the temporal, but they are eternal beings. That caused Jesus to have a deep compassion, and it ought to do the same for us. Jesus, in Hebrews 13:20, is called the Great Shepherd: *"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ: to whom be glory for ever and ever."* Christ has a compassion for lost souls! Do we, as His witnesses? Are we seeking opportunities to witness?

HOME AND FAMILY

Thursday Read Deuteronomy 6:5-7

"Thou shalt teach them unto thy children, and thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." The most important place to be a witness for our Lord is right there in our homes. Not only will learning the eternal truths in the Bible cause sons and daughters, brothers and sisters to live for eternal values with a compassion for lost souls, it will equip them to give a verbal witness when the Holy Spirit opens a door of opportunity to share. Many, many Christians made the decision to receive Christ because of the witness of Mother or Dad, brother or sister. To train children to have a compassion for their lost friends and acquaintances, classmates and teammates is doing our children a great favor by equipping them with eternal values. Meeting the physical and emotional needs of our sons and daughters is paramount; meeting their spiritual needs is every bit as important, if not moreso. God makes that very clear in this instruction to fathers in Ephesians 6:4: *"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."* Mothers, this may well be the best way to be that *"help meet"* God created the wife to be!

NEIGHBORHOOD

Friday Read Mark 12:29-31

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." God has strategically placed His people to reside in the neighborhoods in which we live. Our community is our mission field, that part of God's world to which Jesus was referring in that important commission in Mark 16:15: *"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."* A lot of that preaching, if not the most important is the life we live as the light of our world. Yes, people read our lives as we are told in II Corinthians 3:2: *"Ye are our epistles written in our hearts, known and read of all men."* Many times what people see in the way we live our lives will open the door to a verbal witness and proclamation of the gospel. That day-by-day lifestyle is so important as implied in the reminder of Jesus in Matthew 5:16: *"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works,*

and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Let me rephrase that familiar saying: Actions may open doors to words.

WORKPLACE

Saturday..... Read Colossians 3:17-24

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men." The job we have is our mission field: whether it be the laborer in the factory, the mechanic in the garage, the teacher or student in a school, the driver of a taxi, or whatever. We should approach our every day job as a work for God in an effort to please Him. Yes, we should try hard to live up to the expectations of our bosses; but, above that, we should perform on the job to please God, our Father in heaven in obedience to our Lord's command to be His witnesses. We have an overriding eternal purpose everyday of our lives, and the possibility of eternal reward. What a bonus! I believe there are going to be a lot of souls in heaven because of the faithful witness of a Christian fellow worker! A good prayer for believers every day is that one in Colossians 4:3: *"Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance to speak the mystery of Christ."*