

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of January 9, 2021

### THEME: "The New Life"

#### ETERNAL PURPOSE

#### Sunday .....Read Colossians 3:1-10

*"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."* The decision to receive Christ by asking Him to forgive your sins and come into your heart and life gives the person spiritual life with an eternal purpose for living. Up until that time, people have only a temporal purpose, seeking what this world has to offer. That is a very limited life, limited to the things of this world. Another way to detail this is to say that we are born with a dead spirit, spiritually blind. That was the penalty imposed upon all mankind because of the sin of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. They could reproduce babies with only physical awareness, spiritually dead. It requires a second birth, a spiritual birth, to regain eternal purpose for living. The unsaved person starts each day with merely a temporal purpose to enjoy the things he can see and feel. The born again person can enjoy all the things that unsaved people can enjoy of a temporal nature, but can enjoy the spiritual world as well, giving him an eternal purpose for every day of his life. That is what Jesus referred to in John 10:10 where He says this: *"I am come that ye might have life, and have it more abundantly."* The decision to receive Christ gives a person an eternal purpose as well as temporal pursuits.

#### SPIRITUAL AWARENESS

#### Monday ..... Read I Corinthians 2:10-14

*"Now we have received, not the spirit of this world, but the Spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."* When a person receives Jesus as personal Savior, that individual now has a new capability: the ability to see spiritual things to which unsaved people are blinded. Being a true Christian opens up a whole new world, the spiritual world in which God operates. God created man as a triune being: a body, soul, and spirit. When man sinned, his spirit died and he lost that fellowship with God his Creator. His life now centered on that which he could see and feel, the physical world. So all people are born with a physical awareness, but unaware of spiritual things. That requires a second birth as Jesus mentioned in John 3:3: *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* A second birth is necessary to have an awareness of the spiritual world, the level on which God operates. So many people have said that they do not understand the Bible. That is understandable because it is comprised of spiritual truth and requires spiritual awareness. That means a person must be born again, born spiritually! How is a person born spiritually? The answer is in John 1:12-13: *"But as many as received Him (Jesus), to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to them who believe on His name, which were born, not of blood, not of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."* Praying to ask Jesus into your heart to forgive your sins is a new birth. That decision opens up the spiritual world!

#### THE HOME

#### Tuesday ..... Read Genesis 1:27-28

*"So God created man in His own image, in the likeness of God created He him, male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."* Life begins in the home; that was the plan of God in the beginning for every human being. Every person has a father and a mother; that is how we enter this earth. God's plan is for the child to be in a home with the benefit of a loving father and mother. Obviously then, that home and family is the primary target of the enemy of God: Satan. Those parents who have failed to place God as their priority are victims of Satanic attacks, and the result is a broken home, a curse that has plagued our nation since the removal of Bible reading as a daily practice in public schools. That may well have been the biggest mistake by any government body in our nation's history. They offended God!

## BROTHERLY LOVE

**Wednesday ..... Read Leviticus 19:18-19**

*"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."* God is love! There are a lot of appropriate descriptions of God, such as omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent and many others. It may well be that the one that is most appropriate in terms of His attitude toward people is love. God is love! Since that is the emphasis in terms of describing God, should it not be the most appropriate in describing His children, those who have accepted His Son as Savior? The most common of all Bible verses is John 3:16 and the emphasis on God's love: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."* Well, it is love that God expects of those who are His children by faith in Jesus as Savior. That is the telling indication that a person is a true Christian; by His love for others. As a matter of fact, Jesus said that Himself in John 13:35: *"By this shall all men know ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* That demonstration of brotherly love brings even more joy to the one showing love than to the beneficiary to whom the love was shown. Above all, brotherly love delights the heart of God!

## WORKPLACE

**Thursday ..... Read John 6:26-29**

*"Labor not for the things that perish; but for that which endureth unto everlasting life."* The Christian has a twofold purpose in going to work. The obvious one is to earn a living; the other is to obey the command of our Savior in Mark 16:15: *"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."* Our attitude and approach toward our work can bring eternal reward if our desire is to bring glory to God. Yes, we want to please our boss, and perhaps get a bonus; but the real bonus would be if we are led by the Spirit to share a word of witness to one of our co-laborers. We often think of the mission field as being in a distant land, but is not our place of employment a mission field? Are there not unsaved people in the workplace: the stores, the factories, the schoolhouse, the streets, and the malls? The pay check and tips will be spent and gone, but the rewards of witness have eternal value!

## TIME USAGE

**Friday ..... Read Ephesians 5:15-17**

*"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."* Every living believer has seven days a week, twenty four hours a day, one hundred sixty eight hours a week to spend. The question is how do we use it? Is our time well spent? Time is one of our most valuable possessions! And all living people have an equal amount. No one is richer in time than others. Some, however, may be richer in the rewards they get from their utilization of their time. God is telling us to spend our time wisely. Yes, many hours are already determined by our responsibilities, but even those can bring eternal reward depending on how we approach them and use them. How do we use our free time, where we have choices? It is healthy to have recreational pursuits, and time to relax. But a very important question for us to ask ourselves is this: How much time do we give to God in personal and corporate worship? Bringing glory to God should be a goal for all endeavors, but is not God honored when we set aside time for Him alone?

## REWARDS

**Saturday ..... Read II Corinthians 5:7-10**

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ: that everyone may receive the things done in the body, according to that which he hath done, whether it be good or bad."* All our lives lead to a time of accountability, a judgment. For true Christians, that is the Judgment seat of Christ. This is a time for determining rewards, not for good or bad behavior, but for determining what was done in our earthly lives with eternal value. The good for which believers are judged is that which had eternal worth, the bad is that which had temporal value only. We do both, but those things that brought glory to God by our shining our spiritual light are worthy of eternal rewards. What a special incentive for God's people. Life is a battlefield! We are in spiritual war to fight against the darkness of the world where there is much evil. As soldiers of Christ, let us win those battles and be in a position to gain honors at that final judgment as to how we fought the good fight of faith!