

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of January 16, 2022

THEME: "A New Vision"

VISION

Sunday Read Proverbs 29:8-18

"Without a vision the people perish." The primary responsibility of an individual begins in the home: as a father, or mother, or son or daughter. A home is God's plan! The fundamental question for each of us is how am I doing with my family? Today's Bible reading implies that to do things right requires a vision, a goal to try to reach. That is a statement that follows some points God makes about the home, mentioning the father, the mother and the children. God tells parents to steer their children in the right direction, in the way the Bible teaches. It is very important to correct a child for any behavior that is contrary to Biblical instruction. The earlier in life that a child learns that the Bible is an instruction book for living the better! Parents should never overlook a wrong, but deal with it immediately. That is a demonstration of parental love. After emphasizing the importance of child-rearing, God tells us to have a vision, that without a vision, people perish. Without a vision people have nothing really to live for. What do I have as a vision for my life and my family life?

CHECKING THINGS OUT

Monday Read Haggai 1:3-7

"Now therefore thus saith the Lord, Consider thy ways." God places this important point for us in living our lives. Stop and think. Are things going the way they should? Am I living in a way that God intended for me to use my life? It is important to set priorities for our lives and then consider whether or not we are living in a way that places an emphasis on them? Where and how does God fit into the picture? Is God pleased in the way that I am spending my time? Is time for God limited to a couple of hours on Sunday morning and maybe a few seconds before eating my meals? Do I think about God and His ways every day? How much time do I spend getting direction from God by reading His Word, or do I go at it completely on my own without His guidance? Am I leaving myself wide open to the deceptions of the devil and his agents in the world by depriving myself of the light of God's Word? Think about it: consider thy ways!

PROPER CHOICES

Tuesday Read Joshua 24:14-16

"Choose ye this day whom you will serve; as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Make a decision! The most important choice any person can make is the decision about doing things their own way or God's way! How does someone know they are doing things the way God intends? Obviously we must read God's Word to know how He wants us to live. We are told this in Psalm 119:105: *"Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light unto my path."* Do I make decisions in a way that will honor God? Have I ever made the personal decision to ask Jesus into my heart and life to be my Savior and Lord? If so, God is my Father in heaven because that decision is a birth into His family according to John 1:12-13. Am I living in a way that will enable me to look forward to that final day of judgment when I will literally face God? We are challenged in today's Bible reading to make that choice as to whom we will serve while here on earth!

EXTENDED FAMILY

Wednesday Read Luke 1:56-58

"And her neighbors and her cousins heard how the Lord had shown great mercy upon her, and they rejoiced with her." It is good to see that Elisabeth had the support of her neighbors and relatives in this special time of her life. That had to be encouraging to her! The fact that God includes this detail about the birth of His Son tells us that God intends for our neighbors and extended family to be involved in our lives. It is good to stay in touch with them. We all need the loving support of family and friends. Our family and friends need us. Life is people, not things! When was the last time you conversed with your neighbors? When was the last time you were in touch with a cousin or another relative? What news should we be sharing with them! What are we missing out on that is important in the lives of cousins, and aunts and uncles or our in-laws. By His putting details about Ruth, the daughter-in-law of Naomi and great grandmother of David who would become the king of Israel, I think God is telling us in-laws are an important part of our lives. What is my vision for my extended family?

CHURCH FAMILY

Thursday Read Hebrews 10:19-25

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is: but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the day approaching." Here we see the importance of our church family. I say church family because God had chosen to have those who have placed their faith in Jesus as personal Savior as His children according to John 1:12: *"But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to be called the sons of God."* Jesus underlined the fact that believers are in God's family when His response to the desire of His disciples to teach them to pray by telling them to begin their prayers with *"Our Father who art in heaven."* A huge part of the lives of the family of God is gathering for worship. We have this clear instruction not to neglect assembling together with fellow believers. The bare minimum is for Sunday morning worship. The lives of those believers who go beyond that and are present at other gatherings are greatly enriched. God points out that there are those who deny themselves of the joy of His family get-togethers. What is my vision for my involvement with my church family?

PRAYER MINISTRY

Friday Read Acts 1:11-14

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication." Is it not interesting that the Church being built by Jesus started with a prayer meeting! After Jesus departed into heaven, His followers gathered for prayer! Why does God give us this detail! Is He not telling us how important corporate prayer is for His family of believers? Not only is corporate prayer profitable for our personal lives, it is urgent for the Church, It is vital because God gave us the command to pray. God emphasized the urgency of prayer when He said this in James 4:2: *"Ye have not because ye ask not."* Prayer is the key to meeting our needs; and that means both the material and spiritual needs! The success of any ministry is contingent on the prayer ministry! What is my vision for my prayer ministry?

EDIFICATION OF THE BODY

Saturday Read Ephesians 4:11-15

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Three important things are mentioned in this Scripture: perfecting saints, work of the ministry, edification of the body of Christ. That is what God is expecting of

the local church. He has given each member a special personal gift to help get this done. To get it done, all must exercise their God-given talent. By all doing their part, the body will be edified, built up and strengthened. The body is as strong as each doing his or her part. Each person is vital to the well-being of the church. Working together strengthens the Church. A body of visionaries is a healthy body of believers!