

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of May 29, 2022

THEME: "National Family"

INTERNATIONAL LIGHT

Sunday Read Isaiah 42:1-9

"I the Lord hath called thee to righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, and a light of the Gentiles." This is the portion of Scripture that gave Christopher Columbus the green light to embark on the voyage westward to reach the Far East. Columbus was convinced that the earth was round, unlike many of that day. It was not an easy task for him to put together a fleet of willing sailors because there were those who thought the earth was flat and sailing westward to get to the East was futile. Columbus, after trying to get financial backing from business men and government leaders, was finally successful and embarked on the voyage with a lot of unanswered questions. A man of faith, he was convinced that he had God's favor when the Holy Spirit impressed the passages from Isaiah on his thinking. Although there can be no question that there was a financial interest in the voyage in that, if successful, a huge market would be open for business, the more important interest of Columbus was spiritual. Just as the pilgrims a little over a century later wanted to bring the gospel to the uttermost part of the earth as instructed by our Lord. Columbus wanted to be a light as instructed in our reading today from the book of Isaiah. Looking back, we can praise God for this explorer's faith.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Monday Read Matthew 6:33-34

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all these things will be added unto you." A key person at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia that was in session to write the law of the land for this new nation on God's earth was Benjamin Franklin. He made a very important suggestion to the delegates after they had failed to come up with a document that was suitable to the representatives from the thirteen colonies. Obviously, each was looking out for the best interests of their own people causing a huge problem for the less populated states to agree with the ideas of the larger states. When it appeared that the attempts to come up with a document agreeable to all were futile, and the delegates were ready to give up, Benjamin Franklin took the floor and made a motion that they begin future sessions with prayer and Bible reading to seek the guidance of Almighty God. He mentioned that prayer was the key to the colonies success in the Revolutionary War which occurred after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. He reminded the delegates of that document alluding to God at least three times, and he was of the opinion that they would have failed had they not sought Divine favor. His motion was approved, and it did not take long for them to come to an agreement!

GOD'S LAW

Tuesday Read Psalm 19:7-8

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are true and righteous, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." Our first President understood this fact; that God's law is perfect! In one of his speeches, George Washington made this statement: "It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible. So important did he conclude that this nation had to be based on Biblical truth, that he, along with others, in one of the first actions of the legislature of the new nation, Congress passed a resolution to import a large number of Bibles to make them available to the general population. The Bible was one of our first text books in the public schools. Our nation truly had a strong foundation built on the Word of God, His perfect law. Things took a turn for the worse in 1963, when the Supreme Court mistakenly ruled that reading the Bible in public school was unconstitutional. In so doing they removed the moral authority for our nation much to our detriment.

UNDER GOD

Wednesday Read Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not on thy own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths." When Dwight Eisenhower became President of the United States in 1953, one of his first recommendations to Congress was to enact legislation to insert the phrase "under God" to our pledge to the flag. He did this because he was of the strong opinion that it was only by God's help that the Allies were successful in World War II. Having served as the Commander of the Allied forces in the European theater of the war, he truly believed that we had Divine assistance to defeat Hitler's army. As commander in chief, Eisenhower was known as a man of prayer. It was our privilege in our local church to have one of the soldiers who served under the leadership of Eisenhower as part of our congregation. That individual mentioned that Eisenhower emphasized faith in God was vital; and it was not unusual for him to lead the troops in prayer before important invasions, not the least of which was Normandy Beach. Praise God he convinced the Congress to add that very important phrase to our pledge that has been repeated millions of times by American patriots!

NATIONAL HEROES

Thursday Read Hebrews 13:6-8

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God." Our nation can be thankful that so many of our leaders in the past, and even now in modern times, have been people of faith in God. They truly are heroes, not only because of the effective leadership that they provided, but because so many were, and some still are, open about their faith in God and His eternal Word. Not only have our heroes been those who have provided strong leadership in political positions, but arguably there are maybe more important heroes among those who have been effective leaders in other areas: in our churches and schools and colleges. How many Americans have been enriched by those who have been faithful in steering people in the right directions! Many adults have testified how someone in such positions was a real source of inspiration that led them on to the better things in life, as parents and leaders in their own ways. It is probably fitting to say that among our most important national heroes are mothers and fathers who have reared their children responsibly!

BIBLICAL HEROES

Friday Read Hebrews 11:39-40

"And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise." This chapter in the Bible lists many individuals of faith who had a huge impact on others in their lifetimes as people of faith in God. Could there be any higher honor than to have God list your name in His Holy Book for people of all generations to see as an example of a person of faith in God in the conduct of their lives? We read in II Timothy 3:16 that the Bible is given as an "instruction book" for living; and following the example of these Biblical heroes is good instruction. Think of how Joseph rose above the mistreatment of his brothers and actually did them right despite their hate for him. What an example that is of the command of God in Romans 12:21 to "overcome evil with good." Then there was Daniel, who as a young man would not violate his personal convictions when ordered to eat that which went against his life style. God honored that by giving Daniel a place of prominence in the Babylonian government in the same way that He rewarded Joseph in Egypt. Praise God for these heroes of the faith!

PERSONAL HEROES

Saturday Read I Timothy 4:12-16

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believer..." We all have people to whom we have looked up to as shining examples for us to follow. God tells young people in today's Bible reading to set a good example early in life for others to follow. Sometimes the greatest influence on children are those in their teenage years making those years vital because children should have good role models whose lives they then can emulate. Jesus commanded us in Matthew 5:16 to be "the light of our world that others may see our

good works and glorify our Father in heaven." By or conducting ourselves in such a manner that honors God will catch the attention of our peers and oftentimes open the door to a verbal witness for Christ that could lead others in coming to know Christ as their personal Savior! There is no more exciting way to live than for the glory of God, and the earlier the better!