

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of June 19, 2022

THEME: "Road to Gaza"

SOUL WINNING

SundayRead Acts 8:26-35

"And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him." The African eunuch was reading a piece of gospel literature that he had apparently picked up while in Jerusalem. Praise God for the person who gave him this gospel tract or had placed it where he could pick it up. Providing others with a piece of gospel literature is one of the ways that God uses in the important business of soul winning. That is the work of God on planet earth in our day! We are now living in the Church Age on God's calendar for His earth. When the last soul has been won and the Church Age is complete, Jesus will appear in the air to take to heaven all those who have received Him as personal Savior. Soul winning is the most important work on earth today from the eternal standpoint. God intends for all of His people to be involved in sowing and watering the seeds into the hearts of people.

THE CALL

Monday..... Read Mark 16:15-19

"And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." These are the final words of Jesus before leaving earth to return to heaven after having fulfilled the law of God for all sinners with His shed blood on Calvary. Each one of us should take this command of Christ as a personal obligation as a servant of God. We would do well to take our Lord's command as a personal call and a personal challenge! If all believers took this to heart, all the world would be covered, particularly with the amazing advancements in the fields of communication and transportation from what they were in the early days of the Church. It is important that every believer realize that his or her home and his or her workplace are part of the world! It is a mistake for believers to think that this command of Jesus is to go to a foreign country. Yes, God does call some to be what we call foreign missionaries, but our neighbors and colleagues are also part of the earth. Jesus wants them to know that He died and paid the penalty for their sins. Receiving Christ is reserving a place in heaven!

SPIRITUAL HOUSE

Tuesday Read I Peter 2:1-9

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." The Church of which the Bible speaks is a spiritual house made up of living stones, human beings! It is true that what we refer to as church buildings are the meeting places, the physical houses where people gather for worship. God refers to His Church as a spiritual house made up of living stones, those who have come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. The true Church is also referred to as the body of Christ with many members. We believers are living stones in a spiritual house, and we are members of a spiritual body made up of all those who have received Christ as Savior! Just as every stone is vital to having a strong house and every part of a body is vital for good health, so it is with every believer in any local church. There is no unimportant part of a house or body. Each is vital!

WORKING WITH GOD

Wednesday.....Read I Corinthians 3:6-10

"We are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." The highest privilege and greatest responsibility for all Christians is to be working together with God in doing His work on His earth. We are His labor force on planet earth. I think it is important to notice that God states that we are working together *"with Him."* It is a mistake to say we are working for Him. That seems to miss God's emphasis on His having a part in His work of soul winning, when the truth is that His part is the most important. If a believer tries to do what only God can do, that is not good. We have a part in God's work of soul winning, and God the Holy Spirit has His part. To try to do what the Holy Spirit must do could have a bad result! Christians are to be the light empowered by the Spirit and to plant and water seeds of Scripture in the ears of unbelievers. The Spirit's role is to do the convincing as emphasized by Jesus in John 16:8: *"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."* What an honor and joy to be working together with God!

FRIENDLINESS

Thursday Read Proverbs 18:19-24

"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." A big part of being a witness for Jesus is being friendly toward others and certainly not combative. In Romans 12:2, we are told *"not to be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of your minds..."* It is possible to be a friend with those in the world without indulging in what would be considered worldly practices that would not bring honor to God. Christians should have strong convictions about what he or she will and will not do in order not to grieve or hinder the indwelling Holy Spirit from what He is trying to do. That will likely cause unbelievers to take notice, particularly if the Christian is a friendly person showing the love of Christ by the conduct of his or her life. That difference in conviction coupled with a friendly demeanor may open the doors to win souls for Christ!

CONVERSIONS

Friday Read James 5:19-20

"Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." One of the ways we can change the world for the better is to make a commitment to being used of God to reach souls for Christ. To be the person God uses to get another person on to the road that leads to heaven is life's greatest thrill. The devil has convinced many that there are many roads leading to heaven, such as living a good life, being a church-goer or a faithful adherent to a religion. Those contradict the claim of Jesus in John 14:6, where He says this: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father but by me."* Getting a person to accept Christ not only puts that individual on the road to heaven, but it also has the effect of bettering the culture in which that person lives!

CHALLENGE

Saturday Read II Corinthians 5:17-20

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ." What an assignment: an emissary for the Kingdom of God! To be an ambassador for God is an awesome responsibility. God is trusting His people to proclaim the truth about heaven and how to get there. God has embassies all over the globe from which He hopes to get the message out about His Son and His sacrificial death on the cross. That is quite a challenge, but we have the indwelling Holy Spirit working in us and through us to get it done. Let's do it!