

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of October 30, 2022

THEME: "Letters to Ephesus"

CHOSEN ONES

Sunday Read Ephesians 1:1-10

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." Our loving omniscient God has books in heaven of which we read in Revelation 20:12: *"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life."* According to Revelation 13:8, God recorded all the names of all the people who would live on His earth. We read this: *"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."* To hear the testimonies of those who have received Jesus as personal Savior is a real joy. It is marvelous how God controlled circumstances in such a way that would bring believers to the place where they would open their hearts and ask Jesus in to save them from the penalty of sin. Many have made that decision in the privacy of their homes, and others in public places, such as a church or evangelistic meeting in a large arena or stadium. That decision placed them into the family of God with an eternal home in heaven!

CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

Monday Read Ephesians 2:18-22

"Now therefore Ye are no more strangers and foreigners; but fellow citizens with the Saints, and of the household of God." To be a citizen of the United States of America is a high privilege; but even that does not compare to being a citizen of the kingdom of heaven! Followers of Jesus, those who have been born again by receiving Jesus into their hearts, are citizens of God's eternal kingdom. God is the sovereign Ruler of the universe! To have the rights and responsibilities of being a citizen of God's eternal kingdom is the highest privilege in life! As a citizen of the household of God, we have access to God's throne; and He delights when we approach Him in prayer! We have that right as a result of Jesus leaving earth to pay the penalty of our sins. By faith in Jesus on the merits of His shed blood, God allows us to come into His presence!

FAMILY OF GOD

Tuesday Read Ephesians 3:14-19

"From whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man." Paul emphasized to the Ephesian believers that they were in the family of God by their faith in the Lord Jesus. To have Christ as personal Savior has the added blessing of having God as Father! That means that we are blessed with all the riches in the universe! God, our Father, owns the universe and all that is therein! That does not mean that we can have everything we want, but it does mean that our Father is unlimited in what He can do for us and give to us! We do have the absolute assurance that God is capable of and will meet all of our needs, and will give us things we want as He sees fit to fulfill. He can and will meet our physical and material needs, our social and emotional needs in so far as we remain faithful and avoid becoming wayward. Above all else, our loving Father in heaven will meet our spiritual and eternal need, the only one that can do that!

EDIFICATION

Wednesday Read Ephesians 4:13-16

"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." God refers to all who have received His Son Jesus as personal Savior as the body of Christ. God intends that each believer to be a part of a body of believers in a local church to bring Him glory in a community on His planet earth. Jesus, in Matthew 5:14, calls His followers the light of that community, bringing a spiritual awareness to their fellow-citizens. When all the parts of that body are working together in unison, the local church can have a huge impact, both in the edification of the saints and the evangelization of the lost. As the parts of the body work together, the body will become stronger and increasingly useful in bringing God the glory that is rightfully His! Unity and harmony honors God!

MARRIAGE

Thursday Read Ephesians 5:21-25

"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." God has used Paul's letter to the Ephesians to give important instructions in the operation of the home, the fundamental unit in the human culture. The marriage between a man and a woman is sacred! The husband and wife are compelled to work together smoothly by having an attitude of submission to each other. If each wants to please the other, submission is easier and the atmosphere of the home will be delightful for the children with whom God may bless the married couple. Children in such a home are blessed indeed! Those children in homes where a mother or father insists on having their own way get a rocky start in life, and are more likely to have problems in establishing good interpersonal relationships. Christian homes should be known as places where each individual wants to get along well with all the others! Submission can be a powerful strength!

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Friday Read Ephesians 6:11-18

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Christians are well advised to remember they are in spiritual war! Satan has risen up in opposition to God from the very beginning, and the Church is his enemy. That is why God has provided spiritual armor with which believers can be properly equipped to have a victorious life for the glory of our Savior. Having a consciousness of this armor daily will enable the believer to come out victoriously over the battles he or she is sure to face. The shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit are keys to resisting the devil and rescuing the lost!

INTERCESSION

Saturday Read Ephesians 6:18-19

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." Preparation for battle would be incomplete if it were not for this final admonition: prayer! The importance of prayer in facing and winning spiritual battles cannot be overstated. The believer who engages in both private and corporate prayer is blessed indeed, and will surely gain and enjoy many spiritual victories! Not to connect with headquarters leaves a warrior open

to the attacks of the enemy. Staying in touch with headquarters enables the soldier of Christ to be far more alert and more assured of victory in the battles that are sure to come. The hymn writer had it right by mentioning that "Faith is the Victory."