

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of November 27, 2022

THEME: "Letters to Thessalonica"

THE RAPTURE

SundayRead II Thessalonians 2:1-10

"The mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way." Among the many signs about the return of Jesus, this one in today's Bible reading really stands out. I say that because it is a sign of the Rapture, the appearing of Jesus in the air to take believers to heaven. Many of the signs given in various portions of Scripture speak of His return to earth. This one speaks of His appearing in the air before the seven year tribulation, when God will cast judgment on earth from which the true Church is delivered. When we read a about the restrainer being taken out of the way, we are reading about the departure of the Holy Spirit, the member of the triune Godhead who is on earth today. He is dwelling in the bodies of believers as mentioned in I Corinthians 6:19: *"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"* When believers are taken to heaven, the Holy Spirit has left earth, meaning the restrainer of lawlessness has departed. Increased lawlessness is the telling sign of the Rapture. I cannot think of a more lawless act than the chief law enforcer promotes lawlessness by allowing illegal immigrants into our nation. That is ignoring the law of the land which is supposed to be enforced by the executive branch

ETERNAL HOME

MondayRead I Thessalonians 4:16-18

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." At the time of the appearing of Christ in the air, all believers will leave planet earth to head to their eternal home in heaven. The bodies of those believers who have died will be resurrected to join with believers who are still alive to meet Jesus in the air to go to our eternal home in heaven. The eternal home for unbelievers is the lake of fire that had been made for the devil and his angels. Jesus mentioned that in Matthew 25:41: *"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."* That will be the eternal home of all those who ignored or rejected Jesus during their lives on earth. That final judgment of unbelievers is detailed in Revelation 20:15: *"Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*

JOY

Tuesday.....Read I Thessalonians 5:16

"Rejoice evermore." One of the key characteristics of true believers is joy. Joy is mentioned as one of the fruits of the Spirit detailed in Galatians 5:22-23: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."* The greatest reason that all believers can have joy is that which is mentioned by Jesus in Luke 10:20: *"Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."* That joy of the Spirit-filled believers will carry them through those difficult times as we are instructed in II Corinthians 7:4: *"Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation."* It is that joy of knowing we have eternal life that gives us the power to faith and victory in trials as we read in Nehemiah 8:10: *"Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."*

PRAYER

WednesdayRead I Thessalonians 5:17

"Pray without ceasing." This command of God to pray is not only our highest privilege as believers, it is an important responsibility. Not to pray is actually a sin of omission according to I Samuel 12:23: *"Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you."* What could be better than having an open door to God's throne in heaven at any time of day or night. That is the joy of believers pointed out in Ephesians 2:18: *"For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father."* God never considers it a bother when we come to Him in prayer, but rather it is a delight according to that which we read in Proverbs 15:8: *"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight."* And how about this promise of God about the prayers of His people in Jeremiah 33:3: *"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."* Prayer must be followed by action as Jesus taught in Matthew 7:7-8: *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened unto him."*

THANKSGIVING

ThursdayRead I Thessalonians 5:18

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." It was so appropriate that the leaders of our nation designated a day to thank God for His many blessings on our nation. Had it not been for Divine intervention, our leaders acknowledge that our efforts to attain freedom would have failed. Benjamin Franklin acknowledged that at the Constitutional Convention when he placed a motion on the floor to begin sessions with Bible reading and prayer. Francis Scott Key, the writer of our national anthem, acknowledged the role of God in our nation with this line: *"Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation. Then conquer we must when our cause it is just. And this be our motto, in God is our trust."* When an individual wants to know the will of God, we are advised in today's Bible reading that giving thanks must be included. For sure, giving thanks is the will of God! He has made eternal life possible by sending His Son to pay the penalty of sin on our behalf. Receiving Jesus means a Divine pardon. Thank You, God!

GOD'S CALLING

FridayRead II Thessalonians 1:11-12

"With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith." God has a special calling for everyone of His children. We are told in Jeremiah 1:5 that He had a plan for our lives while we were in our mother's womb. He formed us with the talent to do His will for us. Every human being is a unique person. The question is whether or not we will seek to know God's calling and then do it. How? First by receiving Jesus as Savior to become one of His followers. Then follow the key to knowing God's will by doing as told in Romans 12:1-2: *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* Knowing and doing God's will is life at its best!

EARN A LIVING

SaturdayRead II Thessalonians 3:10-12

"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." God expects people to work to earn a living. Welfare programs should be for those who cannot work due to incapacitation. To help those in need who cannot work for whatever reason in showing the love of God; helping those who do not work but could is ignoring God. God has provided the resources for people to meet their needs, but expects them to work. Government programs that accommodate people who

could work are contrary to God's plan. How many are living on welfare who could work? If we want God to bless America, it behooves us to be obedient to His Word. Working to meet needs makes happier people! Helping those who could work is ignoring God.