

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of August 27, 2023
THEME: "Search the Scriptures"

BIBLE READING

SundayRead John 5:36-46

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." Jesus instructs His people not only to read the Bible, but to search the scriptures. Casual reading may be good, but searching means a lot more than casual reading. To search means to dig for truth! It may mean to read and reread until a gem of truth shines through the reading. Good study is to make notes. Writing something down significantly increases the likelihood of remembering what we read! When a person notices a truth that stands out in his or her mind, it is good to make a note of that special truth! It is a good idea to make a journal of those special truths that you discover in your Bible reading. There is no question that believers' walk with their Lord becomes more and more exciting when they search the scriptures. Reading the Bible gives eternal purpose to our lives!

INVITING OTHERS

MondayRead Luke 14:20-23

"And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." In using this parable, Jesus is instructing His followers to invite others to His home, which now is the Church. Inviting others to church is something every believer can do. It does not take any special talent. If people can say, "Come and see," they can obey this command of Jesus. Jesus said this in John 1:39 to one of His disciples. One of the disciples said the same thing later in the chapter to another person. All of us have family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues whom we can invite to worship services or activities in our local churches or other special events. That invitation could mean eternal life to the one invited! Many people are in God's family because of an invitation.

PREACH

Tuesday..... Read Mark 16:15-16

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Jesus commanded His followers to go into all the world and share the gospel, the good news of God's saving grace. God wants all the world to know that His Son Jesus paid the penalty for their sin by the shedding of His blood. God accepts His blood as the payment for the sins of every person in the world. Everyone needs to know that so they can have a home in heaven rather than an eternity in hell. If preaching is not about the gospel, it may be good, but it does not fulfill this command of our Savior. If all believers obey this command, the

world will be reached. Each believer is responsible for those in his or her neighborhood; that should pretty well cover a community as we obey this command of our Lord.

TEACHING

Wednesday Read Matthew 28:18-20

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Teaching can occur in a classroom or a private conversation. It is common to think of teaching as a teacher giving instruction to a group of listeners. Perhaps the best teaching is that which occurs in private conversation: one on one. Every believer can do that! Parents teach their children, the most important lessons are those which expound on God's Word! Teaching in the church is important; in the home, more important!

SERVANTS

Thursday Read John 12:23-26

"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor." What better life is there than life as a servant of the Most High God! Jesus is the coming King of kings over the whole earth. Being one of His subjects is the highest calling possible for any human being! This can and should be done in our homes, servants of God in our family lives. God expects us to be about our high calling as His servants while on the job. At work, Christians have a dual calling, performing for our boss and serving our God as a witness for Jesus. Our jobs have a dual purpose: temporal and eternal!

SOLDIERS

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." The most important war happening in the world today is not a war between nations. It is a war between the army of God and the army of Satan. It is a war in which the first battle was in the Garden of Eden where Satan attacked Adam and Eve. Christians in our day are given the solemn warning in I Peter 5:8: *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."* To fight that battle successfully, the Christian must put on the armor of God detailed in today's Bible reading. The offensive weapon is the Word of God. It is vital to be equipped with this sword of the Spirit, the Bible. The Word of God is both an offensive and

defensive weapon. Quoting Scripture is a defense against Satanic attacks, and Scriptures pierce the hearts of unbelievers.

SIDE OF CHRIST

Saturday **Read Matthew 12:28-30**

"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." Jesus is telling us that there is no neutral ground! We are either living for His glory or we are working against Him. Doing nothing for Him means that we are actually working against Him because that which we could have been doing goes undone, leaving a gap in His work. "Jesus speaks of His work as gathering. What does that mean? In Matthew 16:18, Jesus makes clear what His work on earth is with this explanation: *"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* A key part of building the church is winning souls. Those on the side of Christ should be planting and watering seeds of Scriptures into the hearts of unsaved people followed up by prayers that the Holy Spirit will convince them to make that all important decision to receive Jesus as personal Savior.