

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of September 17, 2023
THEME: "Wherewithal Shall a Young Man Cleanse His Way?"

CLEAN LIVING

Sunday Read Psalm 119:1-10

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." In this passage, the psalmist is telling the reader how to have a life blessed by God. The key is to keep God's commandments. By obeying God, we will avoid the embarrassment and the consequences of wrong doing. All people should have a heart of praise to God for giving us the key to a life of rich blessing in His written word, the Bible. The earlier in life a person learns the key to a life of blessing from the Bible, the better! Teaching children God's truth is doing them a huge favor! That is why God gave fathers their primary responsibility in Ephesians 6:4: *"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."* Children who have fathers who are obedient to this Divine expectation are greatly blessed. They are then in a position to enjoy the promise of Psalm 37:23: *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and He delighteth in his way."*

MASTER'S USE

Monday Read II Timothy 2:20-21

"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonor. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." Every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit to have the power to be the light in his or her world. The question is whether or not the believer will let that light shine by not allowing hindrances to block the light. In so doing, the believer is a vessel unto honor bringing glory to God. God uses only clean vessels to feed the world His truth! Our responsibility as believers is to keep our vessels clean. That is done by avoiding worldly contaminants and by confessing any known sins. In so doing, the Christian can be a vessel unto honor meet for the Master's use! A major part of the work of Christ is what He mentioned in Luke 19:10: *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

WILL OF GOD

Tuesday Read Matthew 6:9-10

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." In response to His disciples request to teach them to pray, our Lord taught us what we commonly refer to as the Lord's Prayer. In following our Lord's teaching, we address God as our Heavenly Father with the emphasis on the family relationship that we enjoy with our Lord and with fellow believers. We then acknowledge that He is on His throne in heaven, giving us a direct contact with heaven, a benefit of only true believers in the family of God by faith in Christ as personal Savior. In our approach to our Father in heaven, we go on to express our desire to do His will. By so doing, believers are acknowledging that the will of God takes precedence over our personal ambitions! Our desire, as the children of God, is to please Him by trying to live out His assignment for us! If we are serious about doing the will of God, we will read His Word and do what it

says by yielding to the Holy Spirit. That is the power that God has provided for believers to be the shining light in this dark world!

DIVINE APPROVAL

Wednesday Read II Timothy 2:15

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." This instruction indicates that the believer should engage in more than a casual reading of the Bible. We are told to study His Word of truth. Effective study means memorization and application. In order to apply this instruction of God, we do well to put into writing some of the things we have read. Writing enables us to remember far more effectively than merely reading. One step further in studying is to commit to memory these truths. That is what the psalmist is telling us in Psalm 119:11: *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."* By memorizing portions of God's Word, we are more prepared to be witnesses for Jesus as instructed in Acts 1:8: *"But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth."* What a privilege: a witness for Jesus!

PERSONAL CONVICTIONS

Thursday Read Romans 14:1-5

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." There will be differences among believers in our personal convictions, and that is fine. As a matter of fact, it is desirable in the sense that not everybody is the same in everything. There can be no difference on those things clearly stated in the Bible about our behavior, but where we are not given clear direction, there will be and should be differences. That does not mean one believer is better than another, it merely means they have different convictions. The important thing is to have Spirit-led convictions and stick to them as a testimony of our desire to honor our Lord and to please our Father in heaven. It is important for every believer to have personal convictions about proper engagement in society, but it is equally important not to judge other believers in the family of God. In the final judgment, we answer only for ourselves!

UNITY OF SPIRIT

Friday Read Ephesians 4:1-3

"With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Humility is the sign of a mature believer. The true believer is that person who recognized himself or herself as a lost sinner who needed a Savior. They realized that they did not have the power in themselves to live a life pleasing to God. They certainly realize that they need the power of the Spirit to be what God wants them to be. That is the requirement to be what God wants us to be. Humility qualifies a believer to work together with other believers to do the work of God. Those who rely totally on the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit will be eager to work together with other Spirit-filled believers to do the work of God. Our enemy Satan will try his best to cause division and prevent that all-important unity of the Spirit. Believers, in resisting the devil, should be very sensitive to notice anything that may cause division and work hard to use those possibilities to demonstrate a determination to maintain unity!

JOY AND PEACE

Saturday..... Read Galatians 5:16-23

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith." Being born of the Spirit to become a child of God means that a person has the Holy Spirit dwelling within them as a constant companion. We read that in I Corinthians 3:16: *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"* By having the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, that believer has the benefits of enjoying the fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23 mentioned in today's Bible reading. There are many things in the world today that could cause worry and fear. The Christian, however, knows that as children in the family of God, we have His protection. That is our source of joy and peace. Nothing is too hard for God. Our God is omnipotent, all powerful! He created the world. The power of Satan is useless when confronted by God. The believer does well to win life's battles by applying the truth of I Peter 5:8-9 in troubling times: *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."* In so doing, we can have joy and peace!