

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of November 19, 2023

THEME: "Praise God for Our Nation"

SHINING LIGHTS

SundayRead Philippians 2:9-18

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain." God's people are called upon to be shining lights in a perverse nation. A perverse nation is one that accepts as normal behaviors that are forbidden by God as noted in His Word. One primary example was the approval of abortion, which was deemed acceptable by the Supreme Court in 1973 in the Roe vs. Wade decision. Another was the acceptance of homosexuality, which was considered not to be a problem during the Clinton administration in the 1990's. We read in Genesis 19 about God's destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah because of just such a practice. God is relying on His people to counteract this spiritual darkness by being lights empowered by the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, that light shining by the lives of believers will attract people's attention and open the door for a word of witness. The Holy Spirit then has the opportunity to persuade an unbeliever to accept Christ as personal Savior. That individual then leaves the darkness of the world and lives in the light of God's glory! The only way to counteract the world's darkness is God's light!

FOUNDATION

Monday ... Read Luke 6:48-49

"He is like a man which built an house, and dug deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock." The most important thing in the construction of a building is to have a strong foundation. That building is going to have to withstand severe weather conditions making a strong foundation imperative. So it is with a life. People are going to face many trials to test their commitment to their Savior and Lord. That is now increasingly the case for Christians in this ever declining world from a moral and spiritual standpoint. Biblical truth is the solid foundation for a culture! It tells us how to live as God our Creator intended. Having a working knowledge of Scripture is the key to standing strong when faced with the challenges of life. Since our nation declared Bible reading to be unconstitutional in 1963, they weakened the strong foundation for our culture that the founders had established!

BUILDING

TuesdayRead Psalm 127:1-5

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Disregarding God and His Word is a tragic mistake. If God does not build the house, the house will eventually fall. This is why Christians strong in their faith are essential to a culture. They are the moral and spiritual fiber so necessary to be a thriving nation. The devil, God's powerful enemy, knows if he can neutralize the influence of Christians, he has a good chance to cause a nation to crumble. This makes the witness of Christians by the conduct of their lives so vital. Quite frankly, it is the only hope for the United States to thrive and be the leader of the free world. Christians must allow themselves to be controlled by the Holy Spirit and be the vessels unto honor that will open doors of witness to reach others for Christ.

FAILURES

Wednesday Read Matthew 15:10-14

"Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." This Scripture is not talking about those who are physically blind! There would be very few, if any, leaders who are physically blind. Matthew, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is speaking about leaders who are spiritually blind. Being spiritually blind is being ignorant of God's truth as revealed in the Bible. We read this in John 17:17: *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."* Being ignorant of God's truth is to live in darkness. Living in darkness obviously results in many errors. There is nothing more tragic than ignoring God. It is a clear road to failure. Success is living as God intends!

BORDER CONTROL

ThursdayRead John 14:1-6

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Heaven is the most guarded place in the world. There is only one way to enter heaven. Jesus claimed to be that One way. He is the only one to walk out of a tomb after dying, and in so doing defeating death, the ultimate enemy of humanity. Many religions have been established to try to satisfy the spiritual hunger of humans. None, but Christianity, has a Savior who has conquered death. That is why Jesus came and did boldly say *"No many comes to the Father but by me!"*

END OF THE AGE

Friday Read Revelation 1:7-10

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." We are now living in the Church Age which started just after Jesus ascended into heaven. It will end when Jesus appears in the air to take all Christians to heaven as we read in I Thessalonians 4:17: *"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."* That happens when Jesus makes that long awaited call recorded in Revelation 4:1: *"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither,."* A seven year tribulation follows that, after which Jesus returns to earth to rule for one thousand years.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Saturday Read I John 4:1-5

"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come." The Bible warns about the spirit of antichrist and its devastating effect. God brought the nation of Israel into existence to bring the world a Savior into the world. Israel is that chosen nation. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a devout Jew.

When Jesus went to the cross at Calvary, He paid the penalty of all sinners. Accepting Jesus brings the gift of eternal life. Jesus will return to take the throne in Jerusalem! Satan is now doing all he can to thwart that. He is the power behind this anti-Semitism we now see in the world.