

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of November 12, 2023

THEME: "Praise God for the Church"

THE CHURCH

Sunday Read Matthew 16:13-22

"I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." We are now living in the period of time that Jesus had announced to His disciples in today's Bible reading. They were looking, as were the Jews, for Christ to take the throne of David in Jerusalem as King of kings, as prophesied in the Old Testament. That is yet to happen because Jesus first had to be the Lamb of God as prophesied in Isaiah 53:5-7: *"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."* The Church Age would follow His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, until the last soul accepts Jesus as personal Savior to complete the Church, Jesus will appear in the air to take the Church to heaven as mentioned in I Thessalonians 4:16-17: *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be the people 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 appearing of Jesus in the air is the end of the Church Age.

GOD'S HOUSE

Monday , Read Psalm 122:1-5

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." The highlight of the week for believers is when they join together in God's house to worship. By joining hearts to sing praises to God, to approach the throne of grace in prayer, and engage in a study of God's Word, they are honoring God. We know God is honored by our worship from what we read in John 4:23: *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."* That worship must be consistent with Biblical truth. Jesus warned about false worship by teaching man's doctrine rather than Biblical truth in Matthew 15:9: *"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."* This was the response of Jesus to the Pharisees who had criticized the disciples of Jesus because they saw Jesus as the Savior, whereas the Pharisees were sticking to manmade tradition rather than God's truth.

PEOPLE

Tuesday Read Colossians 1:1-3

"To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." The congregation of a church is made up of people who have come to worship, for the most part people who would identify themselves as true born-again Christians. They are the people who have made the decision to receive Jesus personally as Savior and are true Christians. If that confession of faith was never made, the individual is merely a professing Christian. To be a true believer in the family of God, an individual must do as we are instructed in John 1:12: *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."* A person becomes a Christian on the merits of the shed blood of Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God.

PURPOSE

Wednesday Read John 17:1-4

"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come, glorify thy Son, that thy Son may also glorify thee." In this amazing prayer, Jesus demonstrates that His basic purpose in life was to glorify God, and ours should be the same! That is true in the home, the community, the workplace and wherever. Those who have given their hearts to Jesus know Him as Savior and Lord! We honor God our Father by becoming a follower of His Son Jesus. By making Jesus the Lord of our lives, the Holy Spirit empowers us to be the light of the world as Jesus taught in Matthew 5:14: *"Ye are the light of the world."* Christians live to glorify God!

WORSHIP

Thursday Read I Corinthians 16:1-2

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." This passage in the New Testament indicates that the day of worship would be Sunday, the first day of the week. The Old Testament teaching was *"Remember the sabbath to keep it holy."* Saturday was the day set aside for corporate worship. It is so fitting that Christians start every week by joining with other believers in God's hour for worship and fellowship. By so doing, believers have the added incentive and spark to live for the glory of God for the entire week! Worship is a reminder that honoring God brings an eternal purpose to all we do on His earth! Our Savior taught us this about worship in John 4:23: *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."*

PRAYER MEETINGS

Friday Read Acts 1:10-14

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren." The Church Age began with a prayer meeting: how fitting! Not only is approaching God on His throne in heaven our highest privilege in life, it is our greatest responsibility. The power of the Church to be the light in our communities and a blessing in worship and fellowship begins with prayer. Prayer brings God into a conscious level and gives a sensitivity to His ever-abiding presence. Prayers of adoration glorify God. Prayers of intercession bring God into the lives of the people for whom we pray! We read this wonderful promise of God about prayer in Jeremiah 33:3: *"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."*

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Read I Corinthians 9:19-22

"To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." One of the greatest ways to reach lost souls for Christ is to supplement worship services with a variety of activities for the Church family to fellowship with each other. This opens the door to people who choose not to attend worship services. Many will come to enjoy a meal or a time of recreation. It is there that they may become interested while enjoying being together for occasions where the primary purpose is fellowship. We can be sure that our Heavenly Father enjoys seeing His family getting together for this special time, and by their bringing friends and acquaintances.