

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of January 7, 2024

THEME: "Spiritual Life"

THE HOLY TRINITY

Sunday.. Read I John 5:7-10

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." It is important for us to understand that God is a trinity because humans were created in the image of God. Each individual is triune: body, soul, and spirit. All three were involved in the creation. We read this in Genesis 1:1-2: *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."* The Bible reading for today made reference to Jesus as The Word. John made it clear in his gospel that The Word is the Son of God, a Living Word. John 1:1 and 14: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and The Word was God...And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory."*

The Holy Trinity is still active in the world today. God the Father is overseeing things on earth as noted in II Chronicles 16:9: *"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."* God the Son is at the right hand of God interceding for His people according to Romans 8:34: *"It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."* I Corinthians 6:19 tells us that the Holy Spirit indwells believers: *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"*

TRIUNE BEINGS

Monday Read Genesis 1:26-30

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." God's plan was to have man, made in His image, manage His earth. Man was given charge over all the animals and was expected to care for God's earth. God provided not only all that was necessary for man's survival, but also for man's enjoyment. Earth in its original state was a perfect environment just as was heaven. What happened? Lucifer, the highest created being, was evicted from heaven because he tried to replace God as Supreme! He ended up on earth and attacked the first humans, and he is still on the attack!

DEATH OF THE SPIRIT

Tuesday Read Genesis 3:1-8

"And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden." Eve was tempted by Satan to eat the forbidden fruit. He got her to believe his lie: that she would not die as God had said. Eve did not resist the devil's temptation and gave Adam a taste. Just as God had forewarned them, they died. Their spirits immediately died and eventually their bodies died. When their spirits died, they tried to hide from God: impossible! Eventually they lost their physical life. As a result of their sin, all humans born of man and women are born sinners. That

is the truth of Romans 5:12: *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."*

BIRTH OF THE SPIRIT

WednesdayRead John 3:1-10

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." In this conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus revealed what is necessary for a person to go to heaven! He explained that an individual must be born again, experience a second birth. Obviously, all humans are born once, giving us life on earth. Our physical bodies enable us to enjoy the world. We need spiritual life to understand the things of God, which requires a spiritual birth to become part of God's family. John 1:12 explains how to become a member of God's family: *"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."* How does one receive Jesus? It is the same as responding to someone knocking at the door. That is how Jesus explained it in Revelation 3:20 *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."* A prayer asking Jesus to come into your heart places you into God's family.

INDWELLING OF THE SPIRIT

ThursdayRead I Corinthians 6:19-20

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" The Holy Spirit immediately enters into the body of the individual upon the decision to repent of sin and the receiving of Jesus. That presence of the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to overcome sin and stay clean from the contaminations of the world. It is vital for believers to be active in this world for the glory of God to be vessels unto honor through which the Holy Spirit can work. That will happen if the believer does not hinder the Spirit by yielding to the temptations of the world and engage in worldly lust that hinder the Spirit. That is the warning in I Thessalonians 5:19: *"Quench not the Spirit."*

MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT

FridayRead John 14:20-26

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." The work of God in this age in which we are living is that of which Jesus spoke in Matthew 16:18: *"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."* The Church is made-up of living stones as we are told in I Peter 2:5: *"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."* Every time a person receives Jesus into his or her heart, a living stone is added to the church! That decision is the result of the work of the Holy Spirit accomplished through the witness of a Christian soldier in the army of Christ. That is aiding in the release of a person who was being held hostage by the devil. The most important task in fighting against the devil is working to free people from his grasp.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Saturday.....Ephesians 5:1-8

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light." The secular world has been blinded by the devil, who keeps people in spiritual darkness. That is mentioned in Ephesians 6 which points out the spiritual enemy of God and His people in: Ephesians 6:12: *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of*

this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Jesus tells us in Matthew 15:14 to *“Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”* Jesus refers to unbelievers as blind people, blind to God’s truth. That blindness to God’s truth is spiritual darkness. Being in spiritual darkness causes a person to be ignorant of eternal truth, the details of the Kingdom of God. That means unbelievers live for temporal, physical purposes only; a very limited life. Walking in the light of the Word of God keeps believers in fellowship with other believers as we are told in I John 1:7: *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another.”*