

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of March 10, 2024

THEME: "Sanctification"

SANCTIFICATION

Sunday Read: I Thessalonians 5:14-23

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." We read here in God's Word that it is His desire for His people that they be wholly sanctified: be made completely pure! God is holy, perfectly righteous, and He wants the same in their service for His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, while living on His earth, those people who have means of sanctification received Jesus as Savior and Lord of their lives. They are the light of this World as we read in Matthew 5:14: *"Ye are the light of the world; a city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."* Christians should not let anything dim that light. Our Heavenly Father is trusting believers, as citizens of heaven, to bring glory to God through the conduct of our lives!

MEANS OF SANCTIFICATION

Monday Read: John 17:17-21

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." In order to be sanctified, the Christian must spend time reading God's Word according to the teaching of Jesus in today's Bible reading. It is good for a believer to start every day by reading a passage from God's Word. There is nothing better than to have instruction from God to be prepared for whatever the day may bring. Not only is it important to read a portion of God's Word but to meditate on what we have read and even memorize it. That is the instruction of Psalm 119:11: *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."* To internalize God's truth by memorization would be a great blessing to the believer. Perhaps the Holy Spirit may open a door to share it with others!

NEW LIFE

Tuesday Read: II Corinthians 5:15-18

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." That newness of life in Christ as one of His followers brings a whole new perspective to life. It is now a life with eternal purpose. All people will face a final judgment. Believers will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive rewards as we are told in II Corinthians 5:10: *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."* Unbelievers will answer for their unbelief at the Great White Throne Judgment spoken of in Revelation 2:11: *"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."*

INDWELLING OF THE SPIRIT

Wednesday Read: 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?" What an amazing truth this is: that God the Holy Spirit indwells the bodies of believers! This empowers believers to be witnesses for our Lord, the truth of 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 Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."* Being sensitive to the Spirit's presence causes a believer to live pure lives for the glory of God!

We are instructed in Ephesians 4:30-32: *"Grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."* The Holy Spirit should feel comfortable in the lives of believers.

INNER WARFARE

Thursday Read: Galatians 5:15-20

"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." It is good for Christians to be reminded of the inner warfare we will experience. Not only do we have the devil on constant attack, but we also have the old human nature warring against the indwelling Holy Spirit. Our old fleshly nature is tempted to yield to worldly lusts, and the Holy Spirit empowers us to resist worldly lusts and stay in tune with God's eternal plan for us. The way to win this internal war is to be equipped with the armor of God detailed in Ephesians 6:11-18. Let us heed God's warning in I Peter 5:8-9: *"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."*

LED BY THE SPIRIT

Friday Read: Romans 8:10-17

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." The great value of the indwelling Holy Spirit is that we have His constant guidance as God's children. He guides us into the truth of the Bible as Jesus mentioned in John 16:13: *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."* That guidance is for us in reading God's Word so we can have clear understanding and proper application in the conduct of our lives. Is that not a valuable GPS system: "God's Prevailing Spirit." He shows us the way.

LOST SOULS

Saturday Read: Luke 19:9-11

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." This purpose mentioned by our Savior for His first appearing ought to be the desire of all His followers: to reach the lost. It is described in I Corinthians 3:9: *"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."* The Church Age in which we are now living is the period of time when Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit is using believers to build His Church. That happens by winning lost souls to become people of faith. We can and should do that in various ways: verbal witness of the Gospel, inviting others to church, and handing out gospel literature, to mention a few. All of this however, must be bathed in prayer for the Spirit's leading as mentioned in Colossians 4:3: *"Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds."*