

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of June 23, 2024

THEME: "Jesus and the Church"

BELIEVERS

Sunday..... . Read Ephesians 5:24-33

"This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

In this passage of Scripture where God gives instructions to husbands regarding the marriage relationship, God mentions that the love of husbands for their wives should be like the love of Christ for the church. The truth is that the Scriptures refer to our relationship with our Lord as a spiritual marriage. That is emphasized in the verse quoted above. The love of Christ for the Church is the kind of love God expects of a husband for his wife. That is sacrificial, unconditional, and inseparable love! The sacrifice Jesus made for His church was the supreme sacrifice: His life. There is no greater love. Praise God for His resurrection, which gives victory over death. That means believers have the gift of eternal life paid for by His blood which satisfied God's law for the penalty of sin. Accepting Jesus as Savior gives believers a home in heaven with God as our Father.

THE BRIDEGROOM

MondayRead John 3:27-30

"He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled." The apostle John, in this Bible reading, refers to himself as a friend of the Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus. That is one of several titles that is fitting to describe God the Son. Jesus is the Savior of the world, the coming King of kings, and the Bridegroom of the Bride, which is the Church. All those who repent of their sin and receive Jesus as their personal Savior are in this very special relationship. It is a highly personal relationship based on love, a Divine, God-given love. One of the great benefits of being the Bride of Christ is that Believers have the joy of being in a personal relationship with God the Father. As the spiritual bride of Christ, we are children of God in His eternal family.

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Tuesday..... Read Romans 5:6-10

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." One of the wonderful things about the love of God is that it is an unconditional love. His love for us was so great that He arranged for Jesus to take the punishment for our sin and put it on His Son. That is truly amazing. How many of us would have one of our children take the penalty for the wrong doing of someone else? God did not want anyone to spend eternity in the hell that was made for God's enemy, the devil. The only way to pardon sinners from the sentence of eternal death in hell was to have the blood sacrifice of a perfect Lamb. Jesus became that Lamb as we are told in John 1:29: *"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God,*

which taketh away the sin of the world." Never again would a lamb have to be sacrificed on the altar.

THE CHURCH

Wednesday Read Matthew 16:13-18

"And 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." With this statement to Peter, Jesus introduced the next great event on God's calendar: the Church Age. His disciples were expecting Jesus to establish the long-awaited Kingdom of Israel. That was the great hope of the Jews from the time of Abraham. That was God's promise to David. Jesus, however, in His first appearing came to be the Savior of the world, including Gentiles. When He would go to the cross, His blood was the payment for the penalty of the sins of all people! The Church is made up of all people who confess their sins and receive Jesus!

BLOCKS

Thursday Read I Peter 2:1-5

"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." God makes reference here to all believers in Jesus as Savior of a spiritual house made up of living stones. Each of us is one of those building blocks in the spiritual temple of God. The worship of those who have personally received Jesus as Savior is accepted by God. That underscores the idea that God is not honored by all worship. If churches do not adhere totally to Biblical doctrine and perpetrate manmade doctrines, that worship is unacceptable to God! The building blocks in God's spiritual temple is made up of born-again Christians! When the last soul is saved, the temple is complete!

MARRIAGE FEAST

Friday Read Revelation 19:5-10

"And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God." One of the introductory events hosted by God the Father in heaven is the marriage feast to celebrate the culmination of the relationship between His Son and His Son's Bride. Their eternal home is with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They have a reservation in heaven, and in God's Holy City. The enemy of God, the devil, has been forever sentenced to an eternity in hell. That will be settled at the end of the Millennial Reign of Jesus! We can look forward to living in a Kingdom free from sin! God's enemy and his followers will be put away forever.

THE ARRIVAL

Saturday Read II Corinthians 5:1-8

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." All the anticipation of the eternal joy promoted

by our relationship with Jesus is accomplished by our going to heaven. Paul mentions that anticipation by this interesting definition of death. It is described as the departure of the soul from the body. The souls and spirits leave the body at the time of death and go to an eternal home. We read about the death of a believer in Luke 16:22: *"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom."* Since the resurrection, all believers go to heaven.