

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of December 29, 2024

THEME: "Looking Ahead"

SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

Sunday..... Read Philippians 2:1-10

"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit." One of the greatest joys of the Christian life is to fellowship with God and His people. To have that fellowship with God, a person has to experience a spiritual birth, what Jesus called being "born again" in John 3:3: *"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."* With the decision to receive Jesus personally as Savior is to have spiritual life. Also, a person's body is now inhabited by the Holy Spirit. That is the truth of I Corinthians 6:19: *"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?"* As a believer, the Christian can have fellowship with other believers. We read in Psalm 122:1 that such fellowship is an expectation: *"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."* The best way to start any week is in fellowship with other believers!

DOERS

Monday..... Read James 1:22-25

"Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only." It is very important for a believer to put into practice the principles for living mentioned in the Bible. The Word of God is actually an instruction book for living our lives. That is what we are told in II Timothy 3:16: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."* Once Christians have read God's Word, it is vital that they put what they have learned into action. Head knowledge is good, but meaningless if not followed up by action. Christians have the high privilege of living with eternal goals as well as temporal goals. And the eternal goals can earn rewards from God!

THE CHRISTIAN WALK

Tuesday..... Read Psalm 37:22-24

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delighteth in his way." Following God's orders makes a good man. To ignore Scripture is not good. A Christian walk begins when a person decides to make Jesus the Lord of his or her life. That decision gives, or ought to, a person a hunger for the Word of God, the Bible. We read of the "milk and meat" of Scriptures in Hebrews 5:13-14: *"For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."* That gives a believer the strength needed to live a life pleasing to God. Not only does God's Word provide spiritual strength, it gives direction in following God's leading. Jesus said this about having

God's guidance 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."*

INTERCESSION

Wednesday..... Read James 5:16-20

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." The privilege of prayer, speaking to God, may well be the greatest benefit of a Christian. Prayer brings God into action on behalf of those for whom we pray. Many circumstances are beyond human capability. We all need wisdom from God's Word! Our God is an all-knowing, all powerful God. By faith in Jesus as Savior, God is our loving Father. We read in Romans 5:1: *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* We have access to God there on His throne in heaven. Praying for others, and then moving into action is the best thing we can do for them.

OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday Read Colossians 4:1-3

"Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ." The final command of Jesus to His followers is given in Mark 16:15: *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."* It is a high privilege and great responsibility to share God's truth with others. The people we know need to realize what Jesus said in John 14:6: *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* We should look for opportunities to share God's truth with others and we should pray our Christian brothers and sisters have that opportunity as well.

CHURCH SERVICES

Friday Read Hebrews 10:23-25

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." God places a strong emphasis on corporate worship! I praise God for the outreach of media ministries such as the internet, Face book, YouTube, and Wimkin, but there is no substitute for meeting with others for worship. That gives the opportunity to meet other Christians and enjoy rich fellowship. It enables believers to establish Christian friendships. It provides a way for believers to do the work of edification as we read in I Corinthians 14:3: *"But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort."*

INVITING OTHERS

Saturday..... Read John 1:37-39

" He saith unto them, Come and see." All Christians can be involved in the great work mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 16:18: "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." The church is being built by winning souls to Christ. One way that can be done is by inviting friends and neighbors to churches that preach the gospel. It is good to share the Gospel message as the Spirit leads. But many times the first step in reaching others is inviting them to church where they will hear the gospel being preached. If a person can say "come and see," he or she is qualified to be an ambassador for Christ as assigned in II Corinthians 5:20: *"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."*