



DAYBREAK *with* BIBLE READING

JANUARY - MARCH 2024

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17, ESV).

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English Standard Version (ESV)

New King James Version (NKJV)

Life Application Study Bible (LASB)

New International Version (NIV)

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PREAMBLE

All Saints' Cathedral, Kampala's (ASCK), theme for this year, 2024 is: ***"Conforming to the truth of God's Word, not the patterns of the world"*** [Romans 12:1-2]. ***The theme is calling us, the children of God, to be sure that our mind-set is shaped and controlled by the knowledge of the gospel, by the power of the Holy Spirit and by the concerns of the second coming of Christ (8:5-9; 13:11-14). The pattern of this world that we should avoid, include temporal fashion of the present time [2 Cor.4:18; 1 John 2:17]. The theme is calling us to be rooted in the Word.*** Therefore, let us endeavor to study and apply the Word of God; it is the weapon with which we shall defeat the thief, the tempter, the devil (*Matthew 4:4-10*), the flesh and the world. We will benefit from the Word only when we apply what we study from it! The Word will turn us into humble persons, encourage us to serve God effectively and make us heroes/heroines for Christ! The Church is admonished not to be swayed by all kinds of false teachings that are common these days, by being faithful to the Bible. As a believer engages daily in the discipline of Bible reading and study, she or he gets spiritual nourishment and hope. We encourage parishioners to read the Bible daily - that way, they may be rooted in the Word of God (*Psalms 119:7-8, 11*) in order to be fruitful wherever they are, and gain hope beyond difficulties.

"Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway" (Proverbs 8:34, NIV). Nothing is more blissfully profitable than "spending time with God", daily. You do not have to spend hours studying the Word of God and praying, just set aside 15 to 30 minutes every day, at an appointed time, preferably in the morning. Then, He will guard and guide you throughout the day. It is a cardinal error to go anywhere without talking to God. It is like setting out on a journey without fuel. *"...If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here" (Exodus 33:15, NKJV).*

So, every day, sit somewhere in inner silence and let God talk to you, through devotionals such as contained in this booklet, as you study His Word. Then pray about what is going on in your life and around you; in the lives of those you care about, in your nation and the world as a whole. In your prayer, talk to God like a friend, because He is, and let Him speak to you as well. Learn to listen to God and recognise His call, like Samuel eventually did (*1 Samuel 3.4-10*), by reading and studying His Word.

Dear Reader, we shall, this first quarter of the year 2024, focus on the topics: *Prayers in the Bible, Parenting and We are in the last days.*

For each sub-theme, we will pick excerpts from all over the Bible; Genesis to Revelation. Equip yourself with a good Bible, preferably NIV, ESV, NKJV, or LASB, a pen and a note book. If you can, please acquire a good Bible dictionary, commentary and a concordance. But central to all these, is the BIBLE as the critical authoritative reference. Let it be known to all that the entire Bible is about God's redemptive plan for mankind. Jesus Christ Himself told His disciples that, *"...These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled"* (Luke 24:44-ESV). Therefore, as you read the Bible every day, figure out what the passage teaches about the Person or work of Jesus Christ and apply that teaching to your own life.

As you read the Bible, look out for a **command to obey, a promise to claim, a rebuke to heed, a sin to repent of** and an opportunity to share with another person. Most importantly, the essence of this publication is to facilitate godly transformation by applying the Word of God in your life. Be expectant to hear your loving Father tenderly give you direction every day, telling you; *"...This is the way, walk in it..."* (Isaiah 30:21).



The Very Rev. Canon Dr. Rebecca Nyegenye

The Provost

All Saints' Cathedral, Kampala.



READERS' GUIDE

In this daily guide, the Bible Study for believers, each day's portion is structured as below:

- (i) Referential indication of the reading for the day, with a summative statement of what it is about;*
- (ii) Brief notes for the day's text;*
- (iii) A meditation verse for the day; and*
- (iv) A suggested prayer.*

It is suggested that you acquire and maintain a notebook for your Bible study. It is further recommended that (i) You start off your quiet time with a short prayer, confessing your sins and seeking God's forgiveness, and then invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you listen to God through His Word; (ii) then read the text slowly and meditatively.

As you read and meditate: (i) take notes of any important convictions you encounter, and (ii) also note down picks as per the final paragraph of the preamble.

Structure your notebook into your daily notes with dates and the relevant reading. At the end of the study of each theme, you may read through all the notes you have taken on the theme in order to "gather the sheaves" you have harvested from the Book, noting in particular, the holiness and goodness of God.

May the Lord bless you as He speaks to you through His Word.



THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2024

PRAYER



It is paramount to note that for a child of God to conform to the truth of God's Word, he/she needs to pray to God for empowerment/guidance. Christians are always in spiritual warfare, and are victorious only in Christ! (Rom.8:37). A child of God touches heaven on his/her knees.

*Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, by the help of His Spirit, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of His mercies (**Westminster Larger Catechism Q/A 178**).*

Prayer must be offered in faith (James 1:6), in the name of Jesus Christ (John 16:23), and in the power of the Holy Spirit (1 John 5:14-15; James 4:3). Prayer is not seeking our own will, but seeking to align ourselves with the will of God more fully. Prayer can be audible or silent, private or public, formal or informal. This month of January 2024, we shall together study some of the important prayers in the Bible

Monday, 1st January 2024. The praise Song of Moses; Text: Exodus 15:1-2

"...I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him..." (vv.1-2, ESV). Some people say that this song of Moses is the oldest recorded song in the world. The Israelites had just been delivered from the great danger of Egyptian army, therefore, they sang this song with joy, thanking the LORD for the victory.

You defeat the devil only in Christ, for in Him you are more than a conqueror (*Rom: 8:37*). You receive Christ only through a prayer of faith, and then become a child of God (*John 1:12*).



Meditate on verses 1-2. How are you going to apply them to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are my strength and my song. You are my salvation and I will praise you always. Amen.

Tuesday, 2nd January 2024. The prayer of Hannah; Text: 1 Samuels 2:1-10

"The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts... He rises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world" (vv. 7-8), ESV). Hannah praised God that He is the Rock, meaning that the Lord is firm, strong and does not change (*v.2*). this was after she had been tormented by her co-wife because for a long time the Lord had not blessed her with a child (*1:5*).

In this world things come and go, former friends sometimes turn into your enemies, circumstances change but our God does not change and His love endures forever. You could also be having a testimony of what the Lord has done for you. Still, you could have some challenge that has lingered on for a long time, wait on the Lord, remain in His Will. You remain effective in the Will of God when you receive Christ as your Lord and Saviour. He is a good shepherd and Counselor (*Isa.9:6*)



Meditate on verse 2. What is God teaching you in this verse?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, there is none like You, there is none besides You. You are my Rock. Amen.

Wednesday, 3rd January 2024. The prayer of Jabez; Text: 1 Chronicles 4:10

'Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, "O that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!"; And God granted what he asked' (v.10). In the verse, Jabez asked God to bless him, assist him in his work, to be with him in all he did and to keep him from danger and pain.

As we ask for God's blessings, let us always remember to let God take His rightful position as Lord over all we possess. Your prayers will be effective only when you pray through the name of Jesus Christ as this glorifies our God (*John 14:13*). You will pray through the name of Jesus Christ meaningfully, only if He is your Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 10. What are you learning from this verse?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, may You bless us and enlarge our territories. May Your hand be upon us and protect us from harm and pain. Amen.

Thursday, 4th January 2024. The prayer of Solomon; Text: 2 Chronicles 6:14-42

"Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands... Then he knelt on his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven, and said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth..." (vv.12-14). A king would not kneel before any one, as it would mean submitting to a higher authority, therefore, for Solomon to kneel in the presence of his subjects demonstrated the great love and respect he had for God. He acknowledged that God is the ultimate King and authority.

True humility comes when Jesus Christ is your Saviour and Lord. The Holy Spirit you receive at the point you invite Christ as your Saviour enables you to have genuine love for God. In your prayers, acknowledge God as the Lord of heaven and earth (*Mat.11:25*).



Meditate on verses 12-14. How are you going to apply them to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, there is no God but You in heaven and on earth. You are faithful God, for You keep Your

covenant and You always show steadfast love to Your people.
Amen.

Friday, 5th January 2024. The prayer of Jehoshaphat; Text: 2 Chronicles 20:6-21

From verse 6, we observe several ingredients in the prayer of Jehoshaphat: he committed the grave situation the kingdom of Judah was faced with to the Lord, he sought favour of God, he acknowledged the sovereignty of God over the situation he was in, he took comfort in God's promises and he confessed complete dependence on God for deliverance. This should be our attitude, especially when we are in a difficult situation.

Jesus Christ is our Hero, especially when we are overwhelmed by situations. In difficult situations He prayed for God's will be done (*Mat.26:39*). At some point He prayed and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground (*Luke 22:44*). For any situation, light or heavy, learn to depend on God alone, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 15. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me not to be afraid or dismayed for the battles I am facing are Yours. Amen.

Saturday, 6th January 2024. The prayer of Agur; Text: Proverbs 30:7-9

The prayer of Agur is the only prayer found in the Book of Proverbs. Agur asks for two things: for God to remove falsehood and lying from him and for God to give him neither poverty nor riches (*vv.7-9*). He is avoiding the temptation of trusting in wealth and the despondency that is associated with poverty. Jesus Christ Himself cautioned the rich (*Mat. 19:23-24*). Being poor is also not good as it affects one physically and spiritually. As Agur prayed, we are likely to be effective if we have neither poverty nor riches.



Meditate on verses 7-9. What is God teaching you in these verses?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, take away falsehood and lies from me and give me wealth in moderation. Amen.

Sunday, 7th January 2024. Aaron's priestly blessing; Text: Number 6:22-27

This priestly blessing of Aaron (vv.24-26) conveys five things, and they are: 1. to bless and protect the people. 2. God to be pleased with them (smile). 3. God to show His favour toward them. 4. God to be gracious and compassionate toward them and 5. To give them peace. When you bless, you are requesting God's divine favour to rest upon His people. The blessing helps one receiving it and also demonstrates love, strengthens the receivers, provides a model of caring for others. The utterance of the blessing placed God's name (*His person and character on the people* (v. 27) on the people.

Jesus took time to bless His disciples (Luke 24:50-51). The saying that "while he blessed them..." means the process of blessing took time, it was not in hurry. Then after the blessing, the disciples returned to Jerusalem with great joy (v. 52). Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, has blessed us with the forgiveness of our sins. In Him alone you are able to fellowship with God. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life (John14:6).



Meditate on verses 24-26. What are you learning from these verses?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, may You bless us and keep us. May Your face shine upon us and be gracious to us. Amen.

Monday, 8th January 2024. The prayer of Solomon for Wisdom; Text: 1 Kings 3:1-4

At a time when Solomon became a King, God appeared to him in a dream and asked him what he needed. King Solomon asked for wisdom and an understanding mind (v.9). And the Lord gave him a wise and discerning mind (v.12).

Jesus Christ taught us to ask and it will be given to us (*Matt.7:7*). And that whoever hears His Words and applies them, will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock (v.24). The Bible also teaches us that if any of us lacks wisdom, we should ask God who gives generously (*Jam.1:5*).



Meditate on verse 9. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give us Your children an understanding mind to treat one another well and to discern between good and evil. Amen.

Tuesday, 9th January 2024. The prayer of Jonah for repentance; Text: Jonah 2:1-10

When Jonah called upon the Lord, the Lord answered him (v.2). After seeing the futility of the sailors' ineffective prayers to their gods (7:5), Jonah then condemns those who put their trust in idols (v.8).

Many people today worship idols. They must repent in the name of Jesus Christ! Are you worshipping idols, trusting people or things rather than trusting God? Then you must also repent. Jesus Christ taught us to preach the message of repentance and forgiveness, in His name, to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (Luk.24:47). Repent your sins in the name of Jesus Christ, and Christ will forgive you all your sins.



Meditate on verse 8. What are you learning from this verse?



Father, the Lord of heaven and earth, in the name of Jesus Christ forgive us as a nation for worshiping idols. Amen.

Wednesday, 10th January 2024. The prayer of Hezekiah; Text: 2 Kings 19: 14-19

King Sennacherib had threatened to attack King Hezekiah of Judah. Even he (Sennacherib) underrated the God of King Hezekiah (v.10). This threat compelled King Hezekiah to go to God boldly, acknowledging His sovereignty. He and the people he was leading placed their total dependence on God (vv. 15-19).

We pray to God in order to show our dependence on Him. Jesus Christ said that apart from Him one can do nothing (John 15:5), meaning nothing of eternal value, not of the spiritual fruit. You can only rely on Jesus Christ if He is your Saviour and Lord. Jesus Christ becomes your Saviour when you receive Him and believe in Him (John 1:12).



Meditate on verse 16. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, Bend down O Lord and listen! Open your eyes Oh Lord and see! Listen to the threatening words of our enemies and their defiance against you the Living God. Amen.

Thursday, 11th January 2024. The prayer of David; Text: Psalm 19:1-6

In this *Psalms* 19, King David meditates on God's creation and the Word, he acknowledges his own sinfulness and forgiveness that comes from God. King David praises God for revealing Himself through nature (vv.1-6). The heavens give dramatic evidence of His existence, His power, His care and His love.

After Jesus Christ had lamented over the cities of Bethsaida, Chorazin and Capernaum, He prayed to His Father, the Lord of heaven and earth (*Matt. 11:25*). That God is sovereign, over all creation.



Meditate on verse 1. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, the heavens proclaim Your glory. The skies display Your craftsmanship. The honour, power and glory belong to You alone! Amen.

Friday, 12th January 2024. The prayer of David for protection against sin; Text: Psalm 19: 12-14

King David prayed that God protects him from presumptuous sins (v.13). These are sins that are committed out of proud disobedience to God's Commands; one sins deliberately fully aware that he is doing evil.

Jesus Christ prayed to His Father, that He protects His disciples from the evil one (*John 17:15*). Jesus Christ never prayed for His disciples not to suffer, but that they be protected from the evil one. And indeed this should be our prayer.



Meditate on verse 13. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, keep us from presumptuous sins. Amen.

Saturday, 13th January 2024. The prayer of David for comfort, peace and trust; Text: Psalm 23:1-6

This *Psalms* 23 is the testimony of King David of how God has been faithful all through his life. King David prays for comfort, peace and trust from God (vv.4-6).

At some point Jesus prayed for comfort but also trusted in the will of His Father (*Mat.26:39*). Sometimes suffering may come, but let, the will of our Father always prevail.



Meditate on verse 4. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil. Amen.

Sunday, 14th January 2024. The prayer of David for guidance and forgiveness; Text Psalm 25:1-10

In this *Psalm 25*, King David and indeed others at individual levels, in an assembly, ask the Almighty God for help in their various troubles. The Psalm contains elements of repentance as they pray for forgiveness of sins. King David and others, trust in the Lord, as they seek His guidance (vv.4-5).

Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, teaches that the Father will send the Holy Spirit in His name (*John 14:26*) who will guide us in all the truth (*John 16:13*). You receive the Holy Spirit by faith at the point you receive and believe in Jesus Christ to be your Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verses 4-5. How are you going to apply them to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Saviour, and my hope is in You all day long. Amen.

Monday, 15th January 2024. The prayer of David; Text: Psalm 37:1-10

In this *Psalm 37*, King David wonders why godless people often prosper. The Psalm encourages us to stay loyal to God in contentment, generosity and honesty. The Lord encourages us to delight in Him and He promises to give us the desires of our hearts. (v.4)

Jesus Christ teaches us to first seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things will be added to us (*Matt. 6:33*). This means that we must submit to the sovereign rule of God and prioritize right relationship with Him always! Jesus Christ is urging us to put God first in all things. Jesus' salvation comes when you receive Him and believe, trust, that His death on the cross took away all your sins.



Meditate on verse 4. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, we choose to delight in You, give us the desires of our hearts. Amen.

Tuesday, 16th January 2024. The prayer of the Sons of Korah; Text: Psalm 42:1-6

Korah was a Levite and had led a rebellion against Moses (*Num. 16:1-35*) and the Lord killed him. It is now encouraging to note that some of his descendants remained faithful to God and continued to serve Him in the temple. The Psalm encourages us to avoid depression, by meditating on the record of God's goodness to His people. This helps to take one's mind off our frustrations so that we focus on God's ability to help us (*vv. 5-6*)

In times of frustrations and discouragement, Jesus Christ teaches us to take heart because He has overcome the world for us (*John 16:33*). We may face resistance and danger, but in Christ we are more than conquerors (*Rom. 8:37*).



Meditate on verses 5-6. How are you going to apply them to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I will put my hope in You. I will praise You again, my Saviour and my God. Amen.

Wednesday, 17th January 2024. The prayer of David for mercy and forgiveness; Text: Psalm 51:1-15

This *Psalm 51*, expresses one of the examples of true repentance in all of Scripture. It demonstrates the place of hope in confession. After King David had been convicted of two sins: committing adultery with Bethsheba and the murder of her husband, Uriah, King David composed this Psalm. The Psalm encourages us to confess our own sins. We must confess our sins to God for He alone is God who forgives all our sins (*Mark 2:7*)

The Bible tells us that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). True repentance is in Christ, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world (*John 1:29*).



Meditate on verses 1-2. What are you learning from these verses?



Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us out of Your unfailing love. Amen.

Thursday, 18th January 2024. The lament of Asaph for the day of trouble; Text: Psalm 77:1-12

In this *Psalm*, the Psalmist, Asaph, is in anguish as God does not seem to respond to his urgent prayers. He chooses to remember the works of the Lord. The works include creation and providence and surely he promises to remember the wonders of old (v.17). These marvellous acts were done in Egypt, at the Red Sea and in the wilderness. They exceeded the power and reason of man. Such should compel us to trust God!

Jesus Christ told His disciples to remember that the entire Bible is all about Himself (*Luk. 24:44*). That the entire Bible is all about the plan of God on how to redeem mankind. As you study the Bible always remember to look for the Person of Jesus Christ in the whole Scripture and what He has done for you!



Meditate on verse 11. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our loving Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, we choose to remember Your great deeds, and we will always remember Your miracles of long ago. Amen.

Friday, 19th January 2024. The prayer of Jesus for the forgiveness of His tormentors; Text: Luke 23:26-38

Jesus Christ had been sentenced to death by hanging on the cross on false accusations. The death by hanging was the most horrible, painful death ever invented by man. Despite the pain Jesus Christ was in, he prayed; "... *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*". (v.34). The people Jesus prayed to be forgiven were those who were responsible of putting Him to death: the Jewish leaders, Roman soldiers and politicians and bystanders.

Soon many were forgiven and converted to Christianity (*Acts 6:7*). You realize that Jesus Christ, prayed for forgiveness of His enemies when He was still in pain. Forgive your enemies even when you are still in pain too!



Meditate on verse 34. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray that You forgive all our enemies and give them the gift of salvation. Amen.

Saturday, 20th January 2024. The prayer of Paul for believers to know God better; Text: Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers to stand firm by spending time praying for them (vv.16-17). Knowing Christ personally will positively change your outlook to life. Receive and believe in Jesus Christ today and begin a journey of knowing Him personally.



Meditate on verses 16-17. How are you going to apply them to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, I pray that Your children may grow in the knowledge of You as You give them spiritual wisdom. Amen.

Sunday, 21st January 2024. The prayer of Paul for spiritual growth; Text: Ephesians 3:14-21

Paul prayed for strength and insight (vv.14-19) that the believers would be strong in their faith, and he concludes in prayer by praising God (vv.20-21)

This is how we should be praying for each other, that each one of us is strengthened and developed in the things of God.



Meditate on verses 14-19. How are you going to respond to them?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, may Christ dwell richly in our hearts, strengthen us with the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Monday, 22nd January 2024. The prayer of Paul for hope; Text: Romans 15: 8-13


God is the object of every believer and is indeed the source of eternal hope, salvation and life. This is the reason why Paul is praying such a prayer: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" (v.13).


God will be your source of hope, life and salvation only when you are in Christ, for Christ is the only Way to the Father. Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life (*John 14:6*).

Tuesday, 23rd January 2024. The prayer of Paul for love and discernment; Text: Philippians 1: 9-11

Paul prayed for Philippians to be united in love (v.9). This would happen with the knowledge of Jesus Christ and His discernment. This was love based on what Christ had done for them.

This should be our prayer too. That, as children of God, we should be united in love, knowing what Christ has done for us! As new creation in Christ, we should have the discernment to test every spirit (1 John 4:1).


 *Meditate on verses 9-11. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

 Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, may our love for one another abound more and more with knowledge and all discernment. Amen.

Wednesday, 24th January 2024. The prayer of Paul for believers he had never met; Text: Colossians 1:9-14

Sometimes we struggle to pray for missionaries and believers we have never met. However, we can learn from Paul as he prays for believers he has never met, the Colossians, whom he prayed diligently for (vv. 9-14).

We too, should pray especially for, the missionaries all over the world that they may understand what God wants them to do, gain spiritual wisdom, honour and please God. That they may produce every kind of good fruit, be filled with joy, have great endurance and patience and give thanks always! This particular prayer for Paul teaches us how to pray for believers we have never met. Your prayers are effective only if you know Jesus Christ personally and you believe that His work on the cross saved you!

 *Meditate on verses 9-14. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

 Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray for complete knowledge of God's will and for spiritual wisdom. Amen.

Thursday, 25th January 2024. The prayer request for Paul to honor the Word of God; Text: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

As Paul faced constant physical danger in his time of ministry, he requested to be prayed for in the successful spread of the gospel and for the protection of those who share it (vv.1-2). This shows how Paul also relied on the prayers of people of God for the continuation of his ministry and personal survival.

This should be our prayer too. We should pray for the advancement of the gospel and for the protection of the messengers. We should pray that the Word of God will be honoured; meaning that people will accept its truth.



Meditate on verses 1-2. What are you learning from these verses?



Our Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray for missionaries globally and for Your Word to be accepted by people. Amen.

Friday, 26th January 2024. The prayer for believers to be bold; Text: Acts 4:24-30

Peter and John were arrested for preaching the Word in the name of Jesus Christ. When they were released, they prayed for boldness to stand firm in the midst of persecution (vv.24-30). In their prayer, you notice they first praised God and then mentioned specific problems and asked God for His help.

They asked God to help them deal with the problem, but not to remove it. We may follow this model when we pray. When God leaves a problem with us, He gives us the strength and courage to deal with it. You will overcome challenges of life when you are in Christ, for without Him we can do nothing (*John 15:5*).



Meditate on verses 24-30. How are you going to apply them to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, hear the threats from our enemies, and give us boldness in preaching Your Word. Amen.

**Saturday, 27th January 2024. The prayer of the criminal on the cross;
Text: Luke 23:42-43**

The faith of the dying criminal was more than those of Jesus' disciples whose hopes of the Kingdom were shattered after seeing what was happening to their master. While most of them had gone into hiding, the erstwhile criminal prayed: "...Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom" (v.42). The criminal saw beyond the present circumstances, including shame, to the coming glory. To know that the disciples had lost hope, one of the disciples had confessed that they had hoped that Christ was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel (24:21). To them this was complete failure, the man had died! Only the criminal could see light in this dark moment.



Meditate on verse 42. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, remember Your people and forgive them all their sins. Amen.

Sunday, 28th January 2024. The prayer of Jesus Christ taught to His disciples; Text: Matthew 6:9-13

The disciples of Jesus Christ had seen Him pray on several occasions. One day they asked Him to teach them how to pray (Luk.11:1). And, indeed, Jesus Christ taught them how to pray (vv. 9-13). This is often called the Lord's Prayer as Jesus Christ gave it to His disciples as a model for them, and us as we pray. The pattern is that we should praise God, pray for His work in the world, pray for our daily needs and pray for help in our daily challenges.

The term "*Our Father in heaven*" emphasizes that on top of Majesty and holiness, God is also personal and loving. It is the statement of praise and commitment to hallow or honour God's holy name. We honour God's holy name by being careful to use it with respect. "*Your Kingdom come*" refers to God's spiritual reign and is present in the hearts of all believers (Luk.17:21). One day when all evil will be completely destroyed, God will finally establish His Kingdom on the new heaven and new earth (Rev. 21:1).

"*Your will be done*", does not mean that we are resigning ourselves to whatever comes our way, instead, we are saying that God's perfect purpose be accomplished in this world and in the world to come. God accomplishes his will through us if we are willing to obey Him. "*Daily bread*" includes all daily physical needs.

"Forgive us our debts", this does not mean that a child of God needs to ask for justification daily because at a point one receives Christ as Lord and Saviour the right relationship with God is established. This instead, refers to the restoration of personal fellowship with God. *"Lead us not into temptation"*, this can mean testing (James 1:13). Remember God tests you, giving you opportunity to trust Him, and gives you grace hoping that you will overcome, while Satan tempts you hoping that you will fail.



Meditate on verses 9-13. How are you going to apply them to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, may Your name be kept holy and Your Kingdom come. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.

Monday, 29th January 2024. The prayer of Jesus Christ for future believers; Text: John 17:20-24

Jesus prayed for His disciples that they would become one (vv.21-23). Their unity would be a powerful witness of God's love. You can promote the unity of the body of Christ by praying for fellow Christians, by avoiding gossip, working together in humility and giving your time and money to the children of God.

The prayer of Jesus Christ for unity among believers was based on believers' unity with Jesus Christ and the Father. If Christians are living in unity with God, then they can experience unity among themselves.



Meditate on verses 21-23. How are you going to apply them to yourself?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray for unity among Your children. Amen.

Tuesday, 30th January 2024. The prayer of Jesus Christ in the Garden; Text: Matthew 26:38-41

As time approached for His physical painful and separation from His Father and death for sins of His people, Jesus Christ was in great anguish. And in the process He prayed reaffirming His desire to do God's Will (v.39). To do the will of God requires firm trust in the plan of God, and it takes obedience and prayer.



Meditate on verse 39. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me accomplish Your Will. Amen.

Wednesday, 31st January 2024. The prayer for the second coming of Jesus Christ; Text: Revelation 22:6-21

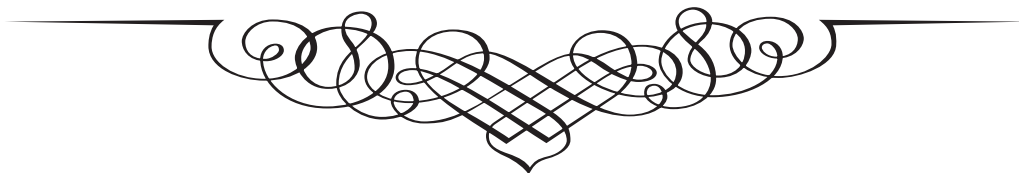
Jesus Christ is affirming that He is coming soon and it should be our prayer that he comes soon (v.20). No one knows when this will happen, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son know when Jesus will come the second time, only God, the Father knows (Mat.24:36). Every prophecy concerning the first coming of Jesus Christ was fulfilled, and every prophecy for His second coming will be fulfilled. Therefore, as we pray, come, Lord Jesus, are we ready to receive Him?! He could come before you finish reading this sentence! You will be ready to receive Christ only when you are in Him. Receive and believe in Him today!



Meditate on verse 20. What is God teaching you in this verse?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to ever be prepared to receive You on Your second coming. Come, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024

PARENTING



In order to conform to the truth of God's Word, we must, especially as parents, do several things. These include raising a generation that knows, trusts and obeys God. Therefore, parents have got this huge responsibility of focusing their children on and bringing them to God.

Parenting is a process of guiding a child to the Saving faith in Christ and set him/her on the path to maturity, bringing him/her to the full measure of His glory (Eph.4:13). It is an important calling from God as children are a heritage from Him (Ps.127:3). Parenting involves diligently teaching the Scriptures to one's children. This is because we must pass on to a child who God is, what He has done, His Word and all His attributes to the next generations, until the end of time.

Parenting also involves providing, protecting and caring for a child. Since a child is a gift from God, we need to subject them to the source, God Himself; otherwise, the struggle the parents are witnessing today will only worsen. Parents must know God through His Son, Jesus Christ, and then teach them using the manual, the Bible, to know God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Who is a parent; Father and Mother? A father and mother does not mean only natural parents (Prov.23:22-25), though they are primary, but all superiors in age (1 Tim.5:1-2) and gifts (Gen.4:20-21; 43:8) and especially such as, by Gods' ordinance are over us in place of authority whether in family (2 Kings5:13), church (2 Kings 2:12) or civil leadership (Is. 49:23).

The Bible is very essential and foundational in parenting. Below are a few areas we can learn from the Bible:

Thursday, 1st February 2024. Set your children on strong foundation; Matthew 7:21-28

Jesus Christ has been teaching what we know as sermons on the Mount; and now He ends with a parable. He clearly lays out two foundations; Himself and any other foundation for life, and in this context for your child (vv.24,26). For you to raise your child on a strong foundation you must teach the child what Jesus requires of us. When your child knows Jesus Christ as His/her Saviour and Lord, he/she will be able to stand the storms of life.

As a parent you cannot teach your child to follow Christ, unless you yourself have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. You give what you have. If you have never received Christ, today is your day (2 Cor. 6:2).



Meditate on verse 24. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me guide my children on the strong foundation of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friday, 2nd February 2024. Use the Bible to instruct your child; Text 2 Timothy 3:10-17

The whole Bible (*Old Testament and New Testament*) is the inspired Word of God (v.16). It is not a collection of human stories or ideas about God. Through the Holy Spirit God guided individuals to write what He wanted them to write yet guarding against any error. This is the process we call inspiration. God used human writers and they wrote from their own personal, historical and cultural contexts. They used their own minds, talents, language and style and wrote what God wanted them to write. The scripture is completely trustworthy and true without error as God was in control of its writing. Therefore, we should study and apply it to our lives.

You should teach the Bible to your child because it is our standard for testing everything else that claims to be true. The truth of the Bible will guard your child against false teaching that is rampant today. It is a source of guidance for how you and your child should live. The Bible is all about Christ and therefore the only source of knowledge about how we can be saved. Through the Bible Knowledge, God will equip your child to live for Him. Stop running from one parenting seminar to another, from one counselor to another, teach your child the Bible! Let your child know the

truth of the Bible and it will set him/her free! Apply what the Bible teaches to your life!



Meditate on verse 16. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, teach, reproof, correct and train me in righteousness. Amen.

Saturday, 3rd February 2024. Set priorities; Text: Matthew 6:31-34

In your parenting process, seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness (v.33), meaning put God first in your life, let His desires fill your thoughts, let your pattern be guided by His character to serve and obey Him in everything. Be an example to your child. Without your knowledge, a child is always learning from you, so be a good example.

You cannot feed and raise children on blood money, corruption and lies, and expect to raise godly children. A father cannot mistreat his wife and expect to raise disciplined children. Unless Jesus Christ is your Saviour and Lord, and therefore the Holy Spirit is guiding you, you cannot seek God's righteousness of Christ. Receive and believe in Christ today!



Meditate on verse 33. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help parents to seek Your Kingdom and righteousness first, as they raise their children. Amen.

Sunday, 4th February 2024. Share God's faithfulness to your children; Text: Deuteronomy 4: 1-14

Moses knows that his time is almost over and will soon be gone. He now instructs the children of Israel never to forget the things that God had done for them (v.9). He urged the parents to teach their children the great miracle that God had done for them. The parents were urged to share the faithfulness of God to their children.

In the same way, you as a parent must share with your children the testimonies of how God has been faithful to you. Let your children see how far the Lord had brought you. Let your children see God in all that you do as you acknowledge Jesus Christ in everything you have achieved (Luke.5:8). Let prayer, Bible study time in your family be paramount. This can only genuinely happen when Christ is your Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 9. How are you going to apply it your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help parents to be humble and share Your faithfulness to their children. Amen.

Monday, 5th February 2024. As a parent, be an example; Text: Titus 2:1-8

In the reading for today, we see Paul urging Titus to be a good example to those who see him so that they may imitate Titus's good traits (vv.7-8). If Titus wanted people to live a godly life, then it was paramount for him to live so.

In the same way, as a parent you cannot live like the devil and expect your little ones to live contrary. Be a good example to your children as you seek to please and serve God and His people. The children will imitate you, their parent as they see you praying, studying the Bible, honouring the Lord's Day, loving and forgiving each other as parents because Christ has forgiven you (Rom.10:9). Children will feel secure when they see their parents loving each other. In the process their behaviour too will improve.



Meditate on verses 7-8. How are you going to apply them to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help parents to be godly examples to their children. Amen.

Tuesday, 6th February 2024. Be a forgiving parent; Text: Ephesians 4:25-32

In the gospels, Jesus Christ teaches us to forgive (Mat. 6:14, 15; 18:35, Mark 11:25) and in the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:4). God forgives us solely because of His great mercy, not because we forgive others. However, if we have received forgiveness from our Father, then it is important that we imitate Him so that we also pass on forgiveness to others.

Let your children see you as a forgiving parent. Many times our children will hear us cursing our workmates, siblings, neighbours and our leaders, and they will tend to do the same. Therefore, parents imitate God (5:1-2) and your children will imitate you. You will effectively imitate God only when you are in Jesus Christ, and He is your Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 32. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help parents to forgive and disciple their children to forgive. Amen.

Wednesday, 7th February 2024. As a parent, trust in God; Text: Proverbs 3:1-12

The Bible teaches us to trust in the Lord because it is important to follow the wise ways of life as taught in the Bible. If you trust the Lord, then you will obey Him. By not leaning on your own understanding means that you are being governed by what the Lord is teaching you (v.5). God knows best for your child; therefore, trust Him completely. Remember He is the one who gave you that child, so always commit the child to God in prayer. Parents, do not be anxious about your children, instead, pray for them (Phil.4:6-7)

Today most parents are trusting witchcraft for their children, including those who go to churches every Sunday. As a parent, Jesus calls you to trust in Him (John 14:1). Through wrong teaching, some parents are trusting in their prayers, instead of trusting in God. Prayers do not change God's will, rather, they align us to it. Do not trust in riches or political connection for your child, trust in God. You will effectively trust in God through His Son, Jesus Christ, when He is your Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 5 and 6. How are you going to apply them to your life?




Our Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus CHrist. Help parents to trust in you for their children. Amen


Thursday, 8th February 2024. Admit when you are wrong; Text: Matthew 5:21-26

A parent should know that a broken relationship can easily hinder his fellowship with God (vv.23-24). A parent should be quick to repent when he/she discovers he/she is in the wrong. As the children see such, they too will want to emulate their repentant parents. If a parent has unknowingly offended the child, say sorry to him or her, by so doing, a parent is training a child to behave in the same way.

The rampant violence and killings among spouses today, is credited to parents who do not want to apologise to each other. Broken relationships in families have caused untold suffering in these respective homes. Jesus calls us to learn from Him, to be the gentle and humble (Mat.11:29). you

will learn from Jesus Christ only when you receive and believe in Him as your Saviour and Lord.


 *Meditate on verse 23-24. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

 **Our heavenly loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help parents to be gentle and humble as they raise their children. Amen.**

Friday, 9th February 2024. Submit yourself to God's correction and direction; Text: Psalm 139:17-24

In today's text, King David is asking God to search him for sin and point it out, that God should even test his thoughts (vv.23-24). As a parent, this too should be your prayer! And when God points out a sin, be humble enough to repent and the Lord will forgive you. As you repent your child will learn from you!

As a parent, let God search your heart because there is nothing you can hide from Him. Jesus Christ said that God knows your heart (Luke 16:15). Therefore, repent of any sin that the Lord points out and obey His directing. The Spirit of the Lord will search your heart only when Jesus Christ is your Saviour and Lord. Let your children see you living to trust and obey God.

 *Meditate on verses 23-24. How are you going, to apply them to your life?*

 **Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, search our hearts, Oh God, and know our hearts, test us and know our thoughts. Amen.**

Saturday, 10th February 2024. Confess your sins to God; Text: 1 John 1:9

As soon as you admit you need forgiveness from God, you will get it (v.9). Your being forgiven is not based on anything you do to earn it; it is solely by God's grace. This free gift of forgiveness comes with purification from unrighteousness. By His grace, God accepts us as righteous because He imputes on us the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

When we admit our sins and receive Christ's righteousness, we agree with God that indeed we sinned and we turn away from it. We do not conceal sins from Him and we recognize our tendency to sin and we rely on the Holy Spirit to overcome it. As you parent, confess every sin that the Holy Spirit shows you moment by moment. The Bible encourages us to

confess our sins to one another (*Jam.5:16*). As you confess, your child will be noticing that when you fail, you confess and God forgives you. Let your child learn to confess sin, and be assured that when he/she confesses to God, He completely forgives them. Parents, endeavor to raise the forgiving generation, not the angry society we are witnessing today. Receive and believe in Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit will enable you to be humble and confess your sins to God as you teach your children.



Meditate on verse 9. How are you going to apply it to your life?

Our Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, forgive me all my sins and give the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sunday, 11th February 2024. Be compassionate parent; Text: 1 Peter 4:7-11

As a parent, love God and His people, be compassionate to the needy (*v.8*). Pray for and reach out to the needy people of your society. By so doing, you are showing your children not to be selfish, and where possible, for them also to help the unprivileged.

These days we see some parents lavishing their school going kids with loads of money, while some other students are still at home because of lack of school fees. This points to a parent raising a child who is selfish with no compassion for others. Parents unknowingly, but steadily are raising a selfish generation. This will affect the society, beginning with the parents themselves. Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, encourages us to give (*Luk. 6:38*). As a parent you will appreciate Jesus' teaching when He is your Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 8. How are you going to apply it to your life?

Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to love and have compassion for those in need. Amen.

Monday, 12th February 2024. Speak the truth, but in love; Text Ephesians 4: 14-16

As you guide your children, remember to tell them the truth, but in love (*v.15*), not only to your children but to everybody else. This shows maturity in handling issues. This balance may not be easy, but the Holy Spirit will give you wisdom.

On some of visiting days or parents' meeting at schools, you will notice

at times some parents who are harsh. They say the truth in presence of the students and teachers with no love. Now the students may begin to disrespect teachers, resulting in bad behaviour. As a parent mind how you utter the truth. Teach your child to convey the truth with grace. This, your child will learn from you the parent.



Meditate on verse 15. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me the maturity to speak the truth in love. Amen.

Tuesday, 13th February 2024. Parents should never lose hope; Text: Luke 1:26-38

Parents should always have faith in God (v.37). Nothing can override the strength of God. He created everything from nothing (Gen.1:1). Let your children see you having hope in God. We have seen several young people committing suicide, this should stop at family level. As you raise your children, show hope to them in God. Show your child that God is able to change situations positively.

It is important that parents are very close to their children as they share the Word of God. Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, calls us to come to Him (Matt.11:28). Parents should focus their children to God. However, parents should first know Christ, before they are able to introduce Him to their children.



Meditate on verse 37. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, forgive me where I have not trusted You fully. Amen.

Wednesday, 14th February 2024. Claim the Scripture over you children; Text: Isaiah 54:1-13

The Bible has many promises that a parent should claim for his/her child, for example, that your children will enjoy peace (v.13). Claim and pray for these promises out of love and knowledge that you have of the Lord, not like you are doing magic. Many people today are praying for miracles, instead of receiving the miracle worker, Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ cautioned people who were not looking for Him genuinely, but were looking for material things like food (John 6:26). Many have

treated Christ as a magician, instead of receiving Him as their Lord and Saviour. As a parent, you have the responsibility of teaching Scripture to your child. Let the school or church add to the foundation you have already set. Teach your child to pray through the Scriptures as it is one way of praying according to the Will of God.



Meditate on verse 13. What is God teaching you in this verse?

Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, may You teach our children and give them great peace. Amen.

Thursday, 15th February 2024. Total obedience to God produces prosperity; Text: Deuteronomy 5:23-31

God told Moses that the children of Israel should fear (respect and obey) Him out of love for Him (v.29). God promises that if they do so, parents and their children would prosper. This prosperity is in terms of what God has already promised, not a reward of obedience as the promise came before the obedience. This still applies to the parents of this generation. Parents should lead their children to fear and respect God out of love. A child who loves God will respect others, beginning with their parents.

Jesus Christ, the God Son, never changes the promise above, it is still yours too, you the parents of this generation (Heb.13:8). Lead your children to fear God out of love. Obey the Holy Spirit moment by moment if you have Christ in you. If you do not have Him, then receive Him today! Trust Him as your Saviour and submit to His Lordship.



Meditate on verse 29. How are you going to apply it to your life?

Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to obey and revere You out of the love I have for You. Amen.

Friday, 16th February 2024. Children should listen to their parents; Text: Proverbs 1:8-19

Parents' actions speak louder than their words. Your child will learn values, morals and priorities by observing how you act and respond to everyday situations (v.8). As a parent, show deep reverence and dependence on God, your child will do the same, and his/her behaviour will be godly. Therefore, study the Word together with your child.

Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord, teaches that children should honour

their parents and those who abuse their parents will die (Mat.15:4). Parents must be available to teach their children these things. This is a major role in parenting.



Meditate on verses 8-9. What is God teaching you in these verses?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help children to obey their parents.

Amen.

Saturday, 17th February 2024. Spare the rod, spoil the child; Text: Proverbs 13:20-24

The Bible encourages parents to discipline their children (v.24). Sometimes it may not be easy for a loving parent to cane his/her child. However, there are times when it is necessary to do so, but do it within proper measure. God gives this great responsibility to nurture and guide the children. When one disciplines his/her child, he/she averts long-range disasters. Children need correction so that they grow up with a clear understanding of right and wrong, and direction in their lives. Disciplining a child is an act of genuine love. Your efforts alone cannot make the child wise, you need to seek God's wisdom through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Receive Christ as your Saviour and Lord and discipline your children to grow in Christ.



Meditate on verse 24. How are you going to apply it to your children or grandchildren?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help parents to genuinely love their children as they discipline them. Amen.

Sunday, 18th February 2024. Train your child to make right decisions; Text: Proverbs 22:1-7

A parent should train a child on how to make right decisions, making all the choices for a child hurts him/her in the long run (v.6). A child should be taught on dangers of wrong choices in relationship or usage of money (budgeting), so that when he/she is alone will survive the waves that come his/her way.

The best decision a parent will help his/her child make is that of receiving Christ as his/her Lord and Saviour. This is because Christ will always be with this child (Mat.28:20) and the Holy Spirit will always be there to guide

him/her moment by moment.



Meditate on verse 6. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help parents to direct their children on the right path to take. Amen.

Monday, 19th February 2024. A disciplined child gives his parent peace; Text: proverbs 29:17-21

A well-intended and measured discipline administered correctly and lovingly, teaches a child to avoid wrong doing and does things that please God and his parents (v.17). Such instructions begin from home. This is the responsibility primarily of parents not schools, churches or army and police. Many times you hear parents saying they want to take their children to “Christian schools” so that they instruct their children. This is a lie. The first and important ground for training is your home! By the time the child goes to school she/he should have learnt a lot of good from parents.

Apostle Paul tells Timothy that from infancy Timothy had known the holy Scriptures which were able to make him wise (2 Tim.3:15). If you want your child to be wise and be useful to the church and society, discipline at home is key.



Meditate on verse 17. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray for the many children who have no discipline to repent and find peace in You. Amen.

Tuesday, 20th February 2024. Discipline produces wisdom; Text: proverbs 29:9-16

As a parent do not be weary of disciplining your child. Always remember that kind, firm correction helps a child to learn, and when he/she learns she/he becomes wise (v.15). And in due course, a child begins to discipline himself/herself. Remember always to pray for your child as you discipline him/her. This is because only God can touch the heart of your child.



Meditate on verse 15. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, instil our children with wisdom, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

Wednesday, 21st February 2024. Teach children to love God; Text: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

A parent should use the context of daily life to teach about God (v.7) and to love Him. It should be life oriented not information oriented. A child will follow God if you make God to be part of his/her everyday experiences. Such a child will grow in wisdom and in favour with God and man (Luke 2:52).

As a parent you need to know God first, before you are able to draw your child to Him, because you can only give what you have. Today receive and believe in Jesus Christ, you the parent.



Meditate on verse 7. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to focus our children to You. Amen.

Thursday, 22nd February 2024. Take children to God; Text: Matthew 19:13-14

Jesus Christ wanted the children to come to Him because of the love he has for them, and also little children have a guileless faith in God (v.14). As a parent, make an effort to go with children to church and pray together in your home. Such experiences will never get out of the minds of little ones even when they grow old.



Meditate on verse 14. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help parents to bring their children to You. Amen.

Friday, 23rd February 2024. Parents do not provoke children to anger; Text: Ephesians 6:1-4

As you guide children to grow well, including administering discipline, do not exasperate and provoke them to anger (v.4). As we saw earlier, parenting is not a small and simple business, it is a hard one! Discipline and love are very key. Do not discipline a child out of frustration and anger, but out of love, so that with patience, you are able to raise a child in loving, Christ-honouring manner. A child has image of God, and should therefore be treated with love as Christ treats His people.



Meditate on verse 4. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help parents how to handle children well so that they do not necessarily provoke them to anger. Amen.

Saturday, 24th February 2024. Pray earnestly for your children; Text: Philippians 4:2-9

Many times we worry over many things, including the safety and welfare of our children. Paul is encouraging us to turn those worries into prayers (vv.6-7). It is when you pray more, that you worry less. Peace comes from knowing that God is in control, and not in the absence of conflict, positive thinking or in good feelings. Pray, trusting that God who gave you that child is in control of him or her. However, it is important that you pray to God through the God Son, as you believe in Him as your Saviour from sin and submit to His Lordship.



Meditate on verses 6-7. How are you going to apply them?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, forgive me where I have been worried instead of trusting in You. Help me to pray more. Amen.

Sunday, 25th February 2024. Fathers, do not discourage your children; Text: Colossians 3:18-25

As we saw earlier, children need to be handled with care. You as a parent should administer firm discipline with love (v.21), otherwise one can easily aggravate them by nagging, deriding, and in the process kill their self-esteem and quit worrying altogether.

However, parents need to balance well so as not to fear disciplining a child for fear of losing his/her love. Some children have committed suicide and now some parents are afraid of disciplining their children. This is not correct; you need to begin early and in love, as you trust Jesus Christ to touch the heart of your child! Only Jesus Christ will bring transformation to your child.




Meditate on verse 21. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help fathers to be godly examples and role models for their respective children. Amen.

Monday, 26th February 2024. Teach the Scripture to your children; Text: 2 Timothy 3:10-17


The mother and grandmother of Timothy taught him Scriptures when he was still very young (vv.14-15). Therefore, teaching children in our homes especially, is both an opportunity and responsibility of parents. In this text, the holy Scripture are the five books of Old Testament. And these books were pointing to Christ, the Messiah. Therefore, parents be deliberate in teaching the Word to your little ones!


 *Meditate on verses 14-15. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

 **Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help parents to teach their children Your Word. Amen.**

Tuesday, 27th February 2024. Trust in God for your children's provisions; Text: Philippians 4: 15-20

Many times parents worry over the needs and wants of their children; school fees, food, protection and future spouses. However, in the study for today, the Lord is promising to supply all our needs not wants (v.19). Discomfort and pain will occasionally overtake you; but the Lord will fulfill His promise. As you pray, trust God that He cares and will provide for your children. First acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, so that through Him you will effectively trust God for your children.


 *Meditate on verse 19. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

 **Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank You for providing for our children. Amen.**

Wednesday, 28th February 2024. Avoid corrupt talk; Text: Ephesians 4:25-32

Parents need to be careful with the way they talk, especially in the hearing of their children when talking about others. They should avoid corrupt talk such as bitterness, improper use of anger, slander, harsh words, unwholesome languages and bad attitudes towards others (v.29). Whatever you do and say, your children will copy, remember you are their hero, so they want to do like their hero. In the end, their behaviour will be worse than yours if your words are corrupted. Therefore, let us control our tongue and anger towards others. Let your children hear forgiveness and prayer for those you do not agree with. You will be able to do this with the

help of the Holy Spirit whom you receive when you invite the Lord Christ to be your Saviour and Lord.

 *Meditate on verses 25-29. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

 **Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help parents not to use abusive language against children and other people. Amen.**

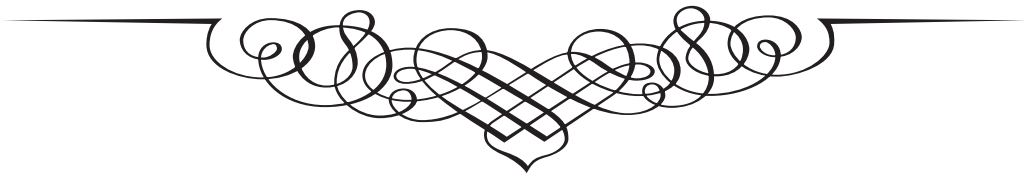
Thursday, 29th February 2024. February 2024. Your child is fearfully and wonderfully made; Text: Psalm 139:1-14

A parent has a duty to praise and affirm his/her child that he/she is wonderfully made (v.14). This is important for all children, especially so for those children with disabilities. A father telling his daughter that God created her beautiful will not be easily manipulated by wrong elements in our society. A parent saying words of affirmation to his/her child with deformity will raise the self-esteem of that particular child.

The Bible encourages us to affirm each other every day (*Heb.3:13*). Parents, affirm your children even when grades are low, encourage them that there is room for improvement, and pray for them. Remember Jesus said that some challenges will cease by prayer and fasting (*Mat. 17:21, NKJV*).

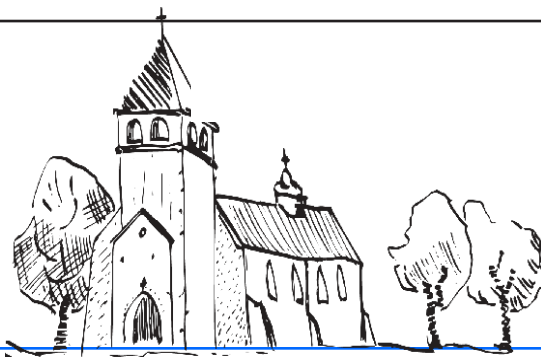
 *Meditate on verse 14. What is God teaching you in this verse?*

 **Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Amen.**



THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024

WE ARE IN THE LAST DAYS



Our theme for this month is: ***We are in the last days.*** Generally, there are four main theological views about how human history will come to an end (eschatology), but none of those views will be discussed in the meditations for this month. However, our discourse is based on the assumption on the perspective that remaining generations will continue as they always have; ***“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease”*** (Gen.8:22); ***“There is nothing new under the sun”*** (Eccl.1:9). One day, Christ will return and history, as it has always been, will come to an end.

Devotional messages for this month will focus on four aspects of end times. We will give attention to Scriptures teaching that we have been in the last days for the past 2000 years, beginning with the time of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry. Also, we will look at the end of human history, which will be at some unknown hour, in the distant future. Then we will consider that each of us will have a last day, individually, and personally, at death. And fourth, we will look at eternal life with the Lord, which will have no last day. Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!

Friday, 1st March 2024. Jacob prophesies about his sons; Text: Genesis 49:8-12

The patriarch Jacob (son of Isaac, grandson of Abraham) had twelve (12) sons. At the end of his life, Jacob (whom God named Israel) called his sons together so he could prophesy about the future of each one of them, to tell them what God's plan was for each of them. The firstborn son, Reuben, should have gotten the greatest blessing because he was the eldest, but he did not because of a big sin (v.4; Gen.35:22). The great covenant blessing would go to Judah, son #4. When Judah was young, he hated his brother Joseph and wanted to sell him into slavery (*Gen.37:27*). But Judah eventually became the hero by his willingness to offer his life as a ransom for the youngest brother (*Gen.44:33*). Judah is very much a type of Jesus Christ, who willingly gave His life to save His people.

The promise to Judah is that he would have a descendant who would rule the world (Gen.49:10). That promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, descendant of the patriarch Judah (*Luk.3:33*), seated upon the throne of heaven (*Ps.110:1*) and reigning as King of kings and Lord of lords (*Rev.19:16*). In fact, we who are united to Jesus are also seated with Him now (Eph.2:6), and one day we will even reign with Him (*2 Tim.2:12*). Though we do not see it or feel it, in Christ we are there. God put you there by His grace, and you cannot be removed. If King Jesus were still here on earth, how would He live? That is how you should live, because you are united to Him and seated with Him.

 **Question:** *How would you change your life now that you know you are seated with Christ?*




Our Father, we are most grateful that You have seated us with Your Son, Jesus Christ. Please give us grace to live like those who are united to Christ. We pray in His name. Amen.

Saturday, 2nd March 2024. Evil will befall you in the latter days; Deuteronomy 31:24-29

This book records the last message/sermon given by Moses to the people of Israel. Afterward he will die. Moses led them to the edge of the promised land, but Joshua would lead them in. The section we read today resembles a courtroom scene. Moses calls creation to serve as a witness to the accusation he is going to make against Israel. Moses knows that in the last days, after they are settled in the land, the people will abandon all that he taught them, and they will follow evil. Indeed, the generation that comes after Joshua and his fellow leaders will abandon Yahweh, the only living and true God, and worship idols, which are just the work of their hands (31:29).

The “last days” Moses mentions are about Israel in the promised land. They are not the last days for us. But the spiritual parallel is the same. Our Moses, Jesus Christ, has brought us spiritually into His eternal kingdom (*Eph.2:6; Col.1:13*) in these last days, as understood by the apostles (*Acts 2:17; Heb.1:2*). It is always dangerous for God’s people to wander from the truth (which is proclaimed so clearly in Scripture) and listen to something different, modern, and “interesting”. If you are a teacher/preacher, you must stay close to Scripture and use proper methods of interpretation, which often require strenuous effort. If you are a church member, you must hold yourself and the minister to the same standard of diligence. Your eternal life depends on it.

 **Question:** *The Berean believers diligently studied Scripture to know if Paul was correct. Are you doing the same?*



Our Father, we need Your grace to follow Christ and Your Word. Please make us to be diligent students of Your Word. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Sunday, 3rd March 2024. The mountain of the house of the LORD; Text: Isaiah 2:1-5

In the previous chapter, the LORD (Yahweh) spoke about the curse that He was going to bring upon Zion, which is Jerusalem, the city where God’s Temple is located. The people turned away from the true God and worshipped idols, and their daily lives were unrighteous. Yahweh promises that the unrighteous inhabitants would be purged away, and then He would graciously restore His people. The second chapter is about that restoration in the “latter days”. Not only will Yahweh restore His proper worship, but it will be exalted as the truth above all other claims. The mountain (2:2) is a figurative way of referring to a place of God’s dwelling, high and lifted up, as when Israel went to Mount Sinai to meet with Yahweh (*Exod.19*). Mount Zion is the Temple.

The latter days, Isaiah mentions is the time of Jesus Christ on earth and extending to the very end of time. God said that all nations would flow to His mountain, the true worship of the only true God. Jesus said, “When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself” (*John 12:32*). Jesus is the true Zion, the true Temple, and His sacrifice on the altar of the cross is the beginning of that flow. Every day thousands of people from all over the world come to Him and trust Him for salvation. The nations are flowing to Zion. We do not know when the latter days will end, but you might die tomorrow. Have you come to the Heavenly Mount Zion, to the Saviour?

Please, from your heart, trust that Jesus lived, died, and resurrected for you, and you will be with God forever.

 **?Question:** *Have you gone to Jesus and trusted Him to be your Saviour?*



Our Father, by faith I come to Your holy Mount Zion, and I trust Jesus for my salvation. Thank You for providing that for me. Make me live like someone who dwells with God. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Monday, 4th March 2024. Yahweh destroys idolatry and restores righteousness; Text: Isaiah 46:8-13

Idolatry, worshipping false gods, is a sin because it is a rejection of Yahweh and disobedience to His first and second commandments (*Exod.20:3-6*). But idolatry is also stupid, and in the first half of this chapter Yahweh rebukes His people because of their stupidity. The idolaters take silver and gold, or wood, or stone, and make an image. They carry it around, because it cannot move by itself; it cannot hear or answer when someone cries to it for help; and it cannot save you from trouble. And yet the idolaters fall down before the idols and worship them, trust them, and live for them. How stupid can a person be? – worshipping something that is made! Such people deserve to be cast away from God.

Isaiah notes that Yahweh declares the end from the beginning; His entire plan is before Him and He will accomplish it. As He did in ancient days, so He will do in the end, when He “will put salvation in Zion” (*v.13*). That was done by Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a perfectly righteous life of obedience to God's commands. He then went to the cross to pay the penalty for His people's sins. On the third day He broke the power of death so that His people could rise to eternal life. Do you trust that Jesus alone did all this for you? Always remember what the Lord has done for you (*vv.8-9*), and by God's grace worship, trust, love, and live for Him.

 **?Question:** *Are you trusting something along with Jesus and not Jesus alone?*




Our Father, I am trusting Your provision of salvation in Christ Jesus. By your grace, make me remember every day what He has done for me. In Christ I pray. Amen.

**Tuesday, 5th March 2024. The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;
Text: Isaiah 65:16-25**

In the verses prior to today's, Yahweh God accuses and condemns His people for their rebellion against Him and for their impure lives. He will repay them for their iniquity, and it will be drastic. He will not simply punish them, the Lord Yahweh will destroy the heavens and the earth and make new ones (*v.17; 2 Pet.3:13*), and the times of sin will not even be remembered. It will be so different that the wolf will not prey upon the lamb (*v.25*). Rather, they will eat grass together! The lion also will no longer hunt and kill. The future era will be a time of eternal peace. Although our senses cannot experience that peace now, that time of peace has already begun in Christ.

Isaiah says of Messiah that He is the Prince of Peace (*Isa.9:6*). Where there was once enmity, like the wolf and lamb, Christ brings peace. Where once there was hostility between Jew and Gentile, so now Jesus has made the two into one people (*Eph.2:14-17*). We who are in Christ are new creations (*2 Cor.5:17; Gal.6:15*), and there is to be no more hostility. Every day, every minute, Jesus is making peace. Because all believers have been brought into Christ's peace, we are called to contribute to it. There are many people in your life who are enemies of God and do not know the Saviour. Speak to them about salvation, and pray that God will give them new life in Christ.

 **Question:** *What parts of your life are still hostile toward God? Ask Him to change that.*




Our Father, thank You for making us to be at peace with You and with other believers. Please give me courage and opportunity to speak to others about salvation in Christ. In His name I pray. Amen.

Wednesday, 6th March 2024. Israel shall seek Yahweh their God and David their king; Text: Hosea 3:1-5

Prophet Hosea had a strange call to ministry, commanded by God, of marrying an adulterous woman. It was symbolic of Yahweh being married to Israel and Israel's spiritual adultery – the worship of false gods. At the end of *chapter 2*, Yahweh pursues “not my people” and makes them “the people of God”. Apostle Paul says they are gentiles (*Rom.9:24-25*). The gentiles are by nature far from God, spiritual adulterers, and they are the people of *chapter 3*, who are symbolized by Hosea marrying another adulterous woman. The gentiles are taken by Yahweh to be His bride.

The chapter ends with a look at the last/latter days. Israel will return to God and to David, who is Jesus Christ, descended from David, and sitting on the throne. There are different views about the meaning of this, but all views include that there will be Jewish people who will understand that the era of Israel is finished, and that Jewish people must come to faith in Jesus Christ, the One to whom the Scriptures pointed. God has not rejected the Jews (*Rom.11:1*). So, whether you are a Jew or a gentile, if you trust in Jesus Christ for your salvation, then you are part of the wife of God, the bride of Christ (*Rev.19:7*), the Church. Therefore, live a faithful life to your husband, Jesus. Do not leave Jesus for another religion; do not combine your Christianity with other religions; do not go to the witchdoctor; do not think you must do something to earn a place in heaven. Trust Jesus alone; worship, love, and obey Him with all your being.

 **Question:** *Are you including other religions with your faith in Jesus Christ? If so, then stop!*




**Our Father, thank You for joining me to Your people, Your bride.
Give me the grace to live faithfully to You in heart, mind, and life.
Through Christ I pray. Amen.**

Thursday, 7th March 2024. God said, in the last days I will pour out my Spirit; Text: Joel 2:28-32

In this chapter, Prophet Joel provides some important elements of the spiritual life. Israel had been worshipping false gods, so they will be punished. So, in verses 1-11, Yahweh warns His people that He is sending a powerful army, His army! (*v.11*), to destroy Israel. Some say it is the army of Assyria (*2:20*), some think the army is a swarm of locusts (*2:25*). Both views are about God sending destruction. But God, by His grace, is always ready to forgive, and, in verses 12-17, He calls His nation to repent, to turn away from their sin, and to turn back to Yahweh. Lastly, God promises forgiveness and restoration (*2:25*). He will provide all good things, remove enemies, and bless His people and the land.

When will God send this blessed time to His people? Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, quotes today's passage and says, In the last days, God declares, I will pour out my Spirit (*Acts 2:17*). Peter was saying the restoration had begun at that time. Though we do not see it perfectly now, it has already begun. It is steadily moving forward, and it cannot be stopped. Once Jesus Christ accomplished perfect righteousness, paid the death penalty for His people, broke the power of death, and returned to heaven, the restoration began. If you are trusting Jesus Christ as your Saviour from sin, then God has poured out His Holy Spirit on you and you are being restored; you are

being conformed to the image of Christ (*Rom.8:29*).


 **Question:** *Are you trusting Jesus as your Saviour? Thank God, for He poured out His Holy Spirit upon you.*


 **Our Father, thank you for restoring us to yourself and for conforming us to Christlikeness. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Friday, 8th March 2024. Yahweh's mountain will be established as the highest; Text: Micah 4:1-5

In the "last days" many nations will flock to the mountain of Yahweh's house. As was stated in the *meditation for 2nd March*, mountains were considered to be places where the gods could be approached. Yahweh's mountain, the Temple in Jerusalem, was the highest because it alone was true, and all other worship was false. Micah says, in the last days nations will flow to God's mountain. Acts 2 tells us about Jewish people from many nations in the Roman empire journeying to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost, the harvest festival. Thousands of those people heard Peter's preaching about Jesus the Messiah. Those people would then return to their home towns with the good message of Christ the Messiah. The last days had begun!

Before Jesus returned to heaven, He commanded His people to make disciples of all the nations (*Mat.28:19*), the "Great Commission". The Pentecost feast marked its beginning. As you read the book of Acts, you are reading the unfolding of that commission. In a sense the book of Acts is not really finished. We are told that Apostle Paul continues preaching, but the commission is not ended, it continues even through our present day. As the body of Christ goes out into the world, you and I are part of that going. You do not have to be a pastor or a missionary in a distant land. Wherever you are, tell people about salvation in Jesus Christ, and bring them to the mountain of the LORD.


 **Question:** *How is God using you to bring the message of Christ to your world?*

 **Our Father, thank You for bringing me to Your eternal mountain. Please, give me Your grace to speak to others about new life in Christ. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

Saturday, 9th March 2024. Let us entreat the favor of the LORD; Text: Zechariah 8:20-23

Before the time of Christ, here is another prophet looking forward to the last days. Zechariah wrote at the time when the people of Judah were brought back to Jerusalem, to their land, following their exile; cast out because they abandoned Yahweh. God says in *verse 14*, He promised to destroy the generation before Zechariah's day because of idolatry, and He did. So now He is promising to bring blessings and He will keep that promise as well. Along with blessing the people of Judah, people from other nations will come to Jerusalem seeking blessings from Yahweh. The God of Israel is not a simple local deity. He is the God over all creation, over all nations, and He will bring people from all nations to Himself.

We see something of this being fulfilled in John's Gospel, *12:20-21*. In that passage we read of gentiles who were visiting Jerusalem, and they wanted to see Jesus. They asked Philip, whom they knew to be a disciple, to bring them to Jesus. This was another incident to inform us of the nature of Jesus' earthly work to reach the world. The prophecies were being fulfilled. Though you might not be a physical Jew, spiritually you are, you are one of God's people, one of Israel. Make yourself known as a disciple of Christ, and ask God to grant you opportunities to bring others to the Saviour.

 ***Question: Do you view yourself as belonging to God's people and useful to Him?***



Our Father, thank You for bringing me to Jesus and joining me to Your people. Use me to bring others to Christ. I pray through the mediation of Christ. Amen.

Sunday, 10th March 2024. The reality of the Temple at the end times; Text: Matthew 24:1-3

When Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem, the disciples were very impressed with the magnificence of the Temple, but Jesus told them that someday it would be destroyed. The disciples were horrified! The Temple was God's "house", so how could that happen? and when? Historians tell us the destruction came about 40 years later in 70 A.D. There was a Jewish rebellion against Roman rule, so the Roman army devastated Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple. But God's plan for the Temple was always temporary. The Temple and the items inside were symbolic – required by God but only symbolic; they were pointing to a reality.

The Temple contained the symbols necessary for God's work of redemption. The reason God had the Temple destroyed is because its purpose was finished. The reality of the Temple (including the altar, ark, priesthood, etc.) is the Person and work of Jesus Christ. He fulfilled the symbols. Jesus is the eternal Temple, He is the eternal sacrifice, He is the eternal Priest/Mediator. Everything about the Temple pointed to Christ's work of redemption. When He finished His earthly ministry and returned to heaven, the earthly symbols were no longer necessary, so they were destroyed. The believers in Israel before Christ were saved when they looked forward to the future and trusted the reality behind the symbols – Jesus Christ. You and I look back to that same reality and trust Him for our salvation.

 **Question:** *Have you fully understood that Jesus Christ is your High Priest and your death-substitute? You are safe.*



Our Father, You have given Your people something eternally greater than the Temple – Jesus Christ. Please increase grace in me so that I can trust Him more each day. It is through Jesus the High Priest I pray. Amen.

Monday, 11th March 2024. In the last days false Christs' will come; Text: Matthew 24:1-11

As Jesus explains some details about the last days, He mentions false christs, who are people who claim to have the God-ordained authority to deliver people from oppression. This has been a problem ever since Adam and Eve believed they could be like God (*Gen.3:5*). People naturally want to be free from oppression, and the only One who can give that is God. But humans are sinners, and naturally reject God and His provisions, so we turn to false christs. There were always those who wanted to lead Israel to a grand victory over their enemies (*Acts 5:36-37*). But the real oppressor is sin, and false messiahs had political/military deliverance in mind, not salvation from God's condemnation of sinners.

There are many religions in the world and many false christs, but only biblical Christianity is true. False religions and christs will ignore the Bible or interpret it improperly. But false teachers can do nothing to deliver from God's condemnation of sinners. Only Jesus, the true Deliverer, can save. He lived righteousness for His people, He paid their sin-penalty of hell, and broke the power of death by resurrection. Jesus might deliver from earthly problems, but He might not (*2 Cor.12:7-9*). Whatever He does in your life, it will be for your good. But be assured, Jesus will absolutely deliver you

from condemnation and bring you into the perfection and happiness of eternal life with God. Trust Jesus alone and submit to His will for your life.



? Question: How will you apply verses 5 and 11 to your church?



Our Father, please open our eyes to see what is true and false. Give us the grace to stay close to Jesus Christ, who is the truth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Tuesday, 12th March 2024. Lawlessness will increase, love will grow cold. Text: Matthew 24:12-14.

Two of the signs of the end times are lawlessness and lack of love. Lawlessness means decreasing concern for keeping and observing God's laws – the moral laws (*the 10 commandments*) and laws of worship. We are all sinners, and it is in our nature to hate God and hate His laws. However, when society outwardly maintains God's laws by legislation and enforcement, then individuals will also keep God's laws, because no one wants to get into trouble. But over time, very slowly, societal laws are not enforced, individuals are emboldened to ignore God's laws, and there is even an increase of laws that are opposed to God's laws (*like legalizing homosexual marriages or legalizing abortion, which is what is happening in Western nations*).

In the end, the love of many will grow cold. Love considers other people as precious. Love has a disposition of unconditional affection for others, affection that is demonstrated by selfless attention to the well-being of others. According to Christ's Words, people will be more and more concerned for self. Love grows cold when concern is focused towards self rather than towards others. When concern is for self, then law is no longer important; people do what is right in their own eyes, for their own interests. Law is not important; lawlessness becomes normal. The greatest example of love is from Jesus Christ. He loved others and served them, even to the point of death. Those who belong to Christ must live with concern for the well-being of others. God will care for you.



? Question: How can you apply verse 12 to yourself?



Our Father, give me the grace to love You and obey Your laws, and give me love for others, as Christ loved me. In His name I pray. Amen.

Wednesday, 13th March 2024. The Gospel will be preached to the whole world; Text: Matthew 24:14

The English word “gospel” comes from the Greek work, *euangelion*, which means good message or good news. The Gospel is about Jesus Christ and what He did for His people. All humans are sinners and are unable to live a perfect life and make themselves acceptable to God. We also break God’s laws and will be punished for that. On our own we are absolutely hopeless. But God’s good message is that Jesus accomplished everything necessary for us to be saved. There is nothing we need to do. Jesus lived perfect righteousness for His people, He paid our death penalty for our sin, and He broke the power of death by His resurrection. God gives all this to His people as a free gift! That is the Gospel.

There are billions of people in the world who are trying to earn their way into heaven, but it is an impossible task. The only way they can escape condemnation is if they trust Jesus to save them, and the only way they can trust Jesus is if they hear the good message of what He did for sinners. This is why mission is so important. This is Christ’s Great Commission (*Mat. 28:19*). It is very important to help people in poverty, but the greatest need of humanity is salvation from sin. Poverty is horrible, and it needs to be reversed, but poverty is temporary. Hell is forever. Scripture says there will be believers from every tribe (*Rev.5:9*). The very end of time will come when the Gospel of Christ has been proclaimed to all parts of the world (*v.14*), but there are still many places unreached.

 **Question:** What are you doing to bring the message of salvation to the world?



Our Father, please use me for the Gospel. Give me the opportunity and courage to speak to others about the good message of Christ. Through Him I pray. Amen.


Thursday, 14th March 2024. No one knows when Christ will return; Text: Matthew 24:36-44

Ever since Jesus told His disciples that He would be returning, there has always been an effort to discern when that would be, and, what would be the date and the circumstances, etc. But Jesus also stated clearly that no one knows when that will be – not even the Son! That specific time has been set by the Father. This does not mean that Jesus is lesser God than the Father. It means, in His human nature during His earthly ministry He did not know. However, people still try to guess. Even as recently as 12

years ago an American made a couple of predictions – obviously wrong both times!

God wisely did not tell us when the end will come. If we knew, most of us would probably live debauched lives, thinking to repent shortly before the end (*even though a person might die at any moment!*). Because we do not know, Jesus' Words in 24:42,44 are especially important. Even if Jesus delays another thousand years, we must live our lives as if Jesus were returning soon; living lives of gratitude and of expectation. We must be faithful in our worship of God; faithful in our obedience to Him in our daily lives; and faithful in telling others about the Gospel; etc. When the Lord Jesus returns, let Him find you faithfully living for Him.

 **Question: Are you expecting Jesus to return? Are you living as if He will return tomorrow?**

 **Our Father, You have not told us when Jesus is returning, but I know He will. Please strengthen me to live in loving obedience with confidence of Your promise. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Friday, 15th March 2024. The end is not yet; Text: Mark 13:1-8

Ever since Yahweh promised Abraham that his descendants would inherit the world (*Rom.4:13*), the people of Israel have been waiting for their nation to rule everywhere. The disciples were convinced that Jesus was the political and military deliverer who would bring Israel to dominance, but now He is telling them that Jerusalem and the Temple will be destroyed. Naturally they want to know when. Jesus says only the Father knows. According to today's passage, there will always be difficulties: earthquakes, famines, wars, and other bad things, but they are not signs of the end. It certainly seems like these kinds of horrible things would be indicators of the end, but Jesus said, "the end is not yet."

The 20th century was the bloodiest century in all human history. There were hundreds of millions of people murdered in war, genocide, abortion, etc., more than in any other period. That century ended 24 years ago, and still the end of time has not yet come. Do not look for signs. When the end arrives, it will be a sudden surprise, like lightening (*Mat.24:27*). The only warning God has given is the Scriptural promise that there is definitely an end. The world is full of horrors, you do not know when you will die, and we do not know when the last day will arrive. If you knew you were going to die tomorrow, you would probably live your life with great eagerness to please God.

 *Question: Are you living your life today in grateful, loving obedience to God?*




Our Father, please give me the grace to live as if I were going to stand before Your judgment seat tomorrow. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

Saturday, 16th March 2024. I will raise him up on the last day; Text: John 6:35-40

In this chapter, Jesus refers to Himself as the Bread of Life. If a person “feeds” spiritually upon Christ’s body and blood, his soul will never be hungry or thirsty (6:35); he will have the assurance of eternal life with God. That is because access to God is already secured by Jesus Christ. All other religions require things people must do to make themselves acceptable to God. But because we are sinners, naturally opposed to God, we are not able to do anything that is pleasing to God. All other religions leave a person spiritually hungry, with no certainty of peace with God. Only biblical Christianity can satisfy the desire to be right with God.

No one knows when the last day will be. But you can have the assurance that whether you are alive at that moment, or if your body is resting in the grave, Jesus Christ has promised that you will be raised up, meaning, you will be taken into eternal life with God. God the Father will not ignore or disregard what His Eternal Son did for His people, nor will He change His mind. When the body ingests a meal, it is satisfied, but it will need food again, because food is temporary. If you trust Jesus to save you from condemnation, if your soul has fed upon Him, you will always be alive in Him, because Jesus Christ is eternal, His work is eternal, and He never changes. You will certainly be brought into God’s blessed presence forever.

 *Question: Have you eaten the flesh and blood of Christ? which means, are you trusting that Jesus lived, died, and resurrected for you?*



Our Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, in Him alone we have the bread of life. Amen.

Sunday, 17th March 2024. The end of the ages has come upon us; Text: 1 Corinthians 10:1-11

Apostle Paul is teaching the Corinthians, and us, about the example of the

Israelites. After being delivered from enslavement to Egypt, they were led to the land of promise “under the cloud.” This is the pillar of cloud (*fire at night*) that represented God’s presence. Yahweh used Moses, and all the people were “baptized” into Moses, meaning, Moses was God’s chosen instrument, and Israel was identified with Moses and united to him. However, many of the people were faithless, unbelieving, disobedient, and idolatrous. Yahweh delivered them with His powerful miracle working arm, yet somehow they still did not believe. So, God put those ones to death in the wilderness.

All of that was to be a lesson for us. We have seen in Scripture the wonderful work of God’s deliverance by Christ, to whom we are united. We must not be faithless, because the lessons from Israel are for us “upon whom the end of the ages has come.” What happened to Israel had a purpose, which was to be understood in the end times, in Christ Jesus, in His Church. The life of Israel was full of symbols given by God, but symbols that pointed to reality. Those symbols are fulfilled in Christ and His Church in these last days, from the time of the apostles. If God’s judgment was definite and severe against His people during the time of symbols, how much more severe will it be for us who are living in the end times.



Question: Do you sense the challenge not to live as faithless Israel did? That faithlessness can cause anyone to stumble.





Our Father, in my own strength I know I can fall away. Please keep me close to Jesus. I pray in Him. Amen.

Monday, 18th March 2024. In the fullness of time God sent forth his Son; Text: Galatians 4:1-7

This letter to the Galatian believers was intended to explain how the system of worship before Christ is finished because it is fulfilled in/by Christ and continues through Christ. We now live by faith in Christ. Apostle Paul taught this to the Galatians, but false teachers influenced them to turn back to former things, teaching them that those things made a person acceptable to God. So, Paul wrote this letter. There is a special focus on circumcision, which was the former sign of the covenant. God used to require it, but even that is fulfilled by Jesus Christ. Jesus was cut off from the living, and He brought spiritual cleansing to His covenant people. Therefore, circumcision is no longer required. To continue circumcising is an attempt to make yourself acceptable to God, and only what Jesus did makes us acceptable.

Regarding our theme for the month, *Living in the Last Days*, Paul writes clearly that we are in them now. All the symbols of worship before Christ were directed toward “the fullness of time”, which is when God “sent forth His Son”, Jesus Christ. The age of the symbols was a very difficult time for believers (*Acts 15:10*). But because Jesus accomplished everything God required for forgiveness and salvation, and because God the Holy Spirit united us to Jesus, all His accomplishments are ours, put to our accounts. This does not mean we are free to live like the devil. We now live obediently to God’s Law because we love Him and are grateful for His grace.


 **Question:** *Are you trying to earn your salvation by your own deeds? If you are, then you are offending Jesus, because He already did everything you need! Just trust Him.*

 **Our Father, thank You for giving us Jesus to do for us what we cannot do ourselves. Give us the grace to live grateful lives of obedience.**

Tuesday, 19th March 2024. All believers of all time will meet the Lord at His return; Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Apostle Paul correctly taught the Thessalonian believers that the last days were upon them, as it is for everyone who is after Christ’s earthly ministry. The Thessalonians thought Jesus was going to return very soon, within their lifetime, and they feared that the brethren who already died (“asleep”) would not be taken by Christ when He returned. Paul writes to them to comfort them with the knowledge that everyone who belongs to Christ will be with Him when He returns. When Jesus returns, those believers who are dead will be the first to go to Jesus as He is returning (4:16). Then believers who are still alive will join them (4:17). At that point, we all will be with Jesus forever (4:17).

We do not know exactly how that return will look like, but Paul does include another detail. *Verse 16* tells us when Jesus returns there will be heard from heaven a shout, a voice, a trumpet. These will be sounds that are heard everywhere around the world at the same moment, because human history as we know it will have reached the end. For those who do not belong to God’s grace in Christ, it will cause fear in the heart. But for believers, the sound will give a thrill happiness – Jesus is coming for us – hurray! If you belong to Jesus, this is a part of your future. Whether you will be alive or dead at His return, He will bring you to Himself and you will then be with Him forever. Thanks be to God for His wonderful grace.

 **Question:** *Are you listening for that heavenly call? Will you be happy to hear it? Are you ready to meet Jesus?*




Our Father, thank You for the promise that You will come for Your people someday. Increase my longing and joy for it. For the honour of Christ I pray. Amen.

Wednesday, 20th March 2024. The day of the Lord will come like a thief; Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Jesus' disciples were not the only ones wanting to know when the end of time will arrive. Apparently, the believers in Thessalonica asked Apostle Paul the same question. They were especially concerned that their fellow believers who died would not be part of the final resurrection when Jesus Christ returned. But, in 4:16-17, the apostle assures them that the dead in Christ will be the first to go to the Lord, then believers who are alive will be next. Of course, they wanted to know when that will happen. Paul's answer is in 5:2 – that day will come like a thief in the night. Obviously, no one knows when a thief is coming, and that is the way it will be for Christ's return. Therefore, we cannot know.

Let us look at the illustration from another side. If you knew when a thief was going to attack, you would do many things to prepare a defense. Well, you **know** Jesus is returning – He promised it, though the time will be unknown and sudden. Therefore, prepare yourself. How? Here are a few thoughts. Each day, spend time with God in Bible reading and prayer; give Him thanks and praise; confess your sin; renew your trust in Jesus as your Saviour – trusting His righteous life, death, and resurrection for you; ask for grace to live obediently to God's Law. But always remember, you are saved by only God's grace alone, not by your efforts. And never think, because the Lord is delaying, that you can live like everyone else in the world. You belong to Christ. Live like it.

 **Question:** *When Jesus returns, will He find you faithful and ready for Him?*




Our Father, I know Jesus is returning. Please give me the grace to live properly, as if He were returning tomorrow. In Jesus name. Amen.

Thursday, 21st March 2024. In later times some will depart from the faith; Text: 1 Timothy 4:1-5

Timothy was the pastor of the church in Ephesus. Paul warns Timothy that “in later times” there will be people who will listen to deceitful spirits, meaning; they will listen to teachers who teach false Bible doctrines. In the passage today the focus is on asceticism, which is a denial of proper physical desires. They teach denial of marriage, in other words, abstinence from sexual relations. But God created sex to be enjoyed only in marriage, so denial of it is contrary to God’s design. Also, abstinence from certain foods was taught. Yes, God did forbid ancient Israel from eating certain foods; but that was to teach them holiness, that His people must be separate and not mix improperly with other nations. But after Jesus’ earthly ministry, all foods were acceptable (*Mark 7:19*).

The danger of teaching abstinence is believing that doing or not doing something contributes to salvation, and that thinking is always false. Of course, we must always obey God’s Law, but that is not Paul’s concern here. A person might think that not eating certain food or avoiding sex/marriage will make him acceptable to God, this is false. If you want to abstain from those things, that is your choice, but abstinence will not make you acceptable to God. The only thing that makes you acceptable is trusting Jesus to be your Saviour. He did everything necessary for God to accept you. Now, live a life of love to God, and everything else will fall into place. Also, pay heed only to proper Bible teaching that points to Jesus Christ alone.

 **Question:** Are you trusting in something you do/don’t do to make you acceptable to God? If so, then stop it and trust Jesus alone.




Our Father, thank You for cleansing me from sin and for accepting me in Christ Jesus. Please give me the grace to grow in that trust every day. Through Christ I pray. Amen.


Friday, 22nd March 2024. In the last days’ difficult times will come; Text: 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Paul’s concern in this passage is about ungodly behaviour. Perhaps the worst one is “lovers of self” (3:2), because all other sins flow out of that one. In fact, self-love and self-service is the original sin of Adam and Eve – serving self rather than serving God. The problem is also a double-edged sword. Not only is the person intentionally serving self, but s/he is also actively focused **against** others. Look at the list. There are at least 17 more

items that are naturally anti-others. It is one thing to ignore others, it is quite another to be actively work against them. There is nothing neutral about these sins. "In the last days" people will be against others for the purpose of serving self.

But the problems listed in this passage are far more serious than they appear. Look at verse 5, "... *holding to a form of godliness.*" The problems Paul has in mind are in the church! A hurtful indifference to others will destroy a church. How much more destructive is behaviour that is intentionally anti-others. Jesus Christ came to serve His people, He lived perfect righteousness for them, and died to pay their sin penalty. Likewise, His people should give themselves in service to Him and to one another, because all believers are members of Christ's body. In fact, we should love everyone that way. By listing evil behaviour we must avoid, we are indirectly taught to love and serve one another with Christ-likeness.

 **Question:** *Jesus taught, "... do to others what you would have them do to you" (Luk.6:31). Are you treating others the way you want them to treat you?*


 **Our Father, we are most grateful that You are changing us from evil to good. Please give me the grace to love others, especially other believers, as Christ loves us. Through Him we pray. Amen.**

Saturday, 23rd March 2024. Proclaim the word of God; Text: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Before we consider the next "end times" passage, we need to read Apostle Paul's emphasis on the essential nature of Scripture for spiritual growth and maturity (3:16-17). We read today very important verses, "All Scripture is God-breathed ..." (3:16-17). Perhaps you can look at it again. Jesus Christ said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me ..." (John 4:34). As it was for Jesus, it is for us that our food is found in Scripture only, and we must feed upon it. Jesus, who is the Word of God in flesh (John 1:14), said of Himself that He is our food, and we must feed upon Him (John 6:35,53). Both are true. What we need of Jesus is found only in the Scripture, **properly** understood and taught (Rom.10:17).

Spiritual life and eternal salvation depend upon knowing and trusting Jesus Christ. The entirety of Scripture points to Jesus, moves toward Jesus, is fulfilled by Jesus, and continues in Jesus. If that proper teaching of Scripture is not provided, then the souls of believers will not be fed,

and unbelievers will not learn about salvation in Christ. Without physical food, the body dies. The same is true of spiritual food. Without it we die. Scripture says the righteous man feeds upon God's Word daily (*Ps.1:2*). Each and every day we must feed upon Jesus Christ, as we learn of Him in all the Scripture.

 **Question:** *Surely you are feeding your body each day. Are you also, each day, feeding your soul upon Christ, as He is found throughout God's word?*




Our Father, thank You for providing us with Jesus, found only in Your Word, as food for our souls. Impress upon us our need, and move us each day, to feed upon Your Word. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Sunday, 24th March 2024. Many people will not permit correct Bible teaching; Text: 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

Perhaps the most important tool for interpreting the Bible is context – context is King, context is the Key to interpretation. As we meditate on today's passage, let us remember what we learned from yesterday's passage, 3:14-17. Perhaps you can re-read that meditation. The time is coming, Paul says, when people will not tolerate proper teaching of the Bible, especially as it points to the Person and work of Jesus Christ. (4:3). What many people wanted in Paul's day was teaching that pleased them (4:3) rather than what God determined to be good for them, which is the entirety of Scripture. It all points to Christ. Ever since Adam disobeyed, people do not really want to hear what God has to say, even though it is absolutely necessary.

I think we can agree that Christ's Church has had that same attitude of compromise for the past 2000 years. Many Christians and churches today want what pleases the non-Christian culture around them, or they want teaching that approves of their sin. The only sure way to defeat error and false teaching is to have churches which teach the Bible faithfully and who will train their men to handle Scripture properly (2 Tim.2:15), especially as it points to Christ. You personally can help your church, even if you are not a trained "scholar". The Berean believers examined everything Paul taught them so that they could ensure that Paul was correct (*Acts 17:11*). So, whenever you hear a sermon or Bible lesson, Scripture assures you that you have the right to hold your teachers accountable to teach/preach what is consistent with the Bible.

 **Question:** *Are you willing to do the difficult, necessary work of examining Scripture and holding your pastor accountable?*




Our Father, thank You for providing teachers of Your Word. Please give my pastor grace to teach/preach correctly, especially focusing on our Saviour, as He is seen in Scripture. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Monday, 25th March 2024. In these last days he has spoken to us by the Son; Text: Hebrews 1:1-4

This book of Hebrews was written about 35 years after Jesus' earthly ministry. The writer is not known for certain, but his special concern was to show how Jesus was greatly superior to the worship God used to require, according to the law of Moses. Everything Moses taught was a pointer to the work of Christ. The writer refers to this revelation in Christ as "the last days." That phrase in this case refers to Jesus being the fulfillment of all the Scriptures before Him (*Mat.5:17*), it all pointed to Him – Jesus is the true Temple, the eternal High Priest, the perfect sacrifice for sin. Jesus is the final revelation from God forever. There will be no more revelation.

Let us note the phrase, "*He has spoken to us by His Son.*" Just as God spoke through the prophets in earlier times, so now God has spoken through His Son in the last days, the Son being equal with the Father (*John5:18*). The Father has no one higher to send with new revelation. Everything we need to know was given to the Son, and the Son gave it to His apostles, who wrote it in Scripture. The "*last days*" is about Jesus. There is only one "last days" of revelation, there is not going to be another "last days". Everything we need to know we have in Christ, in the Scripture. There is no new information coming. Please do not listen to those who say that God has spoken to them. It is a deception. Therefore, be a diligent student of Scripture. That is where God will speak to you.

 **Question:** *Are you reading God's word, the Bible? As you do, are you listening to God's "voice" there, especially as He points you to Jesus?*





Our Father, thank You for speaking to Your people in Scripture. Please keep me attentive. Make me see Jesus, love Him, and trust Him. Through Him I pray. Amen.

Tuesday, 26th March 2024. He was foreknown ... made manifest in the last times; 1 Peter 1:14-21

Today's passage will focus again on the "last times" being about the work of Jesus Christ. Peter begins by reminding his readers that their salvation from their sin penalty did not come cheaply or easily. We deserved to die for our sin (*disobedience to God*), which is separation from God forever. Being saved from that penalty would be absolutely impossible for any of us to attain by our own abilities. But Jesus accomplished it perfectly with the cost to Him of His blood, meaning, His death paid the death penalty of His people. None of our money, efforts, or sacrifices could do it. God, the eternal Son, had to come to earth, take on full human nature, live perfect righteousness, and then pay our death penalty, which satisfied God's demands for justice. Christ's resurrection proves His work is complete.

A correct theology of salvation is essential. In today's reading Peter is also pointing us to the necessity of practical holy living *because* of what Jesus Christ accomplished. If salvation is based on what a person does, then holy living becomes an option. But because God Himself accomplished everything necessary for our salvation, then the way we live matters. You have grievously offended your Creator and Master, and you deserve His condemnation. Yet, amazingly, He is the One who paid your penalty. It is a marvel that can never be fully comprehended. But we understand it enough, and are able to appreciate it enough, to know that we need to live in a way that proves we belong to this great salvation.

 **Question:** *Are you living like a person who was saved by God from the misery of hell?! To live a grateful life, you need His grace! Pray for it and live it.*

 **Our Father, thank You for Your amazing salvation. Please give me Your grace to live like one who belongs to Christ and to appreciate what He did for me. For His honour I pray. Amen.**

Wednesday, 27th March 2024. Scoffers will come in the last days; Text: 2 Peter 3:1-4

Apostle Peter is bringing a word of caution to his readers. "In the last days" (*which we have been in since the time of Christ*) there will be people who mock Christ, Christians, and Christian beliefs. One of the original doctrines of our faith is that Jesus would return and take His followers to be with Him forever. Just as Scripture promised that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem (*Mic.5:2*), even so Jesus will return a second time. But mockers

were saying, “So where is your Saviour? Everything is the same as it always has been. He is not returning. It is just a lie, and you are a fool to believe it.” But the truth is, the mockers want to live according to their own sinful desires (3:3), and believing that Jesus will return spoils their behaviour.

There are still mockers today, mocking our faith. True, for 2000 years there has been no indication of Christ’s return. But our faith is not based on what we can see. Everything about our faith is based only on what God said in Scripture and on nothing else. Jesus Himself said that He was going to return (*Mat.24:27*). The time is not for us to know, but we simply trust His Word that He will return. The purchase-price for our redemption had an eternal cost, and He paid it in full. Jesus is not going to abandon us. He probably will not return in our life-time, but He will return. When He returns is His business. For our part we must live for Him as if He were returning tomorrow.

 **Question:** *There are many people who say faith is silly. Are you willing to persevere by faith in God’s Word?*




Our Father, I do believe what You say in your Word. Please keep me in the faith. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.


Thursday, 28th March 2024. It is the last hour, and antichrist is coming; 1 John 2:18-23

John’s phrase “the last hour” is similar to “last days” (2 *Tim.3:1*). Twice in *verse 18*, John mentions an identifier of the last hour – the presence of anti-christs and wrong teachings about Christ. Of course, the world is full of religions that do not include Jesus Christ, but John’s warning is about those who have some of the truth (v.19) but reject essential doctrines about Christ. In *verse 22*, John mentions denial of Jesus as being the Christ. They do not deny that Jesus was a real person who was born in Bethlehem, who died on a cross, etc., but they denied that Jesus was the Christ (4:2). Some people thought it was wrong to believe that Christ was a common human being. But we must remember, Christ had to be human in order to accomplish salvation for humans.

Today there is another very popular anti-Christ doctrine, which teaches that Jesus is human but not divine, not God. This is one of the doctrines of the Jehovah’s Witnesses. They teach that Jesus is God’s first and greatest creation and he became a lesser god. Another sad case is from an on-line survey (from Ligonier Ministries) that says 30% of evangelicals in the USA do not believe Jesus is divine. Please remember, if Jesus was not God and

human, then it would not have been possible for Him to bear and satisfy God's judgment against human sin. Jesus said, "unless you believe that I am He you will die in your sins" (John 8:24). What you believe matters, especially about Jesus Christ. If you reject the divinity of Christ, then you cannot enter His kingdom.


 **Question:** *Do you believe and trust that Jesus is a divine person, that He is God? It is essential, because everything, everyone else is just a creation and cannot save you.*

 **Our Father, I believe that Jesus is a divine Person, Your eternal Son. Increase my belief each day. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.**

Friday, 29th March 2024. Every tribe, language, nation, people; Text: Revelation 5:1-10

Apostle John is the human writer of this book, and in this chapter he describes a vision God gave him, a vision of being in the throne room of God. God the Father, seated on the throne, has in His hand a scroll of revelation. The only person worthy to read the scroll was Jesus Christ, who is seen by John as a Lamb slaughtered. Jesus is praised for His worthiness to read the scroll because He purchased people from every tribe, language, nation, and people-group on earth. The purchase price was not gold or silver. Justice demands that sinners should die, and Jesus had to pay the death penalty for all those who belong to Him. Like lambs that were sacrificed in ancient Israel, even so Jesus, the Lamb of God, was killed for His people.

A similar scene is found in *Revelation 7:9*, where John saw all the redeemed gathered together around the Lamb, who was upon the throne. John is looking into the future, which is still future for us. We are living in the time of the gathering, as it was in the time of the apostles. At our time in history, there are still many language groups that have not yet heard about Jesus. We do not know when Jesus is going to return, but if there will be people from every tribe and language, then the end is not yet here. And even when the Good Message has reached every people-group, there is still no specific time when Jesus will return. Let us wait patiently and contribute to the gathering. Jesus will return when God's plan for it arrives.

 **Question:** *There are people in Uganda, in East Africa, and around the world who have not yet heard the Good Message of Jesus Christ. What are you doing to help bring the message to them?*



Our Father, the field is ripe for the harvest. Please send more workers into the field. If there's something I can do, please show me, and give me the grace to do it. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday, 30th March 2024. The new heaven, the new earth, and a new existence; Text: Revelation 21:1-4

Apostle John gives us a look into the future, beyond the last day, into our eternal estate. God is going to destroy our present heaven and earth (2 Pet.3:12), because they are cursed by Adam's sin, and make new righteous ones (Isa. 65:17), which will be our home forever. How it looks like we are not told, but it will be blessed. In our passage the people of God are symbolized as a city, "**new Jerusalem**", which comes down from heaven and settles on the new earth. A city is meant to have inhabitants, and new Jerusalem will be the home of God. God will dwell among His people, who are referred to as "*a bride adorned for her husband*." Our husband is Jesus Christ, the last Adam, who brings renewal because of His righteousness, and we all, as one unified nation, will be married to Him.

John also mentions another aspect of our eternal existence. He writes that there will be no more sadness of any kind; there will be nothing to cause sadness – no death, no pain, nothing. That might seem obvious, because God will be dwelling with us, His bride, and within us, His city. So of course there cannot be any bad thing. What the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us was more than delivering us out of condemnation. He has brought us into an eternal existence that is more blessed than we can imagine. But that future is also now. Even now you are a citizen of that city and you are journeying to it. Persevere!



? Question: Just as there will be a future new heaven and a new earth, even so you are a new creature in Christ now (2Cor.5:17). Are you living like that?




Our Father, thank You for purchasing for me eternal life in Your glorious Kingdom. Please increase my desire and ability to stay close to Christ, as He brings me there. In His name I pray. Amen.

Sunday, 31st March 2024. You have the right to the tree of life; Text: Revelation 22:12-14

We have come to the last chapter in the Bible, which looks beyond the last days and into the beginning of eternal life. In the section we read for

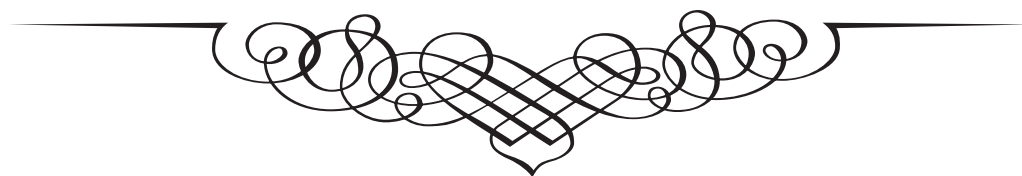
today, we have a great promise that reverses the curse brought upon us by Adam's sin. In Genesis 3, we read about Adam and Eve disobeying God by eating the forbidden fruit. God did not want them to then eat from the tree of life, because that would have locked them into their new condition of sin and depravity (3:22). So, God graciously sent them out of the garden and set a guard at the entrance. Humanity must wait for the Redeemer to accomplish righteousness and restore fellowship with God (3:15).

The waiting ended 2000 years ago. Jesus Christ is that Redeemer who reversed the curse brought by Adam. Jesus lived a perfect righteous life for His people, paid their death penalty, then came back to life, which broke the power of death over us; so that they could *live with God forever*. As our passage today indicates, our robes have been washed, meaning, we have been cleansed by the blood/death of Christ (Rev.7:14). Therefore, the curse of Adam has no power over us, and we are invited to eat of the tree of life. We are welcomed and locked-in to eternal life. This is not something we could ever have done by our own strength or wisdom. God has done it all for us, graciously, and has given it to us as a gift.

 **Question:** *When the Lord Jesus brings you in to eat from the tree of life, will you hesitate? That tree is symbolic of what you have now.*

 Please, eat of the tree, which is Jesus Christ (John 6:35,53).

Our Father, thank You for cleansing me from my sin by the blood of Jesus Christ, and for the promise of eternal life because of that. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



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