



Day Break with

BIBLE READING

JANUARY - MARCH 2025

“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, 2025 is: ***"Imitating God's goodness by doing good"*** [Galatians 6:9-10; 3 John 11]. ***The theme is calling us not to be weary in doing good. As a body of Christ, we have the responsibility to do good and help mankind, especially those in Christ and in need. We should imitate God who does good to us so that we do good to others. Let us avoid tyranny and resist the temptation to respond in kind.*** 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 it in our lives! 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 praise God for He has brought us into this new year 2025! This first quarter we shall focus on three topics: **1). God is good; 2). Experiencing God's goodness and 3). Carriers of God's goodness**

For each topic, 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

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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, question or challenge for the day, and*
- (iv) A suggested prayer.*

It is advised/urged 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; confess your sins and seek God's forgiveness, invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you listen to God through His Word; (ii) read the text slowly and meditatively.

As you read and meditate: (i) take notes of any important convictions you encounter, including but not limited to: (ii) the pick for the day as italicized in the notes, and (iii) your own 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.

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THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2025

GOD IS GOOD



"God is good, all the time; and all the time, God is good. That is His nature!" Many times, we have repeated that little refrain, which is the clear teaching of Scripture (Ps.119:68). And yet we also refer to people, things, etc. as being good, even though nothing is like God (Isa.40:25). So, what does "good" mean? A quick look at any dictionary shows that the entry for "good" is very lengthy, and it has many meanings and uses.

For this month, as we meditate on the theme of "God Is Good", we will confine the meaning of "good" to biblical usages, such as: righteous, morally upright, virtuous, etc., including virtues such as kindness, mercy, compassion, etc. God is virtuous because He is good, and in these lessons, we will see especially that Jesus Christ is good, and that in Christ we can be good and do good

Wednesday, 1st January 2025. Creation is good because God is good.**Text: Genesis 1:1-31**

Before God created the universe, only God existed, nothing else existed. He existed eternally as three distinct persons (*Father, Son, Holy Spirit*), without beginning, without limits, relying on nothing, having all being within Himself, fully satisfied and content, needing nothing, and in His essence perfectly good (*1Jhn.1:5*). At some point God created everything (*Gen.1:1*) by the word of His power. It should be expected that everything the Good Being creates will be good, just as an evil being will fashion evil things. Thus, when God finished creating, He declared His creation to be "very good" (*Gen.1:31*), meaning perfect according to His plan and purpose for all things.

God created man morally good but with the ability to choose evil, to disobey his Creator (*sin*), which Adam did. As a result, humanity became naturally evil, anti-God. Consequently, there is no possible way for us to get ourselves back to God. However, the God who created all things out of nothing made a new creation, re-creating some who were spiritually dead, making them alive with His indwelling Holy Spirit and uniting them to His eternal Son. Jesus Christ took on human nature, lived a perfect righteous life, died on the cross to pay for the sin-penalty of His people, and the third day came back to life, guaranteeing eternal life with God. *Like Lazarus being raised from the grave, we are raised with Jesus*. Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: *You have been created by God and are a new creation in Christ Jesus. Pray for God's grace to put off the old sinful ways and live according to His goodness.*



Prayer: Our Father, You are so good to have made me one of Your people. Please give me grace to live as one who is a new creation in Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Thursday, 2nd January 2025. God provides perfect companionship.**Text: Genesis 2:7-25**

When Yahweh made everything, He did not intend for things to maintain themselves. Actually, nothing can keep itself existing, not even a rock. God is constantly upholding or sustaining all things by the word of His power (*Heb.1:3*). When the Lord made man, it is not because He needed help; Yahweh needs nothing. Man was created to worship God, to enjoy God and His creation, and to care for the garden as Yahweh's image bearer. However, the Good Creator stated that it was not good for man to be alone. So, the Creator took one of the man's ribs and made the woman

with it. This illustrates the intimacy between husband and wife. (*We are not told which rib was used, but I tend to think it was one over the heart*).

Did God make a mistake? Was He learning how to make things as He went along? Of course not! Creating the man alone, and declaring the aloneness is not good. It is meant for our instruction about the nature of God, about human society generally, and, especially, about the unique, intimate nature of marriage. Spouses are no longer two individuals, but *one flesh!* (*Gen.2:24; Mat.19:6*) God knew aloneness was not good because God has never been alone; He is three Persons, same substance. Since man is created in the image of God, God made Eve from Adam's substance *and they had a perfect relationship that reflected the image of God*. This also gives us important insight into the intimacy of union of believers to Jesus Christ (*Rom.6:5*). Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: *To those who are married, you must consider yourself as being one with your spouse. Do not live as two, but live as one. Grow in your understanding of that.*



Prayer: Our Father, please grant me the grace I need to understand, desire, and live as one with my spouse. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Friday, 3rd January 2025. God's goodness in providing a substitute. Text: Genesis 3:1-24

If you did not read this whole chapter, please do so now. It is part of Scripture's foundation. When God created Adam, Adam was required to care for the garden, to make it productive, *and to glorify God by his work*. God also commanded Adam not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If he did, he would die physically and be condemned to eternal separation from God; Hell! Adam did eat, yet Adam and Eve did not die but continued to live. Why? Because God chose to be merciful and forgiving; He gave a promise of grace; a promise to give them a Saviour, a man (*"seed of the woman", v.15*) who would be their substitute and pay their sin penalty.

The substitution principle of salvation begins in this chapter. Adam and Eve's effort to cover their shame could not satisfy God's justice. God still required the death penalty for sin. As we know from Scripture, animal deaths substituted for man's sin-penalty. In today's passage, God killed an animal instead of Adam and Eve, and the effectiveness of the animal's death was applied to them when the animal's hide was put on them as clothing. When God looked at them, He saw the animal hide and accepted the death of the

substitute. But an animal death is only temporary, it is a pointer to the One who would be the perfect substitute. *Those who belong to God's grace are now clothed with Jesus Christ (Rom.13:14).* Indeed, God is good!



Question: *As you think about judgment day, are you trying to cover yourself with what you think is acceptable to God, or have you put on Christ?*



Prayer: Our Father, thank You for clothing me with the perfection of Jesus. Please give me the desire and ability to walk before You in Him. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Saturday, 4th January 2025. God uses evil for His good purposes. Text: Genesis 50:15-21

In this story about Joseph (*Gen.37:39-50*), we see that God uses very bad circumstances when working out His plans. We must understand Joseph's bad situation as part of God's eternal purpose. It is not because God is able to look into the future and see the problems and then weave them into His design. Before anything was created, the bad circumstances Joseph experienced were part of God's original design for Joseph and for redemption. When Joseph was still with his family, God gave him two dreams about how he was going to be a ruler (*Gen.37*); but the details of that were not revealed to him. In the end, he understood that the evils he faced were used by God for good.

There is another story in Scripture that brings a certain person to the highest place of rulership, but He first went through difficulties. That person is Jesus Christ. Jesus was promised to sit on the throne of His ancestor, King David; Jesus would be rejected by His brethren, other Jews; He would be imprisoned in the grave; but in the end He would be raised and seated on the right hand of God's throne. All these problems were planned by God (*Acts 4:28*) for our *redemption*. *We also can be confident that the problems in our lives are part of God's plan*, before anything was created, and everything is for our well-being (*Rom.8:28*). Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: *When difficulties enter your life, do not complain. They are God's plan for your good, for your sanctification, and for conforming you to the image of Christ.*



Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for making me understand that trouble is part of Your good plan for making me holy. Increase my

trust in Your grace. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Sunday, 5th January 2025. Imitate God's goodness by doing good.

Text: 1 Peter 1:13-16

Peter writes this general pastoral letter to believers who are scattered around the Roman Empire. He refers to them as exiles, which reminds readers of when God scattered the two parts of Israel (*10 tribes in the north and Judah in the south*). The Jews were sent away into foreign lands, and they would be among people who practiced pagan/false religions, and the pagan lifestyles would be against what God commands. The scattered Jews were not to believe or act as the pagans did; rather they were to be holy, meaning, living lives that were morally separate from the ungodly ways of the nations.

That is how Peter wants his readers to view their circumstances. They are not in a nation of disciples; they are scattered among pagans. During His earthly ministry Jesus lived in a world that was anti-God, and He lived pleasingly to His Father, perfectly satisfying God's commands. *Christ's disciples belong to, and are owned by Jesus*. They are to live before Him as holy (*morally and ethically separate from the world*), because He Himself is holy. A holy life is not for the purpose of gaining salvation. Salvation is given by God as a free gift of grace, which is received by faith. The proper response to such a gift is living the way God commands us. God's Law are not burdensome; they are delightful and for our good. Indeed, God is good!



Question: *Are you living as if you have one foot in Christ's Kingdom and one foot in the world? If so, that is not discipleship to Jesus Christ. Ask for His forgiveness, and henceforth live a holy life of grateful obedience.*



Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me not to conform to the evil desires that I had before I received You as my Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Monday, 6th January 2025. God's goodness passes in front of Moses.

Text: Exodus 33:16-23

When Yahweh delivered His people out of slavery in Egypt, He brought them through the wilderness to Mt. Sinai. The people camped at the base of the mountain, while Moses went up the mountain to meet with God,

to receive His Law, and speak with Yahweh “mouth-to-mouth” (*Num.12:8*). God thought favorably of Moses, which Moses knew, so he asked to see God in all His glorious fullness. But no one can see God’s face and live (*Ex.33:20*). However, God was willing to let Moses see His back. As God passed by, He declared His name and His attributes: *Yahweh, gracious and merciful to whomever He pleases*.

Moses met with God mouth-to-mouth, yet no one can see God’s face and live. Is there a contradiction? Of course not! God never contradicts His own Word. We just need to study closely. The difference tells us something about the nature of God. Scripture presents the one God existing as three distinct, equal, divine persons, yet still one being (*e.g., Ex.3:2,4*). The doctrine of the Trinity unfolds slowly over time, but it is there. Though Moses was not permitted to see the face of God, yet his meeting mouth-to-mouth was still a meeting with God (*Ex.19:3*). That person Moses saw was Jesus Christ (*Jhn.14:9*). Your Redeemer is a great God. Indeed, God is great!



Challenge: *Whenever you think of Jesus, be sure to remember that your Saviour is God!*



Prayer: Almighty God, I praise you for who you are: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; forever beyond full comprehension. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Tuesday, 7th January 2025. God’s goodness to Joshua. Text: Jos.1:1-9

Moses was Israel’s great leader and deliverer, the one who spoke with Yahweh “mouth-to-mouth.” When Moses died, Israel surely would have felt a huge loss. Perhaps they even questioned what would happen to them as a nation. Today’s passage shows us that Joshua sensed his own leadership inadequacy. We know that because Yahweh spoke to him with very strong and encouraging words (*please re-read vv.3,5,6,9*). Israel knew God chose Joshua as their next leader (*Num.27:18-21*), but they were still not sure about him (*please read Jos.3:7 now*). Yahweh gave Joshua a very assuring promise – *“Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you” (v.5)*.

The promise of God’s presence with Israel is the focus of God’s covenant with His people (*please read Ex.6:7*). As Yahweh promised His presence, so Jesus Christ promises His presence with us. Before Jesus ascended, He promised His disciples, “I am with you always” (*Mat.28:20*). One of the biggest temptations in life is money, the love of it or loss of it. But the writer of Hebrews encourages us that we do not need to worry about

money, because God promised, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you"* (Heb.13:5). God can be present with us, because the barrier of our sin was removed when Jesus paid our sin-penalty of death. Many of the great promises given to Joshua are promises for us as well. Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: Please note in today's passage how God requires of those who belong to His promises that we must walk before Him obediently – not to get salvation, but because salvation was given freely (vv.7,8).



Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the promise of Your presence. Make me aware of it always. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Wednesday, 8th January 2025. God is our Good Shepherd. Text: Psalm 23:1-6

King David was a shepherd before he became King, and caring for sheep (*which are stupid and weak*) gave him many insights into God's care for us. According to the Psalm, sheep that have a good shepherd will have all their needs supplied; they will have a good place to rest, eat, and drink, so that they are healthy; and when the shepherd leads them to another location, it is a good path. Even when there is danger, the shepherd will protect them, so sheep do not fear. Verse 5 is written from the view of a guest, who is treated very well by the host, and the enemies will be envious. David has every reason to believe that he will receive only good in God's eternal Kingdom.

This is the same assurance Christ's disciples have. Jesus Christ said, of Himself, that He is the Good Shepherd, to the point that He gives His very own life to save the lives of His sheep (*Jhn.10:11*). *Though we will face many difficulties in this life, Jesus is always with us protecting us and providing for us.* He put an end to the biggest problem – our sin penalty, so we know He will care for all our needs. On our side, we must stay close to the Shepherd. Stay close to the Shepherd and not stray. Depend fully on His grace to do that. One day we will be raised to eternal life and be with Him forever. Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: Memorize Psalm 23 and recite it often. Start today. You'll be glad you did.



Prayer: Our Father, thank You for giving us the Good Shepherd, Your Son, Jesus. Please give us grace to stay close to Him. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Thursday, 9th January 2025. Taste and see that Yahweh is good. Text: Psalm 34:1-9

Hebrew verse one tells us this Psalm was written by David, before he became King of Israel. When King Saul was trying to kill him. David hid in a Philistine city and pretended to be a mad man so that those enemies would not kill him (*cf.*, *1Sam.21*). God sends His protection: the Angel of Yahweh encamps, or dwells, or is stationed around David. David invites those who do not know Yahweh to “*taste and see that Yahweh is good*” (*v.8*). What David means by “taste” is that unbelievers should turn from their lives without God and put their trust in Him. They will be protected by taking refuge in Yahweh.

As David was in danger from Saul and the Philistines, so we are in danger from anti-God, spiritual forces of wickedness (*Eph.6:11*). For God to be a wall surrounding His people is protection that can never be breached. The Angel of Yahweh is Jesus Christ (*cf.*, *Gen.16:7-13; Jn.14:9*). Because believers are united to Christ’s perfect life, death, and resurrection, we are safe from everything that tries to pull us away from God. If you sense that your soul is in danger from evil forces or from God’s condemnation against your sin, please flee to Jesus Christ, confess your sins, and trust Him for your soul’s protection. He will not turn you away, and you will bear witness that, indeed, God is good!



Challenge: *By your own strength you can neither stand against evil nor against God's condemnation. Please, trust Jesus to be your Saviour and Protector.*



Prayer: Our Father, thank You for Your grace in protecting me from evil. By Your grace, keep me in Jesus. In His name, I pray. Amen.

Friday, 10th January 2025. God is faithful to all generations. Text: Psalm 100:1-5

The human author of this Psalm is not known, but we do know the purpose. The first verse in the Hebrew Scripture is, “A Psalm of Praise” or “A Psalm of Thanksgiving”, and this Psalm is a call to every person in the world to worship the Creator. The great majority of humanity is trusting and serving something else, but the writer is saying, because we are created by Yahweh, then we owe Him our obedience and worship. Since He is Creator, then He is also the Provider, which the writer implies by calling us sheep (*v.3*). So, we must also give Him thanks.

As we considered yesterday, Jesus Christ is our Good Shepherd. All things were created through Jesus (*Jhn.1:3*), and He sustains everything by the word of His power (*Heb.1:3*). He receives anyone who comes to Him (*Mt.11:28*), and He casts away no one (*Jhn.6:37*). Therefore, He is worthy of everyone's praise, trust, gratitude, and love. Every Sunday, every human being in the world should be at some place of Christian worship listening to God's word and giving Jesus Christ praise and honour. Of course, we know that's not going to happen, but that is what the Psalmist is proclaiming to the world in every era. God's steadfast love is forever, and His faithfulness is for all generations. Indeed, God is good!



Question: *Have you answered Scripture's call to worship the Creator? Is there someone or something else you are trusting and serving?*



Prayer: Our Father, please give me increasing grace to keep my affections for, and trust in, Jesus. For His glory I pray. Amen.

Saturday, 11th January 2025. God is good and does good. Text: Psalm 119:65-72

Psalm 119 is an acrostic, which means, the first letter of the first word of each verse follows the order of the Hebrew alphabet. In *Psalm 119* each verse in each group of 8 verses begins with the same Hebrew letter. Sadly, we do not see that in translations. Also noteworthy about *Psalm 119* is, every verse is about the Law of God, or similar word (*precepts, statutes, etc.*). The word of God is central and foundational to our faith (*v.65*). In fact, the Bible is all we have to instruct us in what we need to know and believe about God, and to know what God wants us to do. *Without God's Word, we have nothing.*

Three times the writer emphasizes the principal of discipline. He states in *verse 67*, before I was afflicted, I went astray, and in *verse 71*, affliction caused me to learn your law. When a child of God goes astray, Yahweh sends difficulties to him (*perhaps financial, conscience, etc.*). So, the person will return to God and His Law, which protects and guides (*please read Amos 4:10*). Sadly, in this life even believers still wander, so we always need the Saviour. Jesus lived a perfect life, obeyed God's Law for His people, and the Father accepts Christ's righteousness on our behalf. Because Yahweh is good, we must seek His Law (*v.68*) - His word is better than money (*v.72*) - and we will surely see that, indeed; God is good!



Challenge: *Each day you must be reading something from God's word. One chapter per day and you can read the entire Bible in about 3½ years. Read more and finish even sooner.*



Prayer: Heavenly Father, instill in me a constant hunger and thirst for Your Word. In Jesus' name, amen.

Sunday, 12th January 2025. Understanding God's goodness. Text: Ezekiel 20:3-9 (and verses 14,22,44)

In this chapter Yahweh rebukes Israel, because when they were in slavery, He told them He would deliver them, so they should stop their idolatry. But they would not. But He graciously delivered them, anyway, for the sake of the honour of His name. In the wilderness, God gave Israel His law, but they disobeyed. He said He would destroy them. Yet, for the sake of the honour of His name, He did not; because He promised to give them the land. When Israel was in the promised land, they continued to worship false gods. So, He expelled them into Babylon. Again, Yahweh returned them to the land for the sake of the honour of His name.

To understand God's goodness, we must see that God acts for the sake of honouring His name before the world. *He keeps covenant for His name's sake.* When He judges and condemns, it is for the sake of His honour. When He chooses to be merciful and give grace, it is for the sake of His name. In raising Jesus from the dead, it was for the honour of His name and for vindicating His Son (*Ps.43:1; Jn.17:1*). But God also shares His honour with those who will honour Him (*1Sam.2:30; Mt.10:32; 2Cor.3:18; Jam.4:10*). We do not honour the triune God for the purpose of receiving honour. We honour God because He alone is worthy, even if we receive nothing. But He has said He will honour us. Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: *Bow before Yahweh, be humble before Him, honour Him above all, and in due time He will lift you up.*



Prayer: Heavenly Father, you are most worthy of honour and praise. I give it to you gladly. Increase your grace to me, so that I may honour you, Your Son, and Your Spirit, more and more. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Monday, 13th January 2025. Text: Yahweh is good to all. Text: Psalm 145:1-21.

Verses 4-6 focus on the works of Yahweh. Looking around we can easily

see the works of humanity. But when looking with the eyes of faith, the works of God are clearly visible. He is the one who created all things from nothing, sustains all things by the word of His power, causes all things to happen according to His eternal decree, and His providence is everywhere. Nothing is outside of God's work, but He is not the author of sin. Yahweh is also the one who gives skill and wisdom to workers to do their labors and earn.

But *God's greatest work is the salvation of fallen humanity, bringing life out of death.* Salvation from God's condemning justice against sinners is accomplished entirely without man's contribution; it is accomplished only by Jesus Christ, who is God the eternal Son. The good work of Christ is: perfect obedience to God's Law; the payment of His people's death penalty; His resurrection, which guarantees we will rise with Him to eternal life with God; and His return to the throne, where He reigns. This Psalm calls us to open our eyes and see that God is gracious and merciful to everything He has made. Let us, with David, give thanks to God and bless Him (*v.10*). Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: *If the thoughts of this Psalm are correct (and they are), then you must never complain again!*



Prayer: Our Father, Creator of all things, You are gracious, merciful, and patient to all You have made, especially to me. Thank You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Tuesday, 14th January 2025. By His stripes we are healed. Text: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

Some have called this passage the fifth gospel. In the Scriptures before Christ, there is no other passage that speaks so directly and clearly about the atoning sacrifice of Messiah the man. At the end of *chapter 52*, we read about a wise man, the Servant of Yahweh, who will suffer, and yet be a blessing to the nations. In *chapter 53*, we read first that He appears as a plant, a root out of dry ground, spiritual fruitfulness in a spiritual wasteland. From a human perspective, He was undesirable in appearance and stateliness; so, He was despised and rejected by the people. And yet He willingly took upon Himself the people's transgressions and iniquities, and gave Himself to be crushed by God for them.

This is the goodness of Christ Jesus for us. Jesus entered our existence not when Israel was spiritually mature, not when love for God was strong,

not when the people were zealous for obeying God's Law. Jesus came into a world that was spiritually parched, even in Israel (*read Ezk.37:1-14*). When Jesus was arrested, He was mocked, beaten mercilessly, stripped, and nailed to a cross. It was there that God the Father put on Jesus the transgressions of His people and then turned away. Jesus died absolutely alone and tortured. But it was for His people, and on the third day He returned to life. Those who trust Jesus for salvation are guaranteed eternal life with God. Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: *There are many things about Jesus to remember, but don't ever forget what He did for you on the cross for the purpose of keeping you out of hell.*



Prayer: Heavenly Father, I cannot thank You enough. Keep these things close to my mind, heart, and life. For the glory of Christ, I pray. Amen.

Wednesday, 15th January 2025. I have plans for you. Text: Jeremiah 29:4-14

Jeremiah was a prophet to Judah and had the task of preaching to people who would not listen to him.

A century earlier, the ten northern tribes (*Kingdom of Israel*) were destroyed by God, because they abandoned Yahweh (*idolatry*), never to return. The southern Kingdom of Judah was in the early stages of exile in Babylon because of their idolatry, but God promised to return them after 70 years (*v.10*). Jeremiah is writing to those exiles to encourage them with that promise from Yahweh. They *should not live their lives as if they are defeated*. They should live a normal life, and God will restore them when His time is right.

Yahweh is still speaking to them through Prophet Jeremiah, so that they know He has not abandoned them. Even in exile because of idolatry, if they will pursue God with all their heart, God will hear them (*vv.12-13*). The reason is because of His faithfulness to His covenant, which, at that time, was moving toward Messiah Jesus. Now, in our present era, Christians are in a kind of exile, though not because of sin. We are scattered around the world. Yet, because we are united to Christ, God will always be with us (*Jhn.10:28-29*). There will be times when our sin causes us to sense a distancing from God. Confess and repent. God has promised that believers will never be abandoned. Indeed, God is good!



Question: *God is still speaking to His people through His word, the Bible. Are you reading Scripture every day?*



Prayer: Our Father, please forgive my negligence and strengthen me to spend time with Your Word every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thursday, 16th January 2025. Yahweh is good to those who wait for Him. Text: Lamentations 3:21-26

Scholars disagree on who wrote Lamentations. A lamentation is an expression of sorrow. Whomever the prophet is, he wrote after the people of Judah were exiled to Babylon, and the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem were destroyed. A look at the first part of this chapter shows how distressed the prophet is. He is still in the city, and the destruction is all around him. The prophet is a believer, but he feels like God is against him (v.3), and so he has no peace in his soul (v.17). But in the midst of his struggles of faith, he eventually remembers that the “*steadfast love of Yahweh never ceases*” and His mercies “are new every morning” (vv22-23) – even in sorrow.

Never think God is unconcerned for our welfare or is against us. Because of His attributes (*character traits*), we know He cannot stop loving believers, and He constantly gives them His mercy and grace. During difficulties, when we have reminded ourselves of God's love, and when we have decided to be patient (v.26); we will see that Yahweh is good (v.25), and what He brings into our lives is for our good (Rom.8:28). The torments described in this chapter are what Jesus faced during His last days; but He put Himself into the care of His Father. On the third day He was vindicated – raised and seated at God's right hand. Since Christ did that amazing work for you, surely you can say, “Indeed, God is good!”



Challenge: *When you face a difficulty, tell yourself now that you will wait upon God to do His work. It will be for your good and for His glory.*



Prayer: Heavenly Father, I am not patient in trials. Please give me grace to wait for You, and make me know full well that all You do is good for me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Friday, 17th January 2025. Come in fear to Yahweh's goodness. Text: Hosea 3:1-5

Hosea prophesied against the 10 northern tribes (*called Israel*) and he wrote his book in the mid-8th century BC. Israel was prospering materially;

but they were poor spiritually. The worship of Yahweh had been forgotten long before. In chapter one, God told Hosea to marry a woman who would be unfaithful to him, just as Israel was unfaithful to Yahweh. Apparently, she left him! Because, in chapter 3, God calls Hosea to marry another woman, an adulterous idolater. Who is that second wife of God that is symbolized by Hosea's second wife? According to Apostle Paul, that woman is the gentiles, who were once *"Not My People"*, who will then say to Yahweh, *"My God"* (*Rom.9:24-26; Hos.2:23*).

God's plan of salvation was revealed to Israel, and unfolded through them, especially in the Temple service of priests, sacrifices, etc. Sadly, Israel was almost always unfaithful (*like Hosea's first wife*). All the Temple service pointed to Jesus Christ, the perfect Priest, Sacrifice, etc. Eventually, He fulfilled all the symbolism of the Temple, and in the "last days" (*3:5; Heb.1:2*) the reality of Jesus Christ went out to the world. The gentiles (*like Hosea's second wife*) are coming in fear to Yahweh's goodness. Fear is more than being afraid. Fear includes awe and reverence. Gentiles, who did not seek for God, have been graciously captured by God and brought into His goodness. Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: *You once were an enemy of God, an idolater, not belonging to Him, and you deserved condemnation. Therefore, give God your life of love and gratitude for His goodness to you.*



Prayer: Heavenly Father, make me always grateful that You came after me and brought me into Your Kingdom. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Saturday, 18th January 2025. Yahweh says, I will heal their apostasy. Text: Hosea 14:1-7

In this book "Israel" refers to the ten northern tribes which broke away from the tribe of Judah. In the previous chapters God had some very strong things to say against Israel because of their spiritual depravity. He expressed His love for them (*11:8*), but He largely spoke words of warning and condemnation. In their beginning, the ten northern tribes worshipped calf images and stated that they were the gods who delivered them from Egypt (*1 Kin.12:28*). Then they quickly worshipped the gods of the surrounding nations, committing idolatry, spiritual adultery. But Yahweh is faithful to His covenant of grace; so, He called them back to Himself and promised to heal their apostasy.

Yahweh made a covenant with Israel's forefather, Abraham, that would be unfolded within the nation of Israel, would be fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and eventually would include the gentiles. There was no possible way that God's covenant could fail because of Israel's faithlessness. He loves them in spite of their sin, but for the honour of His name, He will expel them from His land, and never to return, unless they repent before then. In several years from Hosea's writing Israel will be destroyed, but God's program would continue in Judah, which is where the Temple is located. Until then, *Yahweh lovingly calls the wayward northern tribes to return to Him*. Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: *Are you presently wandering away from the Lord Jesus Christ? If so, confess and repent before your last day comes (you know not when), and you are cast away from God forever.*



Prayer: Father in Heaven, please keep me close to Jesus. When I wander, please call me back quickly. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sunday, 19th January 2025. The promise of God's goodness. Text: Deuteronomy 28:1-14

This book is the last words of Moses before he dies and shortly before Joshua leads the people of Israel into the promised land. In this chapter, Moses emphasizes the blessings the people will receive as long as when they walk obediently keeping with God's commands. Of course, the people will have to work diligently, but they will reap and produce bountifully, their cattle will increase greatly, they will be successful against their enemies, the weather will be favorable, and their children will be plentiful. Fourteen verses are about the blessings Yahweh will pour out onto His people. BUT, if Israel does not live obediently to His Law, then the next 54 verses are all about the curses God will bring upon them.

God had already, graciously, delivered His people from slavery, just as He promised Abraham (*Gen. 15:13*). As saved people, Israel must live obediently to their Saviour; and if they do not, then God will remove them from His land. The same is true for Christians today. We have been saved by the grace of God in Christ and not by anything we do. Those who belong to Christ must live like they belong to Him. If a person says he is a disciple of Christ but does not live obediently to Him, perhaps he is not saved really, and he will be removed from God's Kingdom. Therefore, *live obediently to God, who has freely given you His eternal Kingdom*. Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: *There's an old song, "Count Your Blessings". It's actually easy to do, because everything you have or don't have is from God's eternal plan for your good. So, thank Him!*



Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for all Your blessings to me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Monday, 20th January 2025. Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God. Text: Micah 6:1-8

Today's passage begins with a reminder from God to His people about His goodness to them, a reminder He often gives. When they were enslaved to Egypt, He delivered them, rescued them from the schemes of Balaam and Balak, defeated other enemies, led them across the Jordan, and brought them to the promised land. The implication is clear: *because Yahweh saved them, they owe Him their love, gratitude, and obedience.* Even though the people were giving the animal sacrifices God commanded (*which was right to do*), and even if they gladly sacrificed their children to God (*which He definitely did not require*), they were neglecting more important things: to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God (v.8).

Human beings naturally think that devotion to God is about outward deeds and does not include the heart and mind. What Jesus said of the religious authorities is true for all: they were good at things like tithing, but they neglected the greater requirements of the law: justice, mercy, faithfulness (*Mat.23:23*). *These are matters of the heart.* The same is true for us today. It is easy to do the visible things (*Bible reading, worship, etc.*); but God calls us to live our lives by a converted heart. Because it is impossible for us to do that, Jesus lived for us the perfect life God requires, and then He gave us the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us and changes us. Indeed, God is good!



Question: *Take a moment and examine your life. Are you trying to please God by your outward deeds, or are you trusting only in Jesus and letting Him change your heart?*



Prayer: Father in Heaven, please give me grace so that my outward deeds are the result of a new heart. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Tuesday, 21st January 2025. Be perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect. Text: Matthew 5:43-48

This passage is part of the Sermon on the Mount (*Mat.5-7*). Apparently, the

Jewish leaders were teaching that we must hate our enemies, but love our neighbors. That might seem logical to some people, but that is not the way God acts. If Jesus tells us to love our enemies as our Heavenly Father does, then it must be that God also loves the enemies. But God is still angry when people ignore Him and disobey. God's love is seen in His grace, mercy, and generosity, even for those who hate Him. An example of God's love is when He sends His rain and sun and all good gifts to everyone (*Mat.5:45*). We also are to love everyone, as God does.

Perhaps there are people you do not like, especially people who do not like you. You still must love them. Love considers others as precious, and love works for the well-being of others. *Exodus 23:4* says, if you see your enemy's donkey going astray, bring it back to him. Love even helps someone you do not like. Our greatest example is Jesus Christ. Even when you were God's enemy, Jesus loved you and paid your sin penalty so that you could be with God forever. Ask God for grace so you can obey the two greatest commands: *love God with all your heart, love your neighbor as yourself (Mat.22:37-39)*. That is what God does for you and for His enemies. Indeed, God is good!



Question: *Have an honest look at yourself. Are you loving your enemies? Are you loving as God does? Pray for grace to love as God does.*



Prayer: Our Father, I confess that my love is so small. Please give me increasing grace to love You and to love others, especially those I do not like. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Wednesday, 22nd January 2025. I am willing, be clean. Text: Mark 1:40-45

Leprosy is a disease that damages nerves and causes flesh to deteriorate. It is especially dangerous because it can be transmitted easily to others. The Law of Moses commands a leprous person to live away from the community and to cry out, "unclean, unclean" if others come near him (*Lev.13:45-46*). However, when the man hears about Jesus coming to his area, he goes to Jesus for healing. His question, "if you are willing" shows that the man believed that Jesus could heal, but the word "if" shows the man's humility; he knows he is undeserving. Everyone ran away from the leprous man, but Jesus loved him. He even touched him. Then He spoke to him and made him clean.

Leprosy is a good symbol of sin. Everyone (*not Jesus*) is a sinner. Sin is part of human nature, it is destructive to life, and it is even contagious to others

(Rom.1:32). Sin eventually leads to eternal death (*separation from God*), because sin is disobedience to God, and God is life. When a sinner comes to Jesus and asks for healing (salvation), Jesus gives it gladly; He will not turn away from you nor send you away. Rather, He calls you to come to Him. Jesus will embrace you, cleanse you by His shed blood, give you clean garments, and bring you into the eternal community of His people, where you will never again be an outcast. Indeed, God is good!



Question: *Do you see that you are filthy in God's sight? Please ask Him to cleanse you from sin and receive you into His Kingdom.*



Prayer: Our Father, I know I am full of sin. Please forgive me, give me Jesus, and cleanse me. In Your name Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Thursday, 23rd January 2025. With God salvation is possible. Text: Matthew 19:17-27

This young man ran to Jesus (*Mak.10:17*) because he believed Christ's message, felt the conviction of sin, and thus had a sense of urgency that drove him. The man asked what he must do for eternal life, salvation. The fact is, there is nothing anyone can do, but Jesus answers according to the man's belief. "Obey God's commands" Jesus said. The man believed he had obeyed all of God's Law, but his conscience was still troubled, so he asked what else he should do. The Lord said, "sell everything, give it to the poor, and follow me." Because the man was wealthy, this answer saddened him. He loved his money more than he feared condemnation from God.

Jesus commented, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God. (*Jesus does not mean a very narrow door called "the needle eye gate," as some think. Rather He meant a sewing needle.*) This is why the disciples were shocked, saying, "who then can be saved?" The disciples assumed a rich person was favoured by God and would enter heaven. The answer is, it is *impossible* for anyone to enter the Kingdom of Heaven by obedience to God's commands. But it is not impossible for God to bring someone in. *The Saviour Jesus accomplished everything necessary for His people to enter eternal life.* Indeed, God is good!



Question: *Do you understand that there is nothing you can do to make yourself acceptable to God? Only He can bring you into eternal life, so ask Him and trust Him for it.*



Prayer: Father in Heaven, please increase my trust only in Your grace in Jesus. In His name, I pray. Amen.

Friday, 24th January 2025. The Good Shepherd. Text: John 10:11-14

From what shepherds tell me, sheep are very needy animals and will not survive long without a shepherd. Sheep have no real means of self-defense other than slow running and biting with dull teeth. Sheep must be led to good food, water, shelter, and medical attention. A shepherd is needed to defend and care for the sheep. In *chapter 9* Jesus gave sight to someone who had been born blind, something no one could do, especially not the man. Jesus then tells the crowd that He is the Good Shepherd, He is the One who will care for His people. They would have understood shepherding, but Apostle John writes that many of them did not understand what Jesus meant about Himself.

Jesus' healings always pointed to Himself as the Messiah, the Saviour the Jews were expecting for many centuries. His healings were symbolic of the spiritual healing that only He could provide, just like the Temple sacrifices were symbols of the death He would pay. *The healings were temporary; but His salvation is eternal life in paradise.* Spiritually, we all are like sheep. We need a Shepherd, because we are not able to care for our spiritual needs. When the enemy (*whether God's condemnation or Satan's attacks*) comes against us, we cannot defend ourselves. Good Shepherd Jesus gave His life to destroy all enemies who seek our lives. He satisfied God's justice, and He broke the power of the evil one. Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: if you are one of the Good Shepherd's sheep, stay very close to Him through prayer, Bible reading, worship, etc. If you don't, you put your soul in danger.



Prayer: Our Father, I pray You keep me close to Shepherd Jesus, and give me grace to stay close. In His name I pray. Amen.

Saturday, 25th January 2025. All things work together for good. Text: Romans 8:26-31

This section of Romans is filled with comfort and hope. The day of our full redemption, when we are brought into God's presence (*body and soul reunited*) is yet to come, and we long for it (*v.23*). So does the creation (*v.19*), and so does God the Holy Spirit (*v.26*). Therefore, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, prays for us with that great day in view. And so, we can

be confident that everything in our lives will work together for good. We must remember that God is absolutely sovereign, and everything happens according to His plan and His hand, and God is good and does all things for good.

In spite of that truth, it can still be a difficult doctrine to accept. Consider our Christian brethren in many parts of the world who are persecuted for the faith, even killed; or of those who are struggling financially; *or* of those women who have miscarriages but never a birth, etc. There are so many problems in life, yet in our heartaches we must trust that God is doing good in our lives. What is especially good and important to remember is that *nothing can keep us from eternal life (v.39)*. Jesus Christ has done everything necessary for our eternal life with God. God has united us to Christ, and nothing in all creation can pull us away from Him (*Jhn.10:28-29*). Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: *Remind yourself now and always, in all circumstances, that God is good and is working everything for your good.*



Prayer: Heavenly Father, I know for certain that You are sovereign. Please remind me of that in difficult times. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sunday, 26th January 2025. Do not grow weary of doing good. Text: Galatians 6:7-10

Paul the Apostle was always good at writing letters full of doctrine. He so does in the first half of the letter, and then turning to practical Christian living in the second half. Right beliefs that do not lead to right living shows the beliefs have little value (*Jam.2:14*). The main doctrine Paul teaches in this letter is that being right with God is never gotten by anything we do (*2:16*). Salvation is only by putting our faith (*trust*) in Christ alone. In today's passage, Paul illustrates his point with farming: what you plant is what you harvest (*v.7*). A person can live in a way that pleases self, or he can please the Spirit of God, resulting in eternal life (*v.8*).

Jesus said to His disciples, "*Why do you call me Lord, Lord, but do not do what I say?*" (*Luk.6:46*). That is very practical! In this world it is often difficult to follow Christ. The way the world operates is against us. On the other hand, it is very easy to live like everyone else. In today's passage, *Paul's particular emphasis is on doing good to others, especially other believers*. Christians will find themselves in difficulties, as everyone does, but they will also face trouble because they belong to Christ. We must do good to

all people, but let us be especially helpful to fellow believers. God cares for all, but His special attention is for His children. We will not be abandoned. Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: *As God cares for His people, so we should care for one another spiritually, financially, physically, etc., whenever possible. Look for it.*



Prayer: Our Father, it is often so difficult to help others, even fellow believers. Please give me strength to give myself for the well-being of others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Monday, 27th January 2025. By grace you have been saved. Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

All religions of the world (*not Christianity*) teach that peace with God comes from obeying God's Law and doing good. But everyone by nature is a sinner (*disobedient to God*); and, thus, no one can obey nor do the good that God requires. And because God is just, all sin will be punished with eternal separation from Him. In *verse 7*, Paul states clearly that we all are dead toward God because of sin. God is life, so disobeying Him means spiritual death. Only Christianity teaches the utter impossibility of man working his way into eternal life. But God is also merciful. That means He will not require the death penalty for those who belong to His grace. Rather, He forgives them.

We should ask; *where then is justice?* The answer is, God put our sin upon Jesus, and punished Jesus instead of us. Jesus paid our death penalty, and God's justice is satisfied. How does a person get this grace and mercy? Paul tells us, in *2:8*, that grace is gotten through faith; and faith is given as a gift from God. This brings us back to good deeds. The Apostle writes that we are created in Christ for good works. Now that we belong to Jesus, we will naturally obey and do good (*not perfectly, but improvingly*). The good works we do now are accepted by God because they are done in His Son, who obeyed for us. We are accepted in Jesus. Indeed, God is good!



Question: *Do you want this grace, mercy, and faith? Ask God for it. He will not turn you away.*



Prayer: Father in Heaven, please give me this faith, and help me live obediently for You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Tuesday, 28th January 2025. God will complete His good work in you.**Text: Philippians 1:1-6**

We first learn about the Philippian believers, in Acts 16, when the Holy Spirit used Paul's preaching to convert Lydia, the city jailer, and the jailer's family. Paul is writing this letter to the church (*the believers, not a building*) while he is in prison (v.7). This is a very happy, encouraging letter, unlike the letter he sent to the Galatian Christians, who were strongly rebuked. Paul begins by writing that he thanks God for the Philippians' participation in his Gospel work (v.5). This likely refers to financial support, as only one person from Philippi was with him as an assistant, Epaphroditus (2:25). Supporting Paul showed him that the Philippian Christians were maturing spiritually.

This kind of support would not come from people who were false or insincere disciples. Paul knew they were people who had been changed by God. Paul also knew that God's work of change would not end at the time of conversion. The risen Lord is faithfully maturing them spiritually, like children who are growing. It is a good work that God began (v.6), and He will see it to completion. If you are a genuine Christian, you have surely seen this in your own life. Though you have faced many difficulties, you are still trusting and growing in the faith, becoming more like Christ. And because the spiritual life is entirely from God, who cannot change, *the work He began in you He will complete*. Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: *Perhaps you find yourself struggling in the faith. Unbelievers do not have that struggle. Please, do not turn away from the Lord; persevere. God is bringing you to full maturity and into Heaven.*



Prayer: Our Father in Heaven, thank You for changing me and continuing the change toward full Christ-likeness. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Wednesday, 29th January 2025. Taste that the Lord is good. Text: 1 Peter 1:22-2:3

Our reading, for today, straddles two chapters so that we can see Peter's fuller idea. The word "So" in 2:1 connects the last verses of *chapter 1* with the first verses of *chapter 2*. Because we obey the truth (1:22), meaning we trust Jesus Christ for salvation, we are expected to love the brethren (1:22) and stop malice (*which generally means doing evil things*), deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. Peter says that we are to "put away" meaning

“get rid of” these things, as if these bad behaviours are a garment or as if we are holding a tool that must be put down and used no more.

You have probably seen a hungry infant desiring his mother’s milk – crying, squirming, sucking at nothing. Peter says that we should have that same sense of longing for pure spiritual milk. What is that spiritual milk? Some translations have “... of the word”, meaning, the word of God, Scripture. Peter is not giving his exhortation only for new converts. His appeal is for all believers at any stage of spiritual maturity. *The Lord is infinite and eternal, and His word is rich and deep and always has new “food” for those who long for it.* Peter then quotes *Ps.34:8*, “Taste and see that the Lord is Good.” The Lord feeds our souls through His word. Indeed, God is good!



Question: *An infant is always longing for his mother's milk. Are you longing each day for God's word?*



Prayer: Our Father, please forgive my lack of interest in Your Word. Please give me thirst for it and feed me on it. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Thursday, 30th January 2025. God will forgive our sins. Text: 1 John 1:5-20

This letter is from Jesus’ disciple John (*not the baptizer*). John begins by saying something about the nature of God: He is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. Light in this case is not about the physical light of the sun or what our eyes see. John is speaking about spiritual and moral light. *God is pure truth, and there is nothing contrary in Him or from Him.* He is the perfection of righteousness and goodness. God is perfectly just, and in Him there is never the smallest compromise. God is holy, entirely separate from everything else, except for where He desires to be present and to make Himself known.

As we consider ourselves before God saved us, it is necessary for us to see that we were in darkness, and in us there was no light at all. We are quite the opposite of God. We know God is there, but by nature we reject His light. Therefore, unconverted we cannot have intimate relations with God. He must change us first, because we cannot change ourselves. When, by His grace, He enlightens us and we confess our sins, He then gladly forgives us, because He is merciful. But God is also just; so, our sin must be punished. God graciously put our sin upon His Son, Jesus, and He punished Jesus instead of us. Now we can be with God in His perfect light. Indeed, God is good.



Challenge: *The more we understand that we need God's light, the more light He will give.*



Prayer: Father in Heaven, forgive my sins, and bring me into Your marvelous light, closer every day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Friday, 31st January 2025. Whoever does good is from God. Text: 3 John 1-15

Apostle John's 3rd letter is focused on how Christians treat other believers, especially in regards to hospitality for visiting Christians. John is writing to Gaius, who is doing well in living out the faith and in loving the brethren. Those believers who met Gaius and enjoyed his hospitality reported to John how they were blessed by that display of brotherly love. Those people then left John and returned to Gaius with this letter from John encouraging him to continue in the good work. John reminds Gaius about Diotrefes who is not humble and is not welcoming to travelling brethren, especially ministers. Comparatively, Demetrius has set a good example of Christian love.

These examples are excellent for us to follow, but the greatest example of doing good is Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus was welcoming not just to those of the faith but even those who were despised by and outcast from society (*Mat.9:10*). God not only welcomes but He invites those who are rejected (*Luk.14:21*). John says *those who do good are from God*. Good is defined by Scripture, and in today's passage, good is seen when brethren receive brethren. Of course, the world is full of good people who reject God; so, we must never think that good deeds make us worthy of God's love. However, those who trust only Jesus for salvation will follow His example of doing good to others, even to outcasts. Indeed, God is good!



Challenge: *Perhaps you were not greatly despised, but you were filthy in God's sight, outcast from His Kingdom. But He went after you and brought you in. Now go and do likewise.*



Prayer: Heavenly Father, welcoming the unlovable is so difficult. Please give me grace and opportunity to show others the love you showed me in Christ. Amen.

THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2025

EXPERIENCING THE GOODNESS OF GOD



The goodness of God represents everything that He has and everything that He desires for us to experience. The goodness of God surpasses anything that the world has to offer (Jam.1:17).

The goodness of God is the perfection of His character which He exercises towards His creatures according to their various circumstances and relations (Ps.145:8).

God is not sometimes merciful and sometimes just; but He eternally is infinitely just and merciful. God is infinitely and unchangeably good (Zeph.3:17), and His goodness is incomprehensible by the finite mind (Rom 11:35-36). The goodness of God appears in two things; giving and forgiving.

Saturday, 1st February 2025. The Lord is merciful. Text: Psalm 103:1-19

The Lord is good for He is merciful, gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (v.8). With these attributes God blesses His children. Because of God's goodness, He does not treat us as our sins deserve (v.10). God loves all those who fear Him from everlasting to everlasting (v.17). *You experience God's goodness only through Jesus Christ (Jhn3:16) our Saviour and Lord, for He is the only one given through whom we must be saved (Acts 4:12).*



Praise God through verses 6-19. Ask God to forgive you all your sins.



Prayer: Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for You alone are merciful, gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Amen

Sunday, 2nd February 2025. Because God is good, He offered His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for sin of man. Text: John 3:1-17

God's love for the world made it possible for whoever believes in Christ to have eternal life (v.16). Jesus Christ came on earth as a man (v.17) to suffer and die, bearing the sins of man. That *whoever personally trusts in Him would not perish in eternal judgement*, but have abundant life of joy and blessing in the presence of God forever.



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



Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for giving me eternal life through Jesus Christ my Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Monday, 3rd February 2025. God forgives His children. Text: Psalm 25 :1-10

The Lord forgives and guides His children in moral growth (vv.8-9). *This shows the goodness of the Lord.* You experience the goodness of the Lord only in Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



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



Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, You are good and upright. Thank You for instructing me in the way I should live. Amen.

Tuesday, 4th February 2025. God's goodness is stored for those who fear Him. Text: Psalm 31:19-24

God's abundant goodness is experienced by those who fear Him (v.19). Because God is good, He promises and keeps those promises. He is trustworthy. You can trust Him through only Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 19. How are you going to respond to it?



Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank You for being good to Your church. Amen.

Wednesday, 5th February 2025. The Lord is good to His people. Text: Nahum 1:1-7

The Lord is a good stronghold for His people (v.7). He knows His people with love and affection. The mercy of God to His children is a refuge supplying all their needs. *God is your refuge if Jesus Christ is your Saviour and Lord (Jhn1:12).*



Meditate on verse 7. How are you going to respond to it?



Prayer: Our Father in heaven, the Lord of heaven and earth, thank You for being my strong hold. In You alone I take the refuge. Amen.

Thursday, 6th February 2025. The Lord is good. Text: Psalm 107:1-20

The Lord is good to all people who are in distress; the wanderers (vv.4-9), the prisoners (vv.10-16) and those who are distressed (vv.17-20). *Anyone who has no knowledge of God is a wanderer* and God; out of His goodness, desires to reach them and know Him. God loves those in prison and He wants them to be saved as well.



Meditate on verse 1. How are you going to respond to it?



Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable us to give You thanks always because of Your faithful love to us that endures forever. Amen.

Friday, 7th February 2025. Because God is good. He fulfills His promises. Text: Nehemiah 9:16-21

Because God is good, He continued to care for Israelites, not because they were obedient but out of His own compassion stemming from His

promise to Abraham (*vv.19-21*). God is good for He does not treat us as our sins deserve. Because of God's goodness, He reveals Himself to a sinner by His own grace (*Eph.2:8-9*).



Meditate on verse 21. Praise the Lord through that verse!



Prayer: Heavenly father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for sustaining me despite my failure to trust in You always. Amen.

Saturday, 8th February 2025. God blesses those who trust in Him. Text: Psalm 34:1-8

In the text above, the psalmist describes his personal experience of the goodness of God (*v.8*). Apostle Peter is one of the many that experienced the goodness of God and He alludes to the text above (*1 Pet. 2:3*). As you determine to faithfully walk with God, you experience and *testify the goodness of the Lord*.



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



Prayer: Our loving Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, You are so good. I'm blessed that I know You and I take refuge in You. Amen.

Sunday, 9th February 2025. God is a forgiving God. Text: Jonah 3:1-10

When the people of Nineveh repented of their sin (*v.8*), the Lord forgave them (*v.10*). You are saved not because you were born special or that you deserve it. *You are saved because God; out of His goodness and by His grace, saved you*. Because God is good, He saves you by His grace, protects and maintains your salvation!



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



Prayer: Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, Forgive us as a nation for all the evil we have committed. Amen.

Monday, 10th February 2025. God's character does not fluctuate. Text: James 1:1-18

God is good, He does not change, and in Him there are no changes of brightness or clarity (*v.17*). God's goodness is constant! Come to God through His Son, Jesus Christ, acknowledging that His love for you does not change. Trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 17. What is God teaching you in this verse?



Prayer: Our Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for being our source of light that does not fluctuate. Amen.

Tuesday, 11th February 2025. God is gracious and merciful. Text: Psalm 145:1-9

Because God is good, He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (*v.8*). Steadfast love is God's love towards us, His children. Such love shows His character. You are privileged to have such. God is gracious and peaceful to you. You experience God's mercy when you receive and believe in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verses 8-9. How are you going to respond to them?



Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for being gracious and merciful to us. Amen.

Wednesday, 12th February 2025. The goodness of God has brought salvation to His people. Text: Titus 2:11-15

The grace of bringing salvation for all people, means that salvation has been offered to all people, not just some. However, it does not mean that all people will be saved (*v.11*). Only the elect who have been chosen from the eternity will be saved (*Eph.1:4*). *God is so good that He chose you before you were born to be saved.* Nothing you can do to earn salvation.



Meditate on verse 11-12. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable me to always renounce ungodliness. Amen.

Thursday, 13th February 2025. All that the Lord does is good. Text: Psalm 119:65-72

God is not only good, but a fount of all goodness that exists. God's children derive their goodness from their good God (*v.68*). The good God does good to all; both good and bad (*Mat.5:45*) and in all things even when one is in affliction. *God's goodness does not depend on any circumstances.* He is good in sickness, healing, poverty, riches, war and in peaceful times. Meditate on verse 68. Praise the Lord through this verse.



Prayer: Our Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for being good and doing good to us. Amen.

Friday, 14th February 2025. God's goodness and mercy are of old. Text: Psalm 25:1-10

That God's mercy and steadfast love are of old (*v.6*), means they are from ancient times or from eternity. God has always been merciful and loving. And this is part of His nature. Do you recall some instances when God has revealed His mercies and love and goodness to you? You can clearly realise such only when you are in Christ.



Meditate on verse 6. Pray it back to God.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, in your judgment remember mercy and forgive all my sins. Amen.

Saturday, 15th February 2025. God has given us eternal life. Text: 1 John 5:6-12

Because God is good, He has given us eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ (*v.11*). This is the cardinal truth of the Christian message; *that you are sure of having eternal life while you are still here on planet earth*. That there is nothing you can do to earn eternal life; only receive and believe in Jesus Christ. This is how God is good to the sinful man.



Meditate on verse 11. How are you going to respond to it?



Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for giving me eternal life through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sunday, 16th February 2025. God delivers imprisoned people. Text: Psalm 107:10-16

Even the prisoners who have rejected God, He still loves them and longs to reach out to them (*vv.10-11*). Even those who are prisoners of sin, the Lord loves them and desires them to repent. Are you in any way a prisoner of sin? Repent and the Lord, out of His love, will forgive you!



Meditate on verses 10-11 How are you going to help people in such state?



Prayer: Heavenly Father, the Lord of Heaven and earth, bring us out of the darkness we are in as a nation. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Monday, 17th February 2025. Only God is good. Text: Mark 10: 17-19

Jesus questioned the young man why he was calling Him good. He wanted this man to acknowledge Him as God first (*v.18*). God is good because He does not treat us as our sins deserve. *He is always patient with us so that we repent of all our sins.*



Meditate on verse 18. How are you going to respond to it?



Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for being good to me, for You have revealed Yourself to me. Amen.

Tuesday, 18th February 2025. The Lord is good to those who wait on Him. Text: Lamentations 3:22-27

The goodness of God is the core of His character (*v.25*). God is good to those *who seek, hope and wait for Him*. You will effectively seek, hope and wait on God only when you are in Jesus Christ, His Son, and our Lord and Saviour.



Meditate on verse 25. How are you waiting and seeking the Lord?



Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable me to wait and seek You always. Amen.

Wednesday, 19th February 2025. God loved us while we were still sinners. Text: Romans 5:1-8

Because God is good, He loved us while we were still sinners (*v.8*) by sending Jesus Christ to take away our sins. Jesus Christ died for us not because we were good, but because God is good and loved us. This truth should humble us and encourage us, especially when the Spirit of doubt wants to linger in us.



Meditate on verse 8. How are you going to respond to it?



Prayer: Heavenly Father, the Lord of heaven and earth, thank You for loving us even when we were still sinners. Amen.

Thursday, 20th February 2025. The Lord is good. Text: Psalm 100:1-5

The Lord is good, meaning He is not merely powerful or just a Creator of all things but benevolent, therefore worthy of universal praise (*v.5*). The Lord is good because *He always does what is best for His children*. His love for His children is steadfast and His faithfulness extends to all generations.



Meditate on verse 5. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Prayer: Our loving Father, the Lord of heaven and earth, thank You for Your steadfast love that endures forever and Your faithfulness to all generations. Amen.

Friday, 21st February 2025. God is good, He knows us. Text Psalm 103:1-14

The Lord is good, He knows we are frail and, therefore, cannot live long (v.14). He even knows the number of hairs on our heads (Mat.10:30). *This should give us confidence* as we come to our loving Father through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 14. How are you going to respond to it?



Prayer: Our loving Father, in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for knowing how weak I am. Enable me to worship You in truth and spirit. Amen.

Saturday, 22nd February 2025. The Lord is good. Text: psalm 33:1-10

The Lord is good for He is dependable and righteous (v.5). His goodness comes out of His perfect and unchanging nature. Everything He approves is correct and fitting. His love is universal and never weakens or retreats. Trust Him through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 5. How are you going to respond to it?



Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for Your righteousness and justice. Amen.

Sunday, 23rd February 2025. The Lord is good for He is patient with you. Text: 2 Peter 3:8-13

Our God is patient with us so that many sinners will repent (v.9). This is the goodness of the Lord. He is not bound by human time. Therefore, you cannot apply human demands about time to the promises of God. Because God is good, *He does not want anyone to lose eternal life*. Repent today and receive the eternal life in Jesus Christ.



Meditate on verse 9. How are you going to respond to it?



Prayer: Our father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for being patient with us. Forgive us all our sins. Amen

Monday, 24th February 2025. God is kind and forbearing. Text: Romans 2:1-10

God is good and His Mercy in dealing with you is not a sign of indifference of frailty; instead, it should inspire you to faith, repentance and thankfulness (v.4). *God's willingness to express wrath to you shows His goodness.* You should respond to this kind of goodness by turning away from sin and following after Him forever through His Son, Jesus Christ.



Meditate on verse 4. How are you going to respond to it?



Prayer: Our loving Father in heaven, the Lord of heaven and earth, thank You for Your kindness and patience upon me. Amen.

Tuesday, 25th February 2025. God will deliver you from troubles. Text: Psalm 50: 1-15

Because God is good, He promises to deliver you on the day of trouble (v.15). The Lord had rejected the Israelites' sacrifices because they were being done in hypocrisy. And out of His goodness the Lord told them how to do it right. To offer with thankful and sincere hearts. The goodness of the Lord does not allow a sinner to guess what is right; instead, He has given us the Holy Spirit to guide us all through (Jhn14:16).



Meditate on verse 15. How are you going to respond to it?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, deliver us from all the troubles we are in. Amen.

Wednesday, 26th February 2025. God reveals what he requests from you. Text: Micah 6:6-8

Because God is good, He reveals what he wants from His children (v.8). People had tried all kinds of activities to please God; but these failed (vv.6-7). And out of His goodness, He revealed what He wants from them: love, have mercy and walk humbly with Him. This is what God requires of you, it is clearly put, no guess work. You effectively do such only when you are in Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



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



Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable me to have justice, love, kindness and walk humbly with You. Amen.

**Thursday, 27th February 2025. Thank God always because He is good.
Text: 1 Chronicles 16:28-34**

We should give thanks to the Lord because He is good, meaning that His essence and character are an epitome of His righteousness and goodness (v.34). We thank God because we are His creation. *We get the true meaning of God's goodness when we are in Jesus Christ.* As the Holy Spirit reveals it to us more and more.



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



Prayer: Our Father, in heaven, we give thanks to You Lord, for You are good and Your love endures forever. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friday, 28th February 2025. Have confidence in the Lord. Text: Psalm 27:7-14

Be confident because God is good and He will vindicate you (v.13). Because God is good, He does not change and He fulfills all His promises. Sometimes' as human beings fear comes in our lives; but let us *always take confidence in the goodness of the Lord.* You experience His goodness effectively when you are in Jesus Christ, and as you obey the Holy Spirit moment by moment.



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



Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we desire to see your goodness in the land of living; we pray that You grant our request, according to Your will and purposes. Amen.

THE MONTH OF **MARCH 2025**

CARRIERS OF GOD'S GOODNESS



Over this month of March, we will reflect on the grace extended to us to be ambassadors of God's goodness. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are not just recipients of God's goodness; but we are also carriers of it. May this month reveal to us the incredible privilege of sharing God's goodness.

Saturday, 1st March 2025. Carriers of God's goodness. Text: 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

Key verse(s) ***"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit"*** 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV).

Only Christ removes the veil, for he cleanses us of sin and gives us his Spirit. When one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. The Spirit can work freely to transform us into the image of Christ. Instead of fading glory, He gives us ever increasing glory, glory that lasts. It is the Spirit in us who reveals the glory of God.



As carriers of God's goodness, we are called to reflect His glory in our lives. Take a moment to reflect on how you can shine God's light in your daily interactions with those God draws to you.



Prayer: Lord, take the veil away from my mind and heart and fill me with Your Spirit. Transform me, by Your Spirit, into the image of Christ. Amen.

Sunday 2nd March 2025. Be Light to the world. Text: Matthew 5:14-16

Key Verse(s): ***"...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven"*** (Matthew 5:16, NIV).

God wants His people to shine the light of His truth and love into the world. God wants us to be exemplary Christians to the others, like a city on a hill, giving God's light to the whole world. May God *fulfill*, in this land *His purpose through us believers*. When we obey God's Word, and do good deeds for His glory, His light shines from our lives. This brings honor to our Father in heaven.



As carriers of God's goodness, we are called to spread the light of God's Kingdom wherever we go. Look for opportunities today to bless someone with a smile, a kind word, or a helping hand.



Prayer: Lord, remove our inner corruption and make me like a city on a hill that gives the light of God's love and salvation to all the people of the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Monday, 3rd March 2025. Being Ambassadors of Hope. Text: 2 Corinthians 5:1-21

Key verse(s): ***“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us...”*** (2 Corinthians 5:20, NIV).

God made Jesus who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might have God’s peace and be God’s righteous people in the world. He made us Christ’s ambassadors. That is, He entrusted us with the task of bringing Jesus to the world, and the world to Jesus. This is the ministry of reconciliation. God wants all the world to be reconciled to himself, so that he may restore all things and bless all people.



As carriers of God’s goodness, we are called to be ambassadors of hope in a broken world. Pray for opportunities to share the hope of Christ with someone today.



Prayer: Lord, thank You for Your peace. Help me to bring others to You by sharing Jesus with them.

Tuesday, 4th March 2025. Demonstrating God’s love. Text: 1 John 3:16-24

Key verse(s): ***“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth”*** (1 John 3:18, NIV).

Love is action, not words or feelings. We can know what love is by looking at Jesus. Jesus loved us and laid down His life for us. When we have the love of God in us, we will act in love toward fellow believers in need. We must love according to the truth; we must love in a way that builds up and encourages others in faith. If we only serve others according to our own feelings, we are not really loving them. We must pray for others, and obey God’s commands



As carriers of God’s goodness, we are called to demonstrate His love through our actions. Look for ways to show God’s love to someone in need today.



Prayer: Lord, come into my heart and rule; help me to love others with your love. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Wednesday, 5th March 2025 Demonstrating God’s love. Text: Matthew 5:13-14

Key verse(s): ***“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for***

anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden (Matthew 5:13-14, NIV).

Jesus' disciples must be salty. Salt preserves and prevents corruption; it makes tasteless food tasty. Salty Christians are those who do not compromise with the world or accept its standards. They may be laughed at, and/or persecuted, but their influence is felt. Those who lose their saltiness by compromising with the values and morals of society are worse than useless.



As carriers of God's goodness, we are called to be salt and light in a world that needs flavor and illumination. Pray for the courage to stand out and make a difference today



Prayer: Lord help me stand up for the truth of Your Word even in the most difficult situations that those around me may know and accept You by my good example. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Thursday, 6th March 2025 Love Covers a multitude of sins. Text: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Key verse(s): ***"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins"*** (1 Pet.4:8).

Have you ever been hurt or wronged by someone? It is natural to feel angry, bitter, or resentful. But as followers of Christ, we are called to respond differently. Peter reminds us that love has the power to cover a multitude of sins. This does **not** mean that we ignore or downplay the hurt or wrongdoing. Rather, it means that we choose to respond with love, forgiveness, and compassion.



Today, ask God to help you love those who may have wronged you. Pray for the strength to forgive and for the courage to show love and kindness, even in the face of adversity. Remember, love is not a feeling, but a choice. And when we choose to love, we become agents of God's love and redemption in a broken world.



Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, help me to love those who may have wronged me. Give me the strength to forgive and the courage to show love and kindness. May Your love shine through me today. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Friday, 7th March 2025. Pruned to bear God's goodness. Text: John 15:1-3

Key verse(s): "He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful" (John 15:2).

Jesus wants His disciples to be fruitful. There are several kinds of fruit: the inner fruit of Christian character; the fruit of good influence; the fruit of disciple-making. God prunes us to make us fruitful. *He prunes us by His Word.* He leads us to repent of sinful habits, deeds and thoughts. Good branches must also be pruned by God's training. God disciplines us because He loves us (*Heb 12:6,11*).



Pruning is, therefore, not a punishment but a sign of God's love for us to flourish. When we surrender to God's pruning process, we can trust that He will use it to make us more fruitful and effective for his kingdom.



Prayer: Lord help me accept Your pruning process in my life. Give me the courage to let go of the things that are holding me back. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Saturday, 8th March 2025. Remaining in God's goodness. Text: Joh 15:5-8

Key verse(s): "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

In order for a branch to bear fruit, it must remain connected to the vine. In the same way, we must remain in union with Jesus. Branches severed from the main Vine are dead, and fit only for firewood. *Verse 7* is God's promise. *If we remain in Jesus and have his word in our hearts, He will give us whatever we ask in prayer.* So, we must walk with Jesus through prayer and Bible study. Then we will bear much fruit and prove to be His disciples. This is the life that glorifies God.



As carriers of God's goodness, we are called to remain in His goodness. Take a moment to reflect on your relationship with God and how you can deepen your connection with Him today



Prayer: Lord, help me to glorify You and enjoy You forever, for this is the chief purpose of mankind. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Sunday, 9th March 2025. The need for mercy and forgiveness. Text: Matthew 18:21-22

Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV): "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times'".

Peter thought that some people might take advantage of a Christian's good heart and keep on sinning and repenting. Surely, there must be some limit to forgiveness. But Jesus said that there are no limits to forgiveness.



Forgiveness is a fundamental aspect of our faith. Jesus teaches us to forgive others not just seven times, but seventy-seven times! This means that forgiveness is not limited to a specific number of times, but rather it is a continuous process.



Prayer: Dear God, help me to forgive others as You have forgiven me. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Monday, 10th March 2025. The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant. Text: Matthew 18:23-27

Key verses: "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt" (Matthew 18:23-25, NIV).

Jesus told a parable about a king whose servant owed him several million dollars. The servant deserved to be sold as a slave to pay back even part of the debt. However, the king had mercy and forgave him. But the servant went out and found a fellow servant who owed him a few dollars. He demanded payment, ignoring his fellow servant's pleas for mercy. *We are great debtors to God.* He forgave all our sins for Jesus' sake. We deserve to die, but Jesus died for us. How can we refuse forgiveness to anyone?



Meditate on verses 23-25. What is God teaching you on these verses?



Prayer: Lord, cleanse me of all self-righteousness and give me the humble heart of a forgiven sinner. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Tuesday, 11th March 2025. Showing Mercy to Others. Text: Matthew 18:28-35

Matthew 18:28-30 (NIV): "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded".

Jesus teaches us that forgiveness is not just about our relationship with God, but also about our relationships with others. When we refuse to forgive others, we are like the unmerciful servant who was forgiven a great debt but refused to forgive a smaller debt.



Meditate on verses 28-30. What are you learning from these verses?



Prayer: Dear God, help me to show mercy to others as You have shown mercy to me. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Wednesday, 12th March 2025. The Consequences of Refusing to Forgive. Text: Matthew 18:31-34

Matthew 18:31-33 (NIV): "When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'"

How we treat others portrays a true or false perception of who God is. When we refuse to forgive others, we face serious consequences. We risk losing our relationship with God and experiencing His judgment. May God teach us and help us to choose forgiveness even when we are deeply hurt.



Prayer: Dear God, help me to forgive others so that I can experience Your mercy and forgiveness.

Thursday, 13th March 2025. Living a Life of Humility. Text: Titus 3:1-5

Titus 3:1-2 (NIV): "Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and show true humility toward all men".

Paul says that Christians should do what is good (1, 8b,14). Once, we did what was evil. *To a greater or lesser degree all of us were foolish, disobedient, and enslaved by passions and pleasures.* We kept grudges and envy in our hearts. But we who have tasted the mercy, grace and love of God must now do what is good. This means that we should show consideration and humility to all people. We should be careful not to injure others by what we say; rather, we should build up others. We have peace with God, so we should also have peace with men.



As followers of Christ, we are called to live a life of humility. This means being subject to authority, being obedient, and being gentle toward everyone.



Prayer: Dear God, help me to live a life of humility, always seeking to honour You and serve others. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Friday, 14th March 2025. Being Renewed by the Holy Spirit. Text: Titus 3:4-6

Titus 3:4-6 (NIV): "But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour".

God loves all mankind, so he sent His only Son, Jesus, to save us. God, in His great mercy, not only forgives our sins by the grace of Jesus, but He *also washes us by His Word and Spirit*; He changes us in the inner person, taking away all bitterness and anger. He gives us new hope and makes us heirs of eternal life.



As a follower of Christ, I am called to be renewed by the Holy Spirit. This means allowing the Spirit to transform me, making me more like Christ.



Prayer: Father, thank You for loving this sinful human race, and for loving and saving me. Help me to do what is good. Amen.

Saturday, 15th March 2025. Living a Life of Good Works. Text: Titus 3:7-8

key: "so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want

you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good” Titus 3:7-8 (NIV).



As believers, we have been justified by God's grace, making us heirs of eternal life. But our salvation is not just about what is to come, it is also about our present. We are called to devote ourselves to doing what is good, living out our faith in practical ways.



Prayer: Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for justifying me by grace. Help me devote myself to doing what is good, living out my faith in practical ways. May my life reflect Your love and goodness.

Sunday, 16th March 2025: God's Kindness Pursues Us. Text: 2 Samuel 9:1-13

Key Verse: "... at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar. So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel... do not be afraid... for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table" (2 Samuel 9:5-7).

David sought out Mephibosheth, not because Mephibosheth sought him, but because of a covenant promise to Jonathan. Similarly, God's goodness reaches out to us first. *While we were still sinners, God showed us grace through Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:8).* Like Mephibosheth, we come with nothing to offer, yet God transforms our adversity into abundance (*Eph. 1:7-8*).



Meditate on verse 7. How are you going to respond to it?



Prayer: Lord, I'm forever grateful that You came to seek and save the lost. Help me to trust and delight in Your transforming grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Monday, 17th March 2025: God's Kindness Restores Us. Text: 2 Samuel 9:8-9; Ephesians 1:3

David did not just bring Mephibosheth to his table, no! He restored to him all that belonged to his grandfather Saul. God, through Christ, restores us to a relationship with Him and gives us every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus. His goodness does not just rescue us; it redeems all that sin has separated from us (*Joe. 2:25*).



Meditate on Eph. 1:3. How are you going to respond to it?



Prayer: Gracious Father, thank You for restoring me and giving me a seat at Your table. Help me live in Your presence where there is fullness of joy. Amen.

Tuesday, 18th March 2025. God's Kindness Is Unmerited. Text: 2 Samuel 9:8; Ephesians 2:8-9

Key verse: *"Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?" (2 Samuel 9:8).*

Mephibosheth described himself as a "dead dog" (v.8), knowing he deserved nothing from David. Likewise, God's goodness is unmerited; it is by grace we are saved, not by works. *God's love and kindness are not based on our worthiness, but on His character.* He sees us as valuable and worthy of love, not because of who we are but because of who He is. Recognizing this humbles us and frees us to delight in God with gratitude (Tit. 3:5-7).



Prayer: Lord, I marvel at Your grace. Teach me to rest in Your kindness and give You all the glory. Amen.

Wednesday, 19th March 2025: God's Kindness Makes Us Family. Text: 2 Samuel 9:11; Romans 8:15-17

Key verses: *"...Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's[a] table like one of the king's sons" (2 Sam. 9:11).*

David declared that Mephibosheth would always eat at his table as one of the king's sons. In Christ, we are not merely forgiven but adopted into God's family. His goodness reconciles us from enemies to beloved children (Gal. 4:6-7).



Meditate on verse 11. How are you going to respond to it?



Prayer: Abba Father, thank You for calling me Your child. Help me walk in the joy and security of belonging to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Thursday, 20th March 2025: God's Kindness Points to Christ. Text: 2 Samuel 9:1-7; John 1:14

Key verse: "David asked, is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake" (2 Sam. 9:1).

David's kindness and loyalty to Jonathan was extended to Mephibosheth. Similarly, God's covenant promise is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who embodies God's goodness and grace. *Every act of kindness we experience from God points us to Christ, the ultimate expression of His love (2 Cor. 1:20).*



As we reflect on this text, let us ask ourselves; Who in our lives might need our kindness and mercy? How can we show God's love and compassion to those around us?



Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for being the fulfillment of every promise of God. Help me see Your goodness in every part of my life. Amen.

Friday, 21st March 2025: God's Kindness Transforms Us to Be Kind. Text: 2 Samuel 9:13; Ephesians 4:32.

Key verse: "And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table, and he was crippled in both feet" (2 Sam. 9:13).

Having received kindness from God even through men like Jonathan, David exemplified it to others. As recipients of God's grace, we are called to reflect His goodness in our relationships. *Eph. 4:32* exhorts us: *"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."*



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



Prayer: Lord, let Your kindness flow through me to others. Help me forgive and love as You have forgiven and loved me. Amen.

Saturday, 22nd March 2025. God's Kindness Secures Our Future. Text: 2 Samuel 9:13; 1 Peter 1:4-5

Mephibosheth's place at David's table was guaranteed for life. Likewise, in Christ, our future is secure. We have an eternal inheritance that will never fade (*Jhn 14:2-3*). *God's goodness transforms our present and assures our eternal hope.*



Meditate on 1 Peter 1:4. What are you learning from this verse?



Prayer: Father, thank You for the unshakable hope You give. Help me live each day in light of Your eternal promises.

Sunday, 23rd March 2025. Called to Reflect God's Grace. Text: 1 Peter 3:8-9

Key Verse: ***"Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing" (1 Peter 3:9).***

Peter reminds us that our calling as Christians is to bless, even when wronged. This reflects the heart of Christ, who loved us while we were His enemies and Jesus reminds us that God even shines the sun on both the just and unjust. Our capacity to forgive and bless comes from the transformative work of God in our hearts.



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



Prayer: Lord, make me kind like You so I may learn to forgive and bless those who hurt me and love them tenderly, reflecting Your grace to the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Monday, 24th March 2025: Blessing Flows from Love. Text: Luke 6:27-28 1 Peter 3:8-9

Key Verse: ***"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (Luke 6:27-28).***

We are challenged to love our enemies, pray for those who mistreat us, and do good to those who hate us. Love is not simply an emotion; but a choice to act with grace, even in difficult circumstances and it is done with hope to obtain something better.



1 Peter 3:9 says: "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult..."



Prayer: Father, help me love as You love, even when it is hard. Strengthen me to choose kindness looking to the blessed hope that all who do good even though they suffer. Amen.

Tuesday, 25th March 2025: Overcoming Evil with Good. Text: Romans 12:21

Romans 12:21 commands, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” When we respond with kindness to insults, we reflect Christ and keep ourselves from falling into the snare of the devil by sinning in response to those who have done us wrong, who overcame sin and death with sacrificial love.



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



Prayer: Jesus, give me strength to overcome the evil in the world with Your goodness and love. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Wednesday, 26th March 2025. Christ Is Our Example. Text: Luke 23:34

Key verse: Jesus said, “**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**” [**And they divided up his clothes by casting lots**” (Luk. 23:34).

Jesus taught and modeled this principle in *Luke 23:34*, when He prayed for those who crucified Him: “*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*” As His followers, *we are empowered by His Spirit to follow His example* if we look intently to Him who suffered at the hands of sinners even though He Himself did not do anything wrong but entrusted Himself to the Father.



Meditate on verse 34. What are you learning from this verse?



Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for forgiving me. Help me to forgive others with the same mercy You have shown me and be an example to others that they may forgive and love as You have to them. In Your name, Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Thursday, 27th March 2025. Blessing Others Honors God. Text: Matthew 5:16

Key verse: “**In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven**” (Mat 5:16).

When we choose to bless others, especially in difficult moments, our actions reflect the character of Christ and draw attention to His goodness. Matthew 5:16 reminds us that our good works are not for self-glorification

but to glorify our Father in heaven. In a world filled with retaliation and selfishness, *acts of blessing shine as a testimony of God's transforming power*. By letting our light shine, we become witnesses of His grace, pointing others to the One who enables us to live differently. Blessing others is not just an act of kindness; it is an act of worship that honors God.



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



Prayer: Lord, let my life of blessing point others to Your glory. Help me shine your light in every situation, that my words and actions may draw others closer to You and bring honor to Your name. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Friday, 28th March 2025. God Rewards the Peacemakers. Text: Matthew 5:9

Matthew 5:9 declares, *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."* True peace flows from reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ, who has made peace by the blood of His cross (*Col. 1:20*). As peacemakers, we reflect the work of Christ and *become agents of His redemptive grace in a broken world*. Peacemaking is not mere conflict avoidance; it is actively seeking to bring peace by truth of the gospel



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



Prayer: Father, make me a peacemaker who reflects Your character and grace. Help me to share the peace of Christ with those around me and pursue reconciliation grounded in Your truth. May my life glorify You as I walk as Your child? In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Saturday, 29th March 2025. Blessing Brings Freedom. Text: Romans 12:14, 18-21

Key verse: *"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse" (Rom. 12:14).*

In proclaiming, *"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse"*, Paul reminds us that blessing those who wrong us frees us from the shackles of bitterness and revenge. By trusting God as the ultimate judge, we are liberated to live in His peace and joy. Forgiveness is a central element of this freedom, as it removes the weight of resentment and opens our

hearts to reflect God's grace. Furthermore, as we return well for evil (*Rom. 12:21*), we demonstrate the power of the gospel, which transforms hearts and brings freedom to others.



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



Prayer: Lord, free me from the burden of bitterness and the desire for revenge. Help me to bless others, trusting in Your justice and resting in the freedom that comes from obedience to Your Word. May my life reflect Your transformative grace and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Sunday, 30th March 2025. A Transforming Encounter with Jesus. Text: Luke 19:1-10

Key Verse: *"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount" (Luk. 19:8).*

Zacchaeus began as a selfish rich man, consumed by greed and regarded by others as a sinner unworthy of even hosting Jesus at his house. But his encounter with Jesus led to a radical transformation in which he chooses to give to the poor and to restore fourfold to whoever he had defrauded. True selflessness flows from knowing Christ and experiencing His love. *Verse 8: "And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."*



Meditate on verse 8. What is God teaching you in this verse?



Prayer: Jesus, thank You for transforming hearts. Change me to reflect Your generosity and love. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

Monday, 31st March 2025. Jesus Seeks the Lost. Text: Luke 19:1-10

Key Verse: *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." (Luk. 19:10)*

Jesus deliberately sought Zacchaeus, calling him down from the tree and choosing to stay at his house. This demonstrates His mission to seek and save the lost (*v.10*). Zacchaeus did not earn Jesus' attention; it was Christ's

grace that found him. In the same way, our transformation begins with God's initiative.



Meditate on verse 10. How are you going to respond to it?



Prayer: Lord, I thank You for seeking me when I was lost. I pray that You equip me with a heart ever eager to respond to the leading to the Holy Spirit, as a changed person. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

May Jesus Christ Resurrect In Your Life,
Family And Occupation!

Happy Easter!



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