



DAYBREAK WITH *Bible Reading*

APRIL - JUNE 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 second quarter we shall focus on three topics: **1. The Goodness of God is Demonstrated in Redemption; 2. The Goodness of God in an Evil and Hostile World and 3. A Spirit-Filled Life: The Basis of Doing Good**

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 the Word** 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 giving you direction every day, telling you; *"...This is the way, walk in it..."* (Isaiah 30:21).



The Very Rev. Canon Dr. Rebecca Nyegenye

The Provost

All Saints' Cathedral, Kampala.



READERS' GUIDE

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

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

It is suggested that you acquire and maintain a notebook for your Bible study. It is further recommended that (i) You start off your quiet time with a short prayer; confessing your sins and seeking God's forgiveness, 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 day's take home as italicized in the notes, and (iii) your take home 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.

WRITERS

1. The Goodness of God is Demonstrated in Redemption by Mr. Apollo Mwehamiza
2. The Goodness of God in an Evil and Hostile World Mr. Apollo Mwehamiza
3. A Spirit-Filled Life: The Basis of Doing Good by Rev. Theo. Doksa

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THE MONTH OF APRIL 2025

THE GOODNESS OF GOD IS DEMONSTRATED IN REDEMPTION



The Bible is the story of redemption, the story of the fall of man, man's broken relationship with the Creator, and subsequently God's plan for reconciliation and redemption.

According to the Bible dictionary, redemption is a metaphor used in both Old Testament and New Testament to describe God's merciful and costly action on behalf of sinful human beings. (Ps.111:9). Redemption is the release or freedom on payment of price, deliverance by costly method. However, when used in reference to God it does not suggest that He paid the price to anyone; but rather, His mercy required His almighty power and involved the greatest possible depth of suffering.

In the Old Testament, we see God sending Moses to redeem His people from Egypt; various judges delivering them from their oppressors; Ezra, Nehemiah and Zerubbabel delivering them from Babylon; and the Lord Jesus Christ coming to redeem the whole lost world from sin. All the prophets and judges were pointing to Jesus Christ.

In the New Testament, the announcement that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the fulfillment of Israel's messianic hope, and in Him, the long-awaited redemption came. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ alone there is redemption, the deliverance of mankind. God's redemption highlights God's mercy and love. It is profound gift one receives through Jesus Christ.

Tuesday, 1st April 2025. Redemption is with the Lord. Text:**Psalm 130:1-7**

In this *Psalm*, *verses 1-4* are a prayer for forgiveness and the Psalmist is relaying on God to answer. By using the word “Lord” (Yahweh), the Psalmist is deliberately emphasizing that salvation comes from the God of Israel, one true God of the Bible (*v.7*). That the whole nation of Israel should share repentance and hope. *True repentance and forgiveness should be in the name of Jesus Christ (Luk.24:47).*



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Wednesday, 2nd April 2025. Do not take God's patience lightly. Text: Romans 2:1-5

The Jews had thought their covenant membership with God was enough to save them from final judgment (*v.4*). They took God's kindness, forbearance and patience lightly as they saw no need for Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. *God held back His judgment because of His kindness.* Therefore, do not mistake His patience for approval of your sins. Repent in the name of Jesus Christ and the Lord will forgive you all your sins (*Col.2:13*), and then live like someone who belongs to Jesus Christ.



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me not to take Your patience for granted. Amen.

Thursday, 3rd April 2025. Our redemption is in the death of Christ. Text: Romans 5:1-11

Our redemption is in the death of Jesus Christ on the cross (*v.10*). The very power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is the same that saves a sinner, and is ever available to you moment by moment. You were once an enemy of God, but through the death of Christ, which paid our death penalty for sin, you are now reconciled to God, our Father.



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



Our loving Father, the Lord of heaven and earth, in name of Jesus Christ, thank You for reconciling us to Yourself through the death of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friday, 4th April 2025. Simple faith in Christ gives redemption.**Text: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

Paul emphasizes that for anyone to be redeemed/saved is easy as long as one is willing to understand it (*vv.28-30*). Your training and wisdom cannot give you salvation, but simple faith in Christ does. In fact, *a believer in Christ is a fool as per the world's standard*. But it is by the grace of God that they are saved, and, therefore, they should never boast in anything else, but only in God.



Meditate on verse 30. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Saturday, 5th April 2025. In Christ the Lord redeems your soul.**Text: 1 Kings 1:28-31**

God saved King David from danger several times. A few examples included; saving him from Goliath, the Philistines, Saul and his own son, Absalom (*v.29*). The “term” redeem comes from a Hebrew word, “ga’al” meaning buying back or rescue. It often refers to God’s deliverance of His people. King David is pointing to God’s faithfulness and mercy as He actively saves His people. *In Christ alone, God provides total redemption for His children.*



Meditate on verse 29. How are you going to respond to it?



Our Father in heaven, the Lord of heaven and earth, in the name Jesus Christ, thank You for rescuing our lives. Amen.

Sunday, 6th April 2025. In Christ alone you are redeemed.**Text: 1 Peter 1:13-21**

A child of God is of high value because God did not pay for him for an eternal transaction with a temporary currency of silver or gold, but with the precious blood of His own Son, Jesus Christ (*vv.18-19*). God, through Jesus Christ, redeemed us from the futility of human existence; empty and meaningless waste of time, and all worthless living we inherited from our ancestors. In Jesus Christ you are of great value to God and society. Therefore, *guard it with the power of the Holy Spirit in you.*



Meditate on verses 18-19. How are you going to respond to it?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the value You have put on me through the blood of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Monday, 7th April 2025. Your lips and heart ushers you into Salvation. Text: Romans 10:5-13

Your redemption is determined by how you use your lips and heart as you respond to the grace of God in Jesus Christ (*v.9-10*). *A confession with your mouth is an outward expression of inward faith.* You shall be redeemed/saved if you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Christ is the risen Lord.



Meditate on verses 9-10. How are you going to apply them to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Tuesday, 8th April 2025. The Lord takes the cause of His children. Text: Lamentations 3:55-60

From the text, we discern that Prophet Jeremiah is in deep suffering and at a loss. His words reflect both personal distress and the collective despair of the people he is leading. (*v.58*). The verse shows how God pleads for the Souls of those afflicted, depicting a personal relationship between the sufferer and the Sovereign Lord. This shows that, in times of despair, you are not abandoned; instead, God sees your plight and prays on your behalf. This should encourage you in that, *even in dark situations, God is actively involved in giving salvation and hope.* Many times, our suffering leads us back to the mercy and grace of God. Regardless of your circumstances, the commitment of God to redeem and support you is unwavering.



Meditate on verse 58. How are you going to respond to it?



Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for redeeming my life. Amen.

Wednesday, 9th April 2025. Our Redeemer lives. Text: Job 19:20-29

In the text, Job states why he wants his words to be written down (*vv.23-24*); that his Redeemer lives (*v.25*). A Redeemer is a Guarantor or Vindicator. Job believes that God will be His Redeemer. It is interesting to note that in the midst of being tormented with death and decay, Job still hoped to see God in his body, and yet at that time Israel did not have a well-developed doctrine of the resurrection. *In the midst of suffering and distress remember that your Redeemer lives.* Jesus Christ came that you have life in abundance (*Jhn.10:10*)



Meditate on verse 25. What encouragement do you get from it?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for my Redeemer who lives forever! Amen.

Thursday, 10th April 2025. A believer will see the Lord.

Text: Job 19:27-29

Job had lost hope in living. However, he believed that after death his Redeemer would vindicate him and enjoy perfect fellowship with Him (v.27). *Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, will return and be with us forever (1Thes.4:16-17)*



Meditate on verse 27. How are you going to respond to it?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we look forward to seeing You in glory. Amen.

Friday, 11th April 2025. God delivers His own from the domain of darkness. Text: Colossians 1:3-13

Just as God delivered the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt and captivity from Babylon, He now delivers His people from the domain of darkness (v.13). Domain of darkness is Satan and the powers of evil. In the days of Paul, the false teaching in Colossae intimidated believers, thinking that pagan supernatural beings had power to disqualify them from life with God. However, Paul urges them that true believers have been transferred from darkness to light, *from guilt to forgiveness and from power of Satan to power of God.*

Today, there is a proliferation of wrong teachings that are denying some believers the assurance of salvation. They teach more on demons, the doctrine of numerology rather than teaching repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ. Many are left helpless and intimidated like those of Colossae. You can be sure that in Christ you are more than a conqueror.



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for moving me from the kingdom of darkness to that of light. Amen.

Saturday, 12th April 2025. In Christ you are reconciled to God.

Text: Colossians 1: 18-23

Sin had separated us from God (*v.21*). Sin corrupts our way of thinking about God, which results in sin. Our natural condition is totally hostile to God's standards. And *without Christ, your sins cannot be forgiven and removed*. But Christ's death in the flesh means that God has accomplished reconciliation, not of the universal pacification of the hostile powers, but of the personal renewal and cleansing of those who hold firmly and stick to the gospel.



Meditate on verses 21-22. How are you going to respond to it?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for reconciling us to Yourself through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.



PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, 13th April 2025. Only in Christ you see the Lord.

Text: Job 19:26-29

In spite of his suffering, Job still believed that he had a Redeemer who loved him (*v.26*) and for whom his heart yearned (*v.27*). Considering the situation Job was in, and yet believing that he would see God in the physical, points to the faith of Job. Every sinner needs the Redeemer through whom he/she can reconcile and fellowship with God. The Redeemer is Jesus Christ whose name is only the name given to man through which one is saved, delivered or redeemed (*Act.4:2*).

Today, we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (*Luk.19:28-44*). *Allow Jesus Christ, if you have not yet, to enter and clean up your life so that you can fellowship with God (Luk.19:45-46).*



Meditate on verse 26. What is God teaching you in this verse?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ through whom I shall see You face to face. Amen.

Monday, 14th April 2025. God forgives completely. Text: Psalm 103:1-12

When God redeems you by forgiving you of your sins, He completely removes them (v.12). To say that *God removes our sins as far as "east is from the west"* is profound analogy. While north meets south at south Pole and south meets north at North Pole, east and west never meet, for there is not east pole or west pole. East and West are indefinitely far from each other. For God to separate our sins "as far as the East is from the West", *means the absolute and irrevocable measure by which God forgives you.* If God forgives you, then you are indeed completely redeemed, delivered and saved through His Son, Jesus Christ. Once forgiven, Jesus Christ takes our sins far away (Jhn1:29).



Meditate on verse 12. What encouragement do you get from this verse?



Our Father in heaven, the Lord of heaven and earth, thank You for taking away all my sins. Amen.

Tuesday, 15th April 2025. As a redeemed person witness for Christ: Text: Psalm 107:1-9

As a child of God, tell others what God has done for you (v.2). If Jesus Christ has redeemed you from the bondage of sin, then *witness for Him by your words and actions.* You can only be redeemed or saved by God through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 2. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our Father, in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me the ability to witness for Your glory. Amen.

Wednesday, 16th April 2025. God given inheritance to His children. Text: Psalm 111: 1-10

The Lord is great, faithful and provides for His children (v.6). The power of God's works is the mighty acts and miracles that God has performed throughout history, showcasing His Sovereignty and might. "Other nations" refer to nations outside of Israel. God's ultimate purpose in showing His power to His children is to give them the heritage of nations. This inheritance includes both physical and spiritual blessing. Therefore, as the redeemed of the Lord, *live as faithful heirs of His abundant blessing and promises* in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 6. How are you going to respond to it?



Heavenly father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for showing us Your unfailing power. Amen.

Thursday, 17th April 2025. God is able to cleanse our sins.

Text: Isaiah 1: 11-20

Scarlet or crimson was the colour of a deep-red permanent dye which was virtually impossible to remove from a cloth. The stain of sin is equally permanent; but *God can remove such a stain from our lives as He promised to do for the children of Israel (v.18)*. Jesus Christ's blood can cleanse and remove our most indelible stains, because His death completely paid the penalty for our sins. If your stains are removed then you are redeemed. Because Jesus Christ bore God's punishment for sinners, He can remove the stain of sin without compromising His righteousness.



Meditate on verse 18. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for removing the stains of sin from me. Amen.



GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, 18th April 2025. God is able to remove your sins.

Text: Isaiah 44:21-28

The grace of God makes sins to fade away (v.22). Repentance motivates the grace of God, and God alone is the Redeemer. Only God can forgive sins through His Son, Jesus Christ (Mark 2:7). Receive and believe in Christ today, then begin a journey of fellowship with God. The text is a declaration of forgiveness and a promise to restoration. *God desires that we return to Him*. The term "sweeping" shows how easy God forgives your sins. *Repent and receive the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ*.

When you repent, you receive forgiveness through the name of Jesus Christ, whom we remember today, Good Friday, as He was hanged on a cross to pay your death penalty for sin, so that you receive the forgiveness of your sins (Mat.27:32-54)



Meditate on verse 22. How are you going to respond to it?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for blotting out my sins. Amen.

Saturday, 19th April 2025. Rebuke to restore someone. Text: Luke 17:1-4

In Judaism, it was considered honourable to forgive three times (*vv.3-4*). But Jesus is teaching that one should forgive all the time. Rebuking should be done with love to restore the offender back to God and fellow humans. *Before you rebuke anyone, check your attitude.* Unless it is tied to forgiveness, it will not help the sinner to repent and be redeemed. Therefore, your rebuke should *lead that person to redemption in Jesus Christ.*



Meditate on verses 3-4. How are you going to apply them to your life?



Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to forgive people all the time. Amen.



EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, 20th April 2025. Jesus' first coming was to save people.

Text: John 3:16-21

The first coming of Jesus Christ to earth was to save people (*v.17*). Naturally man is separated from God and is condemned for their sin (*v.18*). If you do not believe, then you remain condemned. Salvation is only in Jesus Christ (*Jhn.14: 6*) and only those who accept it will be saved.

Salvation is indeed only through Jesus Christ, and as we celebrate His resurrection today (*Mat.28:1-15*), may Jesus Christ resurrect in your life, family and occupation!



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Monday, 21st April 2025. In Christ you have the abundant life.

Text: John 10:7-18

While the thief comes to take life, Jesus Christ gives life (*v.10*). And *He gives the eternal life that begins immediately*. In Christ, you have overflowing forgiveness, guidance through the Holy Spirit and love. In Christ, you are redeemed here on earth and it is extended in heaven. If you do not have it here, you cannot have it in heaven.



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



Heavenly Father, the Lord of heaven and earth, thank You for the abundant life I have in You. Amen.

Tuesday, 22nd April 2025. Your redemption is eternal.

Text: Romans 8:26-30

God knew from eternity that you would be saved. It was settled before the foundation of the world (*v.29*); it was not an afterthought. As a believer, *you should rejoice, knowing that God has always known you*. God's love is eternal, and His wisdom and power to protect you are supreme. He will save you, protect your testimony until one day when you shall stand in His presence.



Meditate on verse 29. What is God teaching you this verse?



Our loving Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You that You knew me before the foundation of the world. Amen.

Wednesday, 23rd April 2025. Christ took the curse for us.

Text: Galatians 3:10- 14

Man's disobedience to God brought divine curse on him. However, *Christ took that burden of the curse on the Cross (v.13)*. In Christ alone you are redeemed, you are at peace with God. At the time of Paul, Judaizers were convincing Christians in Galatia that they needed to believe in Christ and **also** continue to follow the Law of Moses (*2:4*). The two are not compatible. The good news is that Christ **alone** redeemed us from the curse of the Law. Christ became a curse for you (*Deut. 21:23*). *In Christ alone, you are redeemed.*



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for Your grace through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thursday, 24th April 2025. In Christ alone you are redeemed.**Text: Colossians 1:14-17**

Redemption is deliverance or release from captivity. Only in Christ is a believer rescued from condemnation. For, in Christ, the believer receives forgiveness of his/her sins (v.14). In Christ, God has forgiven us all our sins, has rescued us from Satan's kingdom of darkness and brought us into His eternal Kingdom. He has purchased our freedom from sin and judgment with His blood.



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for forgiving me all my sins. Amen.

Friday, 25th April 2025. Jesus Christ's death makes His people holy.**Text: Titus 2:11-15**

Jesus Christ died so that the sinners who repent of their sins are made holy and become people of His own procession (v.14). *At an individual level; He redeemed us from all lawlessness, freeing us from our sins.* At a Church level, He purifies for Himself a people for His own possession. Individuals are purified from their sins so that together they constitute a special people to Him.



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for making me Your own possession. Amen.

Saturday, 26th April 2025. Jesus' death redeems His own.**Text: Hebrews 9:11-16**

In the Old Testament, people offered *unblemished animals as sacrifices*, pointing to the coming of Christ and His death for sin (v.15). *Jesus Christ is the final and perfect sacrifice for sin.* In Christ alone you are redeemed.



Meditate on verse 15. What is God teaching you in this verse?



Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for Jesus Christ whose death gave me eternal life. Amen.

Sunday, 27th April 2025. Redemption is God's love initiative.**Text: 1 Peter 1:3-5**

The phrase "according to His great mercy" is an emphasis that salvation or redemption is an initiative from God's love for sinners not to be lost (v.3). In Christ alone a sinner achieves a living hope, a confident expectation of future blessing based on facts and promises. Out of His mercy, God through Christ's death, has chosen us, sanctified us without our ever needing to earn it from Him. Grace is when someone gives something positive to the other person that does not deserve it. On the other hand, mercy is withholding a negative consequence from another that deserves it.



Meditate on verse 3. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we bless Your name because of Your great mercy extended to us. Amen.

Monday, 28th April 2025. God paid ransom of His Son to redeem you.**Text: 1 Peter 1:13-20**

In the Old Testament, a slave was ransomed or redeemed when someone paid money to the slave-owner to purchase his/her freedom. God has redeemed us from the tyranny of sin not with money (*silver or gold*), the temporary currency for an eternal transaction, but with the currency of limitless value attached to the precious blood of His own Son (v.18). (*Rom.6:6-7; 1 Cor. 6:20; Col.2:13-14*). *God redeemed us from the worthlessness of this world.*



Meditate on verse 18. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for the ransom You paid for my redemption. Amen.

Tuesday, 29th April 2025. God's kindness gave us redemption.**Text: Ephesians 1:3-10**

God shows kindness or grace by His voluntary and loving favour that He gives to those He saves (v.7). *You cannot earn salvation, neither do you deserve it.* No effort, on our part, through: religion, intellectual or moral input, can gain or add to it, it is purely by the grace of God (*Eph.2:8-9*). Jesus' death points to two wonderful truths; redemption and forgiveness of sin. Jesus Christ paid the price to release you from sin. *Receive and believe in Him today, if you have not yet done so.*



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



Heavenly loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for forgiving my sins through the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Wednesday, 30th April 2025. The Lord is your Lawyer. Text: Lamentations 3:52-60

As he served the Lord, Prophet Jeremiah had many difficulties arising from his enemies and enemies of his prophecies. At some point they threw him in an empty cistern, thinking that he would therein die (vv.52-57). However, Jeremiah pleaded with the Lord to be his Lawyer (v.58, *LASB*), and the Lord redeemed him.

If you, as an individual or a nation, are sinking in sin, but cry to the Lord through His Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord will forgive you all your sins and give you eternal life. Repent today and receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 58. What encouragement do you get from this verse?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for taking up my case, rescue me from my enemies. Amen.

THE MONTH OF MAY 2025

THE GOODNESS OF GOD IN AN EVIL AND HOSTILE WORLD



*On the 3rd day of God creating the universe, and all that are in it, God recognized what He had created as good (**Gen 1:10**). All that God created were good.*

*After six days of creation, the universe was flawless in beauty, purpose, function and potential. God saw all He had created, and was very good (**Gen. 1:31**).*

*However, evil came to the universe when man disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit (**Gen. 3:6**). The goodness is that God promised to redeem mankind by His own grace (**Gen. 3:15**), pointing to Christ who would die to redeem mankind. In Christ alone we are more than conquerors (**Rom. 8:37**).*

*God is sovereign and in control of all things in the world, including evil. This does not mean that God created evil or He is evil. Remember God is good and in Him there is no darkness at all (**1Jhn 1:5**). God does not delight in wickedness (**Ps. 5:4**). But He allows evil to occur so that His good purpose and good plan prevail. The evil in the world cannot hinder God's plan.*

Thursday, 1st May 2025. God is merciful and gracious. Text:

Exodus 33:12-23

Moses wanted to see the glory of God. He wanted to be sure that the presence of God was with him (v.19). Yet because of finite nature of man and imperfect morals, we cannot see God as He is. To “see the back of God”, means we can only see where God has passed and know Him by what He does and how He acts. No one can comprehend God as He is, without passing through Christ (Jhn 14:9).

It is only through Jesus Christ, that the glory of the compassionate and gracious God is manifested to His children through the Holy Spirit (Jhn 1:14, 2 Cor. 3:18). It is through God's grace that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). God shows us His mercy and grace through Jesus Christ alone to enable us live in this evil and hostile world.



Meditate on verse 23. How are you going to respond to it?



Heavenly Father, the Lord of heaven and earth, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me see the wonderful things You have done for me, and to focus only on You. Amen.

Friday, 2nd May 2025. God is compassion. Text: Genesis 3:1-15

After the fall of man (v.6), God promises to redeem His own (v.15). This was fulfilled when Jesus Christ died on the cross (Jhn 19:30) to redeem those, who from eternity, had been predestined to be saved. (Rom. 8:28-30).

In this evil and hostile world, you are tempted. *But because God is good, He provides you with an escape route (1 Cor. 10:13)*, which is to trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour. You need to obey the leading of the Holy Spirit moment by moment. You receive the Holy Spirit at the moment you invite Jesus Christ into your heart to be your Savior and accept His Lordship (Eph. 2: 8-9).



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for redeeming and giving me eternal life. Amen.

Saturday, 3rd May 2025. In Christ, you are the new creation. Text: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

By the grace of God, every believer in *Christ is a new creation in this evil and hostile world (v.17)*. In this evil and hostile world, a believer in Christ is sanctified (*1 Cor. 1: 2*), glorified (*1 Cor. 3:18*), elected (*Eph. 1:4,11*) and justified (*Rom. 8:1*), all this by the goodness of God.

In Christ you are a brand-new person on the inside. You are re-created, not reformed, re educated or rehabilitated living in important union with Jesus Christ (*Col. 2:6-7*). Therefore, out of the goodness of God, His children are changed from within, establishing new covenant, perspective and body. All through Jesus Christ alone.



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for making me a new person in Christ. Amen.

Sunday, 4th May 2025. God gives us His power. Text: Ephesians 3:14-21

Because God is good, *He gives us power to live in this evil and hostile world (v. 20)*. The power of God helps us to accomplish more than what we can imagine or think. A child of God has the Holy Spirit within that enables him/her to live in this world without depending on his/her ineffective human strength. You can only overcome the tricks of the devil in this world by the power of the Holy Spirit. You received the Holy Spirit at a point you receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord.



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



Almighty Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for enabling me to do all that I do in Your name. Amen.

Monday, 5th May 2025. God is faithful. Text: Philippians 1:1-11

A child of God can persevere in this evil world as enabled by God Who preserves him/her by His own grace (*v.6*). A believer in Christ can genuinely progress spiritually based on what God had done, is doing and will continue to do. Because God is faithful, He will be with His children in this hostile world until Jesus Christ returns. *Your testimony is secure because God protects and guards it!*



Meditate on verse 6. What is God teaching you in this verse?



Heavenly Father, the Lord of heaven and earth, continue to work in me for Your own glory. Amen.

Tuesday, 6th May 2025. God provides for every need.

Text: Philippians 4:10-20

In this hostile world, *God will supply material and spiritual needs of His children (v.19)*. This does not mean a promise to wealth and health, the concept of “need” must be considered according to the Will of God. God will always meet the needs to accomplish His promise, not for selfishness intent. As a child of God in this evil world, your need is met through Jesus Christ who made and controls all things.



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, supply the need of Your church in the nation. Amen.

Wednesday, 7th May 2025. Do not fear. Text: 2 Timothy 1:3-7

Paul is encouraging Timothy because he (*Timothy*) was experiencing a lot of opposition to both: his message and himself as a leader (*v.7*). Was also aggravated by his being young and his association with Paul. Surprisingly, Timothy was opposed by believers and non-believers alike! Therefore, Paul urges him to be bold. As a Christian leader in your community, or family in this evil world you need: *power, love and self-control which are available to you because of the Holy Spirit who lives in you.*



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to exercise power, love and self-control to the glory of Your name. Amen.

Thursday, 8th May 2025. God has given us the Word.

Text: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

The Lord, out of His own grace, has given us the Word, the Bible, to guide us in this evil world (*v.16*). The Bible is not a collection of stories, fables or myths or human ideas about God. It is the inspired Word of God, written by humans in their own personal, historical and cultural contexts, using their own minds, talents, language and style, they wrote what God wanted them to write.

The Bible is completely trustworthy because God was guarding against

errors. It is authoritative for our faith and life. So, *in this evil world God gave us the Bible as our standard for testing everything else that claims to be true.* Read, study and apply it to your life, you shall not be lost!



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for giving us Your Word. Amen.

Friday, 9th May 2025. Cast all your care onto God. Text: 1 Peter 5:1-11

In this hostile world, incidence of worries and anxieties is a likely event. This can be a form of pride on your part, the reason you take concerns up on yourself; instead of entrusting them to God, who cares for you as His child (*v.7*). *It takes humility to recognize that God cares.* In this evil world, let us turn to God in repentance, He will bear the weight of our worries and struggles.



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



Our loving Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, forgive us when we have carried our burdens instead of entrusting them onto You for You care for us. Amen.

Saturday, 10th May 2025. God forgives sin. Text: 1 John 1:5-10

In this hostile world you are bound to sin. This is the reason you must confess your sins. *God promises to forgive you when you confess your sins;* not only to receive salvation, but also to stay in fellowship with God as well as other people (*v.9*). *Confession frees you to enjoy fellowship with Christ.*

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

Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, forgive us all our sins. Amen.

Sunday, 11th May 2025. Confidence in the love of God.

Text: Psalm 13:1-6

You can live in this evil and hostile world as you *put confidence in the steadfast love of God.* Trusting that the Lord will establish you (*vv.5-6*). You may be trusting the Lord wholeheartedly; but at times You will feel the pressure of some of the problems. Please do not give in, instead, hold on to your faith in God and trust in His steadfast love. Jesus Christ encourages us to take heart for He has overcome the world for us (*Jhn 16:33*).



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for Your steadfast love for me. Amen.

Monday, 12th May 2025. Trust in the Lord. Text: Psalm 16: 1-11

In this evil world, trust only in the Lord (v.2) for Him alone is reliable. Many times, we are tempted to trust in people or material things like money. This is wrong because *things cannot give us genuine peace*. Always trust God through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 2. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I choose to trust only in You, as my Saviour and my Peace. Amen.

Tuesday, 13th May 2025. The Lord forgives sins. Text: Psalm 25: 1-10

In this hostile world, trust that the Lord will forgive the sins of your youth (v.7). The words *"to remember, mercy"* and *"steadfast love"* are all closely connected with the covenant of God which informs your trust. When God remembers something, then He attends to it in order to act. In this world, the devil will smear you with dirt; but the Lord will remember mercy and forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness, through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



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



Heavenly Father, the Lord of heaven and earth, in the name of Jesus Christ, remember mercy and forgive me all my sins. Amen.

Wednesday, 14th May 2025. Revere the Lord. Text: Psalm 25: 11-22

It is the Will of God that we obey His Word. He then promises that our descendants shall possess the Land (v.13). This was a promise to the children of Israel, and it applies to us too. The physical land was meant for the nation of Israel, but the implications of that promise apply to all children of God. *The relationship between reverence for the Lord and well-being is readily visible today*. If you fear the Lord then you will avoid habits which are harmful to your body. Remember your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19).



Meditate on verse 13. How are you going to respond to it?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me good health and bless my children. Amen.

Thursday, 15th May 2025. There is abundance of the goodness of God.

Text: Psalm 31: 16-20

In this hostile world, the Lord makes promises and fulfills them. *He promises His goodness to all who fear Him (v.19).* The goodness of God includes protection and victory over all temptations in this evil world. You shall enjoy the abundance of God's goodness only when you are in Christ.



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to always take refuge in You. Amen.

Friday, 16th May 2025.. Take refuge in God. Text: Psalm 34:1-10

You shall experience the goodness of God in this hostile world when you take refuge in Him (v. 8). Many people, when troubled, run to witchdoctors, others to politicians and many other things other than God. *The best place to seek refuge is to run to God through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.*



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, lead Your children to take refuge in You. Amen.

Saturday, 17th May 2025. God blesses the land. Text: Psalm 65:1-3

Nature guides us to understand the character of God. And in this Psalm, we see God being glorified as reflected in the beauty of nature (vv.6-13). *Nature displays His generosity, love and provision for His children more than what they need.* In this evil world, God still blesses the land to produce abundantly for man and animals. The generosity of God should make us grateful to Him, and in turn, be generous to others.



Meditate on verses 9-13. What is God teaching you in these verses?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for making the earth that grows crops for us. Amen.

Sunday, 18th May 2025. God has mercy over His creation. Text: Psalm 145:1-9

The mercy of God is over all that He has created (v.9). *In this evil world, the grace of God applies to all He created.* If not, human beings would have been killed long ago (Gen.6:6). Therefore, trust Him through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



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



Our Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for Your goodness to all Your creation. Amen.

Monday, 19th May 2025. God provides perfect peace. Text: Isaiah 26:1-9

In this evil world, strife is all around us. However, *whenever you fix your thoughts on God, you receive perfect peace (v.3)*, even in tumultuous situations. When you focus your mind on God and His Word, on His unchanging love and mighty power, you shall not be shaken by chaos around you. You focus on God perfectly when you are in Christ. You receive Jesus Christ by faith through prayer.



Meditate on verse 3. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we choose to ever fix our thoughts on You. Amen.

Tuesday, 20th May 2025. God is with you. Text: Isaiah 41:1-10

In this hostile world, the people of God should not fear like those who do not have faith in God (v.10). *A child of God should not fear because God is with him/her.* He has established a relationship with you and He gives you assurance of His strength, help and victory over schemes of the devil in the name of Jesus Christ.



Meditate on verse 10. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the promise to strengthen and help me. Amen.

Wednesday, 21st May 2025. God has good plans for you. Text: Jeremiah 29:1-11

In this evil world, God has good plans for you, just as He had good plans for Israel while in exile (v.11). God knows our future, and His plans for us are good and full of hope. However, it does not mean that you as a child

of God shall be spared of suffering, pain and hardship. The good news is that God will see you through these challenges to a godly conclusion, in His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



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



Our Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for having good plans of hope and peace for me. Amen.

Thursday, 22nd May 2025. God satisfies His people.

Text: Jeremiah 31: 1-14

Priests were supposed to serve God in the temple as they offered sacrifices on behalf of the people. God promises to satisfy their souls, indicating *spiritual abundance that comes from being close to God*. God also promises to satisfy His people with His goodness (v.14). The promise includes: Contentment and joy, that comes as one experiences the goodness of God. In this hostile world the Lord is reminding us of His faithfulness to provide and sustain His chosen ones. All this happens in the name of Jesus Christ.



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, satisfy Your people with Your goodness. Amen.

Friday, 23rd May 2025. Seek the Lord. Text: Lamentations 3:19-30

In this evil world, *wait on the Lord and seek Him (v.25)*. God is always good and available to those who genuinely seek, hope and wait for Him. You wait and seek the Lord perfectly in His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 25. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Our Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to seek You in truth and spirit. Amen.

Saturday, 24th May 2025. Return and seek the Lord. Text: Hosea 3:1-5

God calls us to seek and return to Him (v.5), just as many of the children of God repented with a full desire to fellowship with God on the day of Pentecost (Act. 2:38-41). With a lot of evil and strife around us, we need to *return to God in repentance and seek forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ*.



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, lead us to repent and seek You always. Amen.

Sunday, 25th May 2025. Do what God requires of you. Text: Micah 6:1-8

In this hostile world, do what God requires of you: *do what is right, love mercy and walk humbly with Him (v.8)*. In all your efforts to please God, make sure you observe these areas regularly. God wants changed lives, lives that are practicing fairness, justice, mercifulness and humility. He wants you to be a living sacrifice (*Rom.12:1-2*). You can only do that when Jesus Christ has transformed your heart; so that you allow the Holy Spirit to guide you moment by moment, throughout your life.



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to do right; to love, have mercy and walk humbly with You. Amen.

Monday, 26th May 2025. Trust in the Lord. Text: Nahum 1:1-8

In this hostile world, let the Lord be your stronghold (*v.7*). *While God hates sin, He is good to His children*. The term “good” depicts His benevolence as the source of true human wellness and prosperity. In this evil world, God knows His children with love and affection. The world may, and will harass you, but God will always be your strong refuge. The Lord will be your strong refuge when you are in Christ, His Son, and our Saviour and as we submit to His Kingship.



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



Our heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for being my stronghold. I choose to hide in You. Amen.

Tuesday, 27th May 2025. God gives good things. Text: Matthew 7:7-11

In this *verse (v.11)* the term “evil” refers to the general sinfulness of humanity. The “good things” are gifts from the Father, and they include: *Righteousness, sincerity, purity, humility and wisdom (v.11)*. In this evil world, you need such to live effectively in it. Our God is loving, understanding, caring and comforting, therefore, run to Him through His Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



Meditate on verse 11. What is God teaching you in this verse?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for being our loving and caring Father, Amen.

Wednesday, 28th May 2025. Love your enemies. Text: Luke 6:27-36

The Bible encourages us to love our enemies (*℣.35*). And there are many in this evil world. That “You will be Sons” (*ESV*) does not mean that you will become sons, rather that, “you will demonstrate that you are sons” as you conform to Christlikeness and reflect God’s care and compassion, even to those who hurt you.

In this evil world, you need to work for the welfare of your enemies, give to those who will never return the favour because: (1). God will reward His faithful followers and (2). You need to imitate God your Father, who does good to all; His friends and His enemies (*Mat. 5:45*). Even when you were still a sinner, Christ died for you (*Rom. 5:8*).



Meditate on verse 35. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to love and serve my enemies. Amen.

Thursday, 29th May 2025. God has given us His Son. Text: John 3:16-21

In this evil world, God has given us His only Son, Jesus Christ (*℣.16*). The phrase “God so loved the world” does not mean that God sent Jesus Christ to die in order to bring salvation to everyone without exception. This is false because Jesus clearly says that salvation is for those that the Father “gives me” will come to me (*6:37-40*; *10:14-18*; *17:9*). The meaning of the “world” is that Christ’s saving work is not limited to one time or place; it applies to the elect from all over the world. So, in this evil world *if you believe in Christ you will never be separated from God and you cannot be lost*.



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friday, 30th May 2025. Jesus Christ is a good Shepherd.

Text: John 10:1-18

Jesus Christ is a good Shepherd in this evil world (*℣.17*). Therefore, you need not to struggle on your own. Jesus Christ as a Shepherd, does it out

of love. He owns you as His sheep and is committed to guide and guard you to the extent of laying His life for you. Trust and believe in Him, no one can snatch you from Him. Receive and believe Him by faith and He will care for you in this hostile world.



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



Our loving Father, the Lord of heaven and earth, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for being my good shepherd. Amen.

Saturday, 31st May 2025. Christ died for His own. Text: Romans 5:1-11

While you were still lost in this evil world, Jesus Christ died for you (v.8). Christ died for you not because you were good enough, rather, because of His love for you. *When you believe in Him, then, you are justified through faith and you are reconciled to God.* You are now empowered by the Holy spirit to be able to live a righteous and holiness life, not of your own but of Jesus Christ.



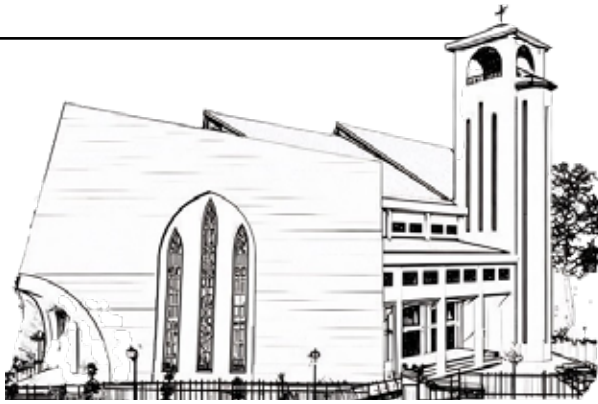
Meditate on verse 8. How are you going to apply it to your life?



Ever-loving Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank You for Your love for us: That while we were still lost in this evil world, You died for us, out of Your love for us, redeeming us into the glory of Your life, as Your reconciled children. Amen.

THE MONTH OF JUNE 2025

A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE: THE BASIS OF DOING GOOD



*The theme for this month is: “**The Spirit-filled Life: The Basis of Doing Good**”.*

*Before people are converted, before they trust in Jesus as Saviour, they live their lives according to their natural anti-God ways, like everyone else in the world. A Christian is a person who has been born again by the Holy Spirit (**Jhn.3:3-8**) and brought into the Kingdom of Christ. The Spirit dwells within each converted person forever.*

*When the phrase “filled with the Spirit” is used in Scripture, it sometimes means that a person is empowered by the Holy Spirit for a certain task. For example, Bezalel was filled with the Spirit for the construction of the Tabernacle (**Ex.31:2-5**), and Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit when he spoke to the Jewish authorities (**Act.4:8**). But that does not mean that “ordinary” believers are not filled with God’s Spirit. All believers are filled with the Holy Spirit (**Rom.8:9; 2 Tim.1:14**). The Holy Spirit indwells us and is the One who empowers us to trust Jesus Christ, to love God and others, and to live obediently to God’s Laws. That regular, daily obedience is what we will be considering this month. We will especially consider Christ’s obedience and our union with Him.*

Sunday, 1st June 2025. You shall not eat. Text: Genesis 2:15-17

The book of Genesis is foundational to all of Scripture, and much theology and doctrine is derived from its early chapters. Thus, our study of “doing good” begins here. At this point in history Adam had not yet sinned. He was created by God as righteous and holy, and Yahweh gave him certain tasks to do, including caring for the garden, cultivating it, guarding it. There was one thing that he must not do, which was, he must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If he did eat, then he would surely die (*v.17*). There was nothing bad about the tree and its fruit. Adam was simply being tested by his Creator to see if he would *love Yahweh and obey Him*.

Because Adam was the representative head of all humanity, death came to everyone (*1 Cor.15:21-22*). It was only by God’s grace that Adam and Eve continued to live and that He gave to them/us a gracious promise of salvation by a Redeemer (*3:15*). Jesus Christ (*God the Son*) is that Redeemer, and He came to do the good that His Father required, that Adam failed to do, and that humanity was not able to do. Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience, paid the death penalty for those who belonged to Him, and His resurrection broke the power of death for them. God has given believers the gift of the Holy Spirit, who united us to Jesus Christ’s accomplishments so that we are able to do the good that He requires.



Challenge: *It is true that we sin each day, but if you genuinely belong to Jesus Christ, then you are able to obey God. Ask God daily for the grace to obey.*



Prayer: Our Father, please grant to me the grace I need to live a life of loving, grateful obedience to You. It is through Your Son, Jesus, that I ask for it. Amen.

Monday, 2nd June 2025. Not as the result of works.**Text: Ephesians 2:8-10**

In talking about “doing good” (*this month’s theme*), it is easy to think that doing good is how a person is accepted by God and gains entrance into His Kingdom. But that is wrong. From the start let us be clear of some very important facts/truths about gaining salvation: (1). salvation is only by God’s grace; there is nothing a person does to get it. (2). We receive God’s grace by faith. (3). Saving faith is not something anyone has naturally, it is God’s gift. (4). Paul repeats, salvation is not gotten by something a person does; this is so that no one can take some credit for salvation, because it is

God's work, and He will not give His glory to anyone (*Isa.42:8*). (5). Believers in Christ are created **for** good works.

In summary, the point of what Paul is teaching in today's passage is that salvation is only by God's grace, it is not deserved, and it is not earned by anything a person does. And while believers are created to do good works, those works also contribute nothing to salvation. *Our Christian works are the **result** of salvation, not the **cause** of salvation.* Please understand that and put it deep into your heart. If God in Christ did everything for you, then it is not possible for you to add something! Those who belong to Jesus Christ have been given the Holy Spirit to dwell within them and to give them the desire and the strength to do the things that please God, deeds which are according to God's Word, the Bible.



Challenge: *Because you know these things, you must now live a life of loving, grateful obedience to Scripture.*



Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of eternal life, for the gift of Jesus Christ, and for the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Also, by Your grace I will live obediently to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Tuesday, 3rd June 2025. God is at work in you. Text: Philippians 2:1-13

Apostle Paul begins this chapter by talking about unity. Unity means that all the members are in agreement and living in peace with each other. It is an essential topic because all believers are part of Christ's one "body", thus we should live in harmony. Sadly, that is not the case in world-wide Christendom, but it is attainable within each congregation. In the *first verse* Paul mentions "*fellowship of the Spirit.*" By that he means a similar thing as being in the body. "Fellowship" refers to sharing, and believers are in unity because of the Holy Spirit's unifying work in making believers share the blessings of belonging to Christ. The Spirit is the one working within individual persons uniting them in Christ.

Paul goes on to speak something that is essential to unity – selflessness. No one should be self-focused, because that is the very thing that works against unity. Unity is focused on the well-being of others, which is *the unifying factor for attaining church oneness*. As an illustration, Paul points us to Jesus Christ as the highest example of selflessness. Jesus is God the Eternal Son, who is to be worshipped, loved, and served (*vv5-11*). Yet, for His people, Jesus put all that aside and served selflessly, including death for His people's sin-penalty. For the goal of unity in our churches, we who belong to Christ are to put our salvation to work (*v.12*). We are Spirit-filled

people, and He enables us to please God in this matter (v.13).



Challenge: *Self-focus is what caused Adam's fall into sin and separated him from Eve and from God. You have the Holy Spirit. Live by His power for the good of your church family.*



Prayer: Our Father, grant me the grace to live selflessly as Jesus did. In His name I pray. Amen.

Wednesday, 4th June 2025. Walk before me and be blameless.

Text: Genesis 17:1-17

We learn a lot about covenants from this passage. As we read in the Bible about God's covenant for salvation, it is a gracious relationship of union, based on oath, sealed by death. Abraham had already been in covenant with God for 24 years, starting from *Gen. 12* up to *Gen. 17* where it is repeated. Yahweh has already chosen Abraham, called him out of his pagan life, and made a great promise to him that he would be the father of many nations; through Abraham the covenant would go to all the world. Abraham never asked for this relationship or for the promise; he did not deserve it; he was a pagan; Yahweh just chose him for His own reasons and gave him promises. God simply brought Abraham into a relationship with Him.

But that does not mean that Abraham had freedom to continue his life of idolatry and self-service. *In 17:1*, Yahweh commands Abraham to "walk" (*live his life*) before Him blamelessly. That does not mean perfection, because no one can do that. However, Abraham *must worship and serve only Yahweh* and live before Him in a way that showed he belonged to God. However, Jesus did live a perfect life of obedience to God. His obedience applied all the way back to Abraham, and to Adam, and to all other believers before Christ; and all the way forward in time to everyone who will trust Jesus for salvation. God has promised you eternal life. So, walk before Him and be blameless, doing good!



Question: *Are you trusting only Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for your salvation? If so, live a good life in loving, grateful obedience to His law.*



Prayer: Father in Heaven, please forgive my sins, and cause me to trust Jesus and live a life that is acceptable to You. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

Thursday, 5th June 2025. I am Yahweh, who brought you out.

Text: Exodus 20:1-17

When there was a famine in the land of promise, Abraham's grandson, Jacob (*later named Israel*), went into Egypt with his large family. God gave to Jacob the covenant of Abraham; but after some years Israel and his family became slaves to the Egyptians and remained as slaves for about 400 years! Then God delivered them through Moses with miraculous, destructive plagues upon Egypt. Yahweh took the people to the Red Sea, and Israel walked through on dry ground; but the water came together and drowned the Egyptian soldiers. For three months God led His people to Mt. Sinai and gave them His laws, especially laws about the Tabernacle and about how to worship their God. The worship of God is the main purpose for Israel's existence.

You must notice that Israel did **not** obey God's laws first before Yahweh delivered them. In fact, Israel worshipped idols in Egypt. *God acted first.* He initially made salvation promises to their forefathers, delivered the nation of Israel from slavery, and brought them to His mountain – Sinai. That is where and when God gave them His laws. However, Jesus Christ (*our Moses*) had to obey God's Laws so that He could redeem us from enslavement to sin and from the Law's demands, which no one else can obey. God put Christ's obedience into the accounts of His people. Jesus then pours out onto His people His Holy Spirit, who converts us, so that we desire to cry out to God for salvation. He then empowers us to do good by obeying God's laws.



Challenge: Do not look to your good deeds or the deeds of others to get you into Heaven. Jesus did everything necessary. Trust Him alone and do grateful, Spirit-filled deeds.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, I thank You for your forgiving grace. Strengthen me each day to trust Jesus and live by the power of your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday, 6th June 2025. The 10 Commandments.

Text: Deuteronomy 5:6-21

All of God's laws, which are only found in the Bible, and are for all humanity, are summarized by the 10 Commandments. All ten pertain to God, but they are usually divided into two parts. Commands 1-4 pertain to God, and 5-10 pertain to those created in God's image, our fellow humans. There is only one God, and we are not to love, trust, nor worship any one nor

anything else. The Lord has set aside one day amongst the seven for His worship, a command that is intended to be observed from creation to eternity. In our relations to other people, we are to honour all authorities, and we should not murder, nor do adultery, nor steal, nor lie, nor covet, which means *God's laws also address the heart and mind.*

Jesus said there are two laws in Scripture that summarize all laws, which are: Love the Lord your God with all your heart (*Deut.6:5; Mat.22:37*), and love your neighbor as you love yourself (*Lev.19:18; Mat.22:39*). All God's laws hang on those two, which Jesus obeyed fully, and His obedience is put to our accounts! We who are united to Christ by faith have the Holy Spirit dwelling within each of us, and we are able to love God and others. These two great commands are the ultimate of doing good. So, how well do you love yourself? You do so a lot! Now love others that same way, and you will fulfil God's Law. Remember, *the good deeds of believers do not give salvation, but their deeds do please their heavenly Father.*



Challenge: Consider your relationships with others. How are you not loving in the way you want to be loved (*Mat.7:12*). That is where you need God's grace to love them as you love yourself.



Prayer: Our Father, please give me the grace and humility to obey You, love You and love others. For the honour of Christ. Amen.

Saturday, 7th June 2025. Take up your cross. Text: Luke 9:23-27

As we continue our meditations about Spirit-filled obedience, we need to consider how extreme that really is. In our passage of today, Jesus tells His disciples what is expected. *First*, they must deny themselves. That means they are no longer to serve their own interests. Rather, they must only be thinking of and serving Christ in everything, according to His requirements, always. Next, they are to take up the cross. The cross was a device for killing. Christ's disciples were not actually to kill themselves. Jesus meant that discipleship to Him is so extreme that disciples must consider themselves as dead and only alive in Him. *Lastly*, Jesus requires that disciples follow Him. That means that they are to become increasingly more and more like Jesus.

Jesus Christ demonstrated what it means to be a disciple. In His life on earth He did everything His heavenly Father required, in perfect obedience, even to the point of actual death by the tortures of a cross. His death secured for us forgiveness of sins, because He paid our death penalty. We are now called to serve Jesus in the same way He served His Father. Jesus

has given us His Holy Spirit so that we are enabled to live by His power. Of course, we will not obey perfectly; we will fail and sin daily. But we are disciples of a gracious Saviour, who is gentle, merciful, and forgiving. Be encouraged. Live with zealous obedience to your Lord and Saviour Jesus.



Question: *Are you following Jesus as He said, with denial of self and full devotion to Him in all things? There is no other way to be Christ's disciple.*



Prayer: Our Father, thank You for Your great forgiveness and for the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Please give me grace to follow Jesus as I properly should. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sunday, 8th June 2025. Deliverance leads to obedience.

Text: Deuteronomy.28:1-14

Israel is about to enter the promised land, without Moses, and Deuteronomy is his final message to the people to encourage and warn them. Yahweh promised Abraham to give his descendants the land, and God is now about to fulfill that promise. However, the people should not presume upon God's grace; they should not think that grace will allow them to live any way they like. Grace implies that one must live a grateful life of love to God and obedience to His Law. *The first 14 verses* of this chapter tell the great blessings that will come upon the people if they obey. But, if they disobey, the *next 54 verses* tell about the curses that will befall them, including removal from the land.

Eventually, the people were removed because of their idolatry; but God graciously returned them so that He could continue His eternal plan, which is fulfilled in, and continues through, *Jesus Christ. Jesus fulfilled all that God required of Israel, which secures for His people a permanent place in Heaven.* However, we should not fear that we might be removed from Heaven because of sin. When we enter eternal life, we will no longer sin, because even now we are new creatures (2 Cor.5:17), who are being made perfectly holy (1Thes.5:23), and being conformed to the image of Christ (Rom.8:29). But good works do not wait till then. By the power of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within you, you are able to do good works now (Eph.2:10).



Challenge: *Because you are united to Jesus Christ, you are not only a citizen of God's Kingdom, you are spiritually present there now (Eph.2:6). God calls you to live now like a citizen of Heaven.*



Prayer: Father in Heaven, thank You for making me Your child and a citizen of Your Kingdom. Please give me increasing grace to live like that, to the glory of the triune God. Amen.

Monday, 9th June 2025. Keep the Book of the Law. Text: Joshua 1:1-9

The book of Joshua is the first of the Bible history books, running all the way to the book of Esther, covering about 1000 years of Israel's history. Joshua was the aide of Moses, and Yahweh set apart Joshua as the next leader (*Num.27:18-23*). This would have been a daunting task for Joshua. He might have thought that he was nothing compared to Moses. But God called Joshua, and that is all that is necessary. Just as God was with Moses, so Yahweh promised He would be with Joshua as well (*v.5*). Yahweh then told Joshua to keep God's Law, to meditate on it, and to obey it (*v.8*). This would bring Joshua success in the work that Yahweh called him to do.

Obedience did not give Joshua salvation from sin; Joshua was already a saved man. Nor did Joshua's strength of obedience keep him in salvation. Joshua's obedience was empowered by the Holy Spirit (*Num.27:18*) for the work that Yahweh called him to do. Let us also notice God's promise of His presence (*vv.5,9*). *Yahweh would always be with Joshua, so he never needs to fear.* Jesus Christ (whose Hebrew name is Joshua) is our greater Joshua. His accomplishments have brought us into the eternal Kingdom; He will always be with us (*Heb.13:5; Isa.43:2*); and He has given us His Holy Spirit (*Jhn.20:22*). We are, therefore, enabled to do good works, to the glory of our Saviour Jesus.



Challenge: *You have been given the Holy Spirit of Christ Jesus. Are you still living like the rest of the world? You have been given the power to live for God.*



Prayer: Our Father, thank you for your presence and for the Holy Spirit in my life. Give me courage to live as becomes the follower of Christ. In His name I pray. Amen.

Tuesday, 10th June 2025. Depart from evil and do good works.

Text: Psalm 34:1-15

David is grateful to God, so he writes this Psalm as a call to believers to worship the LORD (*Yahweh*); and a call to those who are weak in their faith; and a call to those who have no faith (*v.8*). *First, let us consider verse 15.* The phrase *"the eyes of Yahweh are toward the righteous"* means God's blessings are upon those who are righteous, and righteousness

means that a person is considered as being right and acceptable by God. This is not something anyone has naturally. Righteousness is a decision and a declaration by God according to His own reasons, not according to anything a person is or does. Those who are righteous are expected to turn away from evil and to do good (*v.14*).

Have you “tested” and discovered, that Yahweh, God is, indeed, good (*v.8*)? Of course, you will only know Him as good to you if you submit to His Lordship and understand goodness according to His Word, the Bible, because God will not be measured against your standard of goodness. Righteousness, further explained, means that a person belongs to God’s grace in Jesus Christ. Jesus obeyed the call of this Psalm. He was righteous, and He perfectly fulfilled all righteous deeds. If you will trust in Jesus Christ as your Saviour from sin and condemnation, and if you will submit to His Lordship, then you too will be able to walk in righteousness, to live in good deeds.



Challenge: *To be declared as righteous by God is a gift of His grace, you didn't earn it. So, live in that grace by living according to the righteousness of God's word.*



Prayer: Our Father, please show me Your righteousness in Your Word, and give me grace to walk accordingly. In Jesus name. Amen.

Wednesday, 11th June 2025. Trust in Yahweh and do good.

Text: Psalm 37:1-9

This is another Psalm from King David; we are told, “of David”, the Hebrew beginning of this Psalm. David encourages believers who are facing the challenges from those who are evil-doers, wrong-doers. The oppression might be strong, but Yahweh will bring them to an end (*vv.2,9*). David gives us five principles to maintain in our lives, four of them are intentionally God-ward, which will strengthen us against evil. Read again the first words of *verses 3,4,5,7,8*. The first is one is foundational. When evil seems to be victorious, it is easy to think God does not exist. But you must **trust** that God is present, that He is powerful, that His sovereignty even uses evil for His purposes, and that He will eventually destroy evil.

Two important reasons for trusting that God will destroy evil is, *first*, because He has destroyed evil at the cross. When Jesus was on the cross, our sins were put on Him, and He paid our death penalty. Each of His people is now a new creation who have been given His Holy Spirit. Therefore, by the

Spirit's power, we are able to destroy evil in our lives and to do good. *Also*, the resurrection of Christ destroyed the power of satan, and satan's evil-doing is coming to an end. We would like to see that destruction more clearly, but we must trust that God is doing it in His good time. Until that time, "delight" (etc.) yourself in Yahweh and someday you shall see the end of evil.



Challenge: *If you are not delighting in God, nor committing your way to Him, etc., then you are likely not to be trusting Him either.*



Prayer: Father in Heaven, I want to trust You, but I have such difficulty. Please give me grace to do that and to honour You in it. Thank You. In Christ I have prayed. Amen.

Thursday, 12th June 2025. God is good to all His works. Text: Ps.145:1-21

Hebrew verse one says *Psalms 145* is a song of praise, and the Psalm itself indicates that it is a praise of King David's God and King – *Yahweh*. David begins by giving praise to God, then He tells us that Yahweh's greatness is unsearchable, meaning, it is not possible to know Him completely. Thus, David acknowledges that the praise of God will never end. In *verse 8*, David lists a few of God's character traits that should move his readers to worship. One of these traits to notice is that He is good to all (*v.9*), to everything He has made. Creation is greater than we can imagine; the universe is far vaster than we thought even a generation ago, and God is good to all of it.

When God does good, it means that He keeps all things existing, He provides for its existence because a created thing cannot keep itself alive. Even to people who have no thought of God nor interest in Him are recipients of His goodness. Once we all were wicked, but God's greatest act of goodness is the redemption accomplished by Jesus Christ. The reason we Christians believe is because God's goodness made us believe; He opened our spiritual eyes and gave us new hearts; etc. We should now do good to others, all others, and not do harm, because our Heavenly Father is good. We should be especially dutiful in proclaiming the good news of God's grace in Christ so that others will enjoy and praise the goodness of God and do good themselves.



Question: *As you go through your days, do you see God's goodness all around? If not, start looking.*



Prayer: Dear Father in Heaven, please make me see more clearly Your goodness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday, 13th June 2025. Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God.
Text: Mic.6:6-8

The ten (10) northern tribes of Israel rejected Yahweh to serve other gods, and the southern tribe of Judah, which had the true worship (*the Temple, the altar, etc.*), included the worship of false gods with true worship. In verse 6, God presents the insincere question about what should be presented to Him for worship, which they think might make them look very devout. But they are not, and Yahweh responds to their insincerity in *verses 7-8*. Even if they were to give many thousands of sacrifices, they are not acceptable because of the wicked way they lived towards others and towards God. In the section we read for today, the people were unjust towards the poor, weak, and helpless. What Yahweh desires of us is justice and mercy towards others and humility before Him.

The people of Israel were required to make sacrifices according to God's Law, *but if the sacrifices were not part of a holy life and love for Yahweh, then they were unacceptable*. Even for us today. If we do lots of outward religious things (*tithing, attending worship, etc.*), they are meaningless if our hearts and lives are not right towards God and others. We shall never have perfect lives, which is why we need a Saviour. Jesus lived the perfect life of pure worship and mercy towards others, and Jesus did it on behalf of His people. We are given God's Holy Spirit, who dwells within us. He unites us to Christ and gives us the abilities to do the good that pleases God and loves others.



Question: Are you aware that the things you give to God are not acceptable by themselves? Please, trust Jesus for absolutely everything about your life before God.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, I am very grateful that my life of worship is acceptable to you in Your Son. Please give me increasing grace to do justice and to love mercy toward everyone. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Saturday, 14th June 2025. Not by your might, but by My Spirit.

Text: Zechariah 4:4-9

The city of Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by Babylon about 50 years earlier. The people were now rebuilding, but soon became indifferent. The Temple included a lamp which burned continuously. Priests added oil twice each day so that it gave light non-stop. The lamp signified knowledge about/from God and of His constant presence with

His people. In Zechariah's vision, he saw another lamp being fed with oil directly from two olive trees, one on each side, probably representing the prophets Zechariah and Haggai, as they proclaimed the light of God's Word. God the Holy Spirit fed the lamp without the aid of priests. *The symbolism is that the Spirit was empowering the people (4:6)*, so the people should be encouraged to build.

Another important symbol represented by the lamp is the person of Jesus Christ. He said of Himself, He is the light of the world (*Jhn.8:12; 9:5*). Jesus is God, He is the great High Priest, and He is the Prophetic Word in the flesh, the perfection of God's revelation. Jesus also said of us, His disciples, that we are likewise the light of the world (*Mat.5:14*) because we are united to Him, and He sent His Spirit to dwell within His people (*Rom.8:9*). In our good deeds, let us be like the prophets and bring the Word of God to those who do not yet know the blessings of being at peace with their Creator.



Question: Are you doing the good work of shining out the word of God by speaking to others about the good message of Christ? Good godly deeds are great, but if others do not know about Jesus, then your deeds are just deeds.



Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, please make me brave and unashamed to speak to others about Your grace in Jesus. In His name I pray. Amen.

Sunday, 15th June 2025. Treat others as you want to be treated.

Text: Matthew 7:12-14

Verse 12 begins with the word "So" or "Therefore", which means today's verses are based on what went before. Jesus was saying that God our Heavenly Father will give good things to His people just as human parents give good things to their children. That is the way everyone wants to be treated. Therefore, we should treat others the way we want them to treat us. This is related to the second great command. Jesus said, "love your neighbor as you love yourself" (*Lev.19:18; Mat.5:21*). About that command of love, Apostle Paul said it is the sum of the commands that God gave us for treating others, like, do not murder, do not steal, etc. (*Rom.13:9*), which we certainly do not want to happen to us.

Because human beings are sinners by nature, we might agree that the command is good, but our sinful, anti-God, self-serving nature prevents

us from doing what is good. We have no ability, and have no desire, to obey any of God's commands the way God requires. A small child will hit another child so that he can take a toy for himself, but he certainly does not want to be hit in return. *We absolutely need a Saviour, and Jesus obeyed for us*; His obedience is put to our accounts. Because He has given us His Holy Spirit, we are now able to do the deeds of loving God and loving others; treating others as we want them to treat others.



Challenge: *God loves you fully and perfectly. He wants you to love Him the same way – with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mrk.12:30).*



Prayer: Thank You Heavenly Father for Your great love for me, but I do not love you as I should. Please increase Your grace in me to love You rightly. In Christ I have prayed. Amen.

Monday, 16th June 2025. Lend and expect nothing in return.

Text: Luke 6:27-36

Yesterday we looked at love, which Scripture calls the great command. Today, we will focus on three commands from the Lord Jesus that are practical applications of love. *First*, Jesus says that *only loving those who love us is weak love*. Even wicked people love those who love them. The *second* application is more difficult, lending (*usually money*) even though you are sure nothing will be returned. The last application is thought by most people to be impossible – love your enemies. Not only will people refuse to do that, but it was once taught that enemies should be hated (*Mat.5:43*). Enemies are avoided, or treated poorly, or even harmed if possible. But God is not that way, and that is what Jesus teaches us – God's likeness.

When Adam disobeyed God, we all became sinners by nature, and hate entered. In the next generation Cain killed his brother Abel. Even though humanity hates each other and God too, God continues to love us (*Mat.5:45*). The ultimate expression of God's love for us is in sending His eternal Son, who loved us and gave Himself to die for us" (*Eph.5:2*). As disciples of Christ, we are called to grow in Christ-likeness, and we must love as Jesus loved. Love and the good deeds that flow from love are not selfish; rather, they are concerned for the well-being of others (*Php.2:4*). This is not an easy calling, though it often will give joy. But we have the Holy Spirit to give us grace and strength.



Challenge: Remember yesterday's lesson when you think about the challenges of love: Treat others the way you want them to treat you.



Prayer: Our Father, thank You that You loved me when I was Your enemy. Please give me grace, strength, and desire to love others as You do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Tuesday, 17th June 2025. You will be my witnesses. Text: Acts 1:1-9

Right before Jesus was taken up into Heaven, He encouraged His disciples and gave them a command to proclaim that God's grace in Christ should be proclaimed to the ends of the earth. That really is not something a small group of people can do on their own, so Jesus also promised them a source of power, not a device nor a method, but a person, the person of God the Holy Spirit. He would be poured out on them (*Christian baptism*) and indwell them so they would have the ability to do the task Jesus set before them. The Holy Spirit will guide them, instruct them about what to say, and use them to convert the listeners.

It has been said that the Gospel would have more success if it were proclaimed by angels. Perhaps, but that is not God's plan. God wants to use His people so that the power of salvation is seen in His Word and Spirit (*Mic.6:8; 1 Cor.2:4-5*), not in the messenger. *The Lord also uses our evangelism as part of our sanctification.* We have the full, completed Word of God, we have the Holy Spirit, and Jesus promised He would always be with us (*Mat.28:20*). Other than worship, speaking to others about Christ is the "goodest" of good deeds. Do not try to be sophisticated. Just say what the Bible says about God's grace and Jesus, and let the Holy Spirit do what He will.



Challenge: The only way a person will trust in Jesus for salvation is if someone tells him/her about it. It is often difficult to witness to others, but be brave. Remember what Jesus did for you!



Prayer: Heavenly Father, I am often embarrassed to speak to others about Jesus. Please give me courage. For Christ's honour. Amen.

Wednesday, 18th June 2025. Jesus went about doing good.

Text: Acts 10:34-38

Apostle Peter was teaching a Roman military officer and his family about God's grace in Christ. Peter mentioned the vision God gave him about *Israel's law regarding clean and unclean foods, about how God ended that requirement*, and about how that vision applied to all nations (*10:9-*

16). Part of Peter's message was about the work of Jesus on earth, how He delivered those who were oppressed by the devil, and how He went about "doing good". Those good deeds include many things, such as the miracles of healings (*even raising people from the dead*), His message of who He is (*a divine person, Messiah, etc.*), and why He had come (*to save His people from their sins*).

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we possess the gift of His Spirit (v.38), so we can also do good deeds, the Lord expects us to. The commands of Scripture prove that. Though we are not able to heal simply by speaking or touching, as Jesus did, we can talk about Jesus' healings from Scripture. After all, the *Bible's message when used by the Holy Spirit is the only way people are converted*. We are able to comfort those who are sorrowful; we can assist those who need food, clothing, shelter, etc.; we can show justice for those who are oppressed; we can give mercy and forgiveness to those who are at odds with us. Most especially, we can bring the message of peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.



Question: *Are you keeping a secret of your Christian faith and the deeds that flow from the Holy Spirit who dwells within you? Jesus said, no one lights a lamp and then hides it under a basket.*



Prayer: Our Father, please strengthen me to be your witness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thursday, 19th June 2025. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Text: Romans 12:1-21

This chapter of Romans is strong theologically and practically. The word "therefore", in *verse 1* shows that what Paul is about to write is based on what he wrote previously. So, because we are sinners and God-haters by nature, who are not able to do anything to escape condemnation from God, He mercifully and *freely gives salvation to those who will simply trust in what Jesus did for them*. Therefore, we are to give God our bodies as living sacrifices. Israel used to offer animal sacrifices as part of worship. Symbolically, the animal paid the person's sin penalty, and it also pointed forward to Christ, the Lamb of God. Jesus' real human sacrifice ended that, and we are now expected to give God ourselves as living sacrifices.

When an animal was put on the altar by a worshipper, the animal was killed then burned entirely (*Ex.29:18*). Christians are now required to do the same thing with their lives. *We who are alive in Christ, must sacrifice our entire selves to God*. We are not to kill ourselves literally, physically,

but as living sacrifices we are to give ourselves wholly, not partially; we are to give our entire being; body, soul, intellect, affections, etc. to God. Our living sacrifice means we are not to serve self nor be motivated by self-interest. Our interests are always to be for God and His will. This will lead to good works, doing good in everything we do, think, love, etc., for God and others.



Question: *Do you see your Christian life as being a part of your life, or an important part of your life? Those are not enough. You must view your entire life as belonging to the Lord Christ and obedience to Him.*



Prayer: Our Father, I do not serve You as I should. Thank You for the Saviour who did all for me. Please give me grace to give my entire self in return. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Friday, 20th June 2025. Do not stumble your brother.

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:23-33

The general topic of Apostle Paul's discussion is about eating meat that has been sacrificed to idols and how that affects new believers. An idol is nothing, literally nothing; it does not exist, except in a person's heart. Meat sacrificed to an idol is just meat, and it is perfectly acceptable to eat meat from idol sacrifices, if you buy it in a shop or if it is served to you in someone's home. God is the one who provides everything, so eat with gratitude. But, if the pagan seller or the pagan host tells you the meat was from his sacrifice to an idol, then do not eat. Idol meat is not bad for you, but your refusal should make the other person feel guilty about idol worship.

Jesus Himself ended the Jewish laws that controlled what is eaten (Mrk.7:19). Therefore, we can eat anything. In chapter 8, which is related to today's chapter, Paul is concerned about how our freedom to eat anything creates a problem for some new believers. In *1 Cor. 10:24*, Paul says we are to be concerned for the good of others. So, if a new believer, who once was an idolater, sees you eating, and if he eats because you eat, and he then becomes afraid of God's condemnation, you have not done good to him. Here is an important good deed: do not do anything that makes your fellow believer weak in his faith. If eating pork is offensive to someone, then do not eat pork in his presence.



Reminder: *If you know God's Word has given you freedom to do something, but that freedom causes another Christian to be*

confused or afraid or judgmental, then do not do it.



Prayer: Gracious Father, please give me grace to be as good to fellow believers, as You are. I pray through Jesus, the Mediator. Amen.

Saturday, 21st June 2025. The works of the flesh and Spirit.

Text: Galatians 5:16-26

Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the believers in Galatia because they quickly abandoned Paul's message of the pure Gospel of salvation by God's grace **alone**, accomplished by Jesus Christ **alone**, and received by faith **alone**. There is absolutely **nothing** a person has to do to make himself/herself acceptable to God. God has done **everything** for the person. **The only thing God requires from a person is to believe and trust what God has promised.** That is what glorifies and pleases God. Our proper response to God's free gift of salvation is to live grateful, loving lives of obedience to His word. The *"deeds of the flesh"* (vv.19-21) are those things that do not please God, things that our immoral, sinful, anti-God nature desires.

We who have the gift of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, we are called and empowered to live lives and do deeds that are pleasing to God (vv.22-23). Please note that Paul's phrase is not fruits (many) of the Spirit, but fruit of the Spirit – one thing. Those who are united to Christ's holiness and virtue have all of these and more. For all believers, some aspects of the fruit are stronger and some weaker; but *every Christian has all the fruit of the Spirit*, and by God's grace we are maturing in all aspects. Love is listed first because it is the all-encompassing virtue (1 Cor.13:13), and all other aspects of the Spirit's fruit flow from that.



Challenge: Christians are called to *"keep in step with the Spirit."* This means God's Holy Spirit leads and we follow, according to God's Word, the Bible. So, read the Bible daily.



Prayer: Father in Heaven, give me increasing desire and ability to walk in step with Your Spirit and, thus, honour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sunday, 22nd June 2025. Let us not become weary in doing good.

Text: Galatians 6:1-10

Today's passage begins with Paul encouraging the Galatian Christians to be attentive to one another's spiritual well-being. For the purpose of this letter (*read the beginning of yesterday's message*), watching out for

attacks against pure doctrine is necessary, because trusting serious errors (*like believing obedience brings salvation*) cannot save a person from God's condemnation. Paul also instructs the believers to be humble and to provide financial support for those who are teaching the Scriptures (v.6). Paul uses the imagery of farming: if a person sows small, he should not expect a large harvest, but he will reap small amount. God is aware of how a person's finances are used (v.7), implying He desires generosity. Lastly, we are taught to persevere in doing good (v.9).

Regarding Paul's words, "*let us not grow weary of doing good*," it is so much easier to do nothing, or to say something like, "I have done enough." But when we consider the example of the work of our brother, the Apostle Paul (2 Cor.11:23-28), why would we be slack in doing work for the Lord? And when we consider the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose tireless work even took Him to the tortures of the cross where He bore the sins of His people, who are we to stop serving the Lord and fellow believers?! The Spirit of God has given all His people gifts for some kind of work in His Kingdom (1 Cor.12:1-12). *So, believer, persevere in doing good for the Saviour.*



Challenge: *Service to the Lord is often time consuming, as well as other challenges, but the effort is well worth it, and when you have finished a task, you will be glad you served.*



Prayer: Heavenly Father, show me what gift You have given to me so that I can serve You, Your Son, Your Spirit, and Your people. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Monday, 23rd June 2025. Forgive one another. Text: Ephesians 4:25-32

Apostle Paul, as he always does, begins his letters by instructing his readers about important doctrines, things we must believe. So, he teaches about the spiritual blessings all believers have because of Christ's resurrection; about the one-ness all believers have together, regardless of heritage; and because we belong to Christ, we will be filled with all the fullness of God. With such marvelous blessings that are bestowed upon us and in us, Paul then instructs us about how we should live, because ethics (*how we live*) is based on doctrine (*what we believe*). A difficult but necessary ethic is in 4:32, *forgiving others as God in Christ forgave us*. Saying that another way: **because** God forgave you, you **must** forgive others.

Forgiveness might seem theoretical, but consider that Jesus, while dying on the cross, prayed to His Father that He forgives those who were killing

His Son. In order to pray that prayer Jesus must have forgiven also. As followers of Jesus, that is what we must do – forgive those who have sinned against us. Some say, “I shall forgive, but I will not forget.” That is not forgiveness. That is just another kind of unforgiveness. *When a person asks you to forgive, then give it, and in your heart, before God, by His grace, you must forgive.* Of course, this is very difficult, but that is what forgiven people are called to do, and we have the highest and greatest motivation to do it (v.32).



Challenge: *Forgiving someone often requires many, many tries before you have actually forgiven. Keep praying for God's grace, and eventually you will forgive. You have the Holy Spirit helping you.*



Prayer: Father in Heaven, I know I should forgive, but I am having so much trouble doing it. Please give me your grace to do it. For the honour of Christ. Amen.

Tuesday, 24th June 2025. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Text: Ephesians 5:11-21

The very end of *Ephesians chapter 4:32*, tells us to forgive others as God forgave us. Today's chapter is based on that principle of doing what God does. So the next thing Paul writes is, *“Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children” (5:1)*. Paul now goes on to teach other ways that God's children should live. Looking at *verse 11*, Paul writes that we should not do the unfruitful works of darkness. That is another principle about being careful not to do anything that displeases God. Paul writes specifically about things pagans do in secret, like adultery, drunkenness, etc. But there is no place to hide from God; He is everywhere, and He sees everything.

The Apostle then says what God's people should do. *“Look carefully then how you walk”*, which means, we must be careful about how we live. We live in evil times in an evil world, so we must live wisely (*according to God's word*), not foolishly (*without God's word*). We all are not perfectly wise, even Paul; but Jesus lived a perfectly wise life, according to Scripture, for us. We should now be careful to follow Christ's example. Pagans get filled with strong drink, which controls their foolish behaviour; but we must *“be filled with the Spirit” (v.18)* and live wisely. That phrase refers to believers being controlled and guided by, living according to, the leading of the Holy Spirit, every day, all day (*Ps.119:9*).



Challenge: Honestly examine your life. What is controlling you? By God's grace, put those things away and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as He speaks to you through His word.



Prayer: Gracious Father, I need Your grace to follow the Holy Spirit according to Your Word. Please grant that grace. In Jesus's name I pray. Amen.

Wednesday, 25th June 2025. It is God who works in you.

Text: Philippians 2:12-16

Apostle Paul had been telling his readers about the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ, how He laid aside all the glory of being the eternal Son of God and gave Himself into His Father's hands to be sacrificed on a cross, thereby paying **our** death penalty for **our** sins. Because of Jesus' obedience, God raised Him to life and exalted Him to the throne of the universe. One day all creation, every human being who ever lived, will bow before Jesus and glorify Him as the Lord over all. At the beginning of the chapter, Paul tells us to follow the example of Christ's humility (v.5). He continues that thought beginning with **verse 12**.

God commands us to "*work out our salvation*." That does not mean our salvation is gotten by our efforts and obedience, and it does not mean we contribute to Christ's work. What Paul means is that *we are to put our salvation to work*. Salvation is a free gift; but salvation is not idle. We who belong to Jesus Christ are indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19), who enlivens us and strengthens us for service to Christ and His people. Christian discipleship will feel like it is all your work, but it is actually God working in you (v.13). The Lord will strengthen you just enough so that you will know that you always need Him and that the result is His doing.



Challenge: When you live as a follower of Jesus Christ, you have new problems added to the old ones. Life is often difficult. Do not leave Jesus. God is working in you.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, please make me lean on Your Holy Spirit in times of trouble. Thank You that Jesus is praying for me. In His name I pray. Amen.

Thursday, 26th June 2025. Do your work heartily for the Lord.

Text: Colossians 3:18-25

This month we have been meditating on Christians doing good because we are filled with the Holy Spirit. The passage for this day is part of a larger

section that provides instruction about submission to authorities. *Our natural fallen condition rebels against authority.* When Adam disobeyed God, he was rejecting God's authority because he listened to the temptation that he could be the authority (*Gen.3:5*). Adam's disobedient decision became the nature of all humanity; that impulse, to rebel against authority, is in all of us. That is why Paul (*the inspired apostle*) commands us to submit, and he provides a few different kinds of relationships as examples. Of course, he does not list all possible relationships.

We all usually want to be the authority and not under it. For some the rebellious nature is small, and for others it is strong; but the foundation of all rebellion is our natural rebellion against God, which will end with God condemning us. But Jesus submitted to His Father and accomplished salvation for us. When we trust in Jesus, His work becomes ours. Believers have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them, and we living under the authority of God. We are also under the authority of other human beings. *If you are struggling under a bad authority, do your work heartily for God (v.23),* because you are really serving Jesus (*v.24*). When you are in authority, remember to be kind and gracious, like Christ.



Challenge: *Jesus could have had thousands of angels rescue Him from arrest and crucifixion. But He submitted the authority of His Father's will. You can likewise submit to those over you.*



Prayer: Gracious Father, change my heart so that I will graciously submit to authority. I ask this for the honour of Christ Jesus, who is the Lord over all. Amen.

Friday, 27th June 2025. God gave us a spirit of self-control.

Text: 2 Timothy 1:3-9

This is the final letter we have from Apostle Paul before he is executed. Timothy was one of Paul's spiritual sons (*v.2*). Paul also ordained Timothy to the work of a minister (*1:6*). Apparently, Timothy was feeling depressed or weak, perhaps because of the work of ministry, which is a difficult task with frequent opposition. So, Paul tries to encourage him (*v.6*) by reminding him of the spiritual heritage Timothy has from his grandmother and mother (*v.5*). Because of that heritage, and with the Holy Spirit who dwells within him (*v.14*), Timothy should not let himself feel defeated. Rather, he should maintain diligence in keeping his faith strong. One of the things Timothy should do is *exercise self-control*.

We should never think that the work of spiritual discipline means that we contribute to salvation, *nor* should we think that the effort we put into self-control is only by our own strength. It might look that way, it might feel that way; but Scripture assures us that *the Holy Spirit empowers us from within (Php.2:13)*. Regarding self-control, it is necessary for doing good works. We are always under attack from the world (*which has no interest in God*), from our remaining corruption, and from the devil. So, self-control is essential. We must control ourselves from being pressed into doing what dis-pleases God. Instead, remembering what Jesus' battle against the enemies accomplished for us, we must stand strong and do the good that pleases Him, according to His Word.



Challenge: *It is easy to quit or sin when challenges or temptations come against us. Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might (Eph.6:10). It takes some effort!*



Prayer: Heavenly Father, please give me willingness and courage and strength to control myself so that I can honour You, Your Son, and Your Spirit. Amen.

Saturday, 28th June 2025. Be a model of good works. Text: Titus 2:1-15

Titus is another of Paul's spiritual sons (1:4), one of his close disciples, like Timothy. Paul left Titus to minister to those on the island of Crete (1:5), which was a difficult society (1:12). In Paul's letters the first half is usually about doctrine, and the second half is about practical living. But he does the opposite in this letter. The more immediate problem in Crete was proper living. True God-given faith must lead to godly living, but it seems that the *Cretans were not willing to change their lifestyle*, even though they came to believe the message of God's grace in Christ. What they failed to understand was that those who are saved from condemnation are commanded to follow Jesus in daily obedience.

Before Paul goes on to instructions about doctrine, he encourages Titus to be the example of godly living. *Living in a godly way is difficult for everyone*, and we all will continue to sin. However, leaders like Titus must watch their lives very carefully; so that they can lead by example and with integrity (2:7). Christian living as disciples comes naturally, but it also needs to be taught. In His earthly ministry, Jesus called His disciples to live according to His commands (Luk.6:46), which are found in Scripture. *In order for Spirit-filled Christians to do good works, they must know God's Word and then obey it.*



Question: *Are you living like the rest of the world? Jesus Christ is Lord and He calls you to live according to His eternal Word.*



Prayer: Father God, thank You for the great doctrines of salvation and of faith. Please strengthen me to live pleasingly to You according to Your Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sunday, 29th June 2025. Be devoted to good works. Text: Titus 3:3-8,

Apostle Paul begins the chapter with more practical issues. When any Christian was once an unbeliever, he behaved himself shamefully, foolishly, being led by passions which harm the soul. That life changed when the goodness of God broke into our lives and He saved us from condemnation due to sin. Here is where the doctrine of salvation and works comes together. It is impossible for good deeds, to influence God to save us, because we all are naturally God-haters. Salvation is entirely by God's gracious act toward us; He saves us just because He wants to. Then, going back to the topic of good works, Paul writes that *those who have believed in God must be careful to devote themselves to good works (v.8).*

In a meditation about good deeds, let's look again at doctrine. Paul writes in verse 5 that God saved you not because of your good works but only by His grace, which means you did not earn it. Even if you think you are doing good works, including good religious works, for the purpose of gaining entrance into heaven, please stop thinking that way; never trust your efforts. Paul's words cannot get any clearer, *"He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness."* Trust in Jesus' perfect life, His death, and His resurrection **for you** – that is all! Jesus then gives you the Holy Spirit who lives within you and gives you the desire and ability to do the good works that please God.



Challenge: *Please read God's Word every day so that you will know what He wants you to believe and what He wants you to do.*



Prayer: Gracious Father, thank You for your free gift of salvation. Please strengthen me to honour You by the way I live. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Monday, 30th June 2025. Do good and share. Text: Hebrews 13:10-16

This passage is about sacrifice. The writer first makes a quick reference to the sacrifices of Jewish worship. They killed animals as a substitute for the worshipper being killed for sin. But Christians have something eternally better. We have Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, the fulfiller of the symbol,

a real human sacrifice to pay the death penalty for human sin. The writer then observes that certain Jewish sacrifices were burned outside the city. When Jesus was crucified, He was taken out of the city. We who trust in Christ leave our normal life and go to Him for salvation, even though we will become enemies of the world. We are now citizens of Christ's Kingdom, and we serve King Jesus.

As worshippers of God, through Christ Jesus, we no longer sacrifice animals; we now give the sacrifice of praise, continually, not occasionally. We live a life of praise to God, continually acknowledging that we only come to God in Jesus Christ, and we are, therefore, grateful for it and, thus, give Him praise. We no longer give animals; we are called to do good (*1:16*) with what we have – we offer our selves, as Jesus offered himself. We sacrifice by giving love to God and love to others; giving our time, our money, giving our very selves. People who have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them (*2 Tim.1:14*) are empowered to offer these, and other, kinds of sacrificial good deeds with praise to God and joy in their hearts.



Challenge: *You have been given the Holy Spirit, and you are called to do good deeds to the honour of the triune God. Persevere!*



Prayer: Heavenly Father, please give grace overflowing so that I may honour You, Your Son, and Your Spirit in proper worship. In the name of Jesus Christ I have prayed. Amen.



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