

LET THE WORD DWELL IN YOU
OF CHRIST DWELL RICHLY

TEACHING & ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER

»» IN ALL WISDOM ««

SINGING & HYMNS & SPIRITUAL
PSALMS & SONGS

WITH THANKFULNESS TO GOD
IN YOUR HEARTS

& WHATEVER YOU DO, IN WORD OR DEED

DO EVERYTHING

IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS

»» GIVING THANKS ««

TO GOD THE FATHER, THROUGH HIM.

Colossians 3:16-17

**27 MEDITATIONS FOR
DAILY LIVING**

Introduction

Here are 27 meditations for daily living with the Word of Christ richly dwelling, one each for all 27 New Testament books. Each is filled with Gospel glory and goodness for growing worshippers from every book in the New Testament!

If you want the Word of Christ to dwell in you richly you need to yield deeply to God. You need to be a Word-saturated, Spirit-filled worshiper of God! The Word fosters worship. Daily worship spurs you on to yearn for corporate worship, and corporate worship spurs you on to daily worship. This happens not just individually, but as whole households engage in daily family worship.

The Gospel keeps you focused on the Gospel on a daily basis! The glory of God in the good news of what Jesus Christ has done is what powerfully transforms. There is no better investment of God-given time than to spend your days beholding God's glory in Christ.

We see the glory of Christ in the Word of Christ. We are transformed by the Word of God. The Word of God works in us (1 Thess. 2:13). God is at work in us, to will and do His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13), using the Word of God. God uses the sword of the Spirit with surgical precision, to renew our hearts and minds.

Being continually filled with the Word of God (Col. 3:16) is the same thing as being continually filled with the Spirit of God (Eph. 5:18). You'll notice the outcome of both is really an overflow of praise to God, observable by others. The indwelling Spirit of God uses the richly indwelling Word of God to change the people of God for the glory of God. Allow yourself to be controlled by God over the next 27 days, you'll never be the same.

How To Use This Booklet:

Pray: Worship and adore Jesus, confess your sins, and ask for God's blessing to see wonderful things in His Word.

Read: God's Word (When the Word speaks God speaks) and let it sink in deeply into your soul.

Observe: Notice what God is literally saying in His Word. What is He saying about Himself, the Gospel, you, and the world? Is there a truth to believe or a command to obey?

Focus: How does this apply to your life?

Integrate: Put into practice what God says

Tell: Ask for God's power to trust and obey Him and share His Word with others.

Why We Need The Word Daily

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.” Psalm 1:1-2

“Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded.” Proverbs 13:13
And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 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 complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:14-17

“Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” James 1:21

Take the Yoke of Jesus

Read: Matthew 11:25-30

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matt. 11:28)

Ever been in a three legged race? That’s where two people have one foot tied to another as they race other pairs. Someone usually ends up falling. Occasionally, there’s a duo that gels as they sprint down the field; a wonder to behold.

In today’s passage it’s like Jesus is saying we’re going to have a three-legged race. Take my yoke upon you. A yoke was a heavy wooden contraption designed to keep two farm animals walking in unison as the work together. Two cows would plow a field with a yoke on them.

Jesus’ invitation is in context of inviting those weary and tired from straining with sin, to be refreshed by him. Jesus’ yoke is a symbol of obligation and subjection to Him who died for sin. He is gentle and humble in heart; a good kind Master. His yoke is easy (useful, comfortable, not a burden) and his burden is light (characterized by humility and concern for those who are in need of compassion).

Jesus had compassion on those suffering in sin. He felt deeply for the multitudes, entering into our situation in the Incarnation and securing our freedom in his death and resurrection.

*Remember that in the Gospel, Jesus is now your master.
Do everything you can to keep in step with him.*

DAY 2

For My Sake and the Gospel

Read: Mark 10:17-31

"Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." (Mark 10:27)

It would not be hard for me to give up eating broccoli. Some people love it, but I only eat it because it's good for me. I really don't like the taste. Garlic makes it taste better, but it's still a challenge. So if I were to tell you that I am giving up broccoli, it wouldn't be much of a sacrifice.

On the other hand, if I said that I was no longer going to eat garlic, pasta, salmon, or sushi, that's your cue to know that I would be making a real sacrifice. Those are all things I really like. We all have our favorites. There are probably things that would be very easy for you to give up. But what about the things that you really really enjoy? Even good gifts from God that would be tough to say no to.

When Jesus speaks of giving up houses and lands and even family for His sake and the Gospel, that's pretty shocking news. He's basically saying that whatever sacrifice you make for Jesus and the Gospel, whenever you put his purposes before your own, God rewards that sacrifice with His blessing. He is pleased.

Give up something you want today and do something good for Jesus and the Gospel.

He Opened to Us the Scriptures

Read: Luke 24:13-49

*“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”
(Luke 4:27)*

Once when I was very young, and my parents weren't home, my sister and I were in a bit of an argument and I locked her out of the house. It's a long story but suffice it to say I got in a lot of trouble and it involved a broken window.

We all know the feeling to have a key not working, or being locked out by an annoying younger brother, you're not understanding something. But what a beautiful thing it is when the doors open, and our minds are clear, and we have clarity.

The road to Emmaus was a heavy hearted one for those who didn't realize the resurrection of Christ. It was on that road that Jesus not only revealed himself, but he opened the disciples minds up to the Scriptures. Three times in this passage we see the idea of Christ opening up the word of God. So here you have Jesus, the living word, the word made flesh, opening up his word, the word of Christ, to followers of Christ. What a beautiful thing that God does.

*Fellowship today with the Lord Jesus Christ, and dive into his work;
you'll be glad you did.*

DAY 4

You Must Be Born Again

Read: John 3:1-21

*“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”
(John 3:17)*

Have you ever been in such a strong wind that it felt like it was going to push you over? The wild thing about wind is that it's invisible. Nicodemus must've been so shocked when Jesus gave him the simplicity of the Gospel truth and the work of the Spirit of God using the example of wind.

Jesus uses the example of the wind blowing, to talk about how the Spirit of God does whatever He wants. He spoke of regeneration, God causing us to be born again. Nicodemus did not understand. Here he was a teacher in Israel and Jesus was giving him some biblical basics, some Word of God 101.

Sometimes regeneration is misunderstood in Christian circles, thinking that our faith activates regeneration. Especially in this passage, it is very clear, regeneration comes before faith. (Read the verses again and note the order). God makes us spiritually alive and therefore we are able to believe. What a gift of grace faith is. What freedom God gives to us as we come to faith in Christ and walk in new life.

Thank God today for the Gospel truth of regeneration and new life in Christ.

No Other Name, No Other Way

Read: Acts 4:1-12

*“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
(Acts 4:12)*

I remember hearing a preacher once say that when he is flying on an airplane, he doesn't want the pilot saying over the intercom, “Good afternoon folks, there are many ways to land this plane safely.” There's one primary way to land an airplane, and it's to get to the proper altitude, at the proper speed, and go straight down the runway, and touch down in the appropriate place.

One of the most precious Biblical truths is that Jesus is the only way of salvation. He has offered freedom to all, and He is the only way you can be saved. He is the exclusive Savior, to be preached to all people. He died in our place on the cross, paying the penalty our sins deserved, taking God's wrath against our sin, substituting himself for us.

When the Bible talks of someone's name, it refers to who they are in the totality of their person. The only name by which we must be saved is Jesus, because what the Lord Jesus Christ did, as the sovereign, sinless, sole savior, is the only provision that has been made for salvation.

Make sure that your trust and hope for salvation are in the right place today, in Jesus alone.

DAY 6

God's Righteousness Revealed

Read: Romans 3:21-26

"All have sinned and fall short of God's glory" (Rom. 3:23)

When something is hidden, it means it's hard to find. I think of Easter egg hunts when I was a kid. One in particular, at Pismo beach, when I went an Easter egg contest at a campground we were staying at. We were searching all around and having trouble finding the hidden eggs. Then I convinced kids to join forces with me and we worked together to get the most eggs. We won!

No, I won! The only problem was my depravity really showed out that day. All these kids and my sisters helped me win the grand prize, I think it was \$20 to spend at the campground store, and I wouldn't share any of the prize money with anyone! I wanted it all for myself. Boy was I unrighteous. And so selfish.

God's righteousness is revealed in the Gospel. It's not hard to find now, it's clearly revealed in Christ. The Gospel shows how good and right and fair God is, He sent Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for our sins and to take the wrath we deserve, to give us new life. His righteousness is revealed apart from any work that we can accomplish.

Thank God today for revealing His righteousness in the Gospel of Christ.

Christ the Wisdom and Knowledge of God

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:19-30

“but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” (1 Cor. 1:24)

We’ve all come across know-it-all’s before and we would all agree: they’re a bit annoying. Somewhat surprisingly, when you come across someone who is wise, they are usually humble. This passage tells us that Jesus is both all-powerful and all-knowing. He is veritably the powerful wisdom and the knowledge of God.

Jesus is the wisdom and power of God. Jesus was raised from the dead by the power of God. He knows everything, and in the gospels, it was very clear, he knew what was in the hearts of everyone. It is by His power that we are saved and by his wisdom that we live.

We always like to know things and know how to make good decisions. God knows all things, and He does all things perfectly well. Think about that the next time you are in a quandary and don’t know what to do in a certain situation or figure something out, just know that God has you right where He wants you, in a dependent place, so ask Him for wisdom. He knows what to do. Also, consult His word, what do you know is a good and right thing to do?

Trust in the Lord today, knowing that he knows all things and that he has all wisdom. That is why he saved you; for you to trust in him.

DAY 8

The Love of Christ Controls Us

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:1-15

*“and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.”
(2 Corinthians 5:15)*

Have you ever played with a remote-control toy vehicle? One of the things that is tough for me is turning right and left. Something seemingly as simple as that, is tough for me when I'm using a radio-controlled toy. Something just gets mixed around.

The reason why the love of Christ is said to control us, is because we no longer live for ourselves, but for Him who died in our place. Christ's substitutionary death, substituting Himself in our place, gives us the impetus and the motive to serve Him unselfishly. It's all because of the Gospel truth. We love God because He first loved us, and we are able to yield because of His love.

Think about battery-powered toys, or what powers many things; gasoline powers a car, or electricity powers items in your home. What powers a Christian? It ought to be the power of God. The love of Christ controls us, Paul says. We should be yielding control to God all the time. We so easily grab the steering wheel. We must surrender. We need to stay plugged into the power source: God's Spirit using God's Word in our hearts and lives.

Bask in the Gospel truth of Christ crucified today, not living for yourself, but for Him who died and rose again for you.

A Gospel Contrary

Read: Galatians 1:3-9

“As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:9)

Do you remember the Push-me Pull-you animal in Dr. Doolittle? Both ends of the animal we're going in the opposite direction. They were contrary to one another. Something contrary is something against. For example, an enemy is contrary to you. An enemy is against you. If you're playing a team sport, the opposition is opposed to you. They are going in a different direction than you. They are trying to score against you and keeping you from scoring.

When Paul talks about those who are advocating a different gospel, it's the most serious of business. Because he talks about those advocating a different gospel being accursed. Literally going to hell. They try to get others to believe something false about Christ, don't know Christ and are being used by Satan, which betrays their true loyalties.

Are you running contrary or aligned with God in the Gospel? Guard against being taken in by false ideas and worldly wisdom. Beware of being deceived. Cling to Christ who clings to you. We live by faith in Christ. We want to be wise not foolish, living by God's Spirit and walking in alignment with those who agree with the Gospel.

Make sure that you are aligned today with the true Gospel, the one found in the Word of God.

DAY 10

Predestined According to God's Glory

Read: Ephesians 1:3-12

"In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will," (Ephesians 1:11)

Have you ever given someone a surprise party? Or have you ever been the recipient of a surprise party? It's pretty fun. If you were the one planning the party, it's especially fun anticipating the moment when the person realizes what you did for them. Think about God planning to save us, and the love and joy he must feel when we come to faith in Christ.

This passage says that believers were predestined to become believers according to God's plan for God's glory. No one should diminish God's glory in the Gospel by rejecting or denying God's sovereign will. We accept the things hard to understand by faith because "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).

Knowing that God predestined us to adoption gives us great assurance! If our salvation does not depend on us, then our keeping ourselves saved does not depend on us either. This makes us all very glad, because we know how unfaithful and wavering and faltering, we can be. Our salvation is secure in God's hands.

Thank God as much as you can today for deciding before the world began to specifically save you.

Every Knee Will Bow

Read: Philippians 2:1-13

“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,” (Philippians 2:9)

When Angela and I got married, we did the unity candle, and our church had a kneeling bench and we knelt at that bench. We knew that when we got to that part in the service we would walk up there and bow. And at the church where we got married, like most churches, there was a huge cross blooming in the center. So, there we were bowing at the foot of the cross basically. Think about it: when you bow your knees to pray, you are bowing before the King of the universe, and Jesus Christ who died on the cross in your place.

This passage tells us that one day every knee is going to bow before God, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, even the ones who basically refused to do so while they lived here on earth. They will be bowing before the authority and sovereignty of Christ, acknowledging that He truly is Lord, and they will be hating it, but they will be doing it. And believers, will be bowing and confessing the greatness and goodness of God forever. What a privilege.

Take some time today to to revel in the Gospel truth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Bow your knees before him as well as your heart, and adore him.

DAY 12

In Him All Things Hold Together

Read: Colossians 1:15-23

“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.” (Colossians 1:18)

I love using super glue, or gorilla glue. On most things it just works very well. I love the tight bond that gets created. I also love using wood glue. Because when you get a good bond, it's stronger than the wood itself. This passage tells us that God holds all things together. He is stronger than us, he is all powerful, and He holds all things together by the Word of His power.

Jesus is so strong and powerful; there is nothing that He cannot hold together. Think about the parts of your life that seem fractured and broken. God can restore those and bring them back to a place of wholeness. Think about your life right now, God is holding everything together. Think about your body, God is holding every atom and every molecule together.

If God weren't holding all things together, commanding them to obey Him, by the Word of His power, think about how bad things would be! So even the worst parts of your life are not as bad as they would be were not God intervening. What a great God we serve.

Worship Jesus today, for the Gospel truth that he holds everything together by the word of his power.

The Word of God at Work

Read: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

“And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

Most people do something every day that is considered work. You might be paid for the work you do, or you might volunteer to do it, or doing something just because you love to do it. Think of those who serve their families every day. Think of a mom raising her children, pouring herself out for them, loving them so much, doing such hard work, but it’s a joy for her. She loves her children! It is a labor of love. The work that we accomplish, is a gift from God. Yet we grow tired and weary in the work He grants us to do.

Think about the work that God does; what He accomplishes by His great power. He is at work in us “to will and do his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). He never grows weary or tired. By His great power He is doing something in your life that could never happen were He not working it out. This passage tells us that the Word of God does its work in us who believe. But you notice, you have to receive it for what it really is. You have to believe it, and then practice it.

Receive the Word of God today into your life, thank God that it is his word and not man’s, and seek to be doers of the Word, pleasing to God.

DAY 14

The Lord is Faithful

Read: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

*“Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,”
(2 Thessalonians 3:1)*

Have you ever been lied to? It’s pretty painful. Have you ever been caught in a lie? It’s pretty humiliating. It is always better to keep your word and show yourself faithful. Unfaithful actions break fellowship and friendships and bring much grief. Yet, God restores and protects. We don’t keep every promise that we make. Often, we break trust with people, and we have to earn it back. Thankfully, God never goes against His Word. Never forgets what he promised. Never is unfaithful. God is faithful, and the plans that He has, He will bring about.

Our passage today tells us that God not only accomplishes whatever good happens in our lives, our fellowship, and our ministry by His Word, He also protects us from the evil one, our enemy Satan. There are unfaithful people all around, making unwise and sometimes wicked choices, yet God keeps us as we travel through this life on the way to heaven. The Gospel tells us that God acted on our behalf and continues to do so moment by moment, all for our good and His glory.

Thank God that He kept His Word, especially sending Jesus, to do in the Gospel what man could never do.

Why Christ Came to Earth

Read: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.” (1 Timothy 1:15)

We do things for all kinds of reasons. Sometimes our motives are pure and sometimes they are twisted. God’s motives are always good. He always does what is good and right and true. It is a good thing everyone doesn’t know our motives for the things we do. Yet, we know God knows the “why” behind our every move. And He has revealed to us why He made His greatest move.

This passage tells us why Jesus came to earth. It was for a very specific purpose. People have all sorts of ideas of why Jesus came, but this passage tells us: He came to save sinners. Every person who has ever lived is a sinner, we go against God, we break His law, we are lost and condemned by our sin. Praise God, in the Gospel, Jesus paid for our sins in our place, and He came to earth to save sinners. The ultimate reason was to restore His creation, and redeem us from sin’s stranglehold, filling the renewed earth with people made holy by the blood of Christ and the working of His Spirit.

Praise God today for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. The Gospel tells us He came to save those who would trust in Him.

DAY 16

Guard the Good Deposit

Read: 2 Timothy 1:8-16

“By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.” (2 Timothy 1:14)

I remember once in 1985, I was driving up to Big Bear to do some ministry. I went to a mini mart to get a cold drink on a hot day. At the cash register there was a big 5-gallon jar filled with water, with a lot of coins at the bottom. They were collecting for a charity. I asked the person at the register why it was filled with water, and he quickly said to make it tough to steal it. What a great idea! But someone very strong could have stolen it.

Then you think about something that’s very secure and keeps things safe, like Fort Knox. It is next to impossible to break in and steal things. Think about how strong God is and how He guards His deposit. This is the most amazing thing. He uses people, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, to guard the Gospel. Like the water in that big jar, we are guarded by the indwelling Spirit, the good deposit for the Gospel that has been given to us. We are saved by the Gospel. We live by the Gospel. The Holy Spirit living in us guards the Gospel.

Thank the Lord for the Gospel and be on your guard to keep the treasure safe, trusting the Holy Spirit.

Why God Saves

Read: Titus 3:4-11

“he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,” (Titus 3:5)

If you saw someone sinking as they were trying to swim, you would probably jump in and try to save them. That is, as long as you yourself knew how to swim. If you saw someone in trouble you would go and try to help them. You would do it because you care about people and because you are able to help.

Why does God save? Because He is loving, and kind and He cares about the people He created. He is also all powerful to help them. He has abilities we do not have. He can do things and make things happen that we could never do. Sometimes you wonder why certain things are done and sometimes we don't know why God does certain things. Or allow certain things.

This passage tells us that when the kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of all the good things we have done, but because He is so merciful. God is willing and able to help us! God's mercy is said to be lavished upon us. He gives it to us in abundance. It is never exhausted and never runs out.

Praise God today for saving you and showing you his mercy in the Gospel.

Day 18

The Sharing of Your Faith

Read: Philemon 1:4-7

“and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.” (Philemon 1:6)

I remember being on a mission trip once in Indonesia, where the native people shared with me out of their poverty, and it touched my heart deeply. They gave me what they had. I learned that the best thing to do with what they gave me was to share it with others. That was the norm in their culture. And it’s a biblical idea as well.

We are to share the love of Jesus because we have been given the love of Jesus. God showed us the love of Jesus and we are to show others the love of Jesus. We love God because he first loved us. We love others because God first loved us. To share is to give. To give necessitates a willingness for others to have something that we have.

The great thing about sharing the Gospel and your faith in Christ is that you don’t lose anything in the transaction. God multiplies the Gospel and blesses all nations through the sharing of our faith. You are to share the Gospel in the power of the Spirit and trust God with the results. Be faithful to share your faith. God will open hearts and save souls.

Remember today that when you share the Gospel and your faith you don’t lose anything, and God is pleased.

He Has Spoken to Us

Read: Hebrews 1:1-4

“but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.” (Hebrews 1:2)

God gave us a mouth and vocal cords, so that we could speak. It is a privilege to speak. Often, we say things that are good, and often we say things that are not so good. James tells us that the tongue is very powerful. Words can build up and words can destroy. It is best to speak words of blessing. Our passage today tells us God spoke in the written Word. He spoke perfectly, clearly, and magnificently. He said everything we need to know for salvation and godliness.

God spoke in many ways through the Old Testament prophets. He pointed to Christ. Then He chose to speak through His Son Jesus Christ in these last days, in the New Testament. So many prophecies fulfilled in Christ, all the promises of God are kept in Christ. He told us that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. There is no other way to be saved but Jesus. Jesus died for our sins on the cross, paying the penalty we deserved. God did this because He loves us. He speaks this truth to us in the Word of God. We must listen to Him.

Remember that when the word of God speaks, God speaks. And God speaks in the Gospel through Jesus.

DAY 20

Receive the Word Implanted

Read: James 1:19-22

“Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” (James 1:21)

In 2006 I got a dental implant. I had cracked and then lost one of my adult teeth. For an implant they drill into your jaw, then they insert a screw, then they put a new tooth on. I was thankful I had a good oral surgeon. He wanted to make sure that the bone received the anchor bolt and make sure that it didn't reject it. I was relieved when everything turned out fine. My jawbone received the implanted metal screw, and all is well. No problems.

Our passage today says that we are to receive the Word of God implanted in our hearts because it is able to save our souls. God saves by the powerful Gospel (Romans 1:16) and continue to grow us, sanctifying all He saves. And our glorification is assured by this same Word.

How exactly does this happen? How does the Word get implanted? How is it able to save our souls? You hear the Gospel of the grace of God in Christ and in His sovereign goodness God opens your heart to receive the Gospel message and gradually changes us to the image of Christ.

Thank God that His implanted Word saves your soul and sanctifies you.

He Himself Did It

Read: 1 Peter 2:20-25

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” (1 Peter 2:24)

When a young child says “Hey! I did this all by myself!” they are so proud when they begin to grow in their ability to do things. When our kids do things “on their own”, we supply resources, encouragement, and training. We really don’t do very much on our own. We are dependent. We all get by with lots of help from our friends! And, we live and move and have our being because God holds all things together by the Word of His power. We are always fully dependent on Jesus. Apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5).

Our passage today tells us Jesus did the work of redemption by Himself. He didn’t need the disciples to help Him. All we contributed was the problem: our putrid, wrath-deserving sin. Self-sufficient Almighty God did what man could never do. The Father purposed our redemption, the Son secured it, and the Holy Spirit works it out. Jesus Christ, God incarnate, took our sins upon Himself at the cross, dying in our place, rising for our justification. All the work of God, so that He would be glorified, and we could be reconciled to Him and live for His glory.

Thank Jesus for taking your sin upon Himself at the cross.

DAY 22

Grow in Grace

Read: 2 Peter 3:15-18

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18)

I have planted a number of fruit trees over the years, and my favorite has been a little strawberry guava tree. It isn't any more than four feet tall, but it produces a lot of fruit! It grows but it doesn't get taller. It just continues to bear lots and lots of fruit. Hundreds of delicious pieces of fruit every year. It does its job. It receives sun, water, nutrients, and God causes the growth and brings the fruit in its season. It's an amazing process to behold.

When we are told to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”, we're not being told to get taller, or wider. We are not being told to strain and force something to grow that would not otherwise grow. We're being told to cooperate with God as He grows fruit through us. We receive the soul-saving Word of God implanted, we pour out our hearts in prayer, we desire to please God and live for Christ, and God brings about growth. As we grow, we get to know God better. And He uses us for His glory. It is all for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank God for Gospel growth today and ask Him to bring about the growth He desires.

The Testimony

Read: 1 John 5:9-15

“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1 John 5:12)

When someone gets called into a court room to be a witness, they must give a testimony. They must tell what they saw and heard. In fact, in America, a person swears to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help them God.

God gives us a testimony in the passage today. He tells us what He knows. And we know that it is absolute truth. The testimony, the truth, is that God gives believers eternal life. And God gives believers eternal life in Jesus Christ who died for their sin, rose again, and is returning. The reason why this is so important is because our default destination is hell. It is only because of the grace and mercy of God that we are rescued from His wrath, because Jesus took all the punishment our sins deserved. Therefore, He gives us eternal life based on what Christ has done in our place.

This passage clearly tells us that if you have Jesus in your life, you have eternal life, and we know that if you have Jesus in your life you must believe in Jesus and who He is and what He did.

Make sure you believe in Jesus and what he did, trusting God in the Gospel.

DAY 24

Abide in the Teaching of Christ

Read: 2 John 1:3-9

“Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.” (2 John 1:9)

Once when I was younger, I went on a hike with an experienced hiker who knew the trail. He was getting older, so he had me lead the way, but he was right there behind me, giving me instructions all the time, telling me to turn to the right or to the left. I trusted his directions completely. When you're on a trail in the mountains with a guide who knows what they are doing, you trust them totally. You would get lost on your own, but he helps you stay on course. A trusted guide is a valuable asset.

Today's passage speaks of people who go off course and do not remain in the teaching of Christ. That is the Gospel, the truth of the Word. This is sobering. It says that people who veer off course and leave biblical teaching about Jesus are lost. Like getting lost on a trail, but in this case, they do not have God. They are not saved. While sobering, this is also immensely comforting, because it says that whoever abides in the teaching of Christ has the Father and the Son, meaning they are trusting the gospel truth, meaning they are saved.

Make sure today that you are abiding in the teaching of Christ.

Walking in Truth

Read: 3 John 1:1-4

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." (3 John 1:4)

I used to love to run. In high school and as a young adult I ran competitively. I did quite well and kept running well into my adult years. Then my knees started having troubles. I started walking instead for exercise. I have learned to love to walk, and hiking is my favorite. The Bible talks a lot about walking. It is a metaphor for living. It describes the way you live. We are to walk, or live, wisely. We are to walk circumspectly, not as unwise people who don't watch where they are going. Psalm 1 says we are not to walk after the counsel of the ungodly. The Bible clearly teaches we are to walk, or live, following Jesus.

3 John is a very short little letter. John makes a strong point in a short amount of time. He speaks of having great joy, no greater joy, then to hear his spiritual children walking in the truth. What does it mean to walk in the truth? It means to live in line with the gospel. It means to follow Jesus. It means to be faithful to the Word of God.

Walk, or live, in the truth of the Gospel today.

Contend Earnestly

Read: Jude 24-25

*“Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.”
(Jude 1:3)*

I think we’ve all been in arguments or contentious situations where it just doesn’t feel comfortable. It’s very unsettling and almost gives us a pit in our stomach. Is there a good way to contend? Jude says yes.

In context of our passage today “contend” means to struggle, exercise great effort and exertion for something. The word was used of athletic contests and the struggle and effort of the athletes in their games. This word implies direction, and that we are fighting for a cause. You can contend for the faith because Jesus keeps you in the faith.

To contend earnestly for the faith means to fight with all your might for what is right. Don’t buckle in the face of adversity and opposition. God is God and His Word stands no matter what any deceiver says. God is more than able to keep you from stumbling (falling way in sin) and present you blameless (fully sanctified and righteous in His sight because of Christ) before the presence of His glory with great joy. We give praise to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus our Lord, to Whom belongs glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, forever.

Thank Jesus that He is the one that gives you strength to fight for what is right in His sight.

For the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus

Read: Revelation 1:9-10

"I, John, your brother and brother in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus." (Rev. 1:9)

The reason John was banished to the island of Patmos was for God's inspired, inerrant, infallible Word and for his faith in Jesus Christ. John suffered hardship and persecution for his faith in Christ, faith God gave him and hardship God carried him through, granting victory in the midst of seeming defeat.

God grants patient endurance to His children in the midst of severe opposition. Even in John's trial, this is where God's greatest blessing to him came, as he received the Word amidst many tribulations. The vision he saw happened when God got him banished to an island, where the distractions of daily life could not haunt him. This is a grace from God. He is full of mercy towards His children.

You can be sure that God will give you exactly what you need in your moment of trial. Look to Him for strength and patient endurance. He is Lord over His kingdom and He will glorify Himself through your trial that comes upon you to strengthen you. Receive it from God's hand, cling to the Word and give testimony to the greatness of Jesus Christ.

Today, thank God for the trials, the patience, the endurance, the Word, and the testimony He bears through you.

The Gospel

The word “gospel” simply means “good news,” and that’s exactly what it is. If we understand and believe it, the Gospel is the best news that we will ever hear! The Gospel is the Good News that we can be saved from our sin and its ultimate penalty! God will save anyone from sin’s power and penalty who trusts in Jesus as their Savior and who puts their faith in Him (Galatians 2:16). At the cross, Jesus paid the price for our sins by dying in our place, and He defeated death by rising on the third day. (1 Peter 2:24; Hebrews 9:28). Through faith in Jesus we can escape our bondage to sin and the ultimate penalty of that sin: eternal death and separation from God.

GOD IS OUR PERFECT CREATOR.

- God created everything, you, me, the universe, and everything else. – Genesis 1:1; Psalm 24:1

MANKIND IS SINFUL AND LOST.

- We have sinned. We have all rebelled against God and done wrong. We are in danger of eternal punishment. We will be held accountable for everything we have done. – Romans 3:10, 23; 6:23

JESUS CHRIST IS SAVIOR.

- Even though we were sinners deserving hell, God sent His Son Jesus into the world to die for sin and display His love, grace and mercy. – John 3:16; Ephesians 2:7
- Jesus died on the cross to pay sin’s penalty, satisfying God’s just wrath against sin and demonstrating God’s perfect love and justice. – Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Jesus rose from the grave and is alive today. We preach Jesus crucified, buried, risen, exalted, and returning. – 1 Corinthians 15:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14

WE MUST BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS.

- You must turn away (repent) from sin (all that dishonors God) and put your faith in Jesus Christ alone to save you. – Mark 1:15; Romans 10:9 “He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.” - Titus 3:5-6

All who come to faith in Jesus Christ are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, as revealed in Scripture alone, for God’s glory alone.

Soli Deo Gloria



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