

1 August 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God bless you today. I am glad you have taken a set of these devotions for August. It is my privilege to provide them for you and I believe they will help you to grow in Jesus.

I want to encourage you to check out our web site. We have noticed that a lot of people are doing that and we hope it is a blessing too. [CreativeMinistriesChurch.com](http://CreativeMinistriesChurch.com) is the address and you can even download devotions from there.

God bless you as you study God's Word this month.

Gladly in His Service,

Dr. Jason B. Brittain

Wednesday August 1

Scripture Reading: Psalms 65-67

Romans 2

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:120 says, **My flesh trembles in fear of You; I stand in awe of Your laws.** David wrote Psalms 119 and we are working our way through it verse by verse. Here we see that David had a lot of respect for God and His Word. You see, God has revealed Himself to us through the Word and so we should respect them both.

In Romans 2, there is something that is very important for us to understand. Verses 28-29 say, **A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.**

Paul is declaring that being a Jew isn't determined by where we were born. Real Jews are those who love God and who have given their lives to Him. So, we are Jews.

God has always wanted to have a people for His very own and today that is the Church. We are called His people and we are even called the bride of Christ. All of God's blessings are ours because we have given our lives to Jesus and He has made us God's people.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. Please help me to know more of what it means to really be Yours and help me to live my life in a way that is worthy of Your calling. I also ask You to continue to speak to me from the Word and help me to be quick to obey everything that You speak to me. I love You so much! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday August 2

Scripture Reading: Psalms 68-69

Romans 3

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:121 says, **I have done what is righteous and just; do not leave me to my oppressors.** There were times in David's life when he was literally running for his life. He knew that he needed God's protection and he also knew that living like God wanted would help him to have the blessings of God, including protection.

Romans 3:21-22 say, **But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference.**

People under the law tried to be righteous by keeping all the rules and regulations and no one could do that so everyone was condemned. We are made righteous because of what Jesus has done for us! Praise the Lord!

One of the reasons this is so important is that we now give all the credit to God and His work. If a person could have lived a good enough life to be righteous, they could have boasted about how wonderful they were. We are not like that. We know that Jesus is the One who is wonderful and we only boast about Him and the wonderful things He has done for us and that is how God wants it.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to live for You. Please help me to know Your ways better and help me to really put them into practice in my life. I am so thankful for Your protection on my life and I don't ever want to take it for granted. Please help me to live out the righteousness that You have given me because I believe in Jesus and His work on the cross. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday August 3

Scripture Reading: Psalms 70-72

Romans 4

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:122 says, **Ensure Your servant's well-being; let not the arrogant oppress me.** When David said, "Ensure your servant's well-being," he was asking God to be his security. Who or what do you trust in for your security? We can see that God took good care of David and He will take good care of us when we trust Him like David did.

One of the things we are going to see Paul stressing over and over is the fact that we need to live by faith. In Romans 4, Paul is going to give a wonderful example of living by faith from the life of Abraham. God had promised Abraham that he was going to be the father of many nations but he didn't have any children. Abraham took God at His Word and believed Him.

In Abraham's case, he had to hold on to the promise for 25 years, but God was faithful and he did receive what was promised. Please take time and read about all this for yourself because I don't have much time to comment on it all here but look at verse 21, **Being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised.** This is what kept Abraham going. He knew that God was able to keep His promises and so Abraham held on and kept believing what He had said.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to keep all my trust and confidence in You and You alone. I know that You are able to take care of me. I also ask You to keep teaching me about how You always keep Your promises. Help me to live by faith like Abraham. I don't ever want to quit believing You and I want my faith to help inspire others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday August 4

Scripture Reading: Psalms 73-74

Romans 5

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:123 says, **My eyes fail, looking for Your salvation, looking for Your righteous promise.** David was never going to stop looking to God and the Word. Even if David went blind, he was still going to look to the Word. In Psalms 119:11, David said, **I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You.** David was making sure he had the Word in his heart so he could think about it all the time.

Let me show you two verses from Romans 5 that seem to contradict each other and then show you that they don't. Verse 3 says, **Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance.** And verse 17 says, **For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.**

The one verse talks about going through hard things and the other talks about reigning in life. If we reign in life, wouldn't we be able to avoid all those hard things? No, not necessarily, but we would be able to go through them with the right attitude and we would be able to grow no matter what we faced. That is part of reigning in life.

Prayer: Lord, help me to always look to Your Word. Help me to store it up in my heart so I can even look to it when I can't stop and read the written page. I also ask You to teach me more about reigning in life and help me to be rejoicing no matter what I am facing. I always want to be growing. Please bless Church tomorrow. Help us to be there ready and willing to worship You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday August 5

Scripture Reading: Psalms 75-77

Romans 6

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:124 says, **Deal with Your servant according to Your love and teach me Your decrees.** Lord, please deal with us according to Your love too! Doesn't that sound like a pretty good thing to ask for? His love is constant and we can know that He is always wanting our best.

Romans 6:6-7 say, **For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin - because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.**

When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, we were there with Him. I know this might seem like a hard thing for us to grasp, but it is what the Word reveals and we need to believe it. We died with Him on the cross and we were resurrected with Him. That is why we have resurrection life at work in us today.

Paul said that realizing that we died on the cross with Jesus should help us to live a life that is free from sin. He said we are no longer slaves to sin. I am sure there have been times where we have all felt like we were slaves to sin. We need to realize that our freedom doesn't come because we try harder. It comes by realizing what Jesus has already done for us.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your love. Please help me to know that it will never change and that it will never run out. I also ask You to teach me more of what it means that I was crucified with Christ and that I was raised with Him to newness of life and help me to know that I have been set free from slavery to sin. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday August 6

Scripture Reading: Psalms 78  
Romans 7

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:125 says, **I am Your servant; give me discernment that I may understand Your statutes.** Praise the Lord that He gives us all that we need for life and Godliness. He will teach us His ways, He will help us to understand them and He will give us discernment in the whole process.

Yesterday, we talked about Paul saying that we have been crucified with Christ. Because of that, we should be free from slavery to sin and yet today we read about him struggling with sin. You see, it is one thing to know that Jesus has set you free and it is another thing to walk that out.

Look at what Paul wrote in verse 21, **So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.** I am sure every one of us has felt that struggle too. We know what is right and yet there is something in us that wants to do the wrong thing.

Well, Paul came to the conclusion that we really need God's help! Verse 25 says, **Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.** We need to rely on what God has done for us more than our own strength.

Prayer: Lord, please continue to teach me Your ways, give me understanding and discernment. I also want to learn to rely on You and Your work in my life more. I know that I am lost without You. Please help me to really remember this when I am tempted to try to do things on my own. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday August 7

Scripture Reading: Psalms 79-81

Romans 8:1-18

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:126 says, **It is time for You to act, O LORD; Your law is being broken.** Haven't you felt like God should hurry up and judge some of the things you see going on at times? Well, believe me, we are better off letting God take care of His timing. He knows what is going on and He knows when the right time is to deal with them. So, trust Him!

Look at Romans 8:1, **Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** When we are "in Christ Jesus" we are free from condemnation. Someone might ask, "How can that be?" Well, it can be because Jesus died for our sins and so we are free from condemnation.

The next verse says, **Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.** The law of sin and death used to be at work in our lives but now there is a greater law at work. The law of the Spirit of life has set us free!

We need to trust someone in life. We can trust ourselves and our feeble efforts to live well OR we can trust God and His ultimate ability to set us free.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful for the good work You are doing in my life. Please help me to stay close to You and to rely on the work You have done for me. I want all the freedom that You have for me and I know that it only comes as I let You set me free. Please bless all my brothers and sisters who are doing these devotions. Help us all to enjoy the benefits and blessings that should be coming into our lives because we are Your people. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday August 8

Scripture Reading: Psalms 82-84

Romans 8:19-39

Praise the Lord! How much do you love the Word? Listen to what David said in Psalms 119:127, **Because I love Your commands more than gold, more than pure gold.** That is loving the Word a lot!

Nothing can separate us from the love of God! That is a truth that is better than gold! Romans 8:35-39 say, **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Nothing can separate us from the love of God, and because of that we are more than conquerors! Jesus has already fought the battle and won. He has provided everything we need. We need to really believe these things and we need to let them change our lives. The more we do that, the more we will find that the truth of God's Word really is more valuable than gold.

Prayer: Lord, help me to realize how valuable Your Word really is. I am so thankful for the reminder today that nothing can ever separate me from Your love. Help me to renew my mind to this and help me to live boldly. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday August 9

Scripture Reading: Psalms 85-87

Romans 9

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:128 says, **and because I consider all Your precepts right, I hate every wrong path.** Hate might seem like a strong word here, but haven't there been times when someone was going astray and you just hated seeing it? You wished they would turn to God's way and avoid all the problems that were coming to them.

I have two things to comment on from our reading for today so let me get right to them. Romans 9:1 says, **I speak the truth in Christ – I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit.** Paul had been living like God wanted and his conscience was clean. That is one of the reasons he was so bold. I just wanted to point out that a clean conscience in a really good thing to have.

In the rest of the chapter, Paul was talking about our being saved and look at what he said in verse 16, **It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.** We are saved because God loves us and He has chosen us. Ephesians 1:4 says, **For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.** I don't know all the reasons He chose us but I am sure glad He did. We should be so very thankful for His love and His mercy. We would literally be lost without it.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that You are teaching me Your ways. Please help me to love You and help me to live for You. I also want to influence others to follow You. Help me to have a clear conscience and help me to be bold. I am so glad You chose me to be saved and I want to understand what all that means more. Please bless my Pastor and those You have brought into my life to teach me the Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday August 10

Scripture Reading: Psalms 88-89

Romans 10

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:129 says, **Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I obey them.** I hope you have come to know that God's Word is wonderful. That is a great decision to make, but it doesn't stop there. After that, we need to decide to obey His Word. You see, there are some people who seem to like the Word but they don't let it affect their lives and that is a mistake. We need to love the Word and we need to obey it.

Romans 10:9-10 are wonderful verses that talk about salvation. They say, **That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**

These are wonderful verses about being saved, but they also apply to all uses of faith. We need to believe and speak what we believe. That is how we release the faith to be saved and it is how we release our faith in other areas too. Look at what Jesus said in Mark 11:23, **"I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him."** Believe and speak what you believe. That is how you release your faith.

Prayer: Lord, I choose to love Your Word and I choose to obey it. Please help this to be my life-style all the time. I also want to be a person of faith. Help me to believe the right things, based on Your Word, and help me to back up what I believe with the words I speak. With that in mind, I believe and say that Church is going to be wonderful this Sunday and people are going to be blessed. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday August 11

Scripture Reading: Psalms 90-92

Romans 11:1-21

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:130 says, **The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.** Have you ever felt like you were one of the simple people? Well, there is great hope for you. God loves giving understanding to those who realize that they need His help. One of His reasons for this is the fact that He will get all the credit.

Paul wrote the letter of Romans to Gentile believers in Rome. Paul knew that he was going to Rome because God told him that he was. (We talked about that when we covered Acts.) Anyway, Paul wrote this letter and sent it ahead so the people there could know the message that he was going to preach when he arrived.

In our reading for today, we see Paul emphasizing the fact that the Gentiles had been grafted into God's family. We should never take our relationship to God for granted. Jesus paid a huge price for us to be forgiven and it is God's love and grace that makes it possible for us to be saved.

I also want to encourage you to be in Church tomorrow. Hebrews 10:25 says, **Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.** Be in Church and encourage others.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to you. Thank You for teaching me so many of Your ways and please continue. I also want to ask You to bless Church tomorrow. Help me to encourage everyone there by speaking words of life to them. I also ask You to bless my Pastor and those who serve at Church. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday August 12

Scripture Reading: Psalms 93-95

Romans 11:22-36

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:131 says, **I open my mouth and pant, longing for Your commands.** That is certainly a graphic picture of someone who really wants to know the Word. Jesus said that we are blessed when we hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Look at what Paul wrote in Romans 11:29, **For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable.** This is a wonderful promise. God has called us to be His people and His call is irrevocable! Even if we don't always live like we should, He is still faithful. 2 Timothy 2:13 says, **If we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot disown Himself.** That shows how committed He is to us.

Now look at Romans 11:36, **For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.** It sounds like Paul is saying it is all about Jesus and that is exactly what he is saying. Everything is FROM Him, THROUGH Him and TO Him! The more we know all this, the more we will give Him all the glory and praise. You see, every good thing in any of our lives is there because we have Jesus. So, we don't ever have anything to brag about other than Him and the wonderful things He does in our lives.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I love Your Word. Help me to hunger and thirst for Your ways even more. I know that You have called me and I want to live my life worthy of Your calling. I am sorry for the times I have let You down and I am so thankful that You have never quit on me. Help me to really know how committed You are to me and help me to do better in the future. I also ask You to bless Church today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday August 13

Scripture Reading: Psalms 96-98

Romans 12

Praise the Lord! I hope you are enjoying the little bit of time we are spending in Psalms 119 each day. Verse 132 says, **Turn to me and have mercy on me, as You always do to those who love Your name.** Thank God for His mercy! It is always available when we love His Name.

Romans 12:1-2 say, **Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.** Paul is really encouraging us to live for God. He tells us to present our bodies to Him and to renew our minds to the Word. As we do those things, we will find His will for our lives and we will be blessed.

Look at what Paul wrote in verse 18, **If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.** Now Paul is really getting personal. It is always better to live at peace and we should do everything we can to maintain peace with people. In closing, Verse 21 says, **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

Prayer: Lord, I love Your Name and I am so thankful that You always have mercy for me. Help me to know how to present my body as a living sacrifice to You and help me to continue renewing my mind to Your Word. I really do want You to rule and reign in every area of my life. Help me to remember this when I am being tempted to strike out against someone that I should be praying for and blessing. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday August 14

Scripture Reading: Psalms 99-102

Romans 13

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:133 says, **Direct my footsteps according to Your Word; let no sin rule over me.** This is a wonderful truth. The more we let the Word determine how we live, the more we will defeat the devil and his temptations. Think about when Jesus was tempted by the devil. Every time He stood on the Word, and He defeated the devil every time.

Romans 13:8 says, **Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.** When we love God and love people, we will fulfill all the law. Jesus taught this and now Paul is underscoring it.

Verse 14 says, **Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.** We should “Clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.” This is a picture of how we should put Jesus on and never take Him off. Let Him be with you all the time and let Him determine how you live and you will always do better.

Both of these things are easier the more Word we know. It will help us defeat the devil and it will help us to know how God wants us to live.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to store up Your Word in my heart so I won't sin against you. I also ask You to help me to love You and others all the time. I know that I need Your love to do that and I am glad that You have promised to help me as I do Your will. I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me and I know that Your ways are always right. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday August 15

Scripture Reading: Psalms 103-104

Romans 14

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:134 says, **Redeem me from the oppression of men, that I may obey Your precepts.** David didn't want anything to put him into bondage. He also knew that he needed God's help to stay free. So, he was basically asking God to keep him free from people so that he could serve God and God alone.

The Kingdom of God is a very important subject in the Word. Jesus told us to pray for His Kingdom to come and for His will to be done on Earth just as it is in Heaven. Look at what Romans 14:17-18 say about the Kingdom, **For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.**

God's Kingdom is a place of righteousness, peace and joy. All of those things are in the Holy Spirit. So, when you pray for God's Kingdom to come, you are praying for righteousness, peace and joy to come in the Holy Spirit.

Verse 18 tells us that when we have those things we will be pleasing to God and approved by men. You see, God's ways really are right and the more we know them and do them, the better off we will be.

Prayer: Lord, I want all the freedom that You have for me and I want to submit that very freedom to You. I do pray for Your Kingdom to come and for Your will to be done. Help me to allow Your righteousness, peace and joy in my life. I want to live my life in a way that will be pleasing to You and approved by men. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday August 16

Scripture Reading: Psalms 105-106

Romans 15:1-20

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:135 says, **Make Your face shine upon Your servant and teach me Your decrees.** David knew that He was a servant of the most high God even though he was a king himself. Serving God is a higher calling than anything else we are ever called to do.

Romans 15:4 says, **For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.** The Word was written to give us endurance and encouragement and we should draw all that we can from it.

Verse 5 goes on and says, **May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus.** Now we see that God also gives us endurance and encouragement. God wants to give us everything we need.

Are there areas of your life where you need endurance and encouragement today? If there are, take these two verses and believe that God is speaking to you personally today because He is! Ask God to help you and spend some extra time in His Word and you will receive the endurance and the encouragement that you need.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so glad that I have given my life to You. Please help me to serve You and help me to serve others. I also thank You for the endurance and encouragement that I need. I accept that You are speaking to me personally and I want everything that You have for me. It is amazing to me when You speak to me like that and it helps me to know how much You love me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday August 17

Scripture Reading: Psalms 107-108

Romans 15:21-33

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:136 says, **Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for Your law is not obeyed.** Haven't you cried when you saw someone going away from the ways of God? It might even have been a family member, and it hurts so badly because we know that they are missing out on the life and life in abundance that God has for them. I really want to encourage you to pray for those people.

Look at Romans 15:23-23-25. **But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to see you, I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to visit you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while. Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the saints there.**

Paul was telling them about his plans to come see them. He mentioned that he was going to go to Jerusalem first and at that point his plans changed. He still ended up going to Rome, but he went there under arrest. Here's the point that we looked at quite a few times when we went thought Acts. God told Paul he was going to Rome and he went. I guess this could all be an example of Romans 8:28 where Paul said all things work together for the good of those who love Him and who are called according to His purposes.

Prayer: Lord, I want to always live in Your ways and I want to pray more for those I see going astray. Help me to know that I am not helpless. Help me to pray and believe that You will help them. I also want to trust You more for every area of my life. Help me to know that I am called and that You will guide my life and take care of me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday August 18

Scripture Reading: Psalms 109-111

Romans 16

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:137 says, **Righteous are You, O LORD, and Your laws are right.** Since God is always righteous it follows that all of His ways would be right. You see, there is nothing wrong or bad in Him so those things will never come from Him. He can only give what He has.

Romans 16 contains several personal greetings that Paul wrote to people he knew in Rome. Romans 16:1-2 say, **I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me.** Phoebe was a woman who was evidently well known to Paul. The main thing that he pointed out about her was that fact that she was a servant. Jesus was the greatest servant of all time and when we serve we are being like Him.

Romans 16:20 says, **The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.** We will ultimately win over Satan and when that happens we need to realize that it is all because of Jesus and His work in our lives. We operate in His authority and power and that is why we will have the victory.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. Please help me to really know You better and help me to remember that You only have good things for me as Your child. I also ask You to help me to see the opportunities I have to serve others and then help me to really serve. Help me to see chances to serve tomorrow at Church and help me to take them. I really do want to live for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday August 19

Scripture Reading: Psalms 112-115

1 Corinthians 1

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:138 says, **The statutes You have laid down are righteous; they are fully trustworthy.** God's Word is always righteous and it is always trustworthy! You can base your life on the Word and never be let down. James 1:25 says, **But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does.** God's blessing comes when we DO what His Word says.

1 Corinthians 1:2 says, **To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – their Lord and ours.** Look at all the wonderful things this verse says about us. We are sanctified, and we are called to be holy. To be sanctified means to be set apart for God and His purposes. We are sanctified because we have Jesus in our lives.

Verse 30 says, **It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God - that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.** It is all because of Jesus and His wonderful work in our lives. He is our wisdom, righteousness, holiness and redemption! Thank God we have Jesus!

Prayer: Lord, I know that Your Word is always trustworthy. Please help me to really be a DOER of Your Word. I know that is what is right and that it will lead me to have more of Your blessings on my life. I am also so thankful for all the blessings You have already brought into my life and I want to show others that they can be blessed too. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday August 20

Scripture Reading: Psalms 116-118

1 Corinthians 2

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:139 says, **My zeal wears me out, for my enemies ignore Your words.** This is an interesting statement. Evidently, there were times when David was seeing his enemies ignoring the Word and it bothered him a lot. We all need to learn to rest in Jesus so we won't be worn out by what others do.

I write to you a lot about the blessings that God has given us and I often close in prayer asking God to teach us more about all that He has provided for us. Look at what Paul said in verse 12, **We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit Who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.**

A person who only has the spirit of this world can't understand all the blessings of God. They are foreign to him. We have the Spirit of God and He will help us to understand the things of God. We need to let the Holy Spirit do His work in our lives. Many times He will speak to us through the Word and we need to choose to believe what He is showing us.

Verse 16 says, "**For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.**

Prayer: Lord, I don't ever want to ignore You or Your Word. I am so thankful that You have given me the Holy Spirit to teach me Your ways. Holy Spirit, I want to stay open and receptive to everything You are teaching me. Please help me to know more of what it means to have the mind of Christ and help me to accept that as the truth because the Word says it is so. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday August 21

Scripture Reading: Psalms 119:1-48

1 Corinthians 3

Praise the Lord! It seems kind of strange that I am giving you part of Psalms 119 to read for today while we are covering the same chapter verse by verse, but verse 140 says, **Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and Your servant loves them.** David had tested the Word by trusting it and watching it work. I hope you are doing the same thing. It will help you to love the Word even more.

When we are born again we are babes in Christ. That just means that we don't know very much and we have a lot to learn. The Good News is that we can grow just about as fast as we want, but some people don't.

Look at what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:1, **Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly – mere infants in Christ.** This was a problem because they should have grown more than they had. Verses 2-3 say, **I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?**

They should have been able to handle things for mature Christians but they were still on the level of babies. I said earlier that we can grow just about as fast as we want and we should want to grow quickly.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I really do want to live for You. Please help me to know that Your Word is what I need to base my life on and it is what will help me to grow. Thank You for all You are speaking to me from the Word and please continue to teach me Your ways. I love You so much. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday August 22

Scripture Reading: Psalms 119:49-104

1 Corinthians 4

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:141 says, **Though I am lowly and despised, I do not forget Your precepts.** Have you ever been despised? If you have, hopefully it was because you were doing good and not bad things. Jesus said we are blessed when that happens because we are like really Godly people who have been despised throughout history.

Look at what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 4:1, **So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.** Paul was an Apostle but he never forgot that he was called to be a servant. Jesus said that the way to be great in the Kingdom is by serving and Paul was a great example of that.

Now, look at what Paul said in verse 16, **Therefore I urge you to imitate me.** When some people read verses like this they start to think about whether they are living a life that they could encourage others to imitate or not and that is all right, but I want to go in a different direction today.

Think about what Paul said in verse one. He was a servant and now tie that into verse 16. He was a servant and he was telling us to imitate him. Paul was encouraging us to remember that we are servants too.

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. Please help me to live for You no matter what I face in life. Even if I am despised for being a Christian, I want to please You first. I also ask You to help me to be a better servant. I want to have eyes to see the needs around me and I want to serve others better. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday August 23

Scripture Reading: Psalms 119:105-176

1 Corinthians 5

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:142 says, **Your righteousness is everlasting and Your law is true.** It is good to have righteous things to base our lives on and that is exactly what we have in the Word. It is always true and God will never let us down when we rely on His Word.

In the book of 1 Corinthians, we have Paul answering some questions that the people had written to him. You see, it is all right to have people in your life that you can take your questions to. Just make sure that the person you turn to for advice is a Christian and that they give you Scriptural advice.

Anyway, in this case the people in Corinth had written to Paul about a man who was in the Church and living in sin. Evidently, they felt like they were doing a good thing when they overlooked his sin and let him stay in the Church and they were kind of boasting about how open minded they were.

Look at what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 5:6, **Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough?** Paul didn't think their tolerance was a good thing at all. He knew it could end up hurting them all. Now, this doesn't mean that only perfect people can come to church, but when there is someone openly living in sin it is something that we need to deal with and not be tolerant of it.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that I can study Your Word and I want all the freedom that You promise to bring to me. I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me. I want to know how to help people who are trapped in sin without compromising what is right. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday August 24

Scripture Reading: Psalms 120-123

1 Corinthians 6

Praise the Lord! David was honest about the good things he went through and the hard things. Look at what he said in Psalms 119:143, **Trouble and distress have come upon me, but Your commands are my delight.** This was a time when he was going through hard things but he was committed to live for God no matter what he faced.

In the first part of 1 Corinthians 6, Paul wrote about lawsuits between believers. Basically, he said we would be better off suffering loss rather than dragging our disputes in front of the world. I know that stretches some people but it is still what the Word says.

Look at the last two verses of our reading for today, **Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.** When we gave our lives to Jesus, He took us seriously. We now belong to Him and we should want to please Him in everything we do. Paul said we should "Honor God with our bodies". If there is ever a time when your will is different than His will, choose His will and you will be honoring God with your body.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I really do want to live for You. Help all of us doing these devotions to really live for You today and every day this weekend. I don't ever want to be distracted from my dedication to You. Help me to know that I have been bought with a price and that I now belong to You and that means You are my Lord and Savior. Please rule and reign in every area of my life. Help me to always choose Your will over my own. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday August 25

Scripture Reading: Psalms 124-127

1 Corinthians 7:1-24

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:144 says, **Your statutes are forever right; give me understanding that I may live.** God and His Word are always right. We should ask God for more understanding into His Word and all this will produce more life for us!

When we all come to Christ we have things we need to learn. That is always the case, but sometimes we have different things to learn. Look at 1 Corinthians 7:22, **For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave.**

You might need to read that again. Did you notice that Paul is describing two people who come to the Lord and they needed to learn opposite things. The one man who was a slave needed to learn that he is really free in the Lord and the other man who was free needed to learn that he is a slave to Jesus.

James made the same point in James 1:9-10, **The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.** Let God teach you what He wants and you will be all right.

Prayer: Lord, I want all the life that You have for me. Please continue to teach me Your ways and give me more understanding into what I am learning. I also ask You to help me to know that You are even in control of the order in which You teach me what I need. Thank You for taking such good care of me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday August 26

Scripture Reading: Psalms 128-131

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:145 says, **I call with all my heart; answer me, O LORD, and I will obey Your decrees.** When we seek the Lord with all our heart, He will hear us and He will answer us. Matthew 6:33 says, **But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** Seek Him and His ways FIRST and He will help you with every other area of your life.

Think back to when you first gave your life to Jesus. Do you remember how excited you were? Specifically think about some of the changes He made in your life. Did He make some changes in how you talked? Were there some places that you couldn't go anymore? Those are some of the changes many of us go through when we first get saved.

Now, think about some of the changes that have been made in your life since those first initial changes. Has God dealt with you about being a part of a local Church and being faithful there? Have you become a consistent giver of both your finances and your time? Has God dealt with you about forgiving people and blessing those who do you wrong?

Here's my point for today. God wants to be involved in every area of your life. In our reading, Paul talked about marriage and I wanted to let you know that God wants to rule and reign over everything in your life. So let Him!

Prayer: Lord, I want to consistently seek You and I know that You will bless me with more of Your presence when I do. I also ask You to speak to me about anything and everything in my life. I know that submitting to You is always the right decision and I don't want to ever rebel against Your will for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday August 27

Scripture Reading: Psalms 132-135

1 Corinthians 8

Praise the Lord! When God helps us, we should be even more committed to living for Him. Look at what David wrote in Psalms 119:146, **I call out to You; save me and I will keep Your statutes.** When God had saved David, he was even more committed to living for God and that is how we should be when He helps us.

Yesterday, I had you think about some of the changes God has made in your life. I hope you really did that because I am sure you know that those changes were all good and it is good for us to realize that God only wants good things for us. I really believe that and I believe that choosing God's way is always the best way.

Now, in today's reading, Paul is talking about meat that had been sacrificed to idols. He basically said that idols really aren't anything and we can eat anything we want but then he addressed a more important issue.

In Verse 9 he said, **Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.** Now Paul is talking about how we should look out for others and make sure we don't ever hurt them. When you let God apply this truth in your life, you will find even more changes happening and every one of them will be good.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so glad that I have given my life to You. Please help me to live more fully for You every day. I know that everything You speak to me is right and true. I also know that I always make the right decision when I do what You want. Please help me to know how to put all these things into practice in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday August 28

Scripture Reading: Psalms 136-138

1 Corinthians 9

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:147 says, **I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in Your Word.** Two things here, it is good to seek the Lord early in the day and we are the ones who choose where we put our hope. Make sure you put Your hope in the Word of God. That will never be a mistake.

Paul sure had a healthy attitude about his calling and ministry. He was certainly an Apostle and he was mightily used by God, but he never forgot that he was also called to be a servant to God and people.

1 Corinthians 9:19 says, **Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.** Paul was saying that he would do anything possible to reach people for Jesus and he backed his words up with actions. He lived these truths out in his service to others.

The next verse says, **To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.** Paul knew that he was free from the law because of Jesus, and yet he still wanted to reach those who were under the law because he knew that Jesus loved them and wanted to reach them.

Prayer: Lord, I want to keep all my hope and confidence in You and Your Word. Please help me to recognize it if I start to trust in anything else. I am so thankful that You died on the cross for me and I want to show others about Your love and goodness. Please help me to be a good representative for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday August 29

Scripture Reading: Psalms 139-141

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:148 says, **My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on Your promises.** I think every Christian knows that they should meditate on the Word more, but too many think they don't have time to do it. David MADE TIME to meditate on the Word even if he had to do it in the middle of the night.

In our reading for today, Paul tells us why the Bible was written down in 1 Corinthians 10:11. It says, **These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.** The Bible was written for us! We can learn from the things other people went through and we are blessed to be able to study the Word!

Now, look at 1 Corinthians 10:13, **No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.** When we are tempted, we can always look to God for help. He will always provide us a way out when we look to Him. Our part is to look to Him and then to take the way out that He provides. All this is possible because God is faithful.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I thank You so much for the Word. Please help me to be even more diligent in my studies. I also want to meditate on Your Word more. Help that to be a high enough priority that I make time to really do it. I also want to see the ways You provide for me to overcome temptation and I want to take them when You give them. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday August 30

Scripture Reading: Psalms 142-144

1 Corinthians 10:14-33

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:149 says, **Hear my voice in accordance with Your love; preserve my life, O LORD, according to Your laws.** God hears our voice because He loves us and then He preserves our lives because of His Word. Thank God for His love and thank God for His Word. Believe me, we need them both.

Thank God for the fact that He has set us free, but we need to be careful how we use our freedom. Look at what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:23-24, **"Everything is permissible" – but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible" – but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.**

We are free but we still need to look out for others. Jesus said that we should love God and love people. When we do those things, we will fulfill all that God wants and we will be looking out for the interests of others.

Verse 31 says, **So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.** Whatever we do should bring Glory to God. If we will just remember that God is with us all the time and that we don't want to hurt anyone else, we will make better decisions.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am thankful for Your love and Your Word. I want my life to be guided by both Your love and Your Word. Help me to love You more and help me to love people more. I don't ever want to do anything contrary to either one of those commitments to love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday August 31

Scripture Reading: Psalms 145-147

1 Corinthians 11:1-15

Praise the Lord! You have made it to the end of another month. Congratulations! Keep reading and learning. Psalms 119:150 says, **Those who devise wicked schemes are near, but they are far from Your law.** We don't want to be like this. We need to stay close to God and we do that by staying close to His Word and doing the things He shows us.

1 Corinthians 11:1 says, **Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.** Are you living the kind of life where you could encourage other people to follow your example? You are if you are following the example of Christ! We might even have some problems, but if we are letting Jesus rule in our lives we are setting a good example for others to follow.

The next verse says, **I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the teachings, just as I passed them on to you.** Did you notice that Paul said he praised them? This always stands out to me. He praised them because they were holding on to the Word that they had.

With this in mind, I want to praise you for the time you are spending in the Word every day and I want to praise you for holding on to the things you are learning. Keep hearing from God and obeying Him and you are going to make it.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I thank You for all that You have spoken to me this month. Please help me to be even more diligent in my studies of Your Word and help my life to be a good example to others. I know that I still need to grow, and I want to, but I am also thankful for all the progress that You have already made in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.