

1 November 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am so blessed to be able to provide these devotions for you. I know that You are seeking to know more about God and His word. It is my privilege to help you. You see, we are all called to be servants and this is one of the ways I do that. So, thank you for helping me to live like God wants me to live.

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

Gladly in His Service,

Dr. Jason B. Brittain

Wednesday November 1

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31-32
Titus 2

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:9 says, **People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.** It is important that we keep God number one in our lives. If we make anything else our top priority, we are missing the mark. This verse warns us not to make getting rich too important. Live for God and He will take care of you!

Look at what Jeremiah said in chapter 32:17, **Ah, Sovereign LORD, You have made the heavens and the Earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.** I wanted to give you this verse because I started off today telling you to trust Him. Now, this verse reminds us that **NOTHING IS TOO HARD FOR HIM.**

When we keep our trust in Him, He is well able to take care of us. Matthew 6:33 says, **But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** Keeping Him first in our lives assures us that He will help us with everything else we need.

So, when we have Him in first place and we are trusting Him we don't have anything to worry about. The next verse in Matthew 6 says, **Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.**

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to keep my priorities right. Please help me to recognize it when I start to make other things too important in my life. I know that You are the One who can really take care of me and I am so thankful that nothing is too hard for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday November 2

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 33-35

Titus 3

Praise the Lord! 1 Titus 6:10 is a verse that is often misquoted. It actually says, **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.** Money is not the root of evil. The love of money is. We need to love God and not money! When a person gets this wrong, they are headed for troubles.

Jeremiah 33:1-3 say, **While Jeremiah was still confined in the courtyard of the guard, the word of the LORD came to him a second time: "This is what the LORD says, He who made the Earth, the LORD who formed it and established it - the LORD is His name: 'Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'"**

God can speak to us any time He wants. That is good news and we should be listening for His voice all the time.

These verses also point out that God can tell us what we need to know. This is important because it ties into our concept of God. I believe He loves us and He wants to take care of us. So, it follows that He would speak things to us in order to take care of us. Some people don't have such a good concept of God and they think God is hiding things from them.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I really do want to live for You. Please help me to keep You in first place in my life and help me to love You more than anything else. I also want to thank You for all the times You have spoken to me and I want to be quick to obey what You say. I know that You are looking out for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday November 3

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 36-37
Philemon

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:11 says, **But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.** We would all do better if we would flee from the things God wants us to flee from and pursue the things He wants us to pursue. God really does know what we need and it is always right to do what He says.

Jeremiah 37 is an interesting chapter. We see a king who wanted Jeremiah to speak good things to him, but Jeremiah could only speak what God was saying. In this case, Jeremiah was prophesying that Babylon was going to come and take them into captivity.

The king reacted to what Jeremiah was saying and he threw Jeremiah into prison. We need to be faithful messengers like Jeremiah. We need to hear from God and speak for Him no matter how people react. Look at what Jesus said in Matthew 5:10-12, **Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in Heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."**

Prayer: Lord, I want to live like You want. I want to pursue You and Your ways more than anything else and I want to speak what You want all the time. I want to please You more than people and I want to stay on track no matter what I face. Please help me to hear You clearly and help me to represent You well. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday November 4

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 38-39
Hebrews 1

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:12 says, **Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.** We were called to eternal life and this verse tells us to take hold of it. It is also important that we speak what we believe. That is called making a good confession here. Believe the right things and then speak what you believe!

One of the things that always stands out to me as I read the Old Testament is the fact that we need to keep our trust in God! They often fought wars in the natural with armies, and yet God was always the source of their victories.

Look at what Jeremiah 39:17-18 says, **But I will rescue you on that day, declares the LORD; you will not be handed over to those you fear. I will save you; you will not fall by the sword but will escape with your life, because you trust in Me, declares the LORD.**

Why did all this wonderful deliverance come? Because they trusted in God! Listen to what Jesus said in John 14:1, **Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me.** Don't let your hearts be troubled! How can we do that? We can do that by trusting in God.

Prayer: Lord, I want to fight the good fight and I want my confession to line up with Your Word. So, I say, "My trust is in God and I am going to make it with Your help! I refuse to trust in anything or anyone less than You!" Lord, help me to really internalize these truths in my life. Help me to believe the right things and help me to speak what I believe. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday November 5

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 40-42
Hebrews 2

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:13 says, **In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you,** I know this verse ended right in the middle of a sentence, but look at what the first part says. God is the One who gives life! Jesus said that He came to give us life and life in abundance. So, we need to be thankful to God for all the life that we have because it all came from Him.

We have been seeing that those who keep their trust in God make it. That doesn't mean we won't ever go through hard times, but God will always be with us to help us. Look at Jeremiah 40:3-4. **And now the LORD has brought it about; He has done just as He said He would. All this happened because you people sinned against the LORD and did not obey Him. But today I am freeing you from the chains on your wrists. Come with me to Babylon, if you like, and I will look after you; but if you do not want to, then don't come. Look, the whole country lies before you; go wherever you please.**

Jeremiah did go into Babylon as a captive, but God set him free and he was free indeed! Our part is to trust God no matter how long the deliverance takes and we need to keep trusting Him no matter what!

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for the life and life in abundance You have given me. Help me to live that life in a way that will draw others to You. I also want to thank You for consistently reminding me to keep my trust in You and You alone. Please help me to hear that AND help me to really do it. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday November 6

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 43-45
Hebrews 3

Praise the Lord! In our reading from 1 Timothy, Paul said, **I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Paul wanted them to know the truths He was writing to them but, even more, he wanted them to really live them out! How long should we do the things we are learning in the Word? Until Jesus comes and then for all of eternity.

We need to hear from God, believe what He says and do it. Any time we don't do these things, we are heading for trouble. Look at Jeremiah 43:1-2, **When Jeremiah finished telling the people all the words of the LORD their God -everything the LORD had sent him to tell them - Azariah son of Hoshaiah and Johanan son of Kareah and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, "You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, 'You must not go to Egypt to settle there.'" Jeremiah was telling them what God was saying, and yet they ignored it and disobeyed Him.**

Verse 7 says, **So they entered Egypt in disobedience to the LORD and went as far as Tahpanhes.** They were in disobedience to God and guess what it lead to? The very next chapter tells about the disaster that came to them because they went into idolatry! Again I say, we need to hear from God, believe what He says and do it.

Prayer: Lord, I really do want You to speak to me and I want to be quick to obey You all the time. I know that You want to protect me and take care of me. Please help me to clearly hear what You are saying and then help me to live my life like You want. I don't ever want to disobey You and head for disaster. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday November 7

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 46-48
Hebrews 4

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:15 says, **which God will bring about in His own time - God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords.** God will bring about His will in His time! I know it is hard to wait on the Lord, but what choice do we have? When we have decided ahead of time to keep our trust in Him, we need to keep it there. God really is working and He will get His work done in His time! Trust Him.

If you had to tell someone something that would help him or her to get over fear, what would you tell them? Look at the first part of Jeremiah 46:28, "**Do not fear, O Jacob my servant, for I am with you,**" declares the LORD. "**Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only with justice; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.**"

Did you see the answer? Do not fear, FOR I AM WITH YOU! When we know that God is with us we don't have anything to fear. Knowing (and I mean really knowing) that God is with us should change everything in our lives. Since that is true, I guess some people have a problem with knowing that He is with them.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. I want to live for You and I want to trust You more. Please help me to have a greater revelation of the fact that You are always with me and help me to really know that I am always in Your care and protection. Help me to be a person of faith and not fear. I also want to help others to put their trust and confidence in You. Help my life to be a good example for them to see. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday November 8

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 49-50
Hebrews 5

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:16 is describing God and it says, **who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and might forever. Amen.** God is God and we need to be sure to give Him all the honor for everything good in our lives.

Jeremiah 50:33-34 say, **This is what the LORD Almighty says: "The people of Israel are oppressed, and the people of Judah as well. All their captors hold them fast, refusing to let them go. Yet their Redeemer is strong; the LORD Almighty is His name. He will vigorously defend their cause so that He may bring rest to their land, but unrest to those who live in Babylon.** The people who were holding God's people in bondage were strong BUT THEIR REDEEMER WAS STRONGER!

1 John 4:4 says, **You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.** The forces in the world have some power BUT THE GREATER ONE LIVES IN US! No matter how much power the enemy seems to have, we always have the Greater One living in us and we are safe. This sure ties in with what we were talking about yesterday. God is with us and because of that, we have nothing to fear!

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much. Please help me to really believe the wonderful things You are showing me. I want my life to bring You honor and glory and I know that will happen more as I keep all my trust and confidence in You. I know that You live in me and I should not fear anything. Help me to live that out. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday November 9

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 51-52
Hebrews 6

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:17 says, **Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.** Keep your hope in God! He is the One who gives us everything for our enjoyment. Did you know that God wants you to enjoy life? Well He does and He wants us to remember that He is the One who has given us all those things to enjoy.

Look at Jeremiah 51:47-48, **"For the time will surely come when I will punish the idols of Babylon; her whole land will be disgraced and her slain will all lie fallen within her. Then Heaven and Earth and all that is in them will shout for joy over Babylon, for out of the north destroyers will attack her," declares the LORD.**

Have you ever looked at the wickedness in the world and wondered if God was ever going to judge it all? Well, these verses say that He is going to do it and we can trust that He meant what He said. Our part is to live for Him and spread the good news to people so that they don't have to face His judgment. You see, all those people can turn to God just like You and I have done and then they will be saved. So, trust God to take care of His part and keep being a witness for Him as much as you can.

Prayer: Lord, I want to keep all my trust and confidence in You and You alone. Thank You for wanting me to enjoy life. I certainly want to do that with Your help and I want to bring You glory through it all. I thank You for saving me so I will never face judgment and I want to help others to know You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday November 10

Scripture Reading: Lamentation 1-2
Hebrews 7

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:18 says, **Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.** This command was given specifically to those who are rich but it applies to us all. We need to be rich in good deeds and we need to be generous in our giving. Ask God to show you how to apply these things this weekend and then do what He shows you.

Look at Lamentation 2:14, **The visions of your prophets were false and worthless; they did not expose your sin to ward off your captivity. The oracles they gave you were false and misleading.**

I am going to make a statement and I really feel like someone needs it today. Just because someone says, "Thus says the Lord" doesn't mean they are really speaking for God. This verse is talking about false prophets who gave false prophecies and misled people. There are still false prophets around today!

Make sure everything you receive lines up with the Word and you will be safe. Don't be hesitant to receive from God's real Prophets because they are a part of God's blessing for you.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that You are looking out for me. Help me to hear the things You are speaking to me and help me to heed them. I do want to receive from every minister that is really from You and I want to be protected from those who are not real. Help me to know Your Word better so I will be able to know what lines up and what doesn't. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday November 11

Scripture Reading: Lamentations 3-5
Hebrews 8

Praise the Lord! In our verse from yesterday, Paul told us to be rich in good deeds and to be generous. Now 1 Timothy 6:19 says, **In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.** When we really DO what the Word says, we will have a firm foundation in our lives and we will have real life that only comes from God.

What we think about is very important. Look at Lamentations 3:21-24, **Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him."**

He was remembering the good things of God, and because of that he had hope! These verses remind us that God's compassions never fail and they are new every morning. Aren't you glad?

Look at the last part of these verses, **The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him.** Because God was number one in his life, it was easier for him to wait on the Lord!

Prayer: Lord, I want my life to have a firm foundation and I know that comes as I really DO what Your Word says. Please help me to be more consistent. I am also so thankful that You are always loving and compassionate toward me. I don't know what I would do if I didn't have You in my life and I sure don't ever want to pull back from living for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday November 12

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 1-3
Hebrews 9

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:20 says, **Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge.** We need to guard all the wonderful things God teaches us from the Word and we need to turn away from things that are godless because they usually oppose what we are supposed to be guarding.

Ezekiel 3:16-19 say, **At the end of seven days the Word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to a wicked man, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to dissuade him from his evil ways in order to save his life, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his evil ways, he will die for his sin; but you will have saved yourself.**

I know that was a long section of verses for me to give to you but it is very important. We need to speak the truth of God's Word to people. If they reject it, we have done our part but if we don't tell them, then we are held responsible. So, we need to know the truth and we need to tell people that God loves them and wants to save them.

Prayer: Lord, help me to guard all that You are teaching me and help me to be willing to share it with those who need it. I know that You and Your ways are right and I know that others need to hear about You. Please give me opportunities to speak up for You and help me to take them. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday November 13

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 4-6
Hebrews 10:1-23

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:20-21 say, **Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you.** We don't ever want to wander away from the faith, so we need to stay in God's Word and base our whole lives on it. When we do that we will be safe.

We are so blessed to be able to study God's Word as much as we want. It is important for us to really receive the things He shows us. You see, it is possible to hear from Him and then reject what He says. That is always a mistake.

Ezekiel 5:6 tells us that is what God's people had done. **Yet in her wickedness she has rebelled against My laws and decrees more than the nations and countries around her. She has rejected My laws and has not followed My decrees.**

It wasn't that they didn't know God's ways, because He had taught them but they had rejected His ways. In Matthew 7:26-27, Jesus said, **But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.** We need to HEAR Him and we need to DO what He says.

Prayer: Lord, I love You. Please help me to really guard what You show me and help me to be quick to put what You teach me into action in my life. I know that Your ways are right and I want to live like You want. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday November 14

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 7-9
Hebrews 10:24-39

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 1:1 says, **Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus.** Paul was an apostle because it was God's will and it was all according to the promises of God. We need to realize that everything we are is a result of God's will and His promises in our lives. Remembering that will help us to give Him all the credit for anything good that happens.

When I was just saved there was a song going around about the Bible and it had a line in it that said, "Every promise in the Book is mine! Every chapter, every verse every line!" It was a fun song and fun to sing, but I realized that I don't really want every verse in the Bible to apply to my life. Oh, I know they are true, but I don't really want them for my life and God doesn't want them for my life either.

For instance, look at Ezekiel 7:5 says, **This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Disaster! An unheard-of disaster is coming.** Now God did really say this and it was true, but Praise God it isn't true for me because I have given my life to Jesus and I am living for Him! This verse was for people who had rejected God and His ways and they were going to face judgment. Our judgment has been placed on Jesus and we are not heading for disaster. Here is a verse that applies to us, **For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.** Isn't that better?

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am thankful for Your work in my life. Please help me to know that You are speaking Jeremiah 29:11 to me today and help me to believe and to receive Your blessings. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday November 15

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 10-12
Hebrews 11:1-19

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 1:1 tells us that Paul wrote this letter and verse tells us who he wrote it to, **To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.** Paul was also reminding Timothy (and us) that God has grace, mercy and peace for us. Wouldn't it be a terrible thing for us to reject those wonderful things?

Ezekiel 12:1-2 say, **The word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people."** This must have been a hard thing for Jeremiah to hear. You see, Jeremiah loved the Lord and he was intently listening to Him and he knew that was the best way to live. So, when he heard this he had to know that these other people were heading for trouble.

Jesus often said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." These people were doing the exact opposite. They had eyes to see but they would not see and they had ears to hear but they would not hear. This verse also tells us why they were like that. They were a rebellious people! We need to be a submissive people. We need to yield our whole lives to Jesus and we need to be quick to hear from Him and we need to be quick to obey Him.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all the blessings You offer me. Please help me to really receive them and help me to live in Your blessings. I also want to hear Your voice clearly and I want to obey You quickly. Help me to get rid of any rebellion in my life by being submitted to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday November 16

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 13-15
Hebrews 11:20-40

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 1:3 says, **I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.** There are two things I see about Paul in this verse that I want to point out for today. First, he was a thankful person and secondly, he was a man of prayer. Those were good characteristics and we will do better when we develop them in our lives.

We have been talking about real and false prophets. Look at Ezekiel 13:1-2, **The word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who are now prophesying. Say to those who prophesy out of their own imagination: 'Hear the word of the LORD! '"**

The false prophets were speaking out of their own imaginations but Jeremiah was telling them what God was really saying.

Ezekiel 14:6 says, **Therefore say to the house of Israel, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!"** This is a message from a real prophet. He was telling them to change their evil ways, return to God and get rid of idols.

Prayer: Father, please help me to be a person of prayer and help me to be more thankful. I know that doing these things will help me in my walk with You and I want to yield to Your plans for my life. I also ask You to help me to know when You are really speaking through people. I don't want to be led astray. Help me to know Your Word is always the standard of truth. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday November 17

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 16
Hebrews 12

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 1:4 says, **Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.** Paul really cared about these people and they were a source of joy for him. God wants us to have joy, and when we learn to get joy for other people being blessed we will have more of the joy He has for us.

In Ezekiel 16, God had Ezekiel use an allegory where Israel was like an unfaithful woman. She was running after other lovers when she should have kept herself for God alone.

Verse 32 says, **You adulterous wife! You prefer strangers to your own husband!** Listen to what Paul said about us in 2 Corinthians 11:2, **I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to Him.**

Paul was making the point that we, as the Church, are the bride of Christ and we need to live lives of purity. We do that by hearing from Him (often through the Word) and then living like He wants. We need to keep our trust and confidence in Him and not ever turn back from our commitments. If we ever were to look somewhere else for safety and security, it would be like being unfaithful to the One who can really take care of us.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I really do want to live for You. Please help me to be faithful to You. I also ask You to show me more of what that means and how to apply it in my life. I know that You love me and I am so thankful for Your patience. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday November 18

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 17-19
Hebrews 13

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 1:5 says, **I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.** Timothy had a heritage that was passed on to him through his family. You may or may not have had this, but you can pass good things on to others. So, love God, live for Him and pass that lifestyle on to others.

I have such an important verse to share with you today. Ezekiel 18:32 says, **Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?**

God does not take pleasure in judging people! He is pleased when people repent and find life! One of the reasons I am stressing this is because this is an Old Testament statement. Some people get the idea that God was mean in the Old Testament and nice in the New Testament and that isn't the case.

We now have a Savior (Jesus) who has paid the price for our sins so we can be forgiven, and yet some people still reject Him. When they do that they will face judgment, and God takes no pleasure in that. He wants everyone to come to Him through Jesus!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to live for You. I also want to help others to come to know You. Help me to live my life in a way that will be a good influence on everyone I know. I am also so thankful that Jesus has paid the price for my sins and taken the punishment that should have been mine. Help me to live in all the freedom that You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday November 19

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 20-21
James 1

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 1:6 says, **For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.** Every Christian has gifts that they should use to bless others. Even though we have those gifts, we have to keep them active. So, use what you have for Him and He will probably give you more. Then you can do even more.

Look at what Ezekiel 20:32 says, **You say, "We want to be like the nations, like the peoples of the world, who serve wood and stone." But what you have in mind will never happen.**

Isn't that an interesting statement? Here were God's people saying that they wanted to be like worldly people. They knew the real and living God and yet they wanted to be like everyone else who worshiped idols made of wood and stone.

My point is that we should be quite different than people in the world who do not know God. 1 Peter 2:9 says, **But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.** God has chosen us and we should live for Him. That changes everything.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You have chosen me and I want to live like You want. I know there are times when I just won't fit into the world and I accept that. I would much rather fit in with You! Please help me to be salt and light for those who don't know You. I also ask You to bless Church today. Help us all to love You and Your Word more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday November 20

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 22-23
James 2

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 1:7 is a wonderful verse. It says, **For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.** I could talk about everything listed here, but for today I just want to tell you to accept what He has given you and reject what He hasn't given you. Doing this consistently will help you so much!

Have you ever thought about why you are still here on the Earth? When you gave your life to Jesus, He could have taken you to Heaven right then but He didn't do that. He didn't do that because He wants you here doing His work.

Ezekiel 22:30 says, **I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before Me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.**

God was looking for a person who would help these people and He found none. He has things that He wants us to do too. Look at what Ephesians 2:10 says, **For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.** When we do what He wants us to do, we are fulfilling the reason He has left us here. When we don't do those things we miss out, and those we would have helped miss out too.

Prayer: Lord, I want all that You have for me and I want to get rid of all the things You don't have for me. I know that Your ways are always right and I want to do all the things You have for me to do. Please continue speaking to me and help me to be quick to obey You all the time. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday November 21

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 24-26
James 3

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 1:8 says, **So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me His prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.** We have nothing to be ashamed of! We are on the right side and we need to stand up for God, His ways and His people. We might have to go through some hard times along the way, but life with Jesus is still so much better than life without Him.

We are going through the books in the Old Testament that are called the Prophets. We have talked about judgment several times along the way. Look at Ezekiel 24:14, **I the LORD have spoken. The time has come for Me to act. I will not hold back; I will not have pity, nor will I relent. You will be judged according to your conduct and your actions, declares the Sovereign LORD.**

Some people seem to get impatient with God for not pouring out judgment quicker, but I choose to trust Him. When God's time for judgment comes it will be too late for people to turn to Him. I am so glad that He has been patient with you and me. Our part is to trust Him and keep being witnesses. This ties right in with what we were talking about yesterday. We need to do the things He has left us here to do, and being salt and light are surely part of that.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I don't ever want to act like I am ashamed of You or the good work You are doing in my life. I am thankful for Your patience and I pray that I will be a good witness for You today and every day. I know there are so many people who need to know and love You. I want to let them know how wonderful it is to be a Christian. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday November 22

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 27-28
James 4

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 1:9 is talking about God and it says, **Who has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.** Isn't it an amazing thought that God chose to give us grace before the beginning of time? Let that sink in to your thinking and don't forget that He has also called us to live holy lives.

I have made the point many times that our thinking is very important, but we shouldn't think of ourselves more highly than we should. Look at Ezekiel 27:1-3, **The word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, take up a lament concerning Tyre. Say to Tyre, situated at the gateway to the sea, merchant of peoples on many coasts, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "'You say, O Tyre, "I am perfect in beauty.'" They thought they were so beautiful and they came down in their pride.**

1 Peter 5:6 says, **Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.** When we humble ourselves, God will lift us up. When we exalt ourselves, God will humble us. I sure know which side I want to be on.

Lord, I am so thankful that You have saved me and I want to live a holy life. Please help me to know how to apply this in my life right now, today. I am so grateful for Your mercy and grace. I know that everything good in my life is because of Jesus and His sacrifice for me. Please help me to be humble before You and help me to trust You to lift me up when Your time is right. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday November 23

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 29-31
James 5

Praise the Lord! The last part of 2 Timothy 1:9 and verse 10 say, **This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.** Thank God for His grace! We can stand in His grace because Jesus died for us and He was raised from the dead. He lives forever and we can always trust Him.

It seems like God was speaking some severe judgments through Ezekiel. Look at verses 1-3 of chapter 29, **In the tenth year, in the tenth month on the twelfth day, the word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt and prophesy against him and against all Egypt. Speak to him and say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "'I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, you great monster lying among your streams. You say, "The Nile is mine; I made it for myself."**

What arrogance Pharaoh must have had. The Nile was a very important river in Egypt and Pharaoh was saying that he had made it! No wonder God got ticked off!

Look at what Colossians 1:16 says, **For by Him all things were created: things in Heaven and on Earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him.** The Nile (and everything else) was created BY God and FOR God.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to live for You! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday November 24

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 32-33

1 Peter 1

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 1:11 says, **And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.** Paul knew that the standing he had in the ministry was all a matter of God calling Him and appointing him. He had started off opposing the Church and yet God got His man. Is that your testimony too? God chose you, sought you and finally saved you! Thank God for His love, grace, mercy and patience.

We have been looking at some strong verses of judgment and yet I want to remind you that God didn't really want to judge anyone. Look at Ezekiel 33:11, **Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?'**

Judgment doesn't bring pleasure to God. He is pleased when people turn to Him, repent and get forgiveness. Now, we could spend the rest of this devotion talking about nations but I want to take this and apply this to our lives. When we do wrong (sin) God does not take pleasure in our feeling separated from Him. He wants us to run to Him, confess and be forgiven! That is what He wants and that is what would bring Him the most pleasure. It is the devil that tries to talk us out of doing what is right and pleasing to God.

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much and I am so thankful for Your love. Please help me to run TO You and not FROM You! I am also thankful that You are the One who places people in leadership in the Church. Help me to trust You and those You have placed over me in the Lord. I know that You only have my best in mind and I choose to trust You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday November 25

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 34-35

1 Peter 2

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 1:12 says, **That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day.** Paul was going through some hard things but he was not ashamed. He knew that he belonged to Jesus and he was living for Him. So, there was nothing to be ashamed of. I hope you are living like that and I hope you are free from shame.

To start with for today, look at Ezekiel 34:1-2, **The word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?'"** God wanted His people taken care of and He was not pleased when those who were supposed to do that didn't do it.

Ezekiel 34:11 says, **For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I Myself will search for my sheep and look after them.** This is a very encouraging verse to me. You see, God is still going to take care of His people! Our part is to trust Him. He will use people to minister to us, and if they fail He will pick up the slack and do it Himself. We are so blessed!

Prayer: Lord, I thank You that You love me and I am so glad that I have given my life to You. Please help me to really live like You want and help me to know that I don't ever have to be ashamed. I am also thankful for Your care and protection. I trust You to keep me safe no matter what others do. Please bless Church tomorrow. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday November 26

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 36-37

1 Peter 3

Praise the Lord! I want to spend a little more time on 2 Timothy 1:12. It says, **That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day.** Paul was sure that God could and would take care of everything he committed to Him. So, let's commit everything to Him and know that He is ready and willing to look out for us and to take care of us.

Look at the wonderful promise in Ezekiel 36:26-28, **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be My people, and I will be your God.**

Those verses just about cover it all. He will change us from the inside out (a new heart), He will help us to live for Him (help us to keep His laws) and He will take care of all our needs (giving us life in a good land). All of this comes because we give Him our lives and He gives us His life. When we are His people, He will always take care of us! Don't ever forget that we have all these blessings because He loves us.

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much and I am so thankful for all the blessings You bring into my life. Please help me to know that I never deserve Your love and I can never pay You back, but I sure do love You in return. Help me to know Your blessings and I don't ever want to do anything that would block their free flow in my life. I really do love You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday November 27

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 38-39

1 Peter 4

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 1:13 says, **What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.** What you have heard, KEEP! I usually say what you learn, DO but this is making the same point. Matthew 7:24-25 say, **Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.** Hear and KEEP! Hear and DO!

Sometimes reading sections like what we have for today can seem kind of tedious. After all, we are reading about judgments falling on nations that don't even exist anymore. So, what can we glean from these things that will help us in our lives today?

Well, these things are reminders that God is in control and we can trust Him to take care of huge things like nations. That is a good reminder. We can also know that God will help us with every detail of our lives. Look at what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, **But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.** When we keep God first in our lives, He will take care of us.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your goodness. Thank You for loving me and thank You for being so patient with me. I want to really learn everything that You are showing me and I want to be quick to DO what You want. I know that Your ways are always right and I know that You are trustworthy. Help me to remember these things when I am being tempted to forget. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday November 28

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 40
1 Peter 5

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 1:14 says, **Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you. Guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.** In the verse we looked at yesterday, Paul told us to KEEP the things we were learning. Today's verse says to GUARD them. The word translated GUARD means to preserve and to obey them. We should be getting the point that we need to hold on to everything God teaches us.

In Ezekiel 40, we have a vision that God gave Ezekiel. Look at verses 2-4, **In visions of God He took me to the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain, on whose south side were some buildings that looked like a city. He took me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze; he was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. The man said to me, "Son of man, look with your eyes and hear with your ears and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for that is why you have been brought here. Tell the house of Israel everything you see."**

All this is good and I went ahead and underlined the part I want to emphasize today. God gave all these details and then He instructed Ezekiel to tell EVERYTHING that he had seen. A big part of our job in life is to let God work in our lives and then tell others about it. That is being a witness!

Prayer: Lord, I am thankful for what You are showing me and I want to guard every good thing You have done in my life. Help me to be willing to tell others about You and Your works too. I know that others would love You like I do if they only knew how wonderful living for You is. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday November 29

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 41-42
2 Peter 1

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 1:15 says, **You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.** Paul was sharing a very personal thing here. It never feels good to have someone desert you. I have had it happen to me and we have to be honest about things like this because God will use them to help others. So, keep close to Jesus. He will never desert you. If someone does, know that others have gone through it and you can make it with Jesus and His help.

In our reading from Ezekiel, God was showing what His Temple would be like in the future. Look at Ezekiel 41:4, **And he measured the length of the inner sanctuary; it was twenty cubits, and its width was twenty cubits across the end of the outer sanctuary. He said to me, "This is the Most Holy Place."**

In the Old Testament Temple there was a place called the holy place and only the high priest could go in and he could only go in once a year. The outer sanctuary was the place where believers could go.

God was telling Ezekiel that a time was coming when all believers could go into the holy place. In fact, He was saying that those believers would actually be the holy place. Because Jesus has died on the cross for our sins and we have given our lives to Him, we are now the temple of God. We have been made righteous and He lives in us!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful for the wonderful work You are doing in my life. Please help me to know that You will never leave me nor forsake me. I also ask You to teach me more of how I should live since I have been made righteous. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday November 30

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 43-44
2 Peter 2

Praise the Lord! In yesterday's verse, Paul talked about some people who had deserted him. In our verse for today, he tells us about someone who stood with him, **May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.** Paul said this man who stood with him brought refreshment to him. What do you think those who deserted brought him?

Ezekiel 43:10-11 say, **Son of man, describe the temple to the people of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their sins. Let them consider the plan, and if they are ashamed of all they have done, make known to them the design of the temple - its arrangement, its exits and entrances - its whole design and all its regulations and laws. Write these down before them so that they may be faithful to its design and follow all its regulations.** I think this is interesting. God was showing His people how to live so they could do it and then they wouldn't be ashamed. God wants you to know how to live so you will be blessed.

Look at Ezekiel 44:30, **The best of all the firstfruits and of all your special gifts will belong to the priests. You are to give them the first portion of your ground meal so that a blessing may rest on your household.** God has always wanted those in the ministry to be blessed and He wants to use people like you to bless them and he promises to bless you for doing it. How are you doing at this?

Prayer: Lord, I want to be a person who brings refreshment to others. I also want to take everything You teach me and put it into action in my life. Help me to know how to bless those who minister to me and help me to be a DOER of Your word and not a HEARER only. In Jesus' Name, Amen.