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**1 October 2010**

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Thank God for His Lordship in our lives. Giving our lives to Him was the best decision we ever made and now we get to live for Him. He teaches us His ways through the Word and that is why I am excited that you have a set of these devotions. I know that God is going to speak to you from His Word and I know You are going to grow.

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

Gladly in His Service,

*Dr. Jason*

Dr. Jason B. Brittain





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**Friday October 1**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 22-23**  
**Ephesians 3**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:9 **“The desert tribes will bow before him and his enemies will lick the dust.”** I have two comments on this verse. First no one can hide from God. Even the people who live way out in the desert are going to acknowledge Him. Secondly, look at Genesis 3:14 **“So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.”** The devil is God’s enemy and he will eat dust just like God said!

Look at what Paul prayed in Ephesians 3:17-19 **“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God.”** If these believers could know the love of God better it would change their whole lives. That was true for them and it is true for us.

Ephesians 3:20-21 **“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”** God is able to do way more than we have ever seen or imagined and He is the only One who can do it. We need to stay close to Him and live like He wants.

*Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that You are the One who is in control of all things. I know that trusting You has always been the right thing to do and I am going to continue trusting You. I also ask You to help me to grasp and understand Your love more. I pray that for myself and all my brothers and sisters who are reading this devotion. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



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**Saturday October 2**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 24-26**  
**Ephesians 4**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:10 **“The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him; the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts.”** Kings will not only acknowledge God they will also bring Him tribute and gifts. You see, the lesser brings tribute and gifts to the greater. So, this shows that God is greater than any earthly king and it shows there is a day coming when they will admit that to be true. Thank God we are serving the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Ephesians 4:16 **“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”** When God has His way in our lives we are all built up and all of His work gets done.

Now, look at who God has given us to help us to get to the place where all the work gets done. Ephesians 4:11-13 **“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ.”** We need to let God’s leaders equip us to live for Him. Remember it is God who is working but He works through His people. So, be open to those God has brought into your life. They are there for your good.

*Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. It was the best decision I ever made. I also thank You for the men and women You have brought into my life to help me to grow in You. Please bless Church today and help us all to grow in our knowledge of You. I also want to be available to serve others today. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*



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**Sunday October 3**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 27-28**  
**Ephesians 5**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:11 **“All kings will bow down to Him and all nations will serve Him.”** ALL means ALL. All kings are going to bow down to Him! They will not only bow down to Him, they will also serve Him. You see, God is all powerful and He is in control of all things. In the end, He will be exalted and literally everyone is going to admit that He is God.

Look at Ephesians 5:1 **“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children”** This is sure a lofty goal but I want us to think about how a person would do this. How would you be an imitator of God? Well, the next verse says, **“and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”** We can be imitators of God by living lives of love. What if someone doesn't deserve our love? We should love them anyway because God loves them and we are imitating Him.

Ephesians 5:8 **“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light”** We were not only IN the darkness. We were darkness. Now, we are light in the Lord and we should live like it. Do you suppose living our life as a life of love would be part of this too? Of course it would. Jesus said that we need to love God and love people. When we do those things we are living like God wants and we will fulfill His will for our lives.

*Prayer: Lord, I know there is a day coming when everyone will be forced to serve You but I want to serve You willingly today and every day. I also ask You to teach me more of how to live my life as a life of love. I know that I can't do this without Your help. So, please help me. I also want to live as light like Your Word says. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



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**Monday October 4**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 29-30  
Ephesians 6**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:12 talks about God's goodness and it says this about Him, **"For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no-one to help."** He looks out for those who really need Him and that includes you and me. You see, everyone needs God but some people don't know it. We are smart enough to know we need help and we have turned to God for our help. That was the right thing to do and thank God He will always help us.

Being a Christian should affect every area of our lives. Paul wrote about husbands, wives, children, parents, employees and employers. I hope and pray that you are letting your relationship with Jesus affect every part of your life. If you are not, you are living below the standard that God has for you and you are missing out on some of the life and life in abundance that He has for you.

Paul closes with Ephesians 6:21-22 **"Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you."** The people Paul was writing to loved Paul very much but they were far from him. So, what could they do for Paul? They could pray! I had someone share a very serious need with me the other day and I told them that I would pray for them. Then I reminded them that praying is a powerful and significant thing!

*Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that You look out for those who put their trust in You. I want to put my trust in You and I want to keep it there. Please rule and reign in every area of my life. I also know that prayer is powerful. Help me to pray like I really believe that. I know that Your will for my life is always right. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



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**Tuesday October 5**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 31-33**  
**Philippians 1**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:13 **“He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death.”** This is really close to the verse we covered yesterday and it is still needed. Some of us must have needed this reminder again today because God is giving it to us. God takes care of those who put their trust in Him. We know we need help and thank God we have put it in the One who can really help us.

Philippians 1:6 **“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”** This is a verse that I refer to often in these devotions and when I speak encouragement to people. Jesus is the One who started the good work in our lives and He is the One who will finish the work. Thank God. You see, I have great confidence in His ability to finish what He starts. So, you are going to make it!

Philippians 1:27 **“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel”** Whatever happens keep living for God! That is sure good advice and I want you to take it as personal advice for you today. You may go through some hard times and some good times. Either way keep living for God!

*Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that I have given my life to You and I am glad You took it. I want to co-operate with the good work You are doing and I know that You are the One who will get me through to where You want me to be. I am committed to living for You whatever happens. I know that giving my life to You was right and I don't ever want to turn back on that decision. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



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Wednesday October 6

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 34-36  
Philippians 2**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:14 **“He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.”** Thank God that He rescues us. This verse also says something interesting about blood. We all know that the blood of Jesus is precious but this verse says that our blood is precious in His sight. You see, God does not want you hurt and He doesn’t want your blood shed. The New Testament says that He has the hairs on your head numbered. This shows how much God cares for us and how much He is looking out for us.

Philippians 2:3 **“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”** Do you realize how much better life would be if we all considered others better than ourselves? One time a group of us put this into practice and made a game out of it. We saw who could do this when we were around others and it was a wonderful time. We ended up building others up and encouraging them. We never did decide who won the game because that wasn’t important. We were putting the Word into action and we were blessing others.

Philippians 2:12-13 **“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”** God is working His will in your life. Co-operate with what He is doing!

*Prayer: Lord, thank You so much for looking out for me. I love You and I trust You with every area of my life. Help me to consider others more important than myself and help me to build others up. I know this is part of Your will for my life and that it is good. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



Thursday October 7

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 37-38  
Philippians 3

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:15 **“Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given to him. May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long.”** Of course we know that God is going to live forever. We need to be the people who bless Him and honor Him in everything we do.

Philippians 3:1 **“Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.”** When Paul wrote this he was in jail for preaching the Gospel. This is important because we need to rejoice in the Lord in the middle of our struggles and Paul did not just write about this. He really did it! This is the kind of advice that should really impact your life. Paul also said that he had told them this before but we often need to be reminded of truth. Didn't you need this reminder today?

Philippians 3:10-13 **“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead.”** Paul was still growing and we are too.

*Prayer: Lord, I ask You to teach me how to honor You more. I want to live and give like You want and I know those things bring honor to You. I also want to rejoice more. I know that I always have things to rejoice over because I have You in my life. So, help me to rejoice always and to thank You for helping me to grow in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



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**Friday October 8**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 39-40  
Philippians 4**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:16 **“Let corn abound throughout the land; on the tops of the hills may it sway. Let its fruit flourish like Lebanon; let it thrive like the grass of the field.”** When God rules, His blessings flow. Look at Psalms 133:1-3 **“A song of ascents. Of David. How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down upon the collar of his robes. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life for evermore.”** When we let God rule in our lives (by living in unity) we get the life and life in abundance that God has for us.

Philippians 4:13 **“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”** Thank God that He gives us strength. With Him and His strength we can live in victory no matter what we are facing!

Philippians 4:19 **“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”** Take a little time and read this verse in context and you will see that Paul wrote this to people who were givers. They had consistently supported his ministry and now Paul was telling them that God would meet their needs. You see, God always rewards those who give to the work of the Gospel. So, live and give like God wants you to and you will have all the blessings He promises us.

*Prayer: Lord, I love You and knowing You is enough and yet I know that You promise me many more blessings. I don't want to seek the blessings. I want to seek You and then I know the blessings will take care of themselves. Please teach me to keep my priorities right and help me to keep You number one in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



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**Saturday October 9**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 41-42  
Colossians 1**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:17 **“May His name endure for ever; may it continue as long as the sun. All nations will be blessed through Him, and they will call Him blessed.”** Many times I see bumper stickers that say something like this: “God bless America!” There isn’t anything wrong with those and I like them but I would also like to see some that said, “America bless God!” You see, if our nation (or any other nation) would bless God then He would bless us too.

Colossians 1:13-14 **“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”** Thank God we are saved. We have been rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought into the Kingdom of God. And we are forgiven for all of our sins!

Colossians 1:15 **“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”** Jesus is the image of the Father. If you want to know what the Father is like look at Jesus and you can know. Read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and you will learn about Jesus and the Father. Jesus said that He only said and did the things He saw the Father doing. I am stressing this because some people have had bad fathers in the natural and that sometimes influences how they feel about God. Listen, God is a perfect loving Father. Let your relationship with Him affect how you relate to your earthly father and not the other way around.

*Prayer: Lord, I want to bless You and then I know that You will take care of me. Help me to do this and help my country to do it too because we all need Your blessings. Thank You for bringing me into Your Kingdom. Help me to live like a child of God should. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



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**Sunday October 10**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43-44  
Colossians 2**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:18 **“Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.”** God is good and He only does good things. Everything good comes from Him. James 1:17 **“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”** Everything good in our lives is a gift from God. The more we know this and remember it the more we will be thankful and praise Him!

Colossians 2:6-7 **“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”** Do you remember how you received Jesus? You put your faith in Him and He saved you. It was all a work of faith and Jesus is the One who paid the price for your sins. This verse tells you that you need to live in Him the same way. It is still a matter of faith and it is still all possible because Jesus paid the price for us.

Now, would you like a couple verses that will really stretch you? Colossians 2:9 **“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.”** This is pretty easy for us to accept but look at the next verse, Colossians 2:10 **“and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the Head over every power and authority.”** All the fullness of God lives in Jesus and we have been given that same fullness in Christ! Meditate on that and believe what God is saying.

*Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for every good gift You bring into my life. I want to be more thankful. I also ask You to teach me more about all the fullness of God being given to me because I am in Jesus. Help me to live by faith and know that it is all about Jesus and His work. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



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**Monday October 11**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 45-47  
Colossians 3**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:19 **“Praise be to his glorious name for ever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.”** The more we realize how wonderful God is the more we should praise Him. We would be missing a very important thing if we just saw His goodness and then didn’t praise Him. Hebrews 13:15 **“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name.”** We should praise God continually and that means all the time!

Colossians 3:15 **“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”** God has given us His peace and now we need to LET it rule in our hearts. I have seen way too many people talk themselves out of the peace that God was trying to give them. When you feel God’s peace embrace it and you will do much better. This verse says that we were called to peace so accept it. Also be thankful!

Colossians 3:16 **“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”** God has given us His Word and we need to LET it dwell in us richly. The more we do this the better we will do. As you LET the Word dwell in you it should affect the way you talk. Store the Word up in your heart and then speak and sing from the abundance of your heart. Matthew 12:34 says that we speak from the abundance that is in our heart.

*Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to praise You continually. I am so thankful that You are my Lord and Savior and that is plenty for me to praise about. I also want to let the peace of God and the Word rule and dwell in my heart. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*



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**Tuesday October 12**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 48-49**  
**Colossians 4**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:20 **“This concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse.”** David wrote Palms 72 and it really was a prayer to God. We are blessed to be able to study all of God’s Word. 2 Timothy 3:16 **“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”** We need it ALL and we could learn about prayer from Psalms 72. Don’t miss the things God speaks to you as we work our way through the Bible. We really are blessed to have God speaking to us and we need to be doers of what He says.

Colossians 4:2-3 **“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.”** I just looked up the Greek meaning for the word “devote” here. There are several meanings but one of them is “to stand ready.” Stand ready to pray! Do you stand ready to pray?

The next verse says, Colossians 4:4 **“Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.”** The Word is so practical. Paul tells us to stand ready to pray and then he asks to pray. God instructs us in His ways and then He expects us to do what He says. I hope you get the point here and pray more. I also hope you settle this point in your thinking so whenever God speaks to you from His Word you are quick to do what He says. I have found that the longer we take to do what He shows us the more likely we are to not do it.

*Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your Word. I know that I need it ALL. I want to be quick to obey You when You speak to me. I know that You have spoken to me today about standing ready to pray and I want to heed what You are saying. I know You answer prayer and I know that I am always changed for the better when I pray. So, help me to pray more. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*



Wednesday October 13

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 50-52  
1 Thessalonians 1

Praise the Lord! We are ready to start another Psalm today. I ask the Lord to speak to us from it. Psalms 73:1 **“Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.”** This verse tells us that God is good to us and it tells us that He is SURELY good! Thank God that He gave us a new heart when we were saved. Ezekiel 36:26 **“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.”** Thank God for everything He has done for us. We are blessed!

1 Thessalonians 1:2 **“We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.”** Paul was thankful for them and he prayed for them. May I say that I am thankful for you and I pray for you too. You see, we are all in this together and we need to stand together. The first and last part of Psalms 133 say, **How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! . . .For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life for evermore.”** When we are in unity God’s blessings are poured out and we sure need His blessings.

Paul continued with 1 Thessalonians 1:3 **“We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”** Take a second and look at the things I underlined there. We need them all and we should pray for them.

*Prayer: Lord, I pray for myself and all my brothers and sisters. I pray that You will help us to develop and live in work, faith, labour, love endurance and hope. Thank You that we know You answer our prayers and that You pour out Your blessings as we pray for each other. Help us all to live in unity with one-another. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



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**Thursday October 14**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53-55**  
**1 Thessalonians 2**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 73:2 **“But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.”** We are going to see how he almost slipped and lost his way. The reason this is important is that we can learn how to avoid the same mistake. 1 Corinthians 10:11 **“These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.”** Let’s learn from his mistakes so we can avoid them.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-2 **“You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition.”** There were times when Paul would have everything go well and there were times when things were hard but he kept preaching the Gospel. In these verses, he referred to being insulted and having strong opposition but he kept preaching the Gospel. I hope you are as committed as Paul was. Never quit!

1 Thessalonians 2:19, 20 **“For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy.”** This gives us a glimpse into what kept Paul going. He knew some people had accepted the Gospel and that encouraged him. So, if you face hard times remember that some people are doing well and celebrate them. Then, never quit!

*Prayer: Lord, I love You and I really do want to live for You. Help me to learn from the mistakes others make so I can avoid them. I am committed to living for You no matter what I face. Help me to remember that some people are doing good and help me to focus on them if I ever I start to get discouraged. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



Friday October 15

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 56-58  
1 Thessalonians 3**

Praise the Lord! Yesterday, we talked about the person who wrote Psalms 73 almost losing his way and we see why in our verse for today. Psalms 73:3 **“For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.”** Don’t ever envy the arrogant and the wicked. They are not on the right path and if you start to envy them you are on the wrong path too. Our trust and confidence must be in God and we need to keep it there. Ask God to teach you more about this important subject as we continue on through Psalms 73.

1 Thessalonians 3:2 **“We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God’s fellow-worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith.”** God wants to use all of His people in the work of the ministry and we see Paul putting this into action with Timothy. You see, Paul could not be everywhere and so he would train others to do the work he couldn’t do. I know you can see the wisdom in this. More people can do more work.

I also want you to notice what Paul sent Timothy to do. He spread the Gospel, he strengthened people and he encouraged people. You may not be called to be a Pastor but you are called to spread the Gospel, strengthen people and encourage people. I could put it this way. Whenever you have a chance to bless someone go ahead and bless them. As you do those things you are being used in the work of the ministry and you are right in line with God’s will for your life.

*Prayer: Lord, I want to keep my focus on You and then I won’t be distracted by what wicked people do. I know that I am blessed eternally because I know You, and that is what is most important. Help me to bless others every chance I get. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*



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**Saturday October 16**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 59-61**  
**1 Thessalonians 4**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 73:4-5 say, **“They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills.”** Doesn't it sometimes seem like wicked people are blessed and it doesn't make sense? Well know this, God is in control and He knows all about who is righteous and who is wicked. We need to trust Him to sort all these things out and we can know that He will do it all justly.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 **“Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.”** This is quite a compliment. They were living like they should and Paul was encouraging them to do all that they knew to do more and more.

Now, look at 1 Thessalonians 4:9 **“Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.”** Here is part of what they had been doing. They had been loving people like God wanted them to. I know that God is doing a good work in your life and helping you to love people just like this. I want to be like Paul and encourage you to do those things more and more. This is how we grow. We learn God's will and put it into practice and then we do it more and more. We are blessed to have God making these things clear to us. There really are people who don't know what God wants them to do but we know what He wants.

*Prayer: Lord, I don't want to be distracted by what others have or don't have. I want to stay focused on loving You and living for You. I know that You want me to love You and You want me to love others. Now, help me to do those things more and more. I don't want to miss out on any of Your good will for my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



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**Sunday October 17**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 62-64**  
**1 Thessalonians 5**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 73:6 **“Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.”** Yesterday, we read about these wicked people and it seemed like everything was going well for them. Now, we see that they were falling into traps. They were getting into pride and they were convincing themselves that there were no consequences for their actions. They thought they could deal violently with people and get away with it. As we continue in Psalms 76, we are going to see that they were wrong.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 **“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”** Encourage people and build them up! When we do those things we are doing God’s will and He will even help us. You see, God calls us to be a blessing and He strengthens us to do it. We are so blessed!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 **“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”** Here are some more things that are always God’s will for us. As we do these things we are doing His will. I also want to tell you that doing the will of God that we know positions us to hear more of His will for our lives. So, do what you know to do and God will reveal more of His will. Then you can obey Him in those things. Thank God that He is not hiding His will from us. He actually wants to reveal His will to us so much that He has given us the Word and He is speaking to us all the time. Praise the Lord!

*Prayer: Lord, I know that pursuing You and Your will is always right and I know that You will only add good things to my life. I don't want anything that worldliness would add to my life. Help me to keep blessing people and help me to do all of Your will that I know. I love You so much and I am going to live for You forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



Monday October 18

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 65-66  
2 Thessalonians 1

Praise the Lord! Psalms 73:7 **“From their callous hearts comes iniquity; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits.”** These people were wicked and we can see that their wickedness was leading them further and further into depravity. We are not like this. We love God and He has made us righteous. So God’s good work of righteousness will lead us into more and more of His ways. It sure is better being a Christian than a heathen. I hope you know that!

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 **“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.”** They were growing more and more. We have spent quite a bit of time talking about more and more and I sure hope you are putting it all into practice. Paul said they were even growing through the hard things and that showed they were really putting their faith in action in their lives.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 **“With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”** They were doing well and Paul wanted to make sure they kept doing well so he was praying for them. God answers prayer!

*Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to keep learning Your ways and I want to be quick to put them in action in my life. I want to be a “more and more” Christian. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*



Tuesday October 19

**Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 1-2  
2 Thessalonians 2**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 73:8 **“They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression.”** The wickedness in their lives was growing and it affected how they talked. If you listen to people long enough, you can tell what is in their hearts. They will speak out of the abundance that is within them. We need to store God’s Word up in our hearts and it will leak out in the things we say too. Thank God for the good work He is doing in our lives and thank God that He is never going to quit working on us.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 **“But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.”** From the beginning God chose you! Isn’t that an amazing thing? I don’t understand why He chose us but I am sure glad He did. We are now saved and sanctified. That means we are set apart for God and His purposes.

2 Thessalonians 2:14-15 **“He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.”** He called us so we would live for Him and Paul is telling us to stand firm and to hold onto the things we have been taught from the Word. Holding onto the truth of the Word is how you stand firm. Everything else might be shaking but God and His Word are firm.

*Prayer: Lord, I want You to rule and reign in every area of my life. Help me have a good abundance of Your Word in my heart so it will affect the words I speak. I also thank You for calling me. Help me to live like a child of God should live. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*



Wednesday October 20

**Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 3-4  
2 Thessalonians 3**

Praise the Lord! The wicked people we are reading about in Psalms 73 are getting bolder and bolder. Psalms 73:9 **“Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.”** They think they can own heaven and earth. The only way to make it to heaven is by accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior. These wicked people had not done that and so they were way off base. Thank God that we are not envious of people like this!

2 Thessalonians 3:5 **“May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.”** Have you ever thought about the Lord directing your heart? Well, whether you have thought about it or not this verse tells us where He directs our hearts. He directs our hearts to the love of God and to Jesus’ perseverance. Those are sure two wonderful things and God is the One who wants us to have them. Praise the Lord!

2 Thessalonians 3:16 **“Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.”** Now we see that the Lord of peace will give us peace! We are so blessed. We have God’s love. We have God giving us the perseverance of Christ and we have peace. Praise the Lord! We started off with a verse from Psalms that showed some wicked people claiming some things they had no right to claim. Now we see that we have all these blessings (and more) because we belong to Jesus. I am sure glad I am a Christian!

*Prayer: Lord, I am so glad I have given my life to You. It was the best decision I ever made for the here and now and it is even better when I think about eternity. Help me to know the blessings You have provided for me and help me to live like You want so I can enjoy them. I want to be blessed so I can bless others more. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*



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**Thursday October 21**

**Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 5-6  
1 Timothy 1**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 73:10 **“Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance.”** Even though these people are wicked and getting worse and worse some people followed them. This is sure an example of why you need to follow good people. By good people I mean people who love God and His Word. They may not be perfect but follow people who are following the Perfect One and that is Jesus.

1 Timothy 1:12 **“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.”** Paul knew that anything good in his life was all because of Jesus. Jesus was the One who had saved him and Jesus was the One who gave Paul the strength to do everything he did. So, all the credit went to Jesus and Jesus alone. I sure hope you know these things like Paul did. You see, pride will get in the way of God’s good work in your life. So, stay humble.

Look at the advice Paul gave Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:18 **“Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight,”** God had spoken some things to Timothy and Paul didn’t want Timothy to miss out on what God had for him. We are the same way. We have promises from God and we can’t give up on them. We need to hold on to the things God has spoken to us and even fight to see them come about. I am just like Paul in that I don’t want you to miss out on anything God has for you. So, hold on and don’t ever quit.

*Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that I have given my life to You and I am thankful for the faithful people You have brought into my life to teach me Your ways. Help me to hold on to everything You have shown me and help me to represent You well to others. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*



Friday October 22

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 7-8  
1 Timothy 2

Praise the Lord! Psalms 73:11 **“They say, “How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?”**” These wicked people thought God was not seeing all the wicked things they were doing. You see, judgement was not falling on them so they thought they were getting away with what they were doing. But God did see everything they did and there was a day coming when He would judge those who needed to be judged. Thank God we have given our lives to Jesus and He paid the price for all of our sins.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 **“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”** How long has it been since you have prayed for people who are in authority? Paul said we should do it **“first of all”**. Now, I am not putting you down here. I am just reminding you of something you should be doing.

The next verses tell us why we should pray for those in authority. 1 Timothy 2:3-4 **“This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”** We should pray for those in authority because it is good, because it pleases God and because He wants everyone to be saved. I know you are being stirred to pray. So, pray!

*Prayer: Lord, I love You and I know that You are in control of all things. I ask You to bless those who are in positions of authority. Help them to know You and Your ways. I pray that they will make righteous decisions and that our whole country will turn back to You. I also ask You to help me to remember to pray for them more since You want me to pray for them, “first of all”. I really do want to live for You! In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*



Saturday October 23

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 9-10  
1 Timothy 3

Praise the Lord! Psalms 73:12 **“This is what the wicked are like--always carefree, they increase in wealth.”** Doesn't this seem accurate at times? Some wicked people seem to be so blessed. Well, don't forget how this Psalm started off. He said that he almost slipped when he started thinking like this. We are the ones who are blessed. We have God's favor and peace. We are going to live with Him forever. So, don't be envious of the wicked!

1 Timothy 3:1 **“Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.”** Paul said it was a noble thing to want to be a leader in the Church but we must lead God's way. You see, some people forget that leaders are really servants in the body of Christ. So, it is noble to want to serve God and it is noble to want to serve God's people.

1 Timothy 3:14-15 **“Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”** God was revealing His ways to these believers through Paul. You see, God is not hiding His ways from us and He uses people to teach us. I hope God is using me to teach You and I always want to be an encouragement to you.

*Prayer: Lord, I know that You are in control and I am glad that I have given my life to You. I would not trade my relationship with You for anything. I have peace because I have You. I also want to be used in Your work more and I know that means I will be serving more. Help me to be faithful to serve right where I am now and I know that will position me to be used more in the future. I love You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



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Sunday October 24

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 11-13  
1 Timothy 4

Praise the Lord! Psalms 73:13 **“Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.”** I am sure you know this isn't true and it isn't how God's people should think. He was getting off track because he was focusing on wicked people and how they seemed to be so blessed. Here is some good news. God didn't quit on him and God was going to get him back to where he needed to be. As we continue on in Psalm 73 we are going to see that God helps him to get his thinking straight. Thank God that He never quits on us!

We have been talking about wicked people in Psalms 73. Have you ever wondered how some people can get so far from God? Well, look at 1 Timothy 4:1-2 **“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.”** Our conscience is that part of us that tells us what is right and what is wrong. It has been described as God's voice speaking inside of us. Paul said some people have so seared their conscience that they no longer hear what is right and wrong. That is surely part of what happened to the wicked people we are reading about in Psalms 73.

1 Timothy 4:15 **“Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.”** When we are diligent to study God's Word and to do what He says we will keep our conscience clear and sensitive to God and His ways.

*Prayer: Lord, I love You and I sure want to live for You. I don't ever want to wander from Your ways. Help me to be quick to respond to Your voice and help me to repent when I do wrong. Thank You for showing me what getting off track can lead to so I will avoid it. I also ask You to bless all my brothers and sisters who are doing these devotions. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



Monday October 25

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 14-16  
1 Timothy 5

Praise the Lord! Psalms 73:14 **“All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning.”** Can’t you see how discouraged he was getting? When we focus on wicked people and what they seem to be getting away with we will get discouraged. Think about this. There isn’t anything we can do about these things anyway. We need to focus on God and take care of our own lives. Trust God to sort all these things out and enjoy the peace you have because of your relationship with Him.

1 Timothy 5:21 **“I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.”** Paul was basically giving Timothy the same advice I just gave you. Take care of your life and leave the rest to Him.

1 Timothy 5:24-25 **“The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden.”** Some things may seem to be hidden but they are not hidden from God. That is true of both good things and bad things. If we live for God He knows what is going on and He will reward us even if no one else ever notices. In the same way, He is the One who will take care of those who are not living right even though they seem to be getting away with their sins. We need to keep our focus on Him and trust Him. Some of you must really need this because God seems have me making this point a lot.

*Prayer: Lord, I do trust You. I have always trusted You and I am not going to quit. Help me to take care of my life and help me to be a blessing to others. I am glad it isn't my job to judge people and sort out what is right and wrong. I also don't want to be distracted from You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



Tuesday October 26

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 17-19  
1 Timothy 6

Praise the Lord! The author of Psalms 73 was getting off track in his thinking but now we are seeing God help him to get back on track. Psalms 73:15 **“If I had said, “I will speak thus,” I would have betrayed your children.”** He is now realizing that he was thinking things and saying things that were wrong. Praise the Lord that he is going to realize these things and get back on track. I want to point out again that God has not quit on us and He will help us when we start to get off track. We need to keep focusing on Him and His goodness more than anything else.

1 Timothy 6:11 **“But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.”** Paul’s advice for Timothy goes right along with what we are seeing in Psalms 73 again. Paul was telling Timothy to flee from things that weren’t right and to pursue the things that line up with God and His purposes for his life.

1 Timothy 6:12 **“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.”** Timothy was called by God and now he needed to live for Him. This is the very advice I would give you. God has saved you. Praise God! Now live for Him. Don’t let anything or anyone distract you from what is most important. Matthew 6:33 **“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”**

*Prayer: Lord, I am glad that I have given my life to You. I am glad that You have given me life and life in abundance and I don’t want anything or anyone to distract me from seeking You first. Thank You for reminding me of these important things. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*



Wednesday October 27

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 20-22  
2 Timothy 1

Praise the Lord! The author of Psalms 73 had been trying to understand why some people do wrong things and then seem to be blessed. Now look at what he said in Psalms 73:16 **“When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me”** Another version said that trying to understand all these things only made him tired and weary. Listen, when you try to figure these things out all you will get for your effort is tired! Trust God and live for Him. He will refresh you and give you the strength you need.

2 Timothy 1:4 **“Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.”** Are there some people you like to be around because they bring you joy? Paul felt that way about Timothy. If you have people like that thank God for them because they are a gift from God. Also, be that kind of a person for others. The more you bless others the more you will be blessed as well. We are blessed so we can be a blessing.

2 Timothy 1:12 **“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 said that he was convinced that God is able to take care of what we commit to Him. So, let’s commit everything to Him! What is it that you are worrying about today? Commit it to God. What is it that you have been holding back on? Commit it to God. He is able to take care of anything and everything you commit to Him. So, commit it all to Him.

*Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You want to meet my every need. Help me to seek You first and know that You will always help me with my life. I also want to commit all of my life and concerns to You. Help me to know if there is any area where I am not doing this and help me to do it right now. I don't want to miss out on any of the peace You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



Thursday October 28

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 23-24  
2 Timothy 2

Praise the Lord! Psalms 73:16-17 **“When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.”** This is such an important thing. He couldn't figure all these things out until he remembered eternity! Now, he remembered that these wicked people who seemed to have all the blessings were going to miss out for all of eternity. We are the ones who are really blessed because we know Jesus and we are going to be in heaven forever and ever. Let this encourage you today because it should!

2 Timothy 2:1-2 **“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”** I have made the point that Paul was training Timothy and now we see Paul instructing Timothy to train others as well. This is always God's plan. We learn and then we teach others what we have learned. So, as you learn how to let God use you, you should be teaching others how to be used too.

2 Timothy 2:23 **“Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.”** If you have ever found yourself in the middle of what Paul calls a stupid argument then I am sure you can see the wisdom in this advice. Stupid arguments lead to stupid quarrels.

*Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that my present and my eternity are all wrapped up in my relationship to You. I know that I should never be envious of anyone who is going to be separated from You for all eternity. Help me to keep my thinking straight. I also want to heed Your instruction to avoid foolish and stupid arguments. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



Friday October 29

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 25-26  
2 Timothy 3

Praise the Lord! Psalms 73:18 **“Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.”** People who have rejected God and His salvation are the ones who are on slippery ground and they are the ones who are going to be cast down into ruin. How could we ever envy them? I have made the point that God helped this guy to get his thinking right and I hope God is using these devotions to help some of you too. Thank God that He takes care of us and that He speaks to us.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 **“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”** What do you think God means when He tells us to have nothing to do with these people?

2 Timothy 3:14 **“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,”** We need to keep growing in the Lord. Thank God for the people He has brought into your life to teach you the ways of God. Take some time today and really think about those who are in your life today and those God has used in the past. Then pray for them and ask God to bless them.

*Prayer: Lord, I thank You that my life is being built on the solid rock of Jesus. I also want to thank You for all the people You have used to help me to grow in You. I ask You to bless them richly and let them know that all their efforts have paid off in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



**Saturday October 30**

**Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 27-28  
2 Timothy 4**

Praise the Psalms 73:19 **“How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!”** Some of the people that Christians envy will be swept away so fast that they will be quickly forgotten. If you want to be impressed by someone’s life find someone who loves God and who is doing a work that will last. They are the ones who are making a difference that will last for eternity and that is what really matters.

2 Timothy 4:16, 17 **“At my first defense, no-one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion’s mouth.”** Paul was saying that there was a time when he needed some people to stand with him but no one showed up. The good news was this: The Lord came and stood with him. Praise the Lord for this but what would your attitude be toward those who didn’t stand with you? Paul forgave them and asked that it not be held against them. God was sure doing a good work in Paul’s life and I hope He is doing the same work in your life.

2 Timothy 4:22 **“The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.”** Thank God that He is the One working in our lives and thank God for His grace! His grace means we have His favor on our lives even though we don’t deserve it. Again I say: Thank God that He is the One working in our lives and thank God for His grace!

*Prayer: Lord, I am glad that I am building my life on the firm foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ. I can feel Your stability beneath my feet and I thank You for it. I also thank You that You never leave me or forsake me. You are all I need, and yet I thank You for brothers and sisters who do stand with me. Help me to be a blessing to others as well. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*



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Sunday October 31

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29-30  
Titus 1

Praise the Lord! Let me take a short break from our verse by verse study through Psalms and give you Psalms 118:24 **“This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”** I wanted to cover this verse because some people celebrate this as a day that belongs to the devil BUT IT DOES NOT BELONG TO THE DEVIL! This day (and every day) belongs to God and we should rejoice and be glad every day. So, don't give an inch (or a day) to the devil. Jesus is Lord all the time! Did you need this reminder today? Don't ever let the devil wear you down.

Titus 1:15 **“To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.”** We are pure because we have given our lives to Jesus. He has taken our lives and now He lives His life of purity through us. There are others who are not pure and because of that everything they do is impure.

Titus 1:16 **“They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.”** They may even claim to know God but their lives show that they don't really know Him. Our lives are proof that we know Him. He is changing us for the good and we are learning to live in obedience to Him and His ways. Thank God for His presence and His Lordship in our lives. Hear from Him and obey Him. That is the best way to live on October 31st and every other day.

*Prayer: Lord, I thank You that You made this day and I am going to rejoice and be glad in it just like You tell me to do in the Word. Thank You for having Dr. Jason remind me of this. I don't want to give any ground to the devil and his work. I also thank You for making me pure in Jesus. Help me to live like a pure person should live. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*