

1 October 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Praise the Lord! We are so blessed to be able to study God's Word openly and freely. We are also blessed to have the Holy Spirit to help us. He can and will guide us into many truths this month as we study the Word.

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

Gladly in His Service,

Dr. Jason B. Brittain

Sunday October 1

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 22-23
Ephesians 3

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:3 says, **Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need.** They had a program to take care of widows. From this verse we can see that they evidently had a process to determine who was really in need. I am sure they could only do so much and so they wanted to help those who needed the help the most. Doing that would make what they had go further.

Look at Isaiah 22:11, **You built a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the Old Pool, but you did not look to the One who made it, or have regard for the One who planned it long ago.** I wonder if what stood out to me stood out to you as you read this verse?

They had built a reservoir but they forgot the ONE who had made it and planned it. We sometimes make this same mistake. We work to accomplish something and forget that every good thing in our life comes from God!

Look at what James 1:17 says, **Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.** Every good thing comes from God! Those people in the Old Testament needed to remember that every reservoir was a gift from God and we need to remember that every good thing in our lives comes from Him too.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful for all the blessings You bring into my life. Please help me to use the things You bring to me to help others and help me to realize that it all comes from You. I also ask You to bless Church today. Help us to worship You like You deserve. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday October 2

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 24-26
Ephesians 4

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:4 says, **But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.** Believers should take care of their own family and this would make it possible for the Church to help those who don't have anyone to help them.

Isaiah 24:1 says, **See, the LORD is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants.** There are several things I would like to say about this.

First of all, it reminds me that it is God who is in control. He created all things and He can do whatever He pleases whenever He wants.

Now having said that, I also want to remind you that God will always take care of His people. When God brought judgement on the earth through the flood, He gave Noah and his family a way to escape it.

So, we can be confident that God will take care of us no matter what happens around us. We can especially be confident because we know that He is the One who is in control!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful for the things You are teaching me. Please help me to take care of my family like You want and help me to help others who are really in need. I also ask You to help me to remember that You are always in control and that I can trust You with every part of my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday October 3

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 27-28

Ephesians 5

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:5 says, **The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.** This is quite a compliment. We would all do better if we would do these same things. So, keep your hope in God, pray and ask God for help.

Look at Isaiah 28:29, **All this also comes from the LORD Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom.**

Look at how the Lord is described in this verse. He is called wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom.

Since it is the Lord Who is wonderful in counsel, who do you think we should turn to when we need counsel? I am not against going to people for counsel as long as they are Godly people but I usually turn to God first

This verse also says that God is magnificent in wisdom. This is part of the reason He is wonderful in counsel. He knows everything and He is never wrong. Even good people are sometimes wrong. We are so blessed to be able to go to God for counsel and help.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that You love me and want to bless me. Please help me to turn to You for all my help. I know that trusting You is always the right thing to do and I will never go wrong when I hear from You and obey You. I also ask You to bless all my brothers and sisters who are doing these devotions. Help us all to grow in our knowledge of You and Your ways. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday October 4

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 29-30
Ephesians 6

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:6 says, **But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.** Now, this statement is made in the middle of a discussion about widows but it applies to us too. If we live for pleasure rather than living for God we are missing out on the real life that He has for us. This doesn't mean that God never wants us to enjoy life. He just wants us to keep Him in first place!

I have made the point several times that the Word often has more than one application. Isaiah 29:13 says, **The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.**

Jesus quoted this verse in Matthew 15:8-9, **These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.**

The truth of these verses applied in Isaiah's day, Jesus' day and they apply today. Some people talk about living for God but the real issue is what we DO. We need to let Jesus be number one in our lives and we need to seek Him and His Kingdom first.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to keep You in first place in my life. I don't ever want to be a hypocrite. I know that living for You is the best life there is and I want to live fully for You. Please help me to know if there are any areas where I am not living like You want and help me to do better. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday October 5

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 31-33

Philippians 1

Praise the Lord! I Timothy 5:7 says, **Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame.** When we give people the Word, we are doing what God wants and it will help those who hear to be safe. You see, doing what God wants is right and it is good for everyone. We need to learn God's way, do them and trust Him to take care of all the rest.

Look at Isaiah 31:1, **Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel, or seek help from the LORD.** It is so easy to forget that we need to look to God for help. God wanted you to be reminded of this today and I hope you feel Him speaking this to you personally.

Isaiah 33:6 says, **He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.** God is a rich store of salvation, wisdom and knowledge. The key to all these things is the fear of the Lord. This word fear means reverence and respect. When we reverence and respect for the Lord, it unlocks the wonderful things He has for us. I really feel like the Lord is speaking these things to you today. Don't miss what He is saying.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. Please help me to really hear what You are speaking to me. I want to keep all my trust and confidence in You and I want to reverence and respect You even more. Help me to settle these things now and help me to remember them right away when I start to forget. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday October 6

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 34-36

Philippians 2

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:8 says, **If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.** This is sure a serious statement. We don't ever want to deny the faith or be worse than an unbeliever. So, we need to take care of people in need and especially those in our own family. Doing these things demonstrates the love of God.

God is always speaking and those who listen are blessed. Look at Isaiah 34:1, **Come near, you nations, and listen; pay attention, you peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world, and all that comes out of it!** God is even speaking to the nations and those who listen will have His blessings. We need to continually pray for our nation. Many people say, "God bless America" and that is good but it is also important for us to say, "America, bless God!"

Isaiah 35:10 says, **and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.** Those who hear what God is saying and return to Him will be blessed. God can bring us to the place where we have great gladness and joy and He can take away our sorrow. We need to hear Him and return to Him.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to hear You clearly and I want to respond to You. I know that living for You is the right thing and I want to do it. Also please help me to really see those who are in need and help me to do what I can to help them. I love You so much and I trust You with every area of my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday October 7

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 37-38

Philippians 3

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:9 says, **No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband.** Paul is continuing to talk about a program that the Church had to help widows. It was important for them to help those who really needed the help and that was why Paul was laying out these guidelines. We need to let God guide us to use what we have in the ways He wants too.

In Isaiah 37, the people of God were being delivered from an evil king. Look at what God told them in verse 7, **Listen! I am going to put a spirit in him so that when he hears a certain report, he will return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword.** God was going to take care of their enemy.

In verse 36 we see it all happening, **Then the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning - there were all the dead bodies!**

This was a wonderful deliverance and we need to learn from it. When we are in trouble, we need to turn to God for help, hear from Him and trust that He will do what He says He will do!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I love Your Word. Please help me to really believe the things You are showing me. I know that trusting You is always the right thing and I want to trust You more consistently. I also ask You to bless Church tomorrow. Help is to hear Your voice and help us to worship You like You deserve. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Sunday October 8

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 39-40
Philippians 4

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:9-10 say, **No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.** It is interesting to me that the women who had taken care of others were the ones who received help first. They had sown good things and they were reaping what they had given.

Isaiah 40:31 says, **But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.** When we keep God first in our lives, He will help us with everything we face.

Verse 29 says, **He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.** If you ever feel weary or weak, turn to God. He is the One who can really help you. Don't make Him your last resort. Turn to Him sooner and you will receive help sooner.

Verse 30 says, **Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall.** Praise the Lord, this isn't just a promise for those who are young have strength in themselves. This promise is for all of us and that includes you.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that You always help me when I turn to You. Please help me to seek You and Your help sooner. I also ask You to help me to know how to sow good things so I will reap good things. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday October 9

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 41-42

Colossians 1

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:11 says, **As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry.** These younger widows started out trusting God to meet their needs but then they put their trust in men instead. There isn't anything wrong with being married but our trust needs to remain in Jesus.

I am sure there are many ways to cover the book of Isaiah and they are probably all helpful. I keep being drawn to verses that speak of hope and help for us.

Isaiah 41:13 says, **For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.** Isn't this a wonderful verse?

When we know that God is with us, fear should be banished from our lives. After all, God can take care of anything! The last part of Hebrews 13:5 says, **Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.**

So, we have it from the Old Testament and the New Testament. God is with us and He isn't going to leave. Again I want to tell you that this should banish fear from our lives! Believe it and let it help you.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful for Your presence in my life. I want to put my trust and confidence in You and I want to keep it there. I know that I won't face anything that we can't handle together. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday October 10

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43-44
Colossians 2

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:12 says, **Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge.** This is talking about people who started out putting their trust in God and then pulled back. We need to put our trust in Him and keep it there. He is the One who can really help us.

I sure have some encouraging verses for you today. Isaiah 43:2 says, **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.** God is always with us and He will protect us. You may not ever go through the fire literally but I bet you have been through some fire figuratively and God saw you through it.

Verses 16-17 say, **This is what the LORD says - he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick.** We are serving the God who wiped out the Egyptians in Moses' day and He can take care of us.

I can't quit until I give you verses 18-19, **Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.** Forget the past and keep living for Jesus better days are ahead!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I thank You for speaking to me from the Word today. Help me to believe every promise You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday October 11

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 45-47

Colossians 3

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:13 says, **Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to.** When people have too much time on their hands they often get into trouble. So, keep busy living for Jesus and don't ever quit.

Look at Isaiah 46:8-9, **Remember this, fix it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.** There are certain things that we need to know and never forget. One of those things is the fact that God is God and there is none like Him.

The next verse says, **I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.** There is no other God and He can do anything He wants because He is God.

Now, this verse also points out that He does things according to His purpose. Because this is always true, we know that God will always do things in line with His Word. You see, He will never violate His own Word and He will never violate His nature, which is love.

Prayer: Lord, I want to pledge myself to You and I don't ever want to quit. Please help me to know You and Your ways better. I know that You are God and there is no other God and I am glad that I have given my life to You. Please help me to represent You well to others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday October 12

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 48-49

Colossians 4

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:14 says, **So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander.** Wouldn't we all be better off if we all gave the enemy no opportunity for slander? We will be doing that when we learn His ways, put them into practice in our lives and never turn back.

Living for God is the best way to live. Isaiah 48:17 says, **This is what the LORD says - your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go."** God is willing to teach us and to direct us. We need to listen to what He is showing us and then we need to live accordingly.

The next two verses say, **If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea. Your descendants would have been like the sand, your children like its numberless grains; their name would never be cut off nor destroyed from before me.**

When we pay attention to God, we end up with peace, righteousness and our children are blessed. Let's stay close to Jesus and live for Him!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. Please help me to keep my life open to You and closed to the devil. I want to learn all the things You want to teach me and I want to allow You to guide me in every area of my life. I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday October 13

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 50-52

1 Thessalonians 1

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:15 says, **Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.** Verses like this are very sobering. I don't ever want to do this and I don't want anyone I know to do it and we won't as long as we stay close to Jesus and keep learning His ways.

One of the most important questions in life is this, "Where do we have our trust?" Isaiah 50:7 says, **Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.** When we have our trust and confidence in God, we won't be put to shame.

Look at Isaiah 51:6, **Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.** Our salvation will last forever and our righteousness will never fail.

I know the last part about our righteousness might seem strange but remember that we are righteous because God has made us righteous. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

Prayer: Lord, I want to stay close to You and not give the devil any ground in my life. Help me to always keep my trust and confidence in You and You alone. I am so thankful that You have made me righteous and I don't want to argue with what You say in the Word. I also ask You to bless Church this Sunday and help us all to live for You every moment of the weekend. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday October 14

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53-55

1 Thessalonians 2

Praise the Lord! I hope you are enjoying the little bit of time we are spending in 1 Timothy each day. 1 Timothy 5:16 says, **If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.** As each believer does what they should, more will get accomplished. We can always do more together than apart.

Look at Isaiah 55:8-9, **“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”** We need to stay in the Word. Then our thoughts will line up with His thoughts and then our ways will be His ways.

Verse 11 says, **So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.** When we base our lives on the Word, God will get His work done in our lives. This is why I am so glad that you are studying God’s Word everyday. It is so important. The Word changes us. Paul said the Word transforms us from the inside out. That is God using His Word to accomplish His purpose in our lives.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so glad that I have given my life to You. Please help me to do my best as I study Your Word and help the Word to work in my life. I know that Your ways are always right and I want to submit to them all the time. Please bless my Church tomorrow and help my Pastor to be blessed. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday October 15

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 56-58

1 Thessalonians 3

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:17 says, **The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.** It is kind of strange for me to write to you about verses like this since some of their application has to do with me but I am committed to giving you the truth. When this verse says those who preach and teach are worthy of double honor, it is talking about the fact that they should be paid very well. Look it up in your Strong's concordance.

Isaiah 58 is a wonderful chapter on the benefits that come when we fast. Fasting, for the most part, is going without food for some period of time.

Look at what Jesus said about fasting in Matthew 6:16-18, **When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.**

First of all, Jesus said WHEN you fast, not IF you fast. Then Jesus made the point that we need to fast with the right motivations or we will miss out on the benefits in Isaiah 58.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I really do want to live for You. Help me to know how to honor those You have brought into my life to teach me the Word. I also ask You to speak to me about fasting because I know all Your ways are right and they are good. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday October 16

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 59-61

1 Thessalonians 4

Praise the Lord! I Timothy 5:18 says, **For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."** I don't mind being compared to an ox since it means someone who is working very hard. Take care of those who serve you in the ministry. It will be a great encouragement to them and it will release many blessings in your life.

Isaiah 59:1-2 say, **Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.**

Verse 2 sounds pretty bleak. It says we are separated from God because of our sins. But we have to keep verse 1 in mind. It says God is plenty powerful to save us.

You see, mankind was totally lost with no hope of ever being saved UNTIL God moved to pay the price for our sins. There was nothing mankind could do on their own. So, God sent Jesus to live a perfect, sinless life and then He died on the cross for our sins. Look at what Isaiah 61:1-2 say about His ministry, **The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,**

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for doing for me what I could have never done for myself. Please help me to know more about the salvation You have provided for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday October 17

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 62-64

1 Thessalonians 5

Praise the Lord! 1 Thessalonians 5:19 says, **Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.** We should trust those who are in leadership in the Church. We should trust them and the God who allowed them to be put in those positions. I really feel like someone needs to be reminded of that today. If it is you, take it to heart.

I want to commend you for being so diligent in your studies of God's Word. You really are taking care of what needs to be taken care of and I am proud of you.

Isaiah 63:7 says, **I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the LORD has done for us - yes, the many good things he has done for the house of Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses.**

I love verses like this. In my mind, I get a picture of Isaiah just being in love with God so much that he has to tell someone. It is like he was saying, "I just gotta tell someone about how wonderful God it!" I hope you feel that way at times and I hope you go ahead and tell people. It is also important for us to remember that all these good things are because of God's compassion and kindness.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful for Your compassion and kindness. Please help me to remember that every good thing in my life is a product of Your love. I also want to support the leaders in the Church that You have brought into my life. Please help me to be a blessing to them and never a distraction. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday October 18

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 65-66
2 Thessalonians 1

Praise the Lord! In 1 Timothy, Paul is now going to talk about how to handle people who get into sin. Chapter 5 verse 20 says, **Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.** There is always forgiveness when we turn to God and confess our sins but sometimes things need to be exposed before people will turn to Him. Let's just avoid the sin in the first place so we won't ever have to go through this.

Isaiah 65:17 says, **Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.** There is a day coming when everything we see will be gone and all things will be made new and I am sure they will be better. The taint of sin will be gone!

Verse 18 says, **But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.** Because God is the One who is in control, we should be glad and rejoice. We are on His side and we have nothing to fear!

The next verse says, **I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.** He takes delight in us! Isn't that an amazing thought?

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that You love me so much that You sent Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. Please help me to live for You and help me to never do anything that would reflect negatively on You. I also ask You to help me to remember that I have so much to be glad about and help me to rejoice more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday October 19

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 1-2
2 Thessalonians 2

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:21 says, **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.** God sees us all as valuable to Him and we need to see people like that too. Whenever a person shows partiality or shows favoritism, they are missing the mark.

Jeremiah 1:4-5 say, **The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."** Isn't this an amazing statement? Do you think it was only true for Jeremiah?

Well, look at what Ephesians 1:4-5 say about you, **For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.**

God chose you before the creation of the world too. I am sure none of us have total understanding of these things but I accept them as truth and love God more for them. It is all a matter of His love! We need to accept that He loves us and that He has life and life in abundance for us. To do otherwise would be to argue with Him and His Word.

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much and I am amazed at Your love towards me. I am amazed but I chose to believe it and accept it. Please help me to love all people and help me to treat them all with love and respect. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday October 20

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 3-4
2 Thessalonians 3

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:22 says, **Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.** We should let people prove themselves before laying hands on them for leadership. This verse is not telling us to avoid sinners. We need to be around them so we can help them but we can't be drug down and share in their sins. When that happens we are spending too much time with them.

I was talking to a man the other day that was divorced and remarried. His current marriage is going well and God is blessing them. In our conversation, he said that he and his wife had encountered many Churches and Christians who treated them like they were second-class because of what they had been through.

I talked to him about the hurts that come because of divorces and then I said this, "No one hates divorce as much as someone who has been through it" and he readily agreed.

Well, with that in mind, look at Jeremiah 3:8, **I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery.** God hates divorce because he has been through a divorce!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You and I am glad that You can give me a new start in You no matter what has happened in my past. Please help me to know how to live free from sin and still be able to reach those who haven't yet met You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday October 21

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 5-6

1 Timothy 1

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:23 says, **Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.** I suppose most preachers would skip this verse but since we are covering them all, here goes. I looked up the word for wine here and it means wine. The Word always tells us that drunkenness is wrong and we shouldn't cause anyone to stumble by our actions but this verse is still in the Scriptures.

Look at Jeremiah 5:1-2, **"Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city. Although they say, 'As surely as the LORD lives,' still they are swearing falsely."**

If God could have found one person of honesty and the truth, He would have spared the whole city. I sure hope God can find at least one person of honesty and the truth in your city. In fact, I hope He can find one in your house. Are you getting my point? I hope you are that person!

When we live for God it brings His blessings to us and sometimes it helps those around us. Even Sodom and Gomorrah could have been spared if there had been more righteous people there.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I love Your Word. Please help me to know that living for You is always right and never futile. Help me to be salt and light all the time. I know that being a person of honesty and the truth are part of that process. Please bless Church tomorrow. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday October 22

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 7-8

1 Timothy 2

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:24 says, **The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them.** It seems like some sins don't get dealt with and others do but this verse assures us that they will all be dealt with in the end. Let's live for God and avoid sin! If we do blow it, let's get forgiveness and then do better.

In the first part of Jeremiah 7, false religion is exposed. Verses 5-8 say, **If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the alien, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your forefathers for ever and ever. But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless.** They were believing the wrong things and that led them astray in every area of life.

Look at what Jeremiah 8:9 says, **The wise will be put to shame; they will be dismayed and trapped. Since they have rejected the word of the LORD, what kind of wisdom do they have?** They had rejected God's wisdom. We need to accept His wisdom and let Him rule and reign in our lives. When we do those things, we will be alright and we will stay on the right track.

Prayer: Lord, I really do want to live for You. Please teach me Your ways and empower me to live like You want. I know that I have no other place to turn and I don't even want to consider quitting. Thank You for all that You have already taught me. Help me to keep learning Your ways. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday October 23

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 9-10

1 Timothy 3

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 5:25 says, **In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden.** Yesterday, we saw that sins can't really be hidden and this verse is saying that good deeds will come to light too. Let's just keep living for God and know that every one's actions will be shown eventually.

Look at Jeremiah 9:23, **This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches."** People who put their hope and trust in things like these are missing out because they could all be lost.

The next verse says, **"But let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.** When we know God and His ways, we are basing our lives on something that never changes.

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.**

Prayer: Lord, I want to live for You and trust You with every area of my life. I know that You know how I am living and I know that living for You will bring Your blessings to my life. Please help me to keep all my trust and confidence in You and You alone. I want to hear Your Word and Do what Your Word says. I want my life build upon the rock! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday October 24

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 11-13

1 Timothy 4

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:1 says, **All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered.** When a person becomes a Christian it should affect every relationship they have. In this verse, Paul is saying that being a Christian should even affect how we serve our employers. When we really live our Christianity out we are good witnesses for Him.

Look at Jeremiah 11:1-2, **This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Listen to the terms of this covenant and tell them to the people of Judah and to those who live in Jerusalem."**

Here's what I want you to get from this for today; God was speaking and He was making His ways known. You see, there are way too many people who seem to think that God is hiding His ways and that is a mistake.

God wants us to know Him and He wants us to know His ways. That is why He has given us the Word and that is part of why Jesus came. Our part is to study and listen to Him. When He does speak to us, we need to take what He says and put into action in our lives. Just hearing from Him isn't enough. We need to DO what He shows us.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. Please teach me Your ways and help me to live fully for You. I also want You to rule and reign over every area of my life including how I relate to my employer. Help me to work like a real Christian should and help my life to be a good witness for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday October 25

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 14-16

1 Timothy 5

Praise the Lord! Yesterday, we saw that Paul wanted our Christianity to make us better employees. Look at what He said in 1 Timothy 6:2, **Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them because they are brothers. Instead, they are to serve them even better, because those who benefit from their service are believers, and dear to them. These are the things you are to teach and urge on them.** If we have Christian bosses we should really be good employees!

Jeremiah 14:10 says, **This is what the LORD says about this people: "They greatly love to wander; they do not restrain their feet. So the LORD does not accept them; he will now remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins."** This is an important verse. We see that God rejected these people because they rejected Him. He would have accepted them if they would have been willing to listen to Him.

Jeremiah 15:19 tells them how they could have come back to Him. It says, **Therefore this is what the LORD says: "If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them."** If they would repent and return to the Lord, He would accept them back, forgive them and restore them.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so glad that I have given my life to You. Please help me to live like a Child of God should and if I ever start to get off track, help me to repent and return to You and Your ways. I also ask You to bless all my brothers and sisters who are doing these devotions. Help us all to keep growing and help us to stay close to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday October 26

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 17-19

1 Timothy 6

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:3 says, **If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching,** Now, I know this is only part of a sentence but I still want to comment on it. We need to make sure that what we teach lines up with the Word. You can be sure that what I talk about here does because I always back everything up with the Word.

Jeremiah 17:5-6 say, **This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.**

Jeremiah 17:7-8 say, **"But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."**

What a contrast! Which of these verses do you want to describe your life? I want the second set and I am sure you do too. Well then, let's keep our TRUST IN THE LORD!

Prayer: Lord, I want every aspect of my life to line up with the Word! I want to hear Your Word and I want to DO what it says. Please help me! I know that You have life and life in abundance for me and I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday October 27

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 20-22

2 Timothy 1

Praise the Lord! In 1 Timothy 6:4, Paul is talking about people who are teaching false doctrines. Paul said, **He is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions.** It seems like their beliefs in what was false led them astray just like our beliefs in the truth keep us safe!

Look at Jeremiah 20:1-2, **When the priest Pashhur son of Immer, the chief officer in the temple of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things, he had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put in the stocks at the Upper Gate of Benjamin at the LORD'S temple.** Jeremiah was living for the Lord and yet he was suffering some severe persecution. You see, being a Christian doesn't mean we will never face anything hard but it does mean we won't ever have to face those things alone.

Look at verse 11, **But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonor will never be forgotten.** Jeremiah knew that God was with him and he was going to prevail. We need to be like Jeremiah. We need to live for God and never quit. If some people don't understand and come against us, we need to forgive them and pray for them.

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much. Help me to believe the right things and help them to produce in my life. I know that some people might not understand my relationship with You but I want to please You more than anyone else. Help me to treat my enemies like You want and I pray that will be a good witness to them. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday October 28

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 23-24

2 Timothy 2

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:5 says, **and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.** Paul is still describing people who teach false doctrine. They were around back then and they are still around today. We need to make sure everything we believe is based on the Word and then we will stay on track.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 say, "**The days are coming,**" declares the LORD, "**when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.**"

His name is **Jesus!** He is the fulfillment of so much in the Old Testament and we sure see how He is the fulfillment of these verses.

Look at the last phrase, **The Lord Our Righteousness.** 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.** We are righteous in Him – He is our righteousness. Praise the Lord for Jesus!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to live for You. Please help me to stay right on track by knowing Your Word and living it out in my life. I am so thankful for Jesus and all that He has done for me. Help me to know that I am righteous today because You have made me righteous. I also ask You to bless Church tomorrow. Help us all to be there on time and help us to have a great time in Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday October 29

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 25-26

2 Timothy 3

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:6 says, **But godliness with contentment is great gain.** When we live for God, we can have contentment no matter what we face. Look at what Paul said about being content in Philippians 4:11-12, **I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.**

Jeremiah 25:4 says, **And though the LORD has sent all his servants the prophets to you again and again, you have not listened or paid any attention.** God was speaking to them but they were not listening and they were not paying attention!

As they did these things, it became easier for them to reject what God was saying. Look at Jeremiah 26:7-8, **The priests, the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speak these words in the house of the LORD. But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the LORD had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, "You must die!"** Now they rejected Jeremiah and wanted to kill him. Rejecting God is a dangerous thing because it leads to even worse things.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am glad that I am living for You. Please help me to keep my trust and confidence in You. I want to be content with what You have provided for me and I want to be open to everything You want to teach me. I don't ever want to reject Your Word or Your ways. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday October 30

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 27-28

2 Timothy 4

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:7 says, **For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.** Some people get so caught up in the stuff they have. They would be better off if they remembered the truth of this verse. Having things is nice and some of those things can be used to bless others but when it comes down to it, they are all going to burn up. We need to focus on the eternal.

Jeremiah 28:2-4 say, **"This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon. Within two years I will bring back to this place all the articles of the LORD'S house that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon removed from here and took to Babylon. I will also bring back to this place Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah and all the other exiles from Judah who went to Babylon,' declares the LORD, 'for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.'"**

God was promising them that He would restore what their enemy had taken. God is always restoring things to His people. I want to encourage you to believe God for restoration in your life. Has the devil stolen from You? Believe God for those things to be restored! He wants You to be blessed!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. I know that You are restoring what the devil has stolen. Help me to know that every good thing in my life is a gift from You and help me to use them all for Your purposes. I also want to remember that eternity is what really matters. Help me to live like You want. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday October 31

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29-30

Titus 1

Praise the Lord! 1 Timothy 6:8 says, **But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.** God wants to bless us with many things and yet verses like this remind us that we should always be content. When we are content with what we have, we are in a place where God can give us more because we won't be distracted by it.

Look at Jeremiah 29:11-13, **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. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.**

These are wonderful verses and I hope you take them as personal promises to you from God! All these promises can be summed up in this statement; **GOD WANTS TO BLESS YOU!**

Our part is to seek Him and call upon Him. Psalms 34:10 says, **The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.** Keep seeking Him and we will lack no good thing! I can't tell you how important this is. We need to do our part and know that God will do His part. Matthew 6:33 says, **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to be content with what You have given. Please help me to seek You and Your ways more diligently. I know that You want to bless me and I also know that knowing You and Your ways better is what I really need the most. In Jesus' Name, Amen.