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1 July 2010

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Thank God for the Word and our freedom to study it. Spending time in God's Word every day is an important thing for Christians to do. It will help you to learn God's ways and it will help you to stay strong. Matthew 4:4 **Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Jesus said the Word was more important than food!**

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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Thursday July 1

Scripture Reading: Job 21-22
Acts 10:1-23

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:8 **“The earth shook, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.”** We are working our way through the book of Psalms verse by verse. Here we see that God is before all things and He is the One who is in control of all things. Thank God we have given our lives to Him and He will always take care of us.

God wanted the Gospel to go to all people. Peter thought God only wanted the Jews to be saved. Who do you think ended up getting their way? God won and we should be glad. If God had only wanted to save the Jews, we would have been lost.

When Peter got in line with God’s plan everything worked out. 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.”** God not only opened the door for us to be saved but He also had these things written down so we could learn from them. So, learn this. When God’s will and your will contradict each other give in to Him. He is going to get His will done anyway. Also, when we are in line with what He wants we will be more effective and we will be more fulfilled. 2 Peter 1:8 **“For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”** Keep growing in Him and it will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You that You are in control of all things. Help me to stay in step with Your will. I know that Your ways are always right and I don’t ever want to strive against what You are doing in my life. I also ask You to bless my Church and those who are in leadership. Help us all to be effective and productive. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Friday July 2

Scripture Reading: Job 23-25
Acts 10:24-48

Praise the Lord! **Psalms 68:9** “**You gave abundant showers, O God; you refreshed your weary inheritance.**” I like the word abundant and I know that the abundance that God has for us is always good. He even refreshes us when we are weary. **Matthew 11:28-30** “**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**” When we are weary and burdened we should run to Jesus. He will help us!

Acts 10:34-35 “**Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.”** Thank God that He accepts men from every nation! That includes you and me. Our part is to fear God and to do what is right. When we do our part God always does His part.

Acts 10:46-48 “**For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone keep these people from being baptised with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.**” Peter came a long way from when he didn’t even want to share the Gospel with them. Thank God that He is working in our lives too!

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for Your abundance and Your help when I am weary. I also thank You for getting Peter though to where You wanted him. Help me to have confidence that You will get me through too. I know that You don't show favoritism and that means You will keep working in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Saturday July 3

Scripture Reading: Job 26-28
Acts 11

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:10 **“Your people settled in it, and from your bounty, O God, you provided for the poor.”** I love the Word. Don't you? David is writing about the goodness of God and we all need reminders like this. God always has bounty. In the verse we looked at yesterday, David wrote about abundance and this is the same thought. God always has what we need and even more.

In Acts 11, Peter is having to explain why he went and preached the Gospel to Gentiles. You see, he was not the only one who thought the Gospel was only for the Jews. Acts 11:11-12 **“Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house.”**

Let me talk to you about the phrase **“have no hesitation about going with them”**. When God tells us to do something it is usually good to do it with no hesitation. You see, the more we hesitate, the more likely we are to give up on doing what He tells us to do. Now, I know there are times when we have to wait to do what He says but I am talking about the majority of times when we can do what He says right away. So, don't hesitate. Obey!

Prayer: Lord, thank You for Your bounty and Your provision. I know everything I get from You is because You love me. I could never be good enough to deserve or earn anything from You. I also want to be quick to obey You when You speak to me. I want my life to be built on the firm foundation of hearing Your Word and doing what You say. I love You so much and I am glad I have given my life to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Sunday July 4

**Scripture Reading: Job 29-30
Acts 12**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:11 **“The Lord announced the Word, and great was the company of those who proclaimed it.”** Thank God for the Word! I know you are thankful for the Word because you are being so diligent to study it every day. This verse points out that we need to proclaim it. You see, the Word has been provided and now God needs people (like you and me) to proclaim it. So, keep doing your studies and then be willing to share what you learn with others. You can trust God to back His Word up when you share it.

Acts 12 is a wonderful chapter. In it, Peter was in prison and the Church prayed for him to be set free. God miraculously set him free and the very ones who were praying couldn't believe it had happened at first. Then God judged the wicked king who was oppressing His people and finally Acts 12:24 says, **“But the word of God continued to increase and spread.”**

You see, persecution may come and it may go but God's Word remains forever! The effectiveness of our prayers may even come and go but God's Word remains forever! 2 Corinthians 4:18 **“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”** Fix your eyes on what is eternal. Jesus and His Word are eternal!

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your Word. Help me to know it, renew my mind to it, live it AND proclaim it to others. I am thankful that Your Word never changes and I want to base my whole life on it. Please help me to fix my eyes on what can't change when it seems like everything else is changing. I also ask You to bless Church today. Help us to stand with one another no matter what we face. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Monday July 5

Scripture Reading: Job 31-32
Acts 13:1-23

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:12 **“Kings and armies flee in haste; in the camps men divide the plunder.”** This is talking about when God speaks. You see, God is all-powerful. Even kings and armies can’t stand against Him. We need to remember this because powerful people and powerful armies are lifted up as being very powerful in our world right now. They do have some power but not nearly as much as God! When we remember that we will always do better.

Look at Acts 13:1-3 **“In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.”**

God was in control and when the Holy Spirit spoke the people did just what He said to do. This is how we should live. We need to get orders from headquarters and then we need to obey. Matthew 7:24 **“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.”** Hear and obey. There’s no better way.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You are the all-powerful One! I want to put my trust in You and I want to keep it there. I know that You are always speaking and I want to be quick to hear what You are saying and I want to be quick to obey You. Help me to have my life built on the firm rock of Your Word, and help me to show others how to do the same thing. I love You so much. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Tuesday July 6

Scripture Reading: Job 33-34
Acts 13:24-52

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:13 **“Even while you sleep among the campfires, the wings of my dove are sheathed with silver, its feathers with shining gold.”** God is so wonderful and this is David trying to show how wonderful He is. Psalms 75:1 **“We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds.”** God is good and He is near. Go ahead and tell people of His wonderful deeds.

Well, we have been talking about the Gospel going to the Gentiles. Thank God that He loves ALL people and that ALL includes us. Acts 13:48-49 say, **“When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. The Word of the Lord spread through the whole region.”** The Gentiles were glad to hear the Good News. I want to say some other things but let me make this point quickly. Are you still glad to hear the Good News? I sure am and I hope you are too. I actually go out of my way to hear the Good News. Here’s an example of what I am saying. As I write this devotion, I just finished listening to some Good News on the internet. I am always glad to hear the Good News and I make time to hear it.

Well, I spent a little longer on that than I planned. I also wanted you to notice that it was the Word that was growing and being spread. Let the Word grow and have final say in your life.

Prayer: Lord, You are so wonderful. Help me to know Your love more and help me to tell others. I also thank You for the Good News. Help me to make time to hear more Good News and help me to share it with others who need Good News. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Wednesday July 7

Scripture Reading: Job 35-37
Acts 14

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:14 **“When the Almighty scattered the kings in the land, it was like snow fallen on Zalmon.”** When God moves it affects everything and everyone. It is like snowfall. It snows here where I live and when it snows, it snows everywhere. His moving is Good News for us because God loves us and we love Him. So, when He moves we are blessed.

Acts 14:8-10 **“In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.”** Thank God for healing! As I read this I thought about who I would like to have been. If I was lame, I would want to be the lame man who was healed. If I wasn't, lame I would want to be Paul. Either way I want to be involved in healing!

Paul and others were traveling around and preaching the Gospel. Acts 14:27 **“On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.”** Isn't it great to get together with others and share what God is doing? I hope you have times like that. Back in May, I shared about a mission trip I went on into Uganda. I hope those reports encouraged you and blessed you. Be willing to tell others what God is doing in your life. You need to share and they need to hear.

Prayer: Lord, I want You to rule and reign in every area of my life. Help me to be willing to share all the wonderful things You are doing in my life. I know You want to use me so I ask You to give me the boldness and wisdom that I need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Thursday July 8

Scripture Reading: Job 38-39
Acts 15:1-21

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:15-16 say, **“The mountains of Bashan are majestic mountains; rugged are the mountains of Bashan. Why gaze in envy, O rugged mountains, at the mountain where God chooses to reign, where the LORD himself will dwell for ever?”** God is everywhere and that should bring us confidence and security. He will never leave us or forsake us. Thank God. That means whatever we go through, God is with us to help us.

Acts 15:12 **“The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.”** Have you ever been around someone who was telling about wonderful things God was doing and you just sat there and listened. I hope you can accept what I am going to say here. When you are in situations like that it is often good just to sit back and listen. You don't have to try to top the other person's story. When people listen they learn but some miss out because they are only interested in the things they want to say.

In Acts 15, they were discussing all the Gentiles who were getting saved. I said earlier that it had always been God's will for all people to be saved and His will was being accomplished. Thank God that He is Lord of the Church and He will get His will done in and through us.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. Please help me to remember that I have a lot to learn and that I learn better listening than I do talking. I really am thankful for the people You have brought into my life to teach me and to demonstrate how Godly Christians should live. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Friday July 9

Scripture Reading: Job 40-42
Acts 15:22-41

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:17 **“The chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands; the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary.”** God is all-powerful. There is no limit to His strength and His ability to save us. Thank God we have given our lives to Him. Isaiah 59:1 **“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.”** Thank God! He is powerful enough to help us and He hears us when we call.

After the leaders met to talk about the Gentiles being saved they send Paul and Barnabas on to keep preaching the Gospel. Acts 15:33-35 **“After spending some time there, they were sent off by the brothers with the blessing of peace to return to those who had sent them. But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the Word of the Lord.”** There are a couple of things here that I want to comment on.

First, they sent them off with a blessing of peace. This wasn't just a religious thing. We can actually speak peace to people and it will help them. Secondly, when Paul and Barnabas went to Antioch they taught and preached the Word of the Lord. I know this probably seems like an strange point for me to make but I am going to make it anyway. We need to preach the Word! You see, there are some people who preach about all kinds of things but we need to preach the Word.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for loving me and always helping me. I know that Your arm is never too short and I know that You always hear my prayers. So, I am always going to be confident in You. I also thank You so much for the Word. Help me to learn it for myself and help me to share the Word with those around me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Saturday July 10

Scripture Reading: Psalms 1-3
Acts 16:1-15

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:18 **“When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train; you received gifts from men, even from the rebellious--that you, O LORD God, might dwell there.”** This verse was quoted in Ephesians 4 to show that Jesus led Old Testament believers who had died in faith into the presence of God. When Jesus died on the cross for all mankind He opened up the way for Old Testament believers to enter into heaven.

Paul and Silas continued to travel and minister. Acts 16:5 **“So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.”** Thank God. In a little bit we will pray this for all our Churches.

Look at Acts 16:6 **“Paul and his companions travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.”** God wanted Paul to go somewhere else so he couldn't go there. Now, it wasn't that God didn't love these people. He did love them and He wanted them to hear the Gospel too but right then God had something else for Paul to do. So, God closed one door so He could open another. Here's my point. When God closes a door to you be ready for Him to open another one for you. It isn't that He is mad at you or doesn't want to use you any more. Believe me, God wants to use you. We just need to be willing to have one door close so He can open another one for us. Believing that and keeping a good attitude is part of living by faith and we are all called to live by faith.

Prayer: Lord, I pray for You to strengthen my Church and help us to grow in numbers. I am so thankful that You are the Lord of the Church. Help me to have a good attitude when You close a door to something I want to do. I know that You still want to use me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Sunday July 11

Scripture Reading: Psalms 4-6
Acts 16:16-40

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:19 **“Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Selah”** Isn't it interesting that this verse says Jesus daily bears our burdens. Now, we know this doesn't mean that He goes to the cross over and over. I think this is a reminder that we can always take our burdens to Him and He is always ready and willing to help us. Praise the Lord!

John 10:27 **“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”** Don't worry. I didn't forget that we are going through Acts. In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were thrown into prison for setting a girl free. While there (in chains) they praised God and He miraculously set them free. Acts 16:25-26 **“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.”** Then they didn't run away. The jailer and his whole family were saved.

Why don't you think Paul and Silas didn't run away when they had the chance? I think Jesus told them to stay there and they obeyed Him. This is why I gave you John 10:27. Here's my point. We need to hear from God and obey Him ALL the time. Because Paul and Silas heard from God and obeyed Him they were set free and people were saved. That was God's will being done just like them being set free.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You that You always hear me when I call. I sometimes have burdens that I need to bring to You every day and I thank You that You are always there. I also want to be better at hearing Your voice and obeying You. I know that living that way will be good for me and for those around me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Monday July 12

Scripture Reading: Psalms 7-9
Acts 17:1-15

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:20 **“Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death.”** Hebrews 2:14-15 **“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”** Jesus destroyed the one who used to have the power of death (the devil) and Jesus sets us free from the fear of death! When we do die we go to be with Jesus forever. What do we have to fear in that?

I am sure glad the guy named Jason was a good guy in Acts 17. I don't draw any big spiritual point from that but I am glad he welcomed Paul and kept him safe. I am also glad that Jason was rich. You did see that didn't you? Acts 17:9 **“Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.”** Jason evidently had enough money to post bond. Listen to Psalms 35:27 from the King James Version, **“Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favor my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.”** Another version says that God delights in the prosperity of His servants.

In Acts 17, we also read about Paul commending the believers at Borea because they were consistent students of the Word. Praise the Lord that we are studying God's Word every day!

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You have defeated the devil and death. I also ask You to set me free from the fear of death. Help me to have all the blessings You have for me and help me to use those blessings to bless others. Everything You speak to me from the Word is precious to me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Tuesday July 13

Scripture Reading: Psalms 10-12
Acts 17:16-34

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:21 **“Surely God will crush the heads of his enemies, the hairy crowns of those who go on in their sins.”** I am sure glad we are not God’s enemies! John 15:15 **“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”** We are not only not His enemies, Jesus calls us His friends! Thank God for all the benefits we have because Jesus paid the price for all our sins.

Acts 17:22-23 **“Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.”**

Paul was not endorsing their idolatry or anything like that. He was just taking the opportunity to share the Gospel. I could put it this way. Paul met them where they were and then preached the Truth to them. Those who listened to Paul were in for a very exciting message. They were religious but they were lost. They didn’t know God and Paul was going to tell them how to meet Him. John 14:6 **“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”** There is only One Way to God and His Name is Jesus!

Prayer: Lord, thank You for saving me and making me Your friend. Please help me to know how I should live as a friend of Yours. I also want to be better at sharing the Good News with people. I love You so much and I know they need You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Wednesday July 14

**Scripture Reading: Psalms 13-16
Acts 18**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:22 **“The Lord says, “I will bring them from Bashan; I will bring them from the depths of the sea.”** This is talking about the enemies of God. You will see that in the next verses. I am sure this is talking about judgement day. God will bring all people before Him. Some will be judged guilty and some will be judged innocent. Please don't miss my next statement. We will all be judged on whether we have let Jesus be our Lord and Savior! Those who know Him will be judged innocent and those who have rejected Him will be judged guilty.

Look at what Acts 18:9 says, **“One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.”** This is exactly what Paul needed to hear and it is probably what we need to hear as well. We need to keep telling people about Jesus. Fear will hold us back. 2 Timothy 1:7 **“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”** God has not given us a spirit of fear and He never uses fear to guide us.

Look at Acts 18:20-21 **“When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. But as he left, he promised, “I will come back if it is God’s will.” Then he set sail from Ephesus.”** Paul was not sure if it was God's will for him to come back but he did know that God's will would be done. Listen, we often find ourselves in places where we aren't quite sure what God's will is but we need to hold onto the confidence that His will is going to be done!

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that You are my Lord and Savior. I know that You paid the total price for all my sins and I am so thankful. Help me to share the Good News with others more often and more effectively. I really do want to represent You well all the time. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Thursday July 15

Scripture Reading: Psalms 17-18
Acts 19:1-20

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:22-23 say, **“The Lord says, “I will bring them from Bashan; I will bring them from the depths of the sea, that you may plunge your feet in the blood of your foes, while the tongues of your dogs have their share.”**” Verses that describe judgement are never easy to read. We just need to know that God is in control of all these things and we can trust Him. He never makes a mistake and He will give everyone a chance to escape judgement through Jesus.

Acts 19:11-12 **“God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.”** The anointing of God is transferable. The healing and delivering power of God was transferred to cloths and those who received them were healed and delivered.

Now, I know this might stretch some of you but for me it shows me how much God wants to help people. Psalms 103:3 talks about God and His work. It says that **God forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases.** I know you believe the Word because you are doing these devotions. Well, believe these verses from Acts 19 and Psalms 103. You will know that you really believe them when you speak them in faith. 2 Corinthians 4:13 **“It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.”**

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. I know that I am going to be with You for all eternity and I am glad that I have benefits right now. I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me. Help me to really believe the Word and help me to walk in all that You have provided for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Friday July 16

**Scripture Reading: Psalms 19-21
Acts 19:21-41**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:24 **“Your procession has come into view, O God, the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary.”** We have been reading verses about God’s judgement and I am glad to move on. Now, David is writing about God’s procession. I am sure this is talking about us. When judgement is over we are all going to be found following God just like we follow Him now. Well, we might follow Him better then but we are followers of Him already.

Acts 19:21 **“After all this had happened, Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. “After I have been there,” he said, “I must visit Rome also.””** Paul was always looking to preach the Gospel wherever he went. God had put it in his heart to go to Rome and Paul was going to Rome.

Psalms 37:3-4 **“Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.”** God is so good. He wants to bless us and He shows us how to be blessed. When we keep God first in our lives, by delighting ourselves in Him, then He will give us the desires of our heart. Now, I don’t think that means we can have anything we want including things outside of His will. You see, when we put Him first and delight in Him, our desires will line up with His will and then He will give us the desires of our heart. It was God’s will for Paul to go to Rome and Paul’s desire was lining up with God’s will so God gave Paul the desire of his heart.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I am going to spend all eternity with You. Please help me to know how to delight in You more. I know delighting in You will be good for me and it help Your will to be done in my life. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Saturday July 17

Scripture Reading: Psalms 22-24
Acts 20:1-16

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:25 **“In front are the singers, after them the musicians; with them are the maidens playing tambourines.”** Praise the Lord! God is always worthy of our praise and music is one of the ways we praise Him. Psalms 150:6 **“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.”** If you are breathing you should be praising God! You may or may not be a musician but you should still be praising God.

Acts 20:2-3 **“He travelled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, where he stayed three months. Because the Jews made a plot against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia.”** I see something so important here. Paul knew he was called to preach the Gospel. So, wherever he went he preached the Gospel. If one place accepted his ministry he stayed there. If another place rejected him he moved on to find some place that did accept him but he kept doing what God called him to do.

Since I started on this, let me add something. You also never read about Paul complaining. Look at what he wrote in Philippians 2:13-14 **“For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing.”** Keep your attitude right and it will help you to live for God and to do what He has called you to do.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to praise You more. I know that You deserve more praise than I give You. I also ask You to help me to know what You have called me to do and help me to do it with a good attitude. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Sunday July 18

Scripture Reading: Psalms 25-27
Acts 20:17-38

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:26 **“Praise God in the great congregation; praise the LORD in the assembly of Israel.”** When I start every devotion off by saying: Praise the Lord! I am in good company. I hope you take my admonitions to Praise the Lord to heart and I hope you really praise Him. He is always worthy and we are always better off for praising Him.

Acts 20:17-18 **“From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia.”** Paul said they knew how he had lived. You see, there are some people who can talk a good life but they don’t live it. Paul preached the truth AND he lived it. When God gives you people like this (and I believe He has) cherish them and bless them any time you get a chance.

The next verse tells us some of what Paul preached and lived. Acts 20:19-21 **“I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.”** Paul served and had humility and had those things in good times and hard times.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to praise You more. Help me to praise You openly in the midst of the congregation and help me to praise You in my every day life. I also thank You for the people You have brought into my life to really show me how to live. Help me to be a good example for others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Monday July 19

Scripture Reading: Psalms 28-30
Acts 21:1-14

Praise the Lord! Really take some time and Praise God right now. It will be a good thing! Psalms 68:27 **“There is the little tribe of Benjamin, leading them, there the great throng of Judah’s princes, and there the princes of Zebulun and of Naphtali.”** The nation of Israel consisted of 12 tribes and this verse mentions some of them. In this we can see that they were all involved in God’s work and plan. The same thing is true for all of us. We are all needed and we all have work to do. When everyone does their part the whole work gets done. So, do your part and trust God to take care of the rest.

Acts 21:7-9 **“We continued our voyage from Tyre and landed at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for a day. Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.”** This goes right along with what I just said. Paul was doing his part by traveling around preaching the Gospel and encouraging people. Philip was doing his part by being an evangelist. His four daughters were doing their part by prophesying. They were all doing their part and the work was getting done.

Look at what Paul wrote in 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.”** Again, as everyone does their part the body is built up and all this happens in love.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I really do want to live for You. Help me know my part in Your work and help me to do it. I know that Your plan is always right and I don’t want to miss out on anything You have for me. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Tuesday July 20

Scripture Reading: Psalms 31-33
Acts 21:15-40

Praise the Lord! **Psalms 68:28** “**Summon your power, O God; show us your strength, O God, as you have done before.**” This is an exciting verse to me. Hasn't God done great things in your life? Well, ask Him for more. He hasn't changed. David had seen God do wonderful things in the past and he wasn't willing to only look to the past. He wanted God to do some things right then. Take a little time and remember all that God has done for you in the past and let those things motivate you to believe Him for great and mighty things today.

Acts 21:17-19 “**When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers received us warmly. The next day Paul and the rest of us went to see James, and all the elders were present. Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.**” Whenever I go on a mission trip I always put together a video report for our Church and Paul was doing a similar thing here (without the videos).

Acts 21:20 “**When they heard this, they praised God. Then they said to Paul: “You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law.”** Paul's report helped them to praise God for all that had happened. You see, not everyone is called to travel but we should all rejoice when God moves. In this case, thousands of people were getting saved and that was something to rejoice about. Luke 15:10 “**In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.**”

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all that You have done in my life and I want to trust You to do even more. Help me to tell others of Your goodness and help me to rejoice when You work through others. Thank You for saving me! In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Wednesday July 21

Scripture Reading: Psalms 34-35
Acts 22

Praise the Lord! We are working our way through Psalms verse by verse and I hope you are enjoying it. We need ALL of the Word. Psalms 68:29 **“Because of your temple at Jerusalem kings will bring you gifts.”** In the Old Testament, the Temple was an amazing place and people were drawn to God because of it. In the New Testament we are the temple of God. We should let God do a great work in our lives so people will be drawn to Him.

In Acts 21, Paul was arrested for preaching the Gospel with such boldness. In Acts 22, we read him giving his defense. Basically, Paul took every chance he had to preach the Gospel. In our reading for today, Paul gave his testimony about being saved.

Look at some of their reaction, Acts 22:30 **“The next day, since the commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them.”** Paul got chance after chance to tell them about Jesus. Please don't miss this point. Paul was being faithful and because of his faithfulness God kept opening doors for him to preach. Now, I know some people might not see God's hand in all this but I do and I am sure Paul did. You see, Paul had given his whole life to God and now he was going to preach every chance he got. I am sure he would have rather been preaching in a Church but even while he was on trial he was willing to share the Good News of the Gospel.

Prayer: Lord, I want to represent You well. I know that You live in me and I know that You are doing a great work in my life. Help me to be more bold like Paul and take every opportunity I have to share the Good News of the Gospel with others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.'



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Thursday July 22

Scripture Reading: Psalms 36-37
Acts 23:1-11

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:30 **“Rebuke the beast among the reeds, the herd of bulls among the calves of the nations. Humbled, may it bring bars of silver. Scatter the nations who delight in war.”** David must have thought that God was in control of everything! He was right. Psalms 89:13 **“Your arm is endued with power; your hand is strong, your right hand exalted.”** Trust God to help you with your life and you will see Him moving more.

Paul had been arrested for preaching the Gospel and he was standing trial. Right in the middle of all this God spoke to him. Acts 23:11 **“The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”**” This is a pivotal verse and I will be referring back to it as we continue on in Acts but get what it must have meant to Paul at this time. His opponents literally wanted to kill him and now God tells him that he is going to go to Rome and preach there. Don't you think this gave Paul some confidence? You see, Paul was already trusting God and now he had a personal promise that he was not going to die in Rome!

Psalms 119:140 says, **“Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them.”** In this verse David said God had always kept his promises and Paul knew the same thing. When we know that God has spoken and that He always keeps His promises we will have more confidence.

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that I have put my trust and confidence in You, and You alone. I know that You will never let me down and I want to live with the confidence that You give me. Help me to know that You are in control and help me to stand up for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Friday July 23

Scripture Reading: Psalms 38-40
Acts 23:12-35

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:31 **“Envoys will come from Egypt; Cush will submit herself to God.”** This is talking about nations submitting to God. We need to pray for our nation. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 **“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. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”** Pray and God will answer you.

Acts 23:12-14 **“The next morning the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. More than forty men were involved in this plot. They went to the chief priests and elders and said, “We have taken a solemn oath not to eat anything until we have killed Paul.”** Isn't this interesting? God had just told Paul that he was going to Rome and now these forty men take an oath to kill Paul. They said they were even going to fast until Paul was dead.

I can see a little humor in this. God said Paul was going to Rome. So, Paul was going to Rome. These guys were going to get really hungry because they could not kill Paul. God was in control and they could do whatever they wanted but they were not going to over ride the will of God. Can you draw some confidence from all this? You see, God is still in control and He is well able to take care of us.

Prayer: Lord, I pray for those who are in authority in our nation. Help them to put their trust in You and help them to make righteous decisions. I also thank You that You are in control of my life and I want to keep my trust and confidence in You and You alone. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Saturday July 24

Scripture Reading: Psalms 41-43
Acts 24

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:32 **“Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth, sing praise to the Lord, Selah”** Nations that exalt God always do better. When nations oppose Him they miss out on the help and blessings that He has for them. I am not sure how nations praise Him other than the people in the nation praising Him. So, I am going to do my part and praise Him. As we praise Him we help our nation.

Acts 24:1 **“Five days later the high priest Ananias went down to Caesarea with some of the elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, and they brought their charges against Paul before the governor.”** Acts 24:24 **“Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus.”** Do you think those forty guys are getting hungry yet? Well, look at Acts 24:27 **“When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.”** They were fighting against the will of God and so they had to lose.

Psalms 37:1-4 **“Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.”** That is how Paul was living and it is how we need to live too.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to praise You more. I know that praising You will be good for me and it will be a part of my nation praising You. I want to keep my trust in You and I know You will bring Your will about in my life. I really do want Your will to be done and I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Sunday July 25

Scripture Reading: Psalms 44-46
Acts 25

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:32-33 **“Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth, sing praise to the Lord, Selah to him who rides the ancient skies above, who thunders with mighty voice.”** When you see a sunrise or hear thunder, think of God. He is always revealing Himself to us. We just need to stay tuned in. The more you fill your mind with thoughts of Him the better you will do.

Acts 25:7 **“When Paul appeared, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many serious charges against him, which they could not prove.”** Isn't this interesting? They were making charges that they couldn't prove. That should have been the end of the trial. The next verse says, **“Then Paul made his defense: “I have done nothing wrong against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar.””** Paul was innocent and he kept pointing it out.

Now, I can't go through every verse here but look at Acts 25:9 **“Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me there on these charges?””** Festus was wanting to do people a favor and that was influencing him and his decisions. He should have been looking at the facts but he wasn't. Anyway, Paul appealed to Caesar and Festus sent him there. Here is the interesting thing. Caesar was in Rome and Rome is where God said Paul was going to go and he was going. Please trust God's control in your life.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I see You moving in nature all the time. I feel sorry for people who miss demonstrations of Your power and control. Help me to see Your power and control in my life. I know that You have taken my life and You are working for my good. I don't want to miss seeing all that You are doing. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Monday July 26

Scripture Reading: Psalms 47-49
Acts 26

Praise the Lord! Psalms 68:34 **“Proclaim the power of God, whose majesty is over Israel, whose power is in the skies.”** God is in control and He needs us to proclaim it. I started a sermon one time in Africa by asking what God needed. Most of the people said that God didn’t need anything and then I told them that He needed a voice. He needs our voice to praise Him, to preach the Good News of the Gospel and to tell people of His power.

I have told you many times that Paul used every chance he got to preach the Gospel. Look at Acts 26:22-23 **“But I have had God’s help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen-- that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”** See what I mean? Paul consistently shared the Gospel because he knew the Gospel was the power unto salvation.

Look at what Paul wrote in Romans 1:16 **“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”** Paul didn’t just write that. He really believed it and he put it into action every chance he had. Agrippa understood it too. Acts 26:28 **“Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?””**

Prayer: Lord, I want to use my voice for You. I want to praise You. I want to tell people about You and I want to proclaim Your goodness and Your power. I also ask You to give me boldness to speak and wisdom to know what to say and when to stop speaking and pray. I know that saturating everything I do in prayer is a vital key. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Tuesday July 27

Scripture Reading: Psalms 50-52
Acts 27:1-25

Praise the Lord! Look at how David ended Psalms 68:35 **“You are awesome, O God, in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God!”** God is awesome and we should praise Him. When you read verses like this there should be times when you feel almost overwhelmed by His goodness. When that happens, go ahead and praise Him. He deserves it and praising Him will be good for you. So, don't miss those opportunities to praise Him!

Well, Paul is heading out for Rome. Several things were going to happen that delayed him but he ended up in Rome because God made sure of it. Acts 27:9-11 **“Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Fast. So Paul warned them, “Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.” But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship.”** Paul was not trying to get out of going to Rome. He knew he was going to Rome but he was warning them that it wasn't the right time to go. This captain should have listened to Paul. He would have avoided much loss but he stubbornly went ahead. God ended up having mercy on Paul and everyone traveling with him. We will read about them going through a shipwreck but God got Paul to Rome.

Prayer: Lord, You are so awesome and I want to praise You more. Help me to let praises flow when I sense Your goodness and Your presence. I don't ever want to hold back. I also want to trust You even more with my life. I know that You have always taken care of me and You always will. Help me to remember this when I am facing things that I don't understand. I don't ever want to doubt Your goodness or Your care. I have been through so much with You and I am never going to quit following You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Wednesday July 28

**Scripture Reading: Psalms 53-55
Acts 27:26-44**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69 was written by David. He was evidently in a time of need. He cried out to God and God helped him. Psalms 69:1 **“Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.”** When we think about God saving us we often only think of salvation on only one level. We think about God forgiving our sins and saving us from hell but salvation and being saved can mean much more than that. David needed God to save him from physical harm and God came through for him. Don't limit your thinking. God loves you and He wants to save you from all harm.

I have been making the point that God said Paul was going to Rome so he was going to Rome. He could not die or be killed because God's will was going to be accomplished. Acts 27:42 **“The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping.”** Guess what? They didn't kill the prisoners because Paul was one of them and he was going to Rome.

Acts 27:43-44 **“But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. The rest were to get there on planks or on pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land in safety.”** I am sure this was not the way Paul wanted to go to Rome but he was going to end up there and he was going to continue preaching the Gospel when he got there.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all the times You have saved me. Thank You for saving me from hell and thank You for saving me from harm. I know that You are always looking out for me and I want to be more consistent to praise You. Please bless my Pastor and all the people in leadership in my Church. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Thursday July 29

**Scripture Reading: Psalms 56-58
Acts 28:1-15**

Praise the Lord! In the first part of Psalms 69, David describes the hard thing he was going through and is sure sounded bleak. Psalms 69:2-3 **“I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me. I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for my God.”** At least he is looking for God and God is going to come to his rescue. I know that because I read the rest of Psalms 69.

In our reading from Romans 28, Paul was bitten by a snake and yet God took care of him. In Mark 16, Jesus said that this kind of protection was a sign that would follow believers. Mark 16:17-18 **“And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”** Paul was a believer and he was going to accomplish everything God had for him to do. So, he couldn't die from a snake bite here.

When Paul was protected by God it opened more doors for ministry. When those doors opened up Paul was faithful to do what God had called him to do. He kept preaching the Gospel and God kept doing His part. I have to tell you that living for God is the very best life there is and I am sure Paul would add his “Amen” to what I am saying.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You that You are always with me and I thank You that You always hear me when I call out to You for help. I want to represent You well to others. Help me to have the wisdom to live for You and the boldness to tell others about Your goodness. I am sure glad I have given my life to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Friday July 30

Scripture Reading: Psalms 59-61
Acts 28:16-31

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:4-5 **“Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal. You know my folly, O God; my guilt is not hidden from you.”** David was going through a hard thing here and yet he kept doing the right thing. He kept calling out to God for help. Listen, when you are in the middle of a problem I know it seems like it is never going to end but keep calling on God. He will rescue you just like He has always rescued you in the past. So, don't give up!

Well, Paul made it to Rome and I am sure those guys who said they weren't going to eat until they killed Paul gave up a long time ago. You see, we win if we don't quit. Look at what Paul wrote in Galatians 6:9 **“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”** Paul wrote that and he lived it.

Look at the last two verses of the book of Acts, **“For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.”** Paul was in Rome just like Jesus said and He was still sharing the Good News. The book of Acts starts off with Jesus preaching the Kingdom and it ends with Paul preaching the Kingdom. Do you get the idea the Kingdom message is important?

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for the reminder today that You never leave me or forsake me. I don't ever want to give up living for You. I know that You promise me that I will reap a harvest if I don't give up. So, I am never going to give up. I also ask for Your Kingdom to come and for Your will to be done in my life. I want to submit my will to Your will and I want to keep learning from Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Saturday July 31

Scripture Reading: Psalms 62-64
Romans 1

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:6 **“May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O Lord, the LORD Almighty; may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me, O God of Israel.”** Take a second and read that verse again. David didn't want his life to hurt others. How could that happen? If David had quit or been defeated then others could have been hurt. Listen, people know you are a Christian and they are watching your life. So, don't quit. Keep living for God and keep calling out to Him for help. You are going to make it and your making it will help others.

Look at what Paul wrote in Romans 1:16 **“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”** Paul really believed this and he really lived it out. We just finished Acts and we saw Paul sharing the Gospel in all kinds of situations. Sometimes things were going good and Paul shared the Gospel. Sometimes things were going bad and Paul still shared the Gospel.

I just want to encourage you to never be ashamed of the things of God. I know you would never deny Him but I also know we all face times when we could speak up or kind of hide what we believe. Look at what David wrote in Psalms 6:10 **“All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed; they will turn back in sudden disgrace.”** Let our enemies be ashamed not us!

Prayer: Lord, I want my life to represent You well. I don't ever want to be ashamed or act like I am. Thank You for all that You have spoken to me this month through the Word. I want to be a doer of Your Word and not a hearer only. I also ask You to bless Church tomorrow. Help us to be there ready and willing to learn more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.