

Wednesday, 1st January 2025

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

Text(s): Acts 9

Key Verse: *“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.” – 1 Tim. 1:15*

“No one is too old or too sinful to experience a new life in Jesus.”

What are you asking God for in 2025? I know we are all praying for an end to the economic crisis and for God's peace to prevail. And perhaps, individually, you are ready for a fresh start.

During His time on earth, Jesus met many people who longed for new beginnings. To the blind, the lame, and the lepers, He gave physical healing. Through a word or a touch, they were suddenly able to see, walk, and live.

He brought spiritual healing as well. To the Samaritan woman at the well, with a history of broken relationships, Jesus offered “living water” (John 4:13, 14). To Nicodemus, the religious leader, Jesus explained how to be “born again” (John 3:3). To His disciples, Jesus offered a new identity, asking them to put down their nets and become fishers of people (Matt. 4:19).

Jesus extends this invitation for a new beginning to you and to me. Through His sacrificial death and resurrection, we are given a new identity and a new life. Romans 6:4 explains, “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” Because Christ died for our sins and conquered the grave, we are a “new creation” (2 Cor. 5:17). I am deeply thankful that the life-changing transformation of the gospel does not depend on who we are or what we have done. Instead, Jesus offers us complete transformation from the inside out. He invites us to come as we are and to accept His divine grace, allowing God to change our hearts and minds. No one is too old or too sinful to experience a new life in Jesus.

Friend, are you hungering for a fresh start? You can be assured that true and lasting change is available to all at the feet of Jesus. Start this new year by accepting His gift of salvation, a decision that will give you a new life, a new identity, and a new purpose in Jesus.

PRAYER(S):

Lord, in this New Year, I surrender my plans and desires to You. Guide me according to Your will and lead me on the path You have set for me in Jesus' name.

QUOTE: *“Every new year brings an opportunity to start fresh. Embrace the change, trust in God's plan, and become the person He has destined you to be.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 1-2; Matthew 1

G. P. A. Hymn 110 – O God, our help in ages past

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thursday, 2nd January 2025

RENEWAL AND FRESH BEGINNING – PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Text(s): Psalm 103:1-11

Confession: *“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”* – **Lamentations 3:22-23**

G. P. A. Hymn 114 – O Lord our God stretch out Thy hand

INTRODUCTION

The Word of God says do not forget, in the world of business where everyone is doing something and everything is calling attention of everyone, I think you need to take a break and think, reflect and count your blessings. This is what I have come to understand, it is easy to forget. However, forgetfulness comes with a price, negligence comes with a penalty while ignorance is not an exam in law court. There are things you can forget and God will not penalize you “but not thanksgiving” – Luke 17:11-19.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Thank you Lord, for all you have done in our lives, in our homes, in your Church and nation at large.
2. Thank you Lord, for all your provisions to us, as individual, and families.
3. Thank you Lord, for all good things you have satisfied me with.
4. Thank you Lord, for fighting my battles for me.
5. Thank you Lord, for not allowing me to be prey to my enemies.
6. Thank you Lord, for forgiving all our sins.
7. Pray that the church remains a beacon of hope and truth in the community, steadfast in its mission and vision.
8. Pray that each member grows in faith and walks in alignment with God’s will, receiving strength and encouragement in their daily lives.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 3-5; Matthew 2

QUOTE: *“Thanksgiving is a time of togetherness and gratitude. Let us remember to count our blessings, for they are the true riches of our lives.”*

Friday, 3rd January 2025

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Text(s): 2 Corinthians 4:16

Confession: *"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."* – **Philippians 3:13-14**

G. P. A. Hymn 178 – No not despairingly

INTRODUCTION

As we decrease, the Spirit increases. As individuals, we are strengthened and renewed. Through, outwardly we are wanting away, yet inwardly, we are being renewed day by day. As we humble and deprive our bodies through faith, our spiritual man is made stronger. The early church made their decisions through prayer and fasting – Acts 13:2-3. We too can receive this type of spiritual capacity in Jesus' name.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. O Lord, let your fire of revival fall upon our Church, that we may be a home of transformation for your glory.
2. Father, remove every hinderance and obstacle that is limiting the growth of our assemblies.
3. Lord, give us the grace to carry out your Great Commission leading to the multiplication of souls in our Church.
4. I cancel every plan and plot of the enemy armed and stagnating the progress of our Church.
5. O Lord, let every member of GPA grow in grace, knowledge and wisdom, becoming effective tools for Your work.
6. Father, anoint our Church to be a sanctuary of peace where the troubled, the weary and burdened find rest for their souls.
7. Pray that the Christian Education Department and its members are filled with wisdom and understanding to impart knowledge effectively.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 6-8; Matthew 3

QUOTE: *"Renewal requires opening yourself up to new ways of thinking and believing. It is a commitment to growth and transformation."* – **Unknown**

Saturday, 4th January 2025

PRAYER FOR REVIVAL

Text(s): John 3:8; 1 Corinthians 4:9

Confession: *"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."* – **Isaiah 40:31**

G. P. A. Hymn 250 – When the pow'r of God descending

INTRODUCTION

We need personal spiritual revival. We need church revival. We need national revival. We need international revival. Before we can have a corporate revival, individual must get revived in their spirits. But for us to get to that level, a preparation is necessary. You must prepare before you meet God; whenever there is a revival, there is always great genuine joy. That is why I love old time song which says "send down revival Lord. Let it start within my souls, Holy ghost revival, Pentecostal fire."

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. I am tired of ordinary life, O Lord, arise, make me a divine phenomenon.
2. Power challenging God in my life, your time is up, die by fire.
3. Power hiding my name from being great, die in the name of Jesus.
4. I walk into the uncommon breakthrough in the name of Jesus.
5. Glory eating demons wanting for my glory to consume, I am not your candidate, die in the Red Sea.
6. O Lord, send down your revival into this Church, nation, in the name of Jesus.
7. Pray for unity, anointing, and creativity of the Choir in leading the congregation in worship and praise.
8. Pray that church officers are guided by divine wisdom, displaying integrity and dedication in their roles.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 9-11; Matthew 4

QUOTE: *"Revival is not a single event but a continual experience of God's presence and power transforming our lives and communities."* – **Unknown**

Sunday, 5th January 2025

PRAYER FOR RE-ARRANGED REVIVAL

Text(s): Psalm 138:7

Confession: *“For this is what the high and exalted One says – he who lives forever, whose name is holy: I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.” – Isaiah 57:15*

G. P. A. Hymn – When the pow’r of God descending

INTRODUCTION

To rearrange means to readjust, to reconstruct, to reset, to change position, to reposition things, to change the things around and arrange differently. What we have now today is powerless Christianity, many who are massively drinking from the waters of fornication, summersaulting preachers; they summersault from where they are, to the place where the enemy has caught them. We also have stingy Church members, those who are glued to the world, spiritually and with laziness. Biblical illiteracy, prayer allergy people migrate to Churches where they don’t bother to pray more like the times of old; revival is needed.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. All my blessings thrown into the water and the forest, I recover you by fire.
2. Every strange arrow, blocking my star from shining, release me by fire.
3. Powers assigned to convert me from head to tail, stones of death from heaven kill them.
4. Holy Ghost power, overshadow my life in the name of Jesus.
5. In whatsoever I am passing through now, O God, answer your name in my life.
6. Dry bones from the grave, assigned against my labour, I crush you to death.
7. Pray that the Zonal Headquarters be a center of effective leadership and coordination, fostering unity among the branches.
8. Pray for growth and flourishing in each branch, that they may reach more people and serve their communities effectively.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 12-14; Matthew 5:1-26

QUOTE: *“Revival is when God’s people return to the heart of God, and His love, power, and grace are poured out in a fresh, transformative way.” – Unknown*

Monday, 6th January 2025

PRAYER FOR LIFE CHANGING CRY

Text(s): Isaiah 12:6

Confession: *"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles."* – **Psalms 34:17**

G. P. A. Hymn – Loving Savior, hear my cry

INTRODUCTION

One of the changes that will occur in the life of anyone that comes to GPA is that their prayer life will improve drastically. Once your prayer life changes, I advise you to allow a change in your Bible reading too. If that happens, you will be amazed at what will happen. Some people feel too good for a change, they are shy to be seen going to a Church like GPA. If you allow shyness to give room to the devil to deal with you or kill you, those who did not want to make fun of you will be the one to bury you. I pray that, that will not happen to you in Jesus' name.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Wicked powers representing my family in the coven of witches, die in the name of Jesus.
2. Power gathered to celebrate my defeat, die before the end of today.
3. My blessings, what are you doing under the water, I recover you by the blood of Jesus.
4. Satanic agenda to turn me to a beggar, backfire in the name of Jesus.
5. Any power that has vowed to destroy me, you are a liar, die in the name of Jesus.
6. Powers assigned to place me on sick bed, your time is up, die in Jesus' name.
7. Pray that the church leaders are continually guided by the Holy Spirit, making decisions that honor God and benefit the church.
8. Pray that the church remains unified in purpose and action, reflecting the love and grace of Christ in all its endeavors.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 15-17; Matthew 5:27-48

QUOTE: *"Sometimes, it takes only one heartfelt cry to the heavens to change the course of your life forever. Never underestimate the power of a sincere plea"* – **Author Unknown**

Tuesday, 7th January 2025

PRAYER AGAINST LUKEWARMNESS

Text(s): Revelation 3:14-22

Confession: *“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” – Matthew 6:24*

G. P. A. hymn – Heavenly Father we assemble

INTRODUCTION

Lukewarmness is a symptom of disease. Most Christians live-in modern-day Laodicea – Rev. 3:14-22. Our faith is not endangered by persecution but by the constant temptations of worldly compromises. Jesus, the faithful and true witness rebuked the Laodiceans for having grown into lukewarmness. If a fever is a symptom of diseases in the body, lukewarmness is a disease of unfaithfulness in the soul. All of us experience lukewarmness to greater or lesser degree and must fight the disease of unfaithfulness.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. O Lord my God, every spirit of spiritual lukewarmness in my life, tonight, I cast you out by fire.
2. Father, please, set my heart on fire for you again.
3. Father, restore my hunger for your Word, thirst for your Holy Spirit and passion for lost souls.
4. Lord, have mercy on me on everything I am doing or have done that has made me backslide from You.
5. Father, create in me a new heart and renew your Spirit within me.
6. Every spirit of lukewarmness and backsliding that makes me irritating to God, get out of my life in Jesus' name.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 18-19; Matthew 6

QUOTE: *“Lukewarmness is the enemy of progress; embrace passion and purpose, for only a fervent heart can ignite true transformation.” – Author Unknown*

Wednesday, 8th January 2025

POWER FOR A NEW BEGINNING

Text(s): Isaiah 43:18-19

Confession: *"Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new do I declare, before they spring forth I tell you of them."* – Isaiah 42:9

G. P. A. Hymn 250 – When the pow'r of God descended

INTRODUCTION

God is the God of new beginning because He rules in the affairs of men. He gave the men of the power for new beginning. God takes us to places of dependence and creates new beginnings such as new blessings, new jobs, new breakthroughs, new testimonies. God will make all things new in your life – Isaiah 42:9. God has started a New Thing in your life today.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. I receive fresh fire for a New Beginning in the name of Jesus.
2. O God rearrange my life by fire in the name of Jesus.
3. Let every darkness with me vanish in the name of Jesus.
4. O Lord set me ABLAZE by your Holy Ghost in the name of Jesus.
5. Every power blocking me from the will of God, clear away in the name of Jesus.
6. I challenge and destroy any satanic operation against my prayer life in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 20-22; Matthew 7

QUOTE: *"A new beginning is the first step to a brighter future; let go of the past and walk boldly into opportunities ahead."*
– Author Unknown

Thursday, 9th January 2025

PRAYER FOR DEDICATION TO GOD'S WORK

Text(s): Daniel 6:19-22

Confession: *"Dedication to God is the doorway to distinction in life. To be dedicated to God is to be differentiated and to make a difference on the earth."* – **Unknown**

G. P. A. Hymn 420 – O Jesus, I have promised

INTRODUCTION

Let us examine some scriptural examples of dedicated men and women who experienced destinies of distinction. The first was Noah who walked with God and found grace in his sight. Joseph feared God and lived a righteous life. Hence, he became a Prime Minister in Egypt. The Bible portrays Job – Job 1:1-3 and Daniel as men of distinction. Beloved, dedication to God is the doorway to distinction in life – Malachi 3:17-18.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Power of God overshadow my life in the name of Jesus.
2. Mercy of God single me out for greatness in the name of Jesus.
3. Lions of darkness digging a pit for me, fall into your pit and die in the name of Jesus.
4. Lord Jesus, pay me a visit today in the name of Jesus.
5. Any power assigned to put out the lamp of my glory, perish by fire in the name of Jesus.
6. The spirit of the end time will not harvest my soul in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 23-24; Matthew 8

QUOTE: *"Dedication to God's work is a testament of faith, a journey of love, and a commitment to serving with a heart full of purpose and passion."*

Friday, 10th January 2025

PRAYER AGAINST STAGNATION

Text(s): Isaiah 43:18-19

Confession: *"Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new do I declare, before they spring forth I tell you of them."* – Isaiah 42:9

G. P. A. Hymn 387 – I'm pressing on the upward way

INTRODUCTION

As long as there is life, there is hope. We do not need to be confused or afraid of the future. God is always there for us. He said I will not leave you nor forsake you – Hebrews 13:5. Our hope and the confidence we have in him cannot be in vain. These prayers will bring power to remove in stagnation in your life. He has promised behold I will do a new thing in your life – Isaiah 43:19. Your future is secured in Christ.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Let all spiritual holes in my life be closed with the blood of Jesus.
2. I frustrate and disappoint every instrument of the enemy fashioned against me in the name of Jesus.
3. O Lord my God, give me power to overcome all obstacles to my breakthrough in the name of Jesus.
4. Let every power chasing away my blessings be paralyzed in the name of Jesus.
5. I command my destiny to change to the best in the name of Jesus.
6. Let every negative transaction currently affecting my life negatively be cancelled by the blood of Jesus

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 25-26; Matthew 9:1-17

QUOTE: *"Stagnation is the thief of progress; break free from the chains of complacency and embrace the journey of growth and transformation."*

Saturday, 11th January 2025

BEHOLD, I WILL DO A NEW THING

Text(s): Isaiah 42:9-10

Confession: *“New wine, New bottle! That’s the pathway to preservation. A new You. A better world”.* – **Unknown**

G. P. A. Hymn 420 – O Jesus, I have promised

INTRODUCTION

God is a specialist in doing new things. He is never stale or complacent with the old status quo. His children too must not be contented with the status quo. He never changes yet he changes unpalatable situations. I do not know what areas of your life needs newness today, but what I know is that He is about to open a new chapter for your destiny. It is time to go forth to those things kept in store for you by God in prayer

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. O God arise and rewrite the story of my life for good in the name of Jesus.
2. O God arise and close every chapter of negativity in my life and family in the name of Jesus.
3. Where is the Lord God of Elijah? Let your still small voice still every storm in my life in the name of Jesus.
4. I prophesy newness upon my life, career, marriage, health in the name of Jesus.
5. O Lord my God, make a way for me where men say there is no way in the name of Jesus.
6. O God of new beginning, arise and open a new chapter of glory for my destiny in the name of Jesus

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 27-28; Matthew 9:18-38

QUOTE: *“Embrace the promise – With faith, every moment is an opportunity for God to work wonders in your life and bring forth something extraordinary.”*

Sunday, 12th January 2025

A NEW DAWN

Text(s): Genesis 1:1-8

Confession: *"Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years."* –
Leviticus 25:21

G. P. A. Hymn 250 – When the pow'r of God descended

INTRODUCTION

There is a voice that is superior to any other voice. There is a voice that no other voice counter. There is a voice that silences all other voices. There is a voice that has over ruling power. The Bible says in the beginning, God created heavens and earth and the earth was without form and void. The revival of the enemy went on like that until a voice spoke "Let there be light" and there was light.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. I plug myself into the socket of divine favor by the power in the blood of Jesus.
2. O God arise, command open doors upon my life in the name of Jesus.
3. Powers of non-achievement of my father's house, I am not your candidate, die in the name of Jesus.
4. Calendars of darkness for my life, catch fire in the name of Jesus.
5. Every satanic minister working against my destiny, refuse confusion in the name of Jesus.
6. My Father, my Father, my Father, my times are in your hands, deliver me from my enemies in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 29-30; Matthew 10:1-23

QUOTE: *"A new dawn brings with it fresh hope and endless possibilities; embrace the light and let it guide you to a brighter, more fulfilling future."*

Monday, 13th January 2025

FRESH BEGINNING

Text(s): Mark 11:22-24

Confession: *“When we choose to start afresh and take hold of the direction of life, we create a new beginning.”* – **Unknown**

G. P. A. Hymn 164 – Thy Kingdom come O Lord

INTRODUCTION

God spoke to this dark world, the darkness disappeared and there was light. God said let there be light, and there was light; this implies that a new day has broken. Are you moved by the darkness surrounding you? Bring your situation to God. This cannot be done without faith in action. Mark 11:22-24, your faith can uproot a mountain. Matt 17:20. It is time to become immovable in God, you are meant to speak and declare the dawn of a new day.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. I receive the grace for lesser work and much gain, in the name of Jesus.
2. Heavenly Father enter into the ring of the remaining days of my life and destroy every thief, plunderer and scavenger waiting for me, in Jesus' name.
3. There shall be no argument against my miracle, in the name of Jesus.
4. O God usher me into the blessing of a new dawn, in the name of Jesus.
5. O Lord, let your Spirit go and destroy every evil spirit standing in ambush at the gate of my success, in the name of Jesus.
6. The mercy of God shall never fail me, and His Glory shall sustain me in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 31-32; Matthew 10:24-42

QUOTE: *“A fresh beginning is a gift of grace, an opportunity to start anew with a heart full of hope and a spirit ready to conquer new challenges.”*

Tuesday, 14th January 2025

A NEW THING

Text(s): Isaiah 43:15-19

Confession: *"The hallmark of successful people is that they are always stretching themselves to learn new things"* – **Carol S. Dweck**

G. P. A. Hymn 130 – Blow ye trumpet blow

INTRODUCTION

Today, I believe the Lord is saying to you, Behold I will do a new thing He is calling you out of the ordinary to rise above limits. God is a God of new beginnings and likes to do new things. When He is doing something new, it requires you sometime to step into the unknown, which may feel uncomfortable, scary and even unpleasant at first. Take a cue from Abraham who was asked by God to step into unknown, today he became a Father of faith in God. Every good thing has its price to pay for.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. I decree in the name of Jesus; I shall receive a call that will change the story of my life for better.
2. O God arise, do a new thing in my life in the name of Jesus.
3. O Lord, I ask for new things in my life, open a new chapter in my life and destiny, in the name of Jesus.
4. Wicked powers reviving the battles of my life, die in the name of Jesus.
5. Arrangers of desolations and shame working against my life, scatter in the name of Jesus.
6. You unfriendly helpers I command you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ depart from me.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 33-35; Matthew 11

QUOTE: *"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."* – **Seneca**

Wednesday, 15th January 2025

A NEW SPIRIT

Text(s): 1 Kings 18:24

Confession: *"Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, man cannot live without a spiritual life."* – **Buddha**

G. P. A. Hymn 257 – Spirit divine attend our prayers

INTRODUCTION

The Bible bears record of several prophets and how the Almighty did great things around them. However, few, indeed if any, impacted the nation of Israel like Elijah. Through Elijah, the man credited with the saying: The God that answereth by fire let Him be God! God addressed numerous issues in the lives of His children. The God that answereth by fire will indeed address all the problems confronting your life in the name of Jesus.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Let the power of the blood of Jesus be released on my behalf and let it speak against every stubborn mountain in my life.
2. I render every evil power militating against me impotent by the blood of Jesus.
3. I hold the blood of Jesus against evil spirit working against me.
4. I hold the blood of Jesus against lost benefits.
5. Let the blood of Jesus minister defeat to every tortoise and snail spirits in my life in the name of Jesus.
6. Let the blood of Jesus dry up every evil tree used against me in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 36-37; Matthew 12:1-21

QUOTE: *"Every day is a new opportunity to embrace a new spirit and make a fresh start."*

Thursday, 16th January 2025

GOD'S CARE FOR ALL CREATION

Text(s): Psalm 104:1-35

Key Verse: *"The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season"* – **Psalm 145:15**

Deism is a philosophy that believes in the existence of a supreme being but does not believe that this being is engaged with the universe. The god of deism created all things and then stepped back to let creation run according to its own laws. We might describe this god as the world's absentee landlord.

Today's passage offers a very different view of what God is like. The God described in Psalm 104 is both the creator and the sustainer of the universe. Instead of being absent from creation, the God portrayed in Scripture lovingly cares for what He has made.

The Bible is clear on the question of the earth's origin. The earth and all that is in it were made by God. He created both the heavens and the earth, as well as all those who dwell in them (see Genesis 1–3). Among these are the heavenly beings, described as "messengers" (v. 4). The writer of the New Testament book of Hebrews reveals that this verse is "speaking of the angels" (Heb. 1:7).

God did more than create the earth and those who dwell on it. He also made provision for their needs. God supplied the means for our survival, including water for the animals, grass for cattle, and plants for people to cultivate so that they could produce their own food (vv. 10–14). Although we must labor to provide for our needs, the ability and means to do so come from God. He is the one who "supplies seed to the sower and bread for food" (2 Cor. 9:10). This is part of God's love for His world. "All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things" (vv. 27–28).

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, we remember that You are the Creator and Sustainer of all. You care for every part of Your creation with infinite wisdom and compassion. Help us to remember that all life is precious in Your sight in Jesus' name.
2. Pray that the Christian Education Department and its staff are endued with divine knowledge and understanding, enabling them to teach with clarity and impact.

QUOTE: *"God's care extends to all creation, for every creature is a testament to His love and wisdom."* – **Anonymous**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 38-40; Matthew 12:22-50

G. P. A. Hymn 45 – Almighty God of creation

Friday, 17th January 2025

BLESSED HUNGER

Text(s): Matthew 5:1-11

Key Verse: *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* – Matthew 5:6

Although the world produces enough food to feed the entire population, 815 million people go hungry each year. Famine, poverty, and war are key factors that contribute to world hunger. According to research from the United Nations, hunger kills more people each year than aids, malaria, and tuberculosis combined.

In view of these facts, it seems strange that Jesus would include poverty and hunger in His list of blessings in Matthew 5. Indeed, all the things Jesus says we are to count ourselves blessed to experience seem odd. It may take some of the edge off to consider that He is using figurative language, but even then, we may wonder how spiritual poverty or emptiness can be considered good.

These descriptions provide us with a reality check. Jesus employs them to diagnose our true condition. It is a good thing to recognize our emptiness. The New Testament word used in these verses that is often translated "blessed" could be translated "happy," but Jesus is using the word to speak of something that is more transcendent than what we usually mean by the word happiness. To be blessed means to be visited by God's favor. This is the language of grace.

Only those who recognize that they bring nothing to God will be prepared to receive from Him. Those who know they are devoid of righteousness will mourn their lack and look to Christ to provide them with a righteousness that is "apart from the law" (Rom. 3:21). Those who hunger or thirst after God will turn to Jesus, so that they can "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Ps. 34:8). The grace of God in Christ not only fills us but also instills within us the desire to be filled

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, ignite within us a passionate hunger for righteousness. May our desire to live in a way that pleases You surpass all other desires in Jesus' name.
2. Pray that GPA members experience personal spiritual growth and cultivate strong relationships with God and with one another.

QUOTE: *"A blessed hunger for truth and grace is the soul's most sincere pursuit."* – Anonymous

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 41; Matthew 13:1-32

G. P. A. Hymn 246 – Waiting on the Lord, for the promise given

Saturday, 18th January 2025

A THIRST FOR GOD

Text(s): John 4:1-26

Key Verse: *“Jesus answered her, “if you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, Give me a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water” – John 4:10*

In 2014, the city of Flint, Mich., changed its water source from Lake Huron and the Detroit River to the Flint River because it was cheaper. But problems with the way the water was then treated caused it to become contaminated with lead from the pipes. As a result, over 100,000 residents were exposed to high levels of lead from their drinking water.

The woman in Samaria was struggling to get water. The fact that she came to the well during the heat of noon instead of in the cooler evening suggests that she hoped to do so in privacy. When the woman arrived, she was surprised to find Jesus seated there “tired as he was from the journey” (v. 6). She was shocked further when Jesus asked her for a drink (v. 9). The Jewish people considered the Samaritans to be impure religious half-breeds with sacrilegious worship practices, even though they both shared some of the same beliefs.

When the woman expressed her amazement, Jesus turned the tables and offered “living” water as a “free gift” (v. 10). Living water was a familiar phrase often used to speak of flowing water. The woman took Him literally, but Jesus was talking about eternal life (v. 14). He brought up her marital history not to embarrass her but to show that she suffered from a spiritual thirst that could never be quenched by any human means or earthly wells.

Jesus’ question about her husband convinced the woman that He was a prophet who could resolve a long-standing disagreement between Jews and Samaritans about the proper place to worship (v. 21). Jesus answered her question and told her that He was more than a prophet. He was the promised Messiah, long awaited by both Jews and Samaritans.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, grant me a heart that longs for You above all else. Stir within me a deep thirst for Your love. Let my soul be satisfied only by Your living water in Jesus’ name.
2. Mission Department: Pray for creative and effective methods of outreach that bring the message of salvation to the community.

QUOTE: *“A thirst for God is a divine hunger that can only be satisfied by His presence.” – Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 42-43; Matthew 13:33-58

G. P. A. Hymn 249 – My heart is open to Thee, dear Lord

Sunday, 19th January 2025

HUNGER TO DO GOD'S WILL

Text(s): John 4:27-42

Key Verse: *"But he said to them, I have food to eat that you do not know about."* – John 4:32

We have all had occasions when we were so busy we missed a meal. Either we had no time to eat, or we were so engrossed in activity that we forgot to take the time. Usually, however, we make regular meals our priority.

The same was true for the disciples. They had been purchasing food in the village while Jesus waited at the well. Upon their return, they were shocked to find Him in deep conversation with the Samaritan woman (v. 27). Their surprise may have been twofold. Perhaps like the woman herself, they were surprised to find Jesus talking with a despised Samaritan. They may have been surprised further to find that it was a woman. Despite their amazement, they did not question Jesus about His reasons. Maybe they were too focused on their own hunger.

When the woman left in a hurry, the disciples urged Jesus to eat. Jesus answered, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about" (v. 32). The disciples interpreted His statement literally, as the Samaritan woman had done with His statement about water. But Jesus soon corrected their thinking. Although Jesus needed to eat like everyone else, He was energized by a desire to complete His mission. He was also sustained by God's power. As Jesus and His followers talked, the crowd from the village came into view. Like a field ready to be harvested, their hearts had been prepared by the testimony of the Samaritan woman (v. 38).

Many people today have hearts ready to respond to this message. They are waiting for someone to share it with them. Each of us has a role to play in this task. Some are involved in sowing the seed by sharing the message while others bring in the harvest.

PRAYER(S):

1. Fill me with a deep hunger to do Your will. Help me to seek Your guidance in all things and to find fulfillment in serving You in Jesus' name.
2. Youth Ministry: Pray for guidance and strength for those working with the youth, that they may inspire and nurture the next generation in their faith.

QUOTE: *"When we hunger to do God's will, we find our true calling and experience the joy of living in His perfect design."* – Anonymous

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 44-45; Matthew 14:1-21

G. P. A. Hymn 253 – Holy Spirit, truth divine

Monday, 20th January 2025

A NEW TYPE OF BELIEF

Text(s): John 20:24-29

Key Verse: *“Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.’” – John 20:27*

Does doubting feel like part of your DNA? We all have doubts when an infomercial makes promises that seem too good to be true. We may doubt the commitments made by others and even by us. So it should not surprise us that we entertain doubts about God. It has been the enemy’s plan from day one to plant seeds of doubts in our minds about our Creator (see Genesis 3). In today’s Scripture, Thomas was fighting a logical and a supernatural battle. He wondered: How is it possible that a person could die and return to life?

Thomas wanted hard evidence to believe the claim of Jesus’ resurrection. John tells us Thomas’ struggle with unbelief lasted for days (v. 26). Jesus could have easily appeared to Thomas, but it is interesting that He allows Thomas to wrestle with unbelief. After some time, the resurrected Jesus did appear to Thomas, through a locked door, and implored him to believe (v. 27). Notice that Thomas didn’t even need to put his hands in Jesus’ scars. Seeing the resurrected Jesus was all he needed, and he called Christ “My Lord and my God!” (v. 28).

Jesus recognized that Thomas needed to see before he would believe. But then Jesus says, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (v. 29). Jesus is talking about you and me. Shortly after this encounter with Thomas, Jesus ascended to heaven. The next time we see our Lord and Savior will be at His imminent return, but in the meantime, we have Thomas’s encounter as one of the many reasons to believe in Jesus’ bodily resurrection. I have a feeling many of us can relate to Thomas. We need to see it to believe it. Thankfully, Jesus revealed Himself to doubters. Stop doubting and believe.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, strengthen my faith and help me to believe in You with all my heart. Remove any doubts and fears that hinder my trust in Your goodness and power in Jesus’ name.
2. Pray that the Zonal Headquarters fosters collaboration and support among the branches, promoting a spirit of unity and shared vision.

QUOTE: *“Embracing a new belief system can ignite a profound change, turning doubt into faith and fear into courage.” – Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 46-48; Matthew 14:22-36

G. P. A. Hymn 206 – There’s not a friend, like a lonely Jesus

Tuesday, 21st January 2025

THE BREAD KING

Text(s): John 6:22-40

Key Verse: *“Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” – John 6:27*

Toddlers who receive gifts are often more interested in the wrapping paper and packaging than in what those things contain. We can do the same with God's gifts. We become focused on the things we want from God and we lose sight of God Himself.

This was the problem with the crowd that followed Jesus across the lake after the miraculous feeding. They had tried to take Jesus and make Him their king, but Jesus did not trust their motives. “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill” (v. 26).

Jesus went on to remind them: “Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval” (v. 27). When the crowd asked what kind of “work” God required, Jesus told them it was to “believe in the one he has sent” (v. 29).

The crowd saw Jesus only as a great prophet or perhaps as a miracle-working rabbi (v. 25). More critically, they failed to understand their own need. The superficial nature of their devotion to Jesus was soon evident in their surly demand that Jesus give them more bread.

Food is essential to life, but there is more to life than food. Instead of food for physical life, Jesus offered eternal life (v. 40). The crowd understood that Jesus was claiming to be more than a rabbi or a prophet. His words could only mean that He had a status that was even higher than that of Moses (vv. 41–42). Jesus offered to do things only God could do.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, awaken in me a deep hunger for Your spiritual nourishment. Help me to seek Your Word and to meditate on Your teachings daily in Jesus' name.
2. Pray for GPA assemblies for financial provision and resources for each branch, enabling them to carry out their mission effectively and support their local communities.

QUOTE: *“As the Bread King provides for our daily needs, so does He offer eternal sustenance that never fades away.” – Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Genesis 49-50; Matthew 15:1-20

G. P. A. Hymn 267 – Oh word of God incarnate

Wednesday, 22nd January 2025

A RENEWED MIND

Text(s): Romans 12:1-3

Key Verse: *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” – Romans 12:2*

When you say you love God, what do you mean? For many of us, we express our love for the Lord through our emotions. We may feel especially loving toward God when we sing or pray. We also show our love for God through our actions, obeying His commands. But what does it mean to love God with your mind? Scripture is clear that our transformation through Christ means allowing our minds to be made new.

In today’s text, Paul begins by referencing what he had been discussing in chapters 1–11 when he states, “in view of God’s mercy” (v. 1). Paul is saying that in light of all that God has done, Christians in Rome should respond by offering their physical bodies as a living sacrifice to God (v. 1) and by renewing their minds (v. 2). Unlike animal sacrifices that had traditionally been presented to God on a daily basis, Paul says a Christian’s life is to be presented to God. When we offer our lives to serve one another because of what Christ has done for us, we are actually worshiping God.

Paul also knew that we can be easily deceived into the worldly patterns of service, expecting something in return. He urges his friends not to be conformed to the ways of the world, but rather to be transformed by a new way of thinking (v. 2). Instead of thinking “I will do, so I can get,” Paul wants them to live a service-filled life with an attitude of “I will do, because of what God has done through Christ Jesus.” When we are able to change our way of thinking and live this type of service-filled life, we are worshiping with all our heart, soul, and mind.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, transform my mind and renew my thoughts with Your truth. Guide my thoughts to align with Your will, and empower me to live a life that glorifies You. Amen!
2. Pray that GPA leaders exhibit humility and servanthood, leading by example and inspiring others to follow Christ faithfully.

QUOTE: *“When the mind is renewed, it becomes a vessel for fresh insights and divine wisdom, guiding us toward our true potential.” – Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 1-3; Matthew 15:21-39

G. P. A. Hymn 178 – No not despairingly

Thursday, 23rd January 2025

YOU ARE VALUABLE

Text(s): Luke 7:36-50

Key Verse: *“And he said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved you; go in peace.’” – Luke 7:50*

Martin Luther King Jr. often gave this advice, “Take the first step in faith. You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.” For the woman in today’s narrative, her first step must have seemed like a giant leap. The Pharisees referred to her as a “sinner,” and so it was likely that she was one of the town’s known prostitutes (vv. 37, 39).

While she may have felt unwelcome in this gathering of the religious elites and Jesus, she did not let a lack of an invitation stop her. Nothing could prevent her from worshiping at the feet of Jesus. For most of her life, she had found her value from men who took advantage of her, using and abusing her. But now, perhaps for the first time ever, she found someone who showed her that she was valuable to God. Our text doesn’t record a word she says, but her actions speak volumes (vv. 37, 38).

The appearance and bold actions of this woman frustrated Simon the Pharisee. However, Jesus used the situation as a teaching moment for both Simon and the woman—and for us. He clearly demonstrated that all people are valuable to God. Therefore, our lives ought to be an outpouring of appreciation and service to Jesus (vv. 44–47) because only He is able to forgive us our sins (v. 48).

Regardless of your past, Jesus has the power to forgive you. We are all sinners saved by grace. The apostle Paul even says, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst” (1 Tim. 1:15). We are all in need of forgiveness and to be reminded that we are valuable to God.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, help me to see myself through Your eyes and to understand my true worth in You. Fill me with the assurance of Your love, and help me to live confidently, knowing that I am valuable and cherished by You.
2. Pray for the maintenance and improvement of church buildings and facilities, that they may serve as welcoming and functional spaces for worship and community activities.

QUOTE: *“Never doubt your worth; you are a unique creation with immeasurable value and purpose.” – Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 4-6; Matthew 16

G. P. A. Hymn 358 – O love of God, how strong and true

Friday, 24th January 2025

PRIORITIES IN LIFE

Text(s): Matthew 19:16-30

Key Verse: *“And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” – Matthew 19:16*

If you stood face to face with the Savior of the world, what would you ask Him? Perhaps, you would ask a similar question as the young man in today’s text: “What good thing must I do to get eternal life?” (v. 16). Jesus’ initial response was what one would expect from a Jewish rabbi. However, Jesus was about to teach him, and also us, a lesson no money on earth could ever buy.

The young man explained that he kept all the laws that Jesus proposed. But notice that these commandments dealt with one’s work and not with the heart. So when Jesus asked him to give up all his possessions and become His follower, the man could not do it. The text says, “he went away sad, because he had great wealth” (v. 22). The reality, however, is that his great wealth possessed him. Deep down, his heart and priorities were centered on his wealth, not on loving God.

The disciples were astonished at this exchange because, in early Judaism, wealth was a clear indication of God’s favor. If it was impossible for a rich man to enter heaven, they probably wondered how anyone could (vv. 23–25). Jesus responded by saying that it is only possible through the power of God (v. 26).

When we follow Christ, our priorities change. The things that used to be important, no longer hold our focus. For the rich young man, his possessions got in the way of his heart for God. By all earthly accounts, he was a moral man, but his morality could not save him. What he truly needed, only Jesus could provide.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, guide me in setting my priorities according to Your will. Help me to put You first in all things and seek Your kingdom above all else in Jesus’ name.
2. Pray for the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of GPA members, asking for God’s healing and comfort for those in need.

QUOTE: *“Priorities shape our journey; focus on what truly matters to lead a life of meaning and impact.” – Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 7-8; Matthew 17

G. P. A. Hymn 347 – My faith looks up to Thee

Saturday, 25th January 2025

GROWING TOWARD GODLINESS

Text(s): James 1:2-8

Key Verse: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."* – James 1:5

God's Word says what it says. How, then, does the spiritual process of learning and growing unfold in these verses? While the word "learn" isn't used here, the process described is one of growing and maturing toward godliness (vv. 2–4). Our faith is tested when we face various trials and tribulations. If we stand firm in faith, we develop perseverance, which in turn will eventually bring us to maturity and finally to Christlike completeness or perfection (Matt. 5:48).

This process isn't inevitable. We must make right and wise choices. If our faith is weak or we sidestep opportunities for growth, the learning process is stalled. If we consider it hardship, we'll merely try to escape the process. Only by considering it "pure joy" can we embrace trials and tribulations as God-given and God-directed lessons for our good. In doing so, we follow the example of Christ Himself: "He learned obedience from what he suffered" (Heb. 5:8). Learning in this sense is experiential, that is, it can happen only in action.

We can make wise choices, learn God's lessons for us, and grow in our faith only with His help (James 1:5–8). The Lord stands ready to generously provide wisdom, but we need to ask in faith—standing on our Rock, not blown about by the wind. The evidence of our learning will be in the results. If we're standing firm and persevering, our growing and maturing will be clearly seen, not to our credit but to God's glory.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, I come before You with a humble heart, seeking Your guidance and grace. Help me to grow in godliness and to reflect Your love and righteousness in all aspects of my life.
2. Pray that those involved in the prayer and intercession ministry remain fervent and effective, interceding on behalf of the church and its members.

QUOTE: *"As we grow towards godliness, every step forward is a step closer to reflecting the character of the Divine."* – Anonymous

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 9-10; Matthew 18:1-20

G. P. A. Hymn 383 – I strive to walk the narrow way

Sunday, 26th January 2025

THE SPRING AND THE LAKE

Text(s): Revelation 21:1-8

Key Verse: *“And he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.’” – Revelation 21:6*

A spring forms when water flows from an underground water source or aquifer to the surface, evidence of a greater source of water. The biblical metaphor of the spring also points us toward the source of eternal life.

The Bible’s description of the new heavens and earth reveals that a very different order will replace the old creation. One surprising feature will be a change in geography: the new earth will no longer have any sea (v. 2). This may have symbolic significance. The sea is sometimes associated with God’s enemies in the book of Revelation. The beast who symbolizes the Antichrist comes from the sea as the dragon (Satan) stands on the shore (Rev. 12:17–13:1). The great prostitute Babylon “sits on many waters” (Rev. 17:1; 18:19).

But the disappearance of the sea does not mean that there will be an absence of water in God’s newly created world. God promises to give to the thirsty “water without cost from the spring of the water of life” (Rev. 21:6). There will also be the “river of life,” which flows from the throne of God down the great street of the city that comes down from heaven (Rev. 22:1).

This image conveys more than a promise of fresh water—it is a promise of eternal life. Jesus is the source of this life (John 7:37–38). In the new order of God’s creation, all the vestiges of sin will be removed, with no more sorrow, death, crying, or pain (v. 4). All aspects of the curse of sin will be removed.

One alarming feature is included in John’s description of the new heavens and new earth. There will be “a fiery lake of burning sulfur,” which is further described as “the second death” (v. 8).

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, I come before You in gratitude for the gift of life and the water that sustains us. May Your living water cleanse our spirits, refresh our souls, and renew our strength in Jesus’ name.
2. Pray that the Mission Department develops impactful strategies and partnerships, reaching many with the gospel and meeting the needs of the community.

QUOTE: *“The spring brings life to the lake, reminding us that fresh beginnings flow from a constant source of renewal and grace.” – Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 11-12; Matthew 18:21-35

G. P. A. Hymn 496 – There is a green hill far away

Monday, 27th January 2025

THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

Text(s): Psalm 36:1-12

Key Verse: *“For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.” – Psalm 36:9*

Alexander the Great not only conquered the world but also sought a river that had the power to reverse aging. The Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon came to Florida in search of the fountain of youth. Both missions failed; there is no river or fountain that can reverse the aging process. But there is a spiritual source of life that is available to everyone who is a believer.

In this psalm, David contrasts the sinfulness of the wicked with the faithfulness of God. The wicked are self-absorbed and have no regard for God’s judgment. They have an unreasonably high opinion of themselves. As a result, they are in denial about their true spiritual condition (v. 2). Sin warps the way we see ourselves. It also sears the conscience. Consequently, the sinful person not only approves of things of which God disapproves but also actively pursues them (see Rom. 1:32).

God is unlike the wicked, and so are those who are His. Those who know God differ from the wicked, not because they have no sin but because they have experienced God’s transforming righteousness. God extends His love to those who are trusting in Him by giving them a righteousness that is not their own. It is God’s own righteousness extended to them by grace. In this way, God becomes a fountain of life to His people (v. 9).

The New Testament reveals that the fountain of life is actually a person. It is God’s Son, Jesus Christ, “who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good” (Titus 2:14). In the end, it is Jesus who makes the difference between those that the Bible calls “wicked” and those characterized as “holy.”

PRAYER(S):

1. May this divine fountain continually nourish our hearts, renewing our spirits and guiding our paths. May the living water from Your fountain inspire us to lead lives of purpose, reflecting Your love and light in all that we do.
2. Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to invigorate GPA, leading to renewed passion and a powerful witness in the community.

QUOTE: *“Drinking from the fountain of life brings not just sustenance, but a profound sense of connection and peace.” – Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 13-15; Matthew 19:1-15

G. P. A. Hymn 222 – Shall we gather by the river

Tuesday, 28th January 2025

RIGHTEOUS EXCESS

Text(s): Genesis 9:18-28

Key Verse: *“By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.” – Hebrews 11:7*

A prominent pastor faces accusations of sexual impropriety. A Christian college president admits to financial misdeeds. A ministry leader is revealed to be verbally abusive to the staff. Behind each new revelation are broken lives and damaged trust, magnifying the toll of the sin.

We might be surprised to read that one of Noah’s first recorded acts after the Flood was to get drunk. His actions seem out of character for someone whom Scripture describes as righteous (Ezek. 14:14, 20; 2 Peter 2:5). Likely significant time elapsed between Noah’s departure from the ark and his night of excessive drinking. He had to begin farming and plant the vineyard (v. 20). He had to harvest the grapes and then wait for them to ferment. The original Hebrew language of this text suggests that this was Noah’s first foray into farming, and some have wondered whether Noah’s drunkenness was perhaps accidental.

The focus of the passage is actually less on Noah’s failure and more on the response of his three sons. Ham was first to see his father lying naked in a drunken stupor. He told his brothers, and they covered their father while averting their eyes (vv. 22–23). Most scholars believe that Noah’s curse against Canaan, Ham’s son (10:6), implies that Ham’s response to what he saw was either contemptuous or lustful. Canaan seems to have shared his father’s taste for that which was impure. Noah’s words were also prophetic, pointing forward in history to Canaanite sin and God’s judgment upon it through His people (see Lev. 18:3).

Noah was the most righteous man of his generation—but he was not perfect. Even his heroic faith did not prevent him from falling into devastating sin. Jesus is the only one who will not disappoint us.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, in our quest for righteousness, let us be a beacon of Your grace, inspiring others through our faith and conduct.
2. Pray that GPA members develop a deep, personal relationship with Jesus Christ and become active in living out their faith through service and love.

QUOTE: *“Righteous excess is not about having more but about giving more, extending our blessings beyond measure.” – Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 16-18; Matthew 19:16-30

G. P. A. Hymn 382 – I have giv’n up all for Jesus

Wednesday, 29th January 2025

DANGEROUS APPETITES

Text(s): Genesis 3:1-12

Key Verse: *“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.” – Genesis 3:6*

Losing weight is at the top of the list for many people who make New Year’s resolutions. The vast majority give up on their goal after a few weeks. Lack of willpower to resist temptation is often named as the culprit. That may be true, but the real problem is our appetite.

It is no accident that Satan used human appetite as the bait when he tempted Eve. Satan appealed to Eve’s senses. When she looked at the forbidden tree, she saw that it was “good for food” and “pleasing to the eye” (v. 12). He appealed to other desires as well. Eve saw that the tree was also “desirable for gaining wisdom.” Food, beauty, and wisdom were not wrong in themselves. It was the means to fulfill these desires that was sinful. Satan invited Eve to satisfy her desire in a way that God had forbidden.

This satanic strategy gives us insight into the way that sin works in our lives. It often captures our attention by appealing to ordinary appetites and legitimate desires. It also appeals to our impatience. It was not wrong for Eve to want to “be like God.” She and Adam had been created in His image. But Satan offered a shortcut that produced the opposite of what Eve wanted and what Satan had falsely promised.

Satan’s strategy has not changed since that first temptation in the garden. Neither has the character of sin. Temptation’s appeal always comes beautifully wrapped in a false promise. But its reward leaves us with a bitter taste. Satan invited Adam and Eve to take and eat from the forbidden tree in order to draw them into death. Jesus would later invite His disciples to take and eat in order to point them to another “tree”—the Cross. Christ’s death covers all our sin, and His resurrection gives new life.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, we come before You seeking deliverance from appetites that lead us astray. Grant us the strength to resist desires that harm our well-being and the wisdom to seek fulfillment in ways that honor You.
2. Administration Department: Pray for efficiency, organization, and integrity in handling church operations and communications.

QUOTE: *“The most dangerous is not for things, but for desires that lead us away from our inner peace and values.” – Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 19-21; Matthew 20:1-16

G. P. A. Hymn 498 – Sinners, turn why will ye die?

Thursday, 30th January 2025

YOU MATTER TO JESUS

Text(s): John 8:1-11

Key Verse: *"She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.'"* – John 8:11

Imagine the scene: a woman is being forcibly dragged into the temple courts, shoved in front of this man who many were calling the Great Teacher. Jesus gazed at her, knowing she had been accused of adultery and also knowing everything else about her. Her life mattered. Jesus was also aware that the teachers of the law and the Pharisees were trying to trap Him.

We can be sure that the woman felt shame and embarrassment for being caught in adultery and dragged in front of Jesus. What she thought she was doing in secret had now been exposed to the whole community. Her family would disown her and the religious leaders would turn their backs on her. Probably like most of her life, she was simply being used. This time, she was a pawn in the Pharisees' chess game with Jesus (v. 6). If He called for her stoning, He would be defying the Roman government. And if He let her go, He would be disobeying the Mosaic law.

However, unlike the Pharisees, Jesus saw her for who she truly was: someone who mattered. His response to the crowd was simple, yet convicting: "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" (v. 7). One by one, the crowd disappeared. According to the law, a person could be sentenced to death only with two or more witnesses, but now there were none. Jesus could now release her and still obey the Mosaic law. She was now free and walked away knowing her life mattered to Jesus.

What about you? Do you feel shame at the thought of airing your private acts before a holy God? Regardless of the missteps and sin in your life, you matter to God. Just as Jesus declared to the woman, "Go now and leave your life of sin" (v. 11), He is reaching in the same way to us.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, in moments of doubt and struggle, remind me of Your unwavering love and grace. No matter the weight of my sins or shortcomings, I trust that I matter to You.
2. Finance Department: Pray for wisdom in managing church finances, ensuring transparency and accountability in all financial matters.

QUOTE: *"Jesus' love for you is a testament to your immeasurable value; you matter deeply to Him, always and forever."* – Anonymous

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 22-24; Matthew 20:17-34

G. P. A. Hymn 485 – I am so glad that our Father in Heaven

Friday, 31st January 2025

MESSAGE OF THANKFULNESS

Text(s): Luke 17:11-19

Key Verse: *"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds."* – **Psalm 9:1**

True thankfulness can stop us in our tracks and motivate us to action. That's what happened to a leper whose life was forever changed by Jesus. On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee, an ethnically diverse and tense region (v. 11). After hearing cries from a group of men with leprosy, Jesus instructed them to go show themselves to the priests (vv. 12–14). Once the priests declared them healed, they would be allowed to rejoin society.

While on the journey to receive medical clearance, the lepers began to notice that evidence of their skin disease was supernaturally disappearing. We can imagine their pace quickening as their hopes of being reunited with loved ones intensified. Suddenly, one of them stopped and turned around, deciding to take a moment to thank Jesus. The actions of this one leper should teach us something as well. When Jesus gives us new life, He also gives us a message of profound thankfulness.

A detail often overlooked in this narrative is that this man was a Samaritan, a foreigner (vv. 16, 18). Not only was he an outsider because of his leprosy, but he was also an outcast to the outcasts because he was from Samaria. Nonetheless, because of what Jesus did, he was drastically moved to an attitude of thankfulness. This man was healed both physically and, more importantly, spiritually. His faith in Christ's authority over the powers of this world made him well (v. 19). This thankfulness to God would travel with him for the rest of his life. And thankfulness is a part of our new life in Christ also. This new message of thankfulness for what the Lord has done in our lives ought to travel with us wherever we go. Be someone who is quick to thank God, even if you are standing alone.

When you thank the Lord for His work in your life, don't forget to thank those around you who have helped and supported you along the way

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, thank You for the countless blessings You have bestowed upon me – both seen and unseen. For the gift of life, for the beauty in each day, and for the love and support of those around me, I am deeply grateful.
2. Pray for protection from spiritual attacks and distractions, that workers remain focused on their roles and responsibilities with a heart for God's work.

QUOTE: *"Gratitude turns what we have into enough and more, enriching our lives with joy and contentment."* – **Anonymous**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 25-26; Matthew 21:1-22

G. P. A. Hymn 49 – Praise Him, praise Him Jesus our blessed redeemer

Saturday, 1st February 2025

OPEN HEAVENS

Text(s): Isaiah 64:1-4

Confession: *"Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, man cannot live without a spiritual life."* – **Buddha**

G. P. A. Hymn 252 – There shall be showers of blessing

INTRODUCTION

When we commit ourselves to seek the Lord on regular basis, and determine within ourselves to press in to the inner court of His presence with persistent, persevering prayer, diligent obedience and sacrificial giving we will start experiencing an open heaven from God. Isaiah 64:1-2...when intercession breaks through awesome things that we did not expect (Isaiah 64:3) is a perfect description of genuine revival, because the unpredictable and unusual are characteristics of great spiritual awakenings.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Heaven over my life open now, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every cloud covering my open heavens, fall down and die in the name of Jesus.
3. Angels of God, release unto me the key to open my destiny doors, in the name of Jesus.
4. Lord, destroy by fire anything that is making your promises fail upon my life in the name of Jesus.
5. O Lord, do not allow me and my family to operate under closed heaven in the name of Jesus.
6. Lord, bring help from above and disgrace my enemies, in the name of Jesus.
7. Pray for effective communication and collaboration between the Zonal Headquarters and local branches, ensuring a cohesive approach to church initiatives.
8. Pray for healthy, Christ-centered relationships within GPA's families and marriages, seeking God's guidance and grace in maintaining strong bonds.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 27-28; Matthew 21:23-46

QUOTE: *"Open heavens invite us to see the limitless possibilities of faith and grace."*

Sunday, 2nd February 2025

OPEN HEAVENS – HOLY DISTURBANCE

Text(s): Isaiah 62:6-7

Confession: *“O that thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow at thy presence.” – Isaiah 64:1*

G. P. A. Hymn 395 – Ho my comrades, see the signal

INTRODUCTION

Prayer is one of the three pillars that uphold Christians and make them stand in the faith. Holiness, Word of God and prayer, if any of these is missing, you cannot stand as a believer. Prayer is the only thing devil cannot do in the house of God. It is given unto us. It is often said that a Christian is most powerful on his knees. When you spend time with God in prayer, it is the most useful thing on earth. Brethren, devil does not like seeing Christians praying. My prayer is that he will not succeed in your life in Jesus' name.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Father, in any way I have fallen short of your glory, please have mercy and forgive me. Let your mercy prevail over judgement of sin in my life.
2. Father, keep me and less me let your face shine upon me and be gracious unto me in Jesus' name.
3. Let every darkness around me be consumed by the blood of Jesus and let me be basking in your light in the name of Jesus.
4. Father, let favor achieve for me today, what hard labor and toil could not achieve in several years in the name of Jesus.
5. O Lord, let all unprofitable struggle in my life come to an end and grant me divine speed and favor from above in Jesus' name.
6. Father, let my heavens open today and grant me all my heart desires in the name of Jesus.
7. Pray for the effectiveness of Bible studies, prayer groups, and other spiritual growth programs in deepening the faith of participants and fostering fellowship.
8. Pray for spiritual breakthroughs for GPA members facing personal challenges or crises, that they may experience God's transformative power and find peace and resolution.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 29-30; Matthew 22:1-22

QUOTE: *“An open heaven is a reminder that God's love and grace are always within reach, waiting to transform our lives.”*

Monday, 3rd February 2025

OPEN HEAVEN – ALL SUFFICIENT GOD

Text(s): 2 Kings 7:1-20

Confession: *“To know how to pray is to let your heart speak to the Holy Heavens.” – Lailah Gifty Akita*

G. P. A. Hymn 399 – Christian seek not yet repose

INTRODUCTION

When we refer to God as all sufficient One, what we mean is that no matter what happens, He can take care of you. If you trust Him God will see you through your time of trials; he will send you comfort and consolation when necessary and take care of your financial needs. According to our scripture for today, the city of Samaria was under siege. People had already started killing their children for food. God saw their situations and provided abundant supplies for them. What a miracle. He sure works in miraculous ways.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. O Lord deliver all our Pastors, ministers and leaders from satanic distractions and stagnation, in the name of Jesus Christ.
2. Rages and furnace prepare for me and my family, consume your owner, in the name of Jesus.
3. O God of miracles, signs and wonders, appear in my life, in the name of Jesus.
4. Root of impossibilities in my life, be uprooted by the thunder fire of God in the name of Jesus.
5. Every curse working against my life break now, in the name of Jesus.
6. Lord, let your glory shine upon me in the name of Jesus.
7. Pray for the ongoing personal spiritual growth of church workers, that they remain committed to their own walk with Christ and model faithfulness to the congregation.
8. Pray for God’s favor in expanding the reach and influence of GPA, including the potential establishment of new branches or ministries.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 31-33; Matthew 22:23-46

QUOTE: *“When the heavens are open, blessings flow freely. Seek the divine and watch your life transform.”*

Tuesday, 4th February 2025

THE BELIEVER'S HOPE

Text(s): Romans 15:5-13

Key Verse: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* – **Romans 15:13**

"The Believer's Hope" is not merely a wishful thinking, but a steadfast assurance anchored in the promises of God through Jesus Christ. This hope is both a gift and a power, infused into believers through the Holy Spirit, enabling them to face life's uncertainties with a confident expectation of God's goodness and faithfulness. It is rooted in the reality of Christ's resurrection, assuring us of God's ultimate victory over sin and death—a victory in which we share as His heirs. This hope sustains believers through trials, empowers them in service, and gives them joy and peace that transcend understanding.

This dynamic hope shapes how believers live and interact with the world around them. It compels them to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, knowing that their actions are imbued with eternal significance. It provides comfort amid sorrow, strength in weakness, and courage to continue when the path seems daunting. For the believer, hope is not passive; it is active and alive, compelling engagement with life's challenges while looking forward to the fulfillment of God's promises.

In practical terms, living out the believer's hope means making choices that reflect an awareness of God's overarching plan. It means prioritizing spiritual growth and community outreach, investing in relationships that build up faith, and extending kindness and forgiveness even in difficult circumstances. Believers are urged to cultivate a hopeful spirit through prayer, Scripture study, and fellowship, continually seeking to refill the wellsprings of hope within their hearts.

PRAYER(S):

1. Dear Lord, infuse our hearts with the hope that comes from knowing You. May this hope fill us with joy and peace, and may it overflow to those around us. We thank You for the blessed hope of eternal life, which motivates and sustains us daily in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for clarity and discernment for church workers in their decision-making processes, ensuring their actions align with God's will.

QUOTE: *"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."* – **Desmond Tutu**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 34-36; Matthew 23:1-22

G. P. A. Hymn 505 – Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine

Wednesday, 5th February 2025

TRUE SOLDIER

Text(s): 2 Timothy 2:3-4

Key Verse: *"Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him."* – **2 Timothy 2:4**

"True Soldier" in the Christian context refers to believers who dedicate themselves to serving God and advancing His kingdom, much like soldiers commit to serving their country. Paul's metaphor in 2 Timothy highlights the discipline, dedication, and singular focus required of those who follow Christ. Just as soldiers endure hardships and remain focused on their missions, so too must Christians navigate spiritual battles, resist worldly distractions, and stay committed to the mission Christ has set before them. This involves a deep level of commitment to living out one's faith, prioritizing God's commands, and actively engaging in the spiritual warfare that battles for souls and truth.

Being a true soldier of Christ means understanding the gravity of our calling and the sacrifices it may entail. It requires believers to endure hardships with grace, knowing that their struggles are not in vain but are part of a larger battle against spiritual forces. This endurance is fueled by hope in Christ and the eternal rewards that await. Paul encourages Timothy—and by extension, all believers—to be resilient and steadfast, traits that define the character of a true soldier. This dedication is not passive; it is an active and daily decision to live according to God's will, resisting the temptations that lead us away from our duties.

In practical terms, living as a true soldier involves daily prayer, diligent study of the Bible, and active participation in the community of faith. It means being disciplined in one's spiritual life and ready to share the gospel at every opportunity. Believers are called to show the same commitment in their spiritual lives as soldiers do in the military—constant readiness, unwavering focus, and a commitment to the mission.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, strengthen us to be true soldiers for Christ. Grant us the courage to endure hardships and the focus to avoid the distractions of this world. Help us to always aim to please You, armed with Your Word and empowered by Your Spirit. We ask for Your guidance in every battle we face, trusting that You lead us to victory in Jesus' name, Amen.

2. Pray for effective ministry programs and activities at each branch, that they may meet the needs of their local communities and foster spiritual growth.

QUOTE: *"The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him."* – **G.K. Chesterton**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 37-38; Matthew 23:23-39

G. P. A. Hymn 386 – Onward Christian soldiers

Thursday, 6th February 2025

OPEN DOORS

Text(s): Revelation 3:7-11

Key Verse: *"I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name."* – **Revelation 3:8**

The concept of "Open Doors" is richly metaphorical in scripture, symbolizing new opportunities and pathways that God lays out for us. An open door invites us to step through into new experiences, offering a chance for growth and transformation that aligns with God's divine plan. In Revelation 3:8, the Lord acknowledges the faithful works of His people and rewards them with an open door—a pathway that leads to greater divine mysteries and opportunities, underlining the promise that when God opens a door, no earthly power can close it. This reassurance is crucial for us as believers, especially when we face uncertainties or when our own strength seems insufficient.

Reflecting on Open Doors: Opportunity Amidst Trials: Often, the doors God opens aren't free from challenges. However, they are gateways to spiritual growth and deeper reliance on Him. **Divine Preparation:** Each door we encounter is not random but a part of God's tailored plan for our lives, preparing us for future tasks and greater glory in His service. **Active Participation Required:** While God opens doors, stepping through them requires action from us—faith, courage, and readiness to move forward in trust and obedience.

As we consider the open doors in our lives, we should view them as divine invitations. These are opportunities to demonstrate faith, expand our horizons, and participate more fully in God's kingdom work. They require us to leave behind comfort and familiarity, stepping into something new and, at times, completely unknown.

How to Respond to Open Doors: Prayerfully: Seek God's guidance and wisdom to discern which doors He has opened for you. **Boldly:** Move forward with the confidence that God is with you, even in new ventures or challenging paths. **Thankfully:** Embrace each open door as a gift and a testament to God's faithfulness and provision.

In life's journey, there are many doors, but the ones that matter are those opened by God. They lead to paths of blessing, growth, and effective service in His kingdom.

PRAYER(S):

1. Dear Lord, thank You for every door You open in our lives. Grant us the discernment to recognize them and the strength to walk through them, trusting in Your lead in Jesus' name.
2. Pray that leaders are encouraged and strengthened in their roles, finding renewal and support from their congregation and fellow leaders.

QUOTE: *"When God leads you to the edge of the cliff, trust Him fully and let go, only 1 of 2 things will happen, either He'll catch you when you fall, or He will teach you how to fly!"* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Exodus 39-40; Matthew 24:1-22

G. P. A. Hymn 506 – Have Thine own way Lord

Friday, 7th February 2025

CONTENTMENT

Text(s): Philippians 4:11-13

Key Verse: *"I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content."* – **Philippians 4:11**

Contentment is a profoundly spiritual state that the Apostle Paul speaks about in his letter to the Philippians. It is not about complacency or mere resignation, but a deep-seated peace and satisfaction that comes from trusting God fully regardless of external circumstances.

In Philippians 4:11-13, Paul reveals that contentment isn't something naturally occurring; it is learned through experiences and a relationship with Christ. This kind of peace doesn't depend on material conditions—be it abundance or need—but on a steady faith in God's provision and timing.

Cultivating Contentment: *Through Prayer:* Regular communication with God through prayer helps us align our desires with His will, increasing our contentment. *Through Scripture:* Immersing ourselves in God's Word renews our mind, reminding us of God's promises and faithfulness. *Through Community:* Sharing life with fellow believers can encourage contentment, as we support and remind each other of God's past faithfulness and present sufficiency.

As we reflect on contentment, we are reminded that it is not merely about settling for less but about finding richness in whatever God provides. It's about seeing the abundance of the spiritual over the scarcity of the material.

In embracing contentment, we free ourselves from the endless cycle of desire and disappointment and open our hearts to true joy and peace in Christ.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, teach us to find contentment in every circumstance through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to recognize and cherish the abundance we have in You, regardless of our material state. May our hearts always align with Your divine will, finding satisfaction in Your eternal love and provision in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for boldness and creativity in evangelistic efforts, that GPA members and leaders may effectively share the gospel and bring more souls into the church.

QUOTE: *"Contentment makes poor men rich; discontentment makes rich men poor."* – **Benjamin Franklin**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Leviticus 1-3; Matthew 24:23-51

G. P. A. Hymn 501 – Jesus, I will trust thee, trust Thee with my soul

Saturday, 8th February 2025

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Text(s): 2 Peter 3:18

Key Verse: *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.” – 2 Peter 3:18*

Spiritual growth is a fundamental aspect of the Christian life, emphasizing continuous development in our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It involves increasing in our understanding and application of scripture, deepening our prayer life, and strengthening our faith and obedience.

In 2 Peter 3:18, the apostle Peter encourages believers to actively grow in grace and knowledge. This growth isn't just about acquiring information but transforming that knowledge into deeper faith and more profound love for God and others.

Key Components of Spiritual Growth: ***Knowledge of God:*** This involves learning more about God's character and His ways through regular study of the Bible. ***Practical Application:*** Applying God's Word to daily life challenges us to live out our faith in real and tangible ways. ***Relational Depth:*** As we grow spiritually, our relationships with other believers and with God should deepen, reflecting Christ's love more clearly.

Promoting Spiritual Growth: ***Consistent Bible Study:*** Regular engagement with the Bible is crucial for understanding God's Word and its application to our lives. ***Prayer:*** Communication with God helps us align our will with His and strengthens our dependence on Him. ***Fellowship:*** Engaging with a community of believers provides encouragement, accountability, and support.

As believers, our journey of spiritual growth is ongoing. Each day offers new opportunities to learn from God's Word, apply it to our lives, and help others on their faith journeys. Embracing spiritual growth leads to a richer, more fulfilling Christian life and equips us to face life's challenges with faith and grace.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord God, we thank You for the gift of Your Word and the presence of Your Spirit that guides us in our journey of spiritual growth. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus, Amen.
2. Pray for opportunities and strategies for the church to engage meaningfully with the broader community, addressing social and spiritual needs.

QUOTE: *“Spiritual growth is not a matter of becoming who we are not but of recognizing and living out who we already are in Christ.” – Unknown*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Leviticus 4-6; Matthew 25:1-30

G. P. A. Hymn (MELODIES 07) – Fill all my vision

Sunday, 9th February 2025

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

Text(s): 1 Timothy 4:7-8

Key Verse: *“Train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” – 1 Timothy 4:8*

Spiritual discipline is essential for any believer seeking to live a life that is pleasing to God. It involves practices and habits that help develop a stronger and more vibrant relationship with Christ. Paul emphasizes the importance of training ourselves in godliness, comparing spiritual discipline to physical exercise to highlight its greater value for our spiritual well-being and eternal destiny.

In 1 Timothy 4:7-8, spiritual discipline is portrayed not just as beneficial but crucial. It ensures our spiritual fitness and prepares us to live out our faith effectively and authentically.

Elements of Spiritual Discipline:

Prayer: A disciplined prayer life increases our communication with God and enhances our reliance on Him.

Fasting: Through fasting, we express our dependence on God by temporarily giving up earthly sustenance.

Study of the Word: Regularly engaging with the Bible equips us with divine wisdom and strengthens our faith.

How to Implement Spiritual Discipline:

Consciously: Make a deliberate choice to incorporate spiritual disciplines into your daily life. **Consistently:** Persistence is key in developing any discipline; stick with your spiritual routines even when it's challenging.

Prayerfully: Always seek God's guidance in what disciplines to adopt and how to maintain them.

Embracing spiritual discipline is transformative. It reshapes our hearts, renews our minds, and refines our actions to be more in line with God's desires for us.

PRAYER(S):

1. Dear Heavenly Father, empower us to pursue spiritual discipline with a fervent spirit and a willing heart. Help us to understand the depth of commitment required to live a godly life. We ask for the perseverance to continue in these disciplines, knowing they bring us closer to You and prepare us for eternal life in Jesus' name, Amen.

2. Pray that the Finance Department operates with wisdom and integrity, managing resources in a way that supports the church's mission and meets its financial needs.

QUOTE: *“Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment.” – Jim Rohn*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Leviticus 7-9; Matthew 25:31-46

G. P. A. Hymn 458 – Gentle Jesus meek and mild

Monday, 10th February 2025

OVERCOMING THE FLESH

Text(s): Galatians 5:16-17

Key Verse: *“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”* – Galatians 5:16

Overcoming the flesh is a central theme in the Christian journey towards spiritual maturity. The 'flesh' typically represents our sinful nature which conflicts with our desire to live according to the Spirit. In Galatians 5, Paul instructs believers to live by the Spirit to avoid succumbing to the desires that lead us away from God's will.

This struggle between the flesh and the Spirit is an ongoing battle for every Christian, but it is one that can be won through the power of the Holy Spirit and the practice of spiritual disciplines.

Understanding the Flesh: *Nature of the Flesh:* The flesh refers to our human desires that contradict God's laws, including impulses like anger, jealousy, and pride. *Conflict with the Spirit:* Living according to the flesh impedes our spiritual growth and relationship with God. *Need for Vigilance:* Constant vigilance and spiritual awareness are necessary to recognize and resist fleshly temptations.

Strategies for Overcoming the Flesh: *Spiritual Disciplines:* Engage in regular prayer, fasting, and Bible study to strengthen your spirit. *Mindful Living:* Be conscious of your thoughts and actions, aligning them with biblical teachings. *Community Support:* Rely on the encouragement and accountability of a Christian community to stay committed to spiritual growth.

Embracing a life led by the Spirit involves daily decisions to deny the flesh and its desires. It's about choosing long-term spiritual health over short-term gratifications. Overcoming the flesh is not about achieving perfection but striving towards spiritual consistency and relying on God's grace and power to transform our lives.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, we come before You acknowledging our struggles with the flesh. We ask for Your strength and wisdom to walk by the Spirit each day. Help us to recognize the manifestations of the flesh and to choose Your way instead. We thank You for the victory over the flesh that You provide through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Teach us to live in this freedom daily. Amen.
2. Pray for an increased sense of unity and purpose among all GPA members and leaders, that the church may function as one body with Christ as the head.

QUOTE: *“The flesh can be subdued but never destroyed. It's about daily overcoming, with God's help.”* – Unknown

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Leviticus 10-12; Matthew 26:1-19

G. P. A. Hymn 395 – Ho! My comrades, see the signal

Tuesday, 11th February 2025

SOWING TO THE SPIRIT

Text(s): Galatians 6:8-10

Key Verse: *"For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."* – **Galatians 6:8**

"Sowing to the Spirit" is a principle that underscores the importance of investing in our spiritual lives. It draws a vivid contrast between living for temporary, worldly gratifications and committing to actions that foster spiritual vitality and eternal rewards. In Galatians 6:8, Paul teaches that the outcomes of our lives are directly influenced by where we choose to invest our energy and resources.

This metaphor of sowing and reaping is powerful, reminding us that every choice and action can cultivate either corruption from the flesh or eternal life through the Spirit.

Exploring the Concept of Sowing to the Spirit: ***Investing in Spiritual Activities:*** Engaging in prayer, worship, and the study of Scripture nourishes our souls and builds our relationship with God. ***Manifesting the Fruit of the Spirit:*** Living out love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. ***Service and Generosity:*** Serving others and giving generously are acts of sowing to the Spirit, contributing to the kingdom of God and aligning our hearts with His.

How to Sow to the Spirit: ***Daily Choices:*** Make conscious decisions to engage in spiritual practices that enhance your connection with God. ***Holistic Living:*** Integrate your faith into every aspect of your life, ensuring that your actions consistently reflect your spiritual values. ***Community Involvement:*** Connect with and contribute to a faith community, which helps nurture your spiritual growth and holds you accountable.

Sowing to the Spirit is not merely about avoiding sin but about actively pursuing a life led by the Holy Spirit. It's about making long-term investments in our spiritual well-being that yield not only personal peace and fulfillment but also eternal life.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, guide us to sow to the Spirit in all that we do. We look forward to the eternal life promised to us as we live according to Your Spirit in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Counseling Department: Pray for the wisdom and compassion of counselors, that they may provide effective support and guidance to individuals in need.

QUOTE: *"What you sow now, you will reap later. Sow to the Spirit and reap blessings both now and in eternity."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Leviticus 13; Matthew 26:20-54

G. P. A. Hymn 511 – Sowing in the morning

Wednesday, 12th February 2025

THE SHEEP OF HIS PASTURE

Text(s): Psalm 100:3; 24:1-6

Key Verse: *"Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture."* – **Psalm 100:3**

"The Sheep of His Pasture" reflects a deeply comforting image of God's care and leadership over His people. This metaphor, often used in Scripture, illustrates the relationship between God and His followers as that of a shepherd to his sheep. Just as a shepherd guides, protects, and nurtures his flock, so too does God look after His people, providing for their needs, guiding them through life's challenges, and offering unconditional love and security. This analogy helps believers understand their dependence on God's wisdom and strength, encouraging them to trust in His guidance and provision fully.

As the sheep of His pasture, believers are called to recognize God's sovereignty and care. This recognition involves more than just intellectual assent; it requires a heartfelt acknowledgment of God's authority and a daily reliance on His direction and provision. The relationship depicted here is one of intimacy and mutual knowledge. Just as a shepherd knows his sheep by name and his sheep recognize his voice, so too are Christians known by God and called to know and listen to His voice through prayer, Scripture, and the Holy Spirit's prompting.

In practical terms, embracing our identity as the sheep of His pasture involves cultivating a lifestyle of obedience and trust. It means making daily decisions that align with God's Word, staying connected to the community of believers, and actively seeking God's presence in our lives. As we live out this identity, we demonstrate the peace and confidence that come from being cared for by the Good Shepherd, and we become witnesses to His kindness and leadership to the world around us.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, thank You for being our Shepherd and for calling us the sheep of Your pasture. Help us to fully embrace this identity, relying on You for guidance, protection, and sustenance. Guide us in paths of righteousness for Your name's sake, and keep us close to Your side in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for the effective implementation of programs and initiatives designed to meet the specific needs of each branch's local community.

QUOTE: *"The Lord is our shepherd, and we are the comforted sheep of His pasture; led by His hand, we have nothing to fear."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Leviticus 14; Matthew 26:55-75

G. P. A. Hymn 149 – When we walk with the Lord

Thursday, 13th February 2025

EXCELLING IN TOUGH TIMES

Text(s): James 1:2-4

Key Verse: *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” – James 1:2-3*

Excelling in tough times is a concept deeply rooted in Christian faith. It challenges us to not only endure difficulties but to thrive and grow stronger through them. The Apostle James encourages believers to view trials as opportunities for spiritual growth and strengthening of faith.

In these verses from James, the call to consider trials as a source of joy may seem counterintuitive, but it underscores a profound truth about the Christian journey: adversities are not just obstacles; they are instruments for refining our faith, enhancing our perseverance, and cultivating our character.

Understanding the Value of Trials: ***Faith Testing:*** Trials test the strength and sincerity of our faith, revealing areas that need fortification. ***Perseverance Building:*** Enduring hardships develops steadfastness, an essential trait for spiritual maturity. ***Character Development:*** Challenges transform us, shaping us into more compassionate, resilient, and understanding individuals.

How to Thrive Amid Adversity: ***Embrace Learning:*** Identify lessons in every trial, using them as stepping stones to greater wisdom and understanding. ***Practice Gratitude:*** Cultivate a heart of gratitude, focusing on blessings and God’s ongoing provision. ***Contribute Positively:*** Use your experiences to help others who might be struggling, providing support, and sharing insights gained from your own trials.

By adopting these practices, believers can not only survive but excel during tough times, demonstrating the transformative power of a life anchored in Christ.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, in our most challenging moments, remind us of Your presence and promise. Help us to see every difficulty as an opportunity to grow in faith, perseverance, and character. We pray for the grace to excel in every circumstance, glorifying You in all things. Amen.

2. Pray for the development of strategic plans and initiatives that strengthen the connection between the Zonal Headquarters and individual branches.

QUOTE: *“Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.” – C.S. Lewis*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Leviticus 15-17; Matthew 27:1-31

G. P. A. Hymn 139 – As I journey thro’ the land, singing as I go

Friday, 14th February 2025

LOVE

Text(s): 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Key Verse: *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.” – 1 Corinthians 13:4*

Love is the foundational principle of Christian life and conduct, described comprehensively and compellingly in 1 Corinthians 13. Here, Paul delineates the attributes of true love, emphasizing its selflessness, patience, and endurance. This kind of love is agape, a self-giving love that seeks the best for others regardless of the cost to oneself. It is this love that underpins all Christian virtues and is the highest standard to which believers are called. As the essence of God’s nature, love is not merely an emotion but an action—it actively works for good, forgives without limit, and serves without seeking return.

To live out this call to love, believers must continually look to Jesus as the perfect example of love in action. His life and ministry were the ultimate expressions of love—serving, teaching, healing, and ultimately sacrificing Himself for the salvation of mankind. Emulating this love means extending grace to others, bearing with one another in kindness, and actively seeking ways to bless and support those around us. This requires humility, forgiveness, and a profound commitment to seeing others through the lens of compassion and grace.

Moreover, the practice of love as described in 1 Corinthians 13 acts as a powerful witness to the world. It transcends cultural, economic, and social barriers, offering a glimpse of divine love that can transform hearts and renew minds. By loving as God loves, believers demonstrate the reality of the Gospel in a tangible and impactful way, drawing others to Christ through the compelling witness of their lives.

Embodying this divine love involves daily decisions to put others' needs before our own, to forgive freely and frequently, and to engage in acts of kindness and generosity. It means cultivating a spirit of love through prayer and Scripture study, allowing God’s Word to shape and guide our interactions. Believers are encouraged to ask themselves regularly how they might show love in each situation, making love not just an ideal to aspire to, but the guiding principle of their lives.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, infuse our hearts with Your love, that we may love as You have loved us. Help us to be patient, kind, and selfless, reflecting the character of Christ in all that we do. May our lives be a testament to the transformative power of Your love, drawing others into Your welcoming arms in Jesus’ name, Amen.
2. Pray for discernment and clarity for church leaders as they navigate complex decisions, ensuring their actions align with God’s purpose for the church.

QUOTE: *“To love another person is to see the face of God.” – Victor Hugo*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Leviticus 18-19; Matthew 27:32-66

G. P. A. Hymn 412 – Love with everlasting love

Saturday, 15th February 2025

EL ROI: THE GOD WHO SEES ME

Text(s): Genesis 16:7-13

Key Verse: *"She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: 'You are the God who sees me,' for she said, 'I have now seen the One who sees me.'"* – **Genesis 16:13**

El Roi, meaning "The God Who Sees Me," is a profound name for God revealed in the context of Hagar's distress. As a servant of Sarah, Hagar encountered great hardship and mistreatment, leading her to flee. In her moment of greatest desperation, God met Hagar by a spring in the desert. His appearance and words brought comfort and direction, affirming His awareness of her suffering and His care for her circumstances.

This encounter highlights God's character as El Roi, showing that He is not distant or detached but intimately aware of and involved in the struggles of His people.

Understanding El Roi: God's Omnipresence: God is everywhere and sees everything—nothing escapes His notice. **God's Compassion:** He cares deeply about our afflictions and steps into our lives with comfort and help. **God's Provision:** He provides guidance and makes promises based on His knowledge of our past, present, and future needs.

Reflecting on El Roi's Presence: In Prayer: Approach God with the confidence that He sees you and knows your needs even before you speak. **In Trials:** Remember that you are never hidden from God's sight, no matter how isolated you feel. **In Service:** Serve others with the knowledge that God sees your actions and intentions, and He values them.

How to Live in the Light of El Roi: Trust Fully: Knowing God sees us helps us trust Him more fully with every part of our lives. **Walk Confidently:** We can move forward in life with confidence, knowing that God is aware of our paths and is guiding our steps. **Share Compassionately:** Reflect God's compassionate nature by being attentive to the struggles of others, offering help and understanding.

Embracing the truth that God is El Roi empowers believers to live with greater faith, security, and commitment to follow His lead.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord El Roi, thank You for being the God Who Sees. We are comforted to know that no part of our lives is hidden from Your compassionate gaze. Let us extend the same awareness and compassion to those around us, reflecting Your love and mercy. We are grateful that You are with us in every moment in Jesus' name, Amen.

2. Pray against any divisive forces or conflicts within the congregation, asking for peace and harmony in all interactions and relationships.

QUOTE: *"No matter where we go, we live beneath the gaze of God, the God who sees."* – **A.W. Tozer**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Leviticus 20-21; Matthew 28

G. P. A. Hymn 289 – There's an eyes that never sleep

Sunday, 16th February 2025

DIVINE PROSPERITY

Text(s): 3 John 1:2

Key Verse: *“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.”*
– 3 John 1:2

Divine prosperity is a concept that encompasses more than just financial wealth; it represents a holistic flourishing that God desires for His people—spiritually, physically, emotionally, and materially. In the writings of John, he expresses a prayer that his readers may prosper in all things and be in health, just as their soul prospers. This reflects the biblical understanding that God’s blessing affects every aspect of a believer’s life.

Divine prosperity is rooted in the goodness and faithfulness of God, who provides for His children according to His riches and perfect will.

Cultivating Divine Prosperity: ***Live Righteously:*** Scripture often links godly living with prosperity, suggesting that our lifestyle choices can influence God’s blessings. ***Stewardship:*** Manage resources wisely and generously. Prosperity is not for hoarding, but for sharing and investing in kingdom purposes. ***Seek God’s Kingdom First:*** Align your pursuits with God’s priorities, trusting that He will provide what is needed (Matthew 6:33).

Embracing divine prosperity means seeking a balanced, God-centered life where all aspects are in harmony and directed towards God’s purposes.

How to Walk in Divine Prosperity: ***Faithful Obedience:*** Follow God’s commandments and teachings, believing that His ways lead to the fullest life. ***Prayer and Thanksgiving:*** Regularly communicate with God, expressing gratitude for His provision and seeking His guidance for further blessings. ***Help Others Prosper:*** Be a conduit of God’s blessings to others by supporting and encouraging their holistic growth and well-being.

This comprehensive approach to prosperity ensures that it is not only enjoyed but also shared, multiplying the blessings within the community of believers.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your desire to see us prosper in every aspect of our lives. Bless us, Lord, so that we may be a blessing to others, and let our prosperity glorify Your name in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for the effective use of technology and media to enhance worship services, outreach efforts, and communication within the church.

QUOTE: *“Divine prosperity is not the fulfillment of every earthly desire but a testament to God’s abundant provision and care.”* – Unknown

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Leviticus 22-23; Mark 1:1-22

G. P. A. Hymn 281 – Command Thy blessing from above

Monday, 17th February 2025

HELPING THE NEEDY

Text(s): Proverbs 19:17

Key Verse: *“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” – Proverbs 19:17*

Helping the needy is a core principle embedded within the Christian faith. It reflects the compassion and love of God towards all His creation, especially those who are vulnerable or less fortunate. The Bible is replete with commands and exhortations to support the poor, the oppressed, and those in need, emphasizing that such acts of kindness are not only beneficial to the recipients but are also seen as service to God Himself.

In Proverbs 19:17, the wisdom literature makes a profound connection between generosity to the poor and serving the Lord, suggesting that God Himself takes on the debt of gratitude for acts of charity done in His name.

Understanding the Importance of Helping the Needy: *Reflecting God's Character:* God is described as a defender of the widows and father to the fatherless. By aiding the needy, we mirror His compassion and justice. ***Building Community:*** Support for the needy strengthens the entire community, reducing suffering and enhancing mutual respect and empathy.

Ways to Help the Needy: *Direct Assistance:* Provide food, clothing, shelter, or financial help directly to those in need. ***Advocacy:*** Speak up for the rights of the underprivileged and work towards systemic changes that address the root causes of poverty and injustice. ***Volunteering:*** Dedicate your time and skills to organizations that serve the needy.

Helping the needy should be a natural expression of a believer's faith, manifesting God's love through concrete actions.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, open our eyes to the needs around us and stir our hearts to act with compassion and generosity. Empower us to be effective helpers, using our blessings to bless others, and our voices to advocate for justice and mercy. May our actions reflect Your love and contribute to a world where no one is left in need in Jesus' name, Amen.

2. Pray for deepening spiritual insight and fervency among those involved in prayer and intercession, that their prayers may be powerful and effective.

QUOTE: *“Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person.” – Unknown*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Leviticus 24-25; Mark 1:23-45

G. P. A. Hymn 212 – God is here to bless us

Tuesday, 18th February 2025

BUILDING LASTING FOUNDATIONS

Text(s): Matthew 7:24-27

Key Verse: *“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.” – Matthew 7:24*

Building lasting foundations in our lives is a crucial metaphor that Jesus uses to emphasize the importance of basing our actions and decisions on sound principles. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus concludes with a powerful illustration of two builders: one who built on rock and the other on sand. This story highlights the necessity of establishing our lives on the enduring truth of God’s Word, which provides stability and security against life’s uncertainties.

Understanding Lasting Foundations: ***Spiritual Foundation:*** Rooting our lives in prayer, scripture, and a personal relationship with Christ. ***Relational Foundation:*** Building relationships on trust, respect, and love, which reflect Christ’s teachings. ***Ethical Foundation:*** Upholding integrity, honesty, and righteousness in all our dealings.

Principles for Building Lasting Foundations: ***Consistent Bible Study:*** Regular engagement with the Bible solidifies our understanding and application of God's truths. ***Obedience to God's Commands:*** Living in obedience to God’s Word ensures that our actions are aligned with divine wisdom. ***Community Engagement:*** Participating in a faith-based community provides support, accountability, and shared growth.

Building on a firm foundation means that when challenges arise, our lives will not collapse because they are anchored securely in practices and beliefs that endure.

How to Build Foundations That Last: ***Prioritize Your Spiritual Life:*** Make your relationship with God the cornerstone of your life. ***Practice What You Preach:*** Ensure your actions consistently reflect your beliefs. ***Invest in Relationships:*** Dedicate time and effort to cultivating healthy and supportive relationships.

Adopting these practices ensures that our lives are not only stable and secure but also capable of supporting others in their times of need.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, guide us in building our lives on the foundation of Your Word. May our lives be a testament to the solid foundation You provide in Jesus’ name, Amen.
2. Pray for the protection, growth, and spiritual development of children and youth involved in church programs, that they may build a strong foundation in their faith.

QUOTE: *“The strength of a building is not determined by its appearance but by the foundation on which it is built.” – Unknown*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Leviticus 26-27; Mark 2

G. P. A. Hymn 323 – They that trust in the Lord are secure
Wednesday, 19th February 2025

BELIEVERS' AUTHORITY

Text(s): Luke 10:19

Key Verse: *"Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you."* – **Luke 10:19**

Believers' Authority highlights the profound spiritual authority that Jesus Christ bestows upon His followers. This divine empowerment is a critical aspect of the Christian life, enabling believers to confront and overcome spiritual adversities. It ensures victory over the forces of darkness and facilitates the advancement of God's kingdom on earth. As promised by Jesus, this authority equips believers to face formidable challenges with the assurance of God's backing, transforming their spiritual encounters and everyday experiences.

The exercise of this authority necessitates a deep trust in the promises of Scripture and a life that aligns with God's commandments. Believers are called to engage in spiritual warfare, deploying prayer and fasting as potent tools to enhance their spiritual resilience. This authority is not just for confronting evil but also for empowering believers to proclaim the Gospel boldly. It instills a sense of duty to stand firm against any opposition, supported by the unshakeable power of God's presence.

Moreover, believers' authority enables individuals to pray with assurance, knowing that their prayers have the power to effect change in accordance with God's will. This confidence is rooted in a clear understanding of the authority vested in them by Christ. It is this authority that transforms prayers from mere words into declarations that enact God's purposes on earth and in the spiritual realms.

Walking in this authority means making daily decisions that reflect a belief in God's ultimate power and control. Believers are to use their authority to bring about positive change, advocating for God's truth and justice in all areas of life. As they do so, they manifest the kingdom of God in tangible ways, shining as lights in a world that often walks in darkness.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord Jesus, thank You for the authority You have bestowed upon us, which enables us to tread over the powers of the enemy. Help us to rely on Your strength and to act boldly in every situation, confident that You are with us in Your mighty name, Amen.

2. Pray for the success and impact of special church events and programs, that they may effectively meet their intended goals and bless participants.

QUOTE: *"Authority in the kingdom of God is not a tool for personal gain but a gift to bring about His purpose on earth."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 1-2; Mark 3:1-21

G. P. A. Hymn 46 – For the name of God Most High

Thursday, 20th February 2025

HEALING STREAMS

Text(s): Jeremiah 17:14

Key Verse: *"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise."* – **Jeremiah 17:14**

Healing Streams symbolizes the profound spiritual and physical restoration that flows from God to His people. This metaphor captures the continuous and abundant provision of healing that God offers, reminiscent of a stream that never runs dry. In scripture, healing is often portrayed not just as a singular act but as a divine process that sustains and rejuvenates the soul, body, and spirit. Jeremiah's plea for healing reflects a deep trust in God's ability to restore and a recognition of Him as the ultimate source of salvation and praise.

The concept of healing streams invites believers to immerse themselves in God's presence where true healing originates. It underscores the importance of staying connected to the divine source, much like branches to a vine, drawing life and health from God's endless supply. This healing is comprehensive, addressing emotional wounds, physical illnesses, and spiritual brokenness. By turning to the healing streams of God, believers find not only cure but also comfort and renewal, reinforcing their faith and dependence on God's merciful nature. Moreover, engaging with these healing streams involves active participation—through prayer, worship, and the reading of God's Word. These practices open the channels through which God's healing can flow more freely into our lives. They allow believers to tap into the powerful currents of grace that heal and transform, fostering a deeper experience of God's restorative power in their daily lives.

Walking in the reality of God's healing streams means advocating for and practicing a lifestyle of spiritual and physical wellness that aligns with biblical principles. It involves sharing the testimony of God's healing power with others, providing hope and encouraging faith. As believers experience and testify of this divine healing, they become conduits of God's grace, spreading His healing streams to communities and individuals in need.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, we come to You as the source of all healing and restoration. May we be vessels of Your healing grace, bringing Your restoration to others and glorifying Your name in all that we do in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for the Counseling Department to be equipped with empathy, insight, and the ability to offer wise and compassionate support to those seeking help.

QUOTE: *"The river of God is full of water; it flows from His throne and brings healing wherever it goes."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 3-4; Mark 3:22-35

G. P. A. Hymn 167 – I have been to the fountain of cleansing

Friday, 21st February 2025

MAXIMIZING SEASONS

Text(s): Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

Key Verse: *"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."* – Ecclesiastes 3:1

Maximizing Seasons involves recognizing and leveraging the different phases of life and opportunities God provides, as articulated in Ecclesiastes. This wisdom literature profoundly acknowledges that life comprises various seasons, each with its own purpose and opportunities. Understanding that God orchestrates these seasons can inspire believers to live purposefully and respond appropriately to whatever circumstances they face. Whether it's a season of growth or challenge, each phase offers unique chances for personal development and spiritual deepening.

Believers are encouraged to discern the characteristics of each season and align their actions with God's timing. This might mean embracing periods of learning and preparation during quieter times or stepping boldly into roles of leadership and influence when opportunities arise. Maximizing a season requires prayerful reflection to understand what God may be doing in and through one's life at that time. It also involves asking for wisdom to know when to act and when to wait, recognizing that both are equally important in God's plan.

Furthermore, making the most of each season means being proactive and intentional. For example, a season of hardship can be maximized by seeking deeper reliance on God, cultivating resilience, and learning to trust in His sovereignty. Conversely, a season of abundance should be seen as a time to give generously, serve others, and invest in the kingdom of God. By staying attuned to the Holy Spirit, believers can navigate each season effectively, using their time, talents, and resources in ways that honor God and advance His purposes.

Maximizing seasons involves staying engaged with the community of faith, where mutual support and encouragement can help individuals identify and seize God-godly opportunities. It also means maintaining a posture of learning and humility, always ready to grow and adapt as the Spirit leads. As believers commit to making the most of each season, they witness God's faithfulness in every circumstance and demonstrate a dynamic, responsive faith that draws others to Christ.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, grant us the wisdom to recognize the seasons of life You have set before us. May our lives reflect Your timing and wisdom as we navigate each phase and help us to support one another in doing so in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for members to have a growing hunger for God's Word and a commitment to daily Bible study and prayer.

QUOTE: *"Life's seasons are God's perfect mechanism for teaching us, growing us, and giving us more of Himself—receive them with a thankful heart."* – Unknown

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 5-6; Mark 4:1-20

G. P. A. Hymn 111 – Mine time are in Thy hand

Saturday, 22nd February 2025

THE KAIROS MOMENT

Text(s): Ephesians 5:16

Key Verse: *"Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."* – Ephesians 5:16

The Kairos Moment refers to a divinely appointed time when God opens doors of opportunity for His purposes to be fulfilled. Unlike chronos, or chronological time, kairos is about significant, God-ordained moments that require our immediate and full response. It is about recognizing these divine appointments and seizing them with faith and courage. In Ephesians 5:16, Paul urges believers to make the most of every opportunity, emphasizing the importance of living wisely and redeeming the time given the fleeting and often challenging nature of our days.

Understanding and recognizing a kairos moment involves a deep sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's guidance. It requires believers to be vigilant, prayerful, and ready to act when God signals a shift or a significant opportunity for growth, ministry, or intervention. These moments often come unexpectedly and may require a leap of faith or a departure from our planned routines. They challenge us to trust God's timing and purposes, knowing that such times are ripe for significant impact in our lives and the lives of others.

Moreover, seizing a kairos moment means putting aside hesitation and doubt, embracing the uncertainty that comes with God's call. It may involve stepping out in faith to start a new ministry, change careers, or initiate reconciliation with someone. Whatever the case, kairos moments are not just about making decisions but about making decisions that align with God's will and advance His kingdom. These are opportunities crafted by God to propel us and others toward our divine destinies.

Living in readiness for the kairos moment means cultivating a lifestyle of attentiveness and obedience. It requires regular engagement with Scripture, persistent prayer, and an active participation in community life where fellow believers can offer discernment and confirmation. By fostering these spiritual disciplines, believers can prepare themselves to respond promptly and effectively when kairos moments arise, ensuring that they do not miss God's perfect timing for action.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, help us to discern Your kairos moments in our lives. Grant us the wisdom to recognize these divine opportunities and the courage to seize them wholeheartedly. May we be sensitive to Your Spirit, ready to act on Your command, and bold in our steps of faith in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Media and Communications Department: Pray for clear, effective communication of the church's message through all media channels, and for creative strategies to reach a wider audience.

QUOTE: *"Kairos is that undetermined moment in time which, if responded to, if seized, changes the course of our lives forever."* – Unknown

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 7; Mark 4:21-41

G. P. A. Hymn 111 – Mine time are in Thy hand

Sunday, 23rd February 2025

MARANATHA

Text(s): 1 Corinthians 16:22

Key Verse: *"If anyone does not love the Lord, let that person be cursed! Come, Lord Jesus!" – 1 Corinthians 16:22*

Maranatha is an Aramaic expression that means "Our Lord, come!" or "Come, Lord Jesus!" It reflects the early Christian community's deep longing for Christ's return. Used by Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians, this phrase encapsulates the hope and anticipation that characterized the early believers' faith. They lived with a keen awareness of Christ's imminent return and a fervent hope that they would soon see Him face to face. This expression of early Christian eschatology underscores a crucial aspect of Christian doctrine—the Second Coming of Christ—and invites believers to maintain a posture of readiness and eager expectation.

The invocation of Maranatha reminds believers to live each day with eternity in mind. It calls for a life that is not entangled with the temporary pleasures or trials of the world but is instead focused on the eternal kingdom that Christ promised to bring. Embracing "Maranatha" as a spiritual posture means cultivating a lifestyle that reflects the values of this coming kingdom, characterized by righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. It also implies a commitment to personal holiness and active participation in God's mission on earth, as living in anticipation of Christ's return inspires a purpose-driven life.

Furthermore, the cry "Maranatha" is a prayer for intervention. It expresses a desire for God to act in the present—bringing justice, healing, and peace. It is a recognition that the world is in desperate need of Christ's righteous reign and a prayer that God would hasten His coming. This anticipation builds a bridge between our present experiences and our hope for the future, encouraging believers to persevere through difficulties with the assurance that Christ will indeed return to restore all things and make them new.

Integrating "Maranatha" into our daily lives encourages vigilance in spiritual disciplines, zeal in service, and a compassionate heart towards others. It means being lights in the darkness, actively spreading the Gospel, and demonstrating the reality of God's kingdom here and now. By saying "Maranatha," believers declare their heartfelt longing for Christ's return and their commitment to live by His teachings until He comes again.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, we echo the ancient cry of 'Maranatha!' in our hearts. Help us to live each day in expectation of Your return, devoted to Your service and to the spread of Your love. Amen.
2. Pray for the balance and health of Army of Christ as they juggle their responsibilities with personal and professional lives, asking for God's grace and strength.

QUOTE: *"Maranatha reminds us that we are not permanent residents of this world; we are waiting for our King to return and establish His eternal kingdom."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 8-10; Mark 5:1-20

G. P. A. Hymn 306 – Come, reveal Thyself O Lord

Monday, 24th February 2025

SPEND MY LIFE

Text(s): Ephesians 5:15-16

Key Verse: *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.* – **Ephesians 5:15-16**

This is a call to intentional living for every believer, directing every action, thought, and decision towards fulfilling God's purposes. Ephesians 5:15-16 admonishes us to be mindful of how we live, choosing wisdom over folly, and actively seeking to make the most of the opportunities God gives us. This scripture is a powerful reminder that our time on earth is limited and precious, urging us to live not just for transient goals but for eternal impact. By focusing on God's kingdom and His righteousness, believers are invited to spend their lives in a manner that honors God and advances His plan for humanity.

Living intentionally requires a clear understanding of God's vision for our lives, which is discovered through prayer, study of the Word, and fellowship with other believers. It involves setting priorities that align with God's values—love, justice, mercy, and humility—and actively resisting the distractions and temptations that can divert us from our divine mission. Spending one's life for God's purposes means making daily decisions that reflect His love and truth, whether in relationships, work, or service. Each choice is an opportunity to demonstrate faith, grow in character, and influence the world for the better.

Spending our lives wisely means developing a life plan that incorporates spiritual growth, service, and personal development. It involves regular self-assessment to ensure we are on track with our spiritual goals and commitments. Believers are encouraged to ask continuously: How can I best use my talents and time for God's glory? What legacy do I want to leave? How can my daily life reflect God's kingdom? By answering these questions and living out the answers, we fulfill our calling to spend our lives purposefully and meaningfully.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, help us to spend our lives wisely and purposefully in accordance with Your will. Give us the strength to resist the distractions of this world, focusing instead on what truly matters in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for innovative approaches and strategies from the Zonal Headquarters to address emerging needs and challenges within the branches.

QUOTE: *"To spend your life well is to use each day as an opportunity to express God's love and grace to the world."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 11-13; Mark 5:21-43

G. P. A. Hymn 421 – My life, my love, I give to Thee

Tuesday, 25th February 2025

CLEAVE NOT UNTO DUST

Text(s): Psalm 119:25

Key Verse: *"My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word."* – **Psalm 119:25**

Cleave Not Unto Dust speaks to the spiritual revival that believers seek when they find themselves burdened by earthly concerns or spiritual weariness. The psalmist's cry in Psalm 119:25 reflects a profound sense of desolation and a plea for God's life-giving intervention. In this context, "dust" symbolizes death, defeat, and despair—states of being that can envelop anyone who loses sight of God's promises and gets overwhelmed by the world's trials. This plea for quickening, or revival, is a recognition of our dependency on God's word to lift us from despair and reorient our focus towards the eternal and the holy.

The urge to cleave unto dust can be tempting, especially when faced with failure, loss, or confusion. Such moments can draw us towards pessimism or a fixation on what is fleeting and trivial. However, the call of the believer is to rise above—to seek sustenance and strength from the Word of God, which alone can renew and sustain our spirits. This involves a deliberate pivot away from despair and toward the promises of God, which affirm life, hope, and restoration. It's about choosing to anchor our lives not in the transient and corruptible but in what is everlasting and incorruptible.

Furthermore, to cleave not unto dust means actively resisting the gravitational pull of worldly values and temporary pleasures. It means cultivating a heart and mind focused on God's kingdom, letting His word permeate and transform our thoughts and actions. This transformation is not passive; it requires continual effort and vigilance, especially in maintaining spiritual disciplines like prayer, meditation on Scripture, and communal worship. These practices help fortify our souls against the encroaching dust of despair and guide us back to the path of life and light.

Living out the command to "cleave not unto dust" involves being conscious of where we invest our energy and affections. It calls for regular self-examination and repentance, turning away from anything that binds us to dust—be it sin, materialism, or earthly worries—and turning towards God with a renewed commitment to follow and glorify Him. Believers are encouraged to seek refreshment and renewal through engagement with God's Word, ensuring that their lives reflect His life-giving power and not the dust of the earth.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, we pray for Your quickening spirit to revive us when our souls cleave unto the dust. May we invest our lives in what is eternal and not be bound by what is destined to fade in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for strong leadership and active participation in each branch, that they may effectively carry out their mission and strengthen their local impact.

QUOTE: *"Let us not be bound by the temporal but be freed by the eternal, not to cleave unto dust but to cling to the promise of everlasting life."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 14-15; Mark 6:1-32

G. P. A. Hymn 159 – Revive Thy work oh Lord

Wednesday, 26th February 2025

ALPHA OMEGA

Text(s): Revelation 22:13

Key Verse: *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."* – **Revelation 22:13**

Alpha Omega represents one of the most profound titles of Christ, denoting His eternal nature and sovereign dominion over time and history. As the Alpha (the first letter of the Greek alphabet) and Omega (the last letter), Jesus embodies the entirety of existence, from creation to culmination. This title assures believers that Christ is not only a transient figure in human history but the originator and completer of our faith. He who has begun a good work in us will carry it to completion. By identifying Himself as Alpha and Omega, Jesus reassures us of His unchanging nature and His omnipresence throughout the ages.

This revelation has profound implications for how believers view their lives and the world around them. Understanding Jesus as Alpha and Omega means recognizing that no part of our lives is outside His influence and control. From the smallest details to the greatest challenges, He oversees and orchestrates all things for His purposes and the good of those who love Him. This knowledge should comfort those who feel uncertain about the future and strengthen those who feel weak, knowing that the Lord who holds eternity is the same Lord who holds their lives.

Recognizing Jesus as the Alpha and Omega should affect every aspect of our conduct and outlook. It means that we walk every day with the confidence that comes from knowing Christ has secured our past, present, and future. Believers are urged to cultivate a steady faith, rooted in the reality of Jesus' lordship over all things, and to respond to life's ups and downs with a steadfast heart, grounded in the truth of His Word. As we look to Jesus, the Alpha and Omega, we find the strength to face life with hope and the courage to act with conviction, regardless of the circumstances.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord Jesus, Alpha and Omega, we praise You for being the beginning and the end of all things. Help us to grasp the breadth of Your power and the depth of Your love for us. Let us rely fully on You, from start to finish, in every season of our lives in Your holy name, Amen.
2. Pray for generous giving and financial stewardship within GPA, that resources may be plentiful and used effectively for God's work.

QUOTE: *"In Christ, the Alpha and Omega, our lives find their beginning and their forever. In Him, our history and our eternity are secure."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 16-17; Mark 6:33-56

G. P. A. Hymn 347 – My faith looks up to Thee

Thursday, 27th February 2025

COVENANT KEEPING GOD

Text(s): Genesis 9:13

Key Verse: *"I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth."* – Genesis 9:13

Covenant Keeping God refers to one of the most defining attributes of God's character—His unwavering faithfulness in fulfilling His promises. Throughout the Bible, God enters into various covenants with His people, from Noah, Abraham, and Moses to the new covenant established through Jesus Christ. Each covenant demonstrates God's commitment to His people and His plans. The rainbow, as mentioned in Genesis, symbolizes God's promise to never again destroy the earth with a flood, serving as a perpetual reminder of His reliability and grace. This characteristic of God reassures us that He is trustworthy, and His word is unchanging, providing a solid foundation for faith and life.

Understanding God as a covenant keeper influences how believers live and perceive their relationship with Him. It means recognizing that just as God is committed to us, we are called to respond with commitment and obedience. This mutual bond is not based on fleeting emotions or circumstances but rooted in the eternal and unchanging nature of God Himself. As believers grasp the depth of God's faithfulness, they are inspired to trust Him more fully, adhere to His commands, and embrace His promises, even in times of uncertainty or difficulty.

Embracing our relationship with a covenant-keeping God means prioritizing time with Him through prayer and Scripture study, where we discover more about His nature and His covenants. It encourages active participation in the community of faith, where we can support one another in living out these truths. It also means witnessing to the world about God's faithfulness, sharing stories of His goodness, and living in such a way that others are drawn to Him.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, thank You for being our Covenant Keeping God. May we be faithful to You as You are faithful to us, reflecting Your love and commitment in every aspect of our lives in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for the pastors and caregivers to have the wisdom and compassion needed to effectively support and minister to the needs of the congregation.

QUOTE: *"God's covenant with His people is the thread woven through the fabric of Scripture, highlighting His unyielding faithfulness and our call to respond."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 18-20; Mark 7:1-13

G. P. A. Hymn 485 – I am so glad that our Father in heaven

Friday, 28th February 2025

ENDURANCE

Text(s): James 1:12

Key Verse: *“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.” – James 1:12*

Endurance in the Christian context refers to the capacity to remain steadfast and continue in faith despite trials and difficulties. This virtue is not merely about surviving challenges but about thriving spiritually through them. James speaks to the blessedness of enduring under trial, noting that such perseverance leads to the receipt of the crown of life—a metaphor for eternal salvation and victory in Christ. This promise encourages believers not only to endure but to do so with joy, recognizing that their trials are not purposeless but are tools God uses to refine their faith and character.

To develop endurance, believers must cultivate a deep-seated trust in God’s sovereignty and goodness. This trust is often built in the fires of adversity, where the realities of faith are tested and proven. It involves a commitment to remain faithful to God’s commands and reliant on His promises, even when circumstances seem contrary to His character. Endurance is fortified by regular engagement with the Bible, where stories of faithful endurance, like those of Job, Paul, and Jesus Himself, inspire and instruct us in our own trials.

Moreover, endurance is closely linked to hope. It is the confident expectation of God’s ultimate deliverance that fuels a believer’s ability to persevere. This hope is not based on wishful thinking but on the concrete realities of God’s past faithfulness and His unchangeable nature. As believers anchor themselves in this hope, they find the strength to endure whatever comes their way, knowing that their present struggles are producing an eternal weight of glory that far outweighs them all.

Practicing endurance means adopting a long-term perspective that sees beyond immediate pain to future glory. It involves active patience, prayerful resilience, and a community of faith that supports and encourages one another through life’s trials. Believers are encouraged to practice endurance by standing firm in faith, continuously doing good, and helping others to carry their burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, grant us the grace to endure all trials with faith and patience. Strengthen our hearts that we may not grow weary while doing good. Equip us, Lord, to persevere until the end, that we may receive the crown of life promised to those who love You in Jesus’ name, Amen.
2. Pray for the safety and protection of all church activities, GPA members, and property, asking for God’s covering over the church community.

QUOTE: *“Endurance is not just the ability to bear a hard thing, but to turn it into glory.” – William Barclay*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 21-25; Mark 7:14-37; Mark 8:1-21

G. P. A. Hymn 486 – Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin

Saturday, 1st March 2025

RECOVERY OF GLORY

Text(s): 1 Samuel 30:8

Confession: *“When we partner with God to pursue, overtake, and recover all, we will see God touch and heal the broken places of our lives.”* – **Author Unknown**

G. P. A. Hymn 385 – Stand up, stand up for Jesus

INTRODUCTION

Beloved, it is time for you to recover your asset from the destroyer. When the purpose for which God created you is stolen, then your is buried. In such a case the enemy has not stolen the destiny but the purpose for it. Many people do not know the purpose for their existence. When your harvest or your goal is buried, it means that your achievement too is buried. Likewise, when your soul is stolen then your eternity too is buried. Prayers cannot be answered unless they are prayed.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Every good thing that I have lost from my mother’s womb I recover you by fire in the name of Jesus.
2. Wicked powers from my place of birth, vomit my virtues in the name of Jesus.
3. All my lost progress, I recover you now – in the name of Jesus.
4. I pursue and overtake every family strongman, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every evil rope pulling me away from my place of blessing, break in the name of Jesus.
6. Every consequence of parental mistake in my life, break, in the name of Jesus.
7. Pray for strategies and efforts to foster both numerical and spiritual growth within the church, seeking God’s guidance in expanding the reach and influence of GPA.
8. Pray for the identification and nurturing of future leaders within GPA, equipping them for effective service and leadership.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 26-27; Mark 8:22-38

QUOTE: *“In every setback, there is a setback for a comeback; glory recovered is glory rdefined.”*

Sunday, 2nd March 2025

GET OUT OF EVIL CAVES 1

Text(s): Philippians 4:7, John 14:27, Isaiah 26:1

Confession: *"All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the Lord your God."* – Deuteronomy 28:2

G. P. A. Hymn 395 – Ho! my comrades, see the signal

INTRODUCTION

Today, you must decide this year that even when the enemy brings discouragement your way, you must encourage yourself in the Lord. The devil knows encouragement brings hope while discouragement brings hopelessness. David came home on that day and found out that the enemy has taken his family away from him. As human, David, cried and cried and later shook off discouragement. He asked the Lord that shall I pursue, and shall I overtake. Today, begin to decree that you will pursue, overtake and recover all – both physical and spiritual in Jesus' name.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Arrows of frustration, backfire in the name of Jesus.
2. Powers assigned to keep my breakthrough inside the grave die in the name of Jesus.
3. Any family taboo working against my progress, die in the name of Jesus.
4. Glory killers of fathers, I'm not your candidate, die in the name of Jesus.
5. Powers sending my helpers away, you're a liar, die in the name of Jesus.
6. Dream and vision serpent, dream rat, die in the name of Jesus.
7. Pray for GPA to cultivate an environment of love, acceptance, and encouragement, where all members feel valued and supported.
8. Pray for creative and engaging programs that nurture the spiritual growth and understanding of the children in GPA.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 28-29; Mark 9:1-29

QUOTE: *"Breaking free from the shadows of the evil cave is the first step towards discovering your true potential."*

Monday, 3rd March 2025

GET OUT OF EVIL CAVES 2

Text(s): 1 Samuel 30:1-8

Confession: *“Everybody is on a race, everybody is fighting for something. Everybody is on a battle field. Only those that confront and contend in the battle always emerge a winner. So, pursue to overtake and recover all.”* – **Author Unknown**

G. P. A. Hymn 397 – Conquerors and overcomers now are we

INTRODUCTION

In 1 Samuel 30, David and his men returned to Ziklag only to find it destroyed by fire, and their wives, sons and daughters taken captive by the Amalekites. The men were devastated and wept until they had no strength left. Though, David had lost his family as well, the men blamed him for what had happened and they began to talk of stoning him. David then strengthened himself in the Lord. He inquired of the Lord as to what he should do, and God granted the desire of his heart.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. All my glory that the enemies have hijacked, what are you waiting for, return to me in the name of Jesus.
2. O ye spirit of stagnancy, following me up and down, what are you waiting for, die tonight in the name of Jesus.
3. Every weapon that the enemy has fashioned against my business or carrier catch fire and burn to ashes now in Jesus' name.
4. As I begin to pray, every spirit of nearness to success tormenting my life and family, out of my life right now I Jesus name.
5. Everything the enemy has stolen from me, in the name of Jesus, I pursue, I overtake and I recover all in the name of Jesus.
6. O ye spirit of delay, tormenting my life and family what are you waiting for, out tonight, in the name of Jesus Christ.
7. Pray for the protection of the Army of Christ from discouragement and division, and for unity and strength in their collective efforts.
8. Pray for each branch to have a vibrant and active congregation, committed to both personal growth and outreach to the local community.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 30-31; Mark 9:30-50

QUOTE: *“To escape the darkness of the evil cave, you must first ignite the light within yourself.”*

Tuesday, 4th March 2025

KINGDOM LABOURS

Text(s): Matthew 9:37-38

Key Verse: *"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"* – **Matthew 9:37-38**

Kingdom Labors refers to the active participation of believers in God's work on earth, particularly in spreading the Gospel and serving others in the name of Christ. Jesus uses the metaphor of a harvest to describe the readiness of people to hear and receive the Gospel, emphasizing the urgent need for laborers. This imagery is not just a call to evangelism but to all forms of service that manifest the kingdom of God on earth. As believers engage in kingdom labors, they are participating in God's grand mission to restore all creation and to draw people into a saving relationship with Him.

The scope of kingdom labors is vast, encompassing acts of kindness, justice, mercy, and evangelism. Each believer, equipped with unique gifts and called to various roles, contributes to the work of the kingdom in meaningful ways. Whether teaching, healing, comforting, or preaching, the laborers are those who put their faith into action, seeking not only to proclaim the message of Christ but to embody it in their daily lives. This active service is motivated by love for God and compassion for people, mirroring Jesus' own ministry, which was marked by compassion and driven by divine love.

Engaging in kingdom labors means being attuned to the opportunities God provides daily for witnessing and service. It involves regular self-examination to ensure alignment with God's will and openness to His calling. Believers are encouraged to cultivate a lifestyle of readiness and responsiveness, eagerly stepping into roles of service and witnessing as God leads. Through these labors, the kingdom of God is visibly demonstrated and experienced in the world, drawing others into the transformative presence of Christ.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, we thank You for the privilege to labor in Your kingdom. Fill us with Your Spirit, that we may serve effectively and joyfully. Increase the laborers, Lord, and use us to bring the light of Your Gospel to dark places.
2. Pray for the Zonal Headquarters to effectively support and resource the branches, facilitating collaboration and unity across the zones.

QUOTE: *"Kingdom laborers are not defined by their capacity but by their obedience to God's call."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 32-33; Mark 10:1-31

G. P. A. Hymn 413 – To the work, to the work

Wednesday, 5th March 2025

SOUL WINNING

Text(s): Proverbs 11:30

Key Verse: *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise."* – **Proverbs 11:30**

Soul Winning refers to the endeavor of leading others to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is one of the most profound callings for Christians, rooted in the Great Commission where Jesus commands His followers to go and make disciples of all nations. This mission underscores the urgency and importance of spreading the Gospel—the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection—which offers eternal life to all who believe. The metaphor of capturing souls in Proverbs 11:30 speaks to the wisdom of investing in eternal matters, emphasizing that the endeavor to lead others to Christ is both a wise and noble pursuit.

The process of soul winning involves more than just verbal proclamation; it encompasses a lifestyle of testimony and relationship-building. It means living in such a way that one's life becomes a beacon of hope and truth, attracting others to the light of Christ. Effective soul winners are those who not only speak the truth of the Gospel but also demonstrate its power through their actions, character, and love. This authenticity makes the message of Christ compelling and difficult to ignore.

Moreover, soul winning is fueled by a passion for people and a burden for their eternal destiny. Understanding the reality of life without Christ compels believers to share the life-giving message of the Gospel. It requires courage, sensitivity, and an ongoing reliance on the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength. Each interaction is an opportunity to plant seeds of faith that the Holy Spirit can grow into full belief. As such, soul winning is not a solo endeavor but a cooperative one, where Christians partner with God in the divine work of drawing souls to Himself.

Engaging in soul winning means being intentional about forming relationships and creating opportunities to discuss faith matters. It involves equipping oneself with a sound understanding of the Gospel and developing the ability to communicate it clearly and effectively. Regular prayer for the lost and for opportunities to witness is crucial, as is the commitment to follow up and disciple new believers. Each step taken in soul winning is a step towards fulfilling God's kingdom purposes on earth.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, ignite in us a fervent desire to win souls for Your kingdom. Grant us wisdom and boldness to share Your Gospel effectively. Equip us with the right words, the right approach, and the right spirit, that we might draw others to You in Jesus' name, Amen.

2. Pray for the GPA leaders to have a spirit of humility and a heart for service, leading with integrity and a deep sense of responsibility.

QUOTE: *"Winning souls for Christ requires not just our words, but our lives, our love, and our dedication to His cause."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Numbers 34-36; Mark 10:32-52

G. P. A. Hymn 127 – Sinners Jesus will receive

Thursday, 6th March 2025

SHILOH

Text(s): Genesis 49:10

Key Verse: *"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples."* – **Genesis 49:10**

Shiloh in the biblical context carries significant messianic implications, especially as referred to in Genesis 49:10. This prophecy delivered by Jacob speaks of a time when leadership would remain with Judah until "Shiloh comes," interpreted by many as a reference to the coming of Christ, who would gather the people and whose reign would be marked by peace and obedience. The term "Shiloh" itself, while debated among scholars, is often seen as a symbol of peace and rest—characteristics of the Messiah's kingdom. As such, Shiloh points to the anticipation of a promised deliverer and a future where righteousness and peace prevail.

Understanding Shiloh as a messianic figure enriches the Christian understanding of Jesus' role as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. As Shiloh, Jesus embodies the peace that surpasses understanding and brings reconciliation between God and humanity. This prophecy also emphasizes the sovereignty of God in orchestrating the timeline of history, from the reign of Judah to the coming of Christ. For believers, recognizing Jesus as Shiloh enhances the appreciation of His kingship and His establishment of an eternal kingdom that upholds justice and righteousness.

Embracing Jesus as Shiloh means aligning our lives with His peaceful reign. It involves promoting unity, practicing forgiveness, and advocating for justice as integral aspects of kingdom living. As we await His return, our challenge is to embody the peace of Christ in all aspects of our lives, serving as ambassadors of His reconciliation. Engaging in prayer, worship, and the study of Scripture also helps believers to cultivate a deeper relationship with Christ, strengthening their resolve to live according to His purposes.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, thank You for the promise of Shiloh, Your Son, Jesus Christ, who brings peace and reconciliation to our world. May our lives reflect the peace and justice of Shiloh, drawing others into Your loving embrace in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for the identification and development of spiritual gifts among GPA members, that they may be used effectively for ministry and service.

QUOTE: *"Shiloh is not just a prophecy fulfilled; it is a call to live out the peace of Christ's kingdom here and now."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 1-2; Mark 11:1-19

G. P. A. Hymn 60 – Jesus we assemble

Friday, 7th March 2025

PRAYER REWARDS

Text(s): Matthew 6:6

Key Verse: *“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”* – **Matthew 6:6**

Prayer Rewards highlights the profound spiritual benefits and blessings that come from engaging in heartfelt and consistent prayer. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus instructs His followers on the importance of sincere prayer, emphasizing that it should be a private communion with God rather than a public display for attention. This teaching reassures believers that God, who sees all actions done in secret, is faithful to respond and reward those who seek Him earnestly. The rewards of prayer are manifold, including peace of mind, spiritual growth, and a deeper relational connection with God, all of which are integral to a fulfilling Christian life.

Prayer, as a fundamental practice of the Christian faith, serves as a direct line of communication with God. It is through prayer that believers lay down their worries, seek guidance, and express their deepest desires and thanksgivings to the Lord. The rewards of such engagement are not always tangible or immediate, but they often manifest as increased spiritual strength, enhanced discernment, and a profound sense of God's presence in one's life. These rewards enrich the believer's spiritual journey, fostering resilience and joy amidst life's challenges and uncertainties.

Reaping the rewards of prayer involves consistency, humility, and faith. It means setting aside regular times for prayer, approaching God with a sincere heart, and trusting in His perfect wisdom and timing. Believers are encouraged to cultivate a prayerful attitude throughout the day, turning thoughts to God in both moments of joy and trials, thereby integrating prayer into the fabric of daily life. Such a practice ensures that the rewards of prayer—peace, spiritual growth, and a closer relationship with God—are continually experienced and reflected in every aspect of living.

PRAYER(S):

1. Dear Heavenly Father, we come to You in prayer, seeking not only answers but a deeper communion with You. Teach us to pray with sincerity and faith, trusting that You hear us and will reward our earnest efforts to connect with You in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for effective stewardship and transparency in financial matters, and that the GPA's resources are used wisely to advance its mission.

QUOTE: *“The true reward of prayer is not what we get, but what we become; it is the joy of being near to the heart of God.”*
– **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 3-4; Mark 11:20-33

G. P. A. Hymn 300 – What various hindrance we meet

Saturday, 8th March 2025

STARTING EARLY

Text(s): Mark 1:35

Key Verse: *"And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed."* – **Mark 1:35**

Starting Early reflects the practice of beginning one's day or endeavors with a focus on spiritual disciplines, particularly prayer and meditation on God's Word. This habit, exemplified by Jesus as noted in Mark 1:35, underscores the importance of dedicating the first moments of the day to commune with the Father. By prioritizing spiritual activities early, believers set a tone of mindfulness and dependence on God for the day ahead. This practice not only aligns one's thoughts and actions with God's will but also provides strength and clarity for the challenges of the day.

The benefits of starting early extends beyond the spiritual realm into practical daily living. When believers begin their day by seeking God, they invite His presence into all their activities, decisions, and interactions. This early morning commitment acts as a foundational pillar that upholds them through the pressures and distractions that come with the day. Furthermore, starting early in this context often leads to a more disciplined lifestyle, as it requires planning and prioritization to consistently wake and devote time to prayer and Bible study. This discipline can spill over into other areas of life, promoting overall productivity and effectiveness.

Integrating the habit of starting early into daily life means being intentional about bedtime routines and morning schedules. Believers might need to adjust their evening activities to ensure they can rise early without sacrificing necessary rest. It also means preparing the heart and mind the night before, perhaps by reflecting on a scripture passage or prayer focus for the following morning. As believers commit to starting their day with God, they find that this time becomes indispensable, enriching their spiritual lives and equipping them to face whatever comes their way with grace and wisdom.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, help us to prioritize our mornings and dedicate the first fruits of our day to You. Teach us the discipline of starting early, that we may experience the fullness of Your presence and the peace of walking closely with You from dawn till dusk in Your holy name, we pray, Amen.
2. Pray for the maintenance and enhancement of GPA facilities, ensuring they are safe, welcoming, and conducive to worship and ministry activities.

QUOTE: "Those who start early with God find His guidance waiting for them at every turn of the day." – Unknown

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 5-7; Mark 12:1-27

G. P. A. Hymn 73 – Awake my soul, and with the sun

Sunday, 9th March 2025

SOARING HIGH

Text(s): Isaiah 40:31

Key Verse: *“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” – Isaiah 40:31*

Soaring High reflects the spiritual ascension that believers experience when they place their trust and hope in the Lord. The imagery of mounting up with wings like eagles from Isaiah 40:31 vividly illustrates the empowerment that comes from a deep, reliant relationship with God. Eagles are known for their strength, majesty, and ability to rise above the lower atmosphere to greater heights with minimal effort. Similarly, Christians who draw their strength from God find themselves rising above life's challenges and difficulties, not by their power but through the divine strength granted to them by their faith in God.

This concept of soaring high encourages believers to live a life of endurance and victory. It's about transcending the mundane or difficult realities by focusing on the eternal and the supernatural support of God. Believers are called to not merely survive but thrive, using their God-given abilities to overcome obstacles and extend their reach into the opportunities God provides. The key to this elevation lies in waiting on the Lord, which involves active trust and patient expectation of His intervention and guidance. This waiting is not passive but a dynamic state of readiness, seeking God's direction and anchoring hope in His promises.

In practical terms, embracing the principle of soaring high means engaging in spiritual disciplines that enhance one's connection with God, such as prayer, meditation on Scripture, and worship. These practices not only foster spiritual growth but also renew inner strength, equipping believers to face daily challenges with renewed vigor and a hopeful attitude. Believers are encouraged to cultivate community with other faithful individuals who share the aspiration to soar high, supporting and encouraging one another in their spiritual journeys.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, we thank You for the promise of renewed strength and the ability to soar like eagles as we wait on and trust in You. Help us to rise above life's challenges by drawing our strength and inspiration from You in Jesus' name, Amen.

2. Pray for programs and resources that support and strengthen families, helping parents to raise their children in a godly environment.

QUOTE: *“To soar high spiritually, one must begin by kneeling low in prayer.” – Unknown*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 8-10; Mark 12:28-44

G. P. A. Hymn 387 – I'm pressing on the upward way

Monday, 10th March 2025

WALK OF HOLINESS

Text(s): 1 Peter 1:15-16

Key Verse: *“But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”* – 1 Peter 1:16

Walk of Holiness refers to the ongoing journey of living a life that reflects the holiness of God. This path is not about attaining perfection through human effort but about striving to embody the purity, righteousness, and holiness that characterizes God’s nature. Peter’s exhortation to the early Christians underscores the call to holiness as an integral part of the believer’s identity and purpose. It is a transformative process that involves every aspect of life, influencing thoughts, actions, and interactions with others. Being holy as God is holy means dedicating oneself to God’s ways, eschewing sin, and seeking to live out the moral and ethical standards set forth in Scripture.

The walk of holiness begins with a recognition of God’s supreme holiness and an acknowledgment of our need for His grace to change us. This journey requires a daily commitment to spiritual disciplines such as prayer, reading the Bible, and participating in fellowship with other believers. These practices help to cultivate a deeper relationship with God and provide the strength and guidance needed to make choices that honor Him. The Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in this process, acting as both guide and enabler, enabling believers to overcome sinful desires and to live in a way that is pleasing to God.

Walking in holiness means being vigilant about one’s moral and spiritual influences, actively resisting the pressures of worldly values, and seeking accountability within the body of Christ. It also means being transparent before God, regularly examining one’s heart and motives, and repenting of sins. As believers commit to this holy walk, they find that their lives not only bring glory to God but also attract others to Him, serving as a light in a world that desperately needs the hope and truth of the gospel.

PRAYER(S):

1. Holy Father, thank You for calling us to share in Your holiness. Help us to embrace this high calling with seriousness and joy. Strengthen us to maintain our commitment to this sacred walk, growing in holiness each day as we await Your glorious return in Jesus’ name, Amen.
2. Pray for engaging and relevant programs for youth and young adults in GPA, encouraging them to grow in their faith and become active in church life.

QUOTE: *“The walk of holiness is a path marked by grace, guided by the Spirit, and grounded in God’s unchanging truth.”*
– Unknown

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 11-13; Mark 13:1-13

G. P. A. Hymn 377 – More holiness give me, more strivings within

Tuesday, 11th March 2025

PURITY CAPSULES

Text(s): Psalm 119:9

Key Verse: *"How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word."* – **Psalms 119:9**

Purity Capsules metaphorically refers to daily doses of spiritual disciplines and biblical truths that help believers maintain purity in their thoughts, words, and actions. In the world filled with moral ambiguities and temptations, maintaining purity is a continual challenge. The psalmist presents a clear solution: immersion in God's Word. Just as capsules are designed to deliver essential nutrients to the body, regular engagement with Scripture serves as spiritual capsules that nourish and protect one's moral and spiritual health. This process involves not only reading the Bible but allowing its truths to transform one's life from the inside out.

To effectively utilize these purity capsules, believers must make a deliberate effort to connect with God's Word daily. This connection acts as a preventive measure, fortifying the heart against impurity and sin. It's about letting Scripture examine and refine every aspect of one's life, much like a mirror that reveals areas needing correction. Regular prayer is also crucial, as it fosters an intimate relationship with God and provides strength to resist temptations. These spiritual disciplines help create a protective barrier around the believer's heart, enabling them to make decisions that align with God's will.

Incorporating purity capsules into our daily lives mean establishing a routine that includes Scripture reading, prayer, and reflection. It may also involve using technological tools like Bible apps or devotionals that reinforce a pure lifestyle. Believers should also be mindful of their media consumption, relationships, and leisure activities, ensuring that these areas of life contribute to rather than detract from their spiritual well-being. By consistently taking these purity capsules, Christians can maintain a lifestyle that honors God and exemplifies His holiness to the world.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, help us to embrace Your Word as the ultimate guide for our purity. May we daily take the capsules of Your truth, allowing them to cleanse and renew our minds and hearts in Jesus' name.
2. Pray for the effectiveness of ministries that provide support during crises, offering hope and assistance to those in difficult circumstances.

QUOTE: *"Purity is not just abstinence; it is a daily discipline of seeking God and guarding one's heart with His Word."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 14-16; Mark 13:14-37

G. P. A. Hymn 284 – Pray, always pray; the Holy Spirit pleads

Wednesday, 12th March 2025

DIVINE BLESSEDNESS

Text(s): Psalm 1:1-2

Key Verse: *“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.” – Psalm 1:1-2*

Divine Blessedness refers to the joy and contentment found in living according to God's ways. The opening psalm presents a vivid depiction of a blessed life, emphasizing that true happiness stems not from external circumstances but from a deep, abiding relationship with God. This relationship is cultivated through delight in and meditation on God's Word. Such divine blessedness transcends mere emotional highs, offering a sustained sense of peace and purpose regardless of life's fluctuations. It roots an individual in spiritual truths that nourish and sustain.

To experience this blessedness, believers are encouraged to immerse themselves in the Scriptures and to align their lives with God's commands. This alignment involves both avoidance of sin and active pursuit of godliness. As believers meditate on the Word and apply its truths, they find themselves planted like trees by streams of water, fruitful and resilient in all seasons of life. This metaphor underscores the nourishing and life-giving source of divine blessedness which flows from consistent and heartfelt engagement with the Bible.

Moreover, divine blessedness manifests in a life marked by spiritual health and vigor. It is visible in the believer's ability to withstand trials, overcome temptations, and maintain joy amidst adversity. This resilience is a testament to the deep roots formed through a lifestyle of meditating on and obeying God's Word. Believers endowed with divine blessedness are equipped to influence others positively, leading by example and extending the peace and joy they enjoy to those around them.

Cultivating divine blessedness involves daily disciplines such as prayer, reading and reflecting on the Scriptures, and fellowship with other believers. These practices help maintain spiritual focus and growth, ensuring that one's life consistently reflects the beauty and grace of living under God's guidance. Believers are encouraged to seek this blessedness not as a temporary fix but as a lifelong pursuit, integral to a fulfilling and impactful Christian life.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, bless us with the deep joy and contentment that comes from living according to Your Word. Teach us to walk in Your ways, so that we might experience the fullness of divine blessedness in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for a unified vision and direction for GPA, aligning all activities and programs with God's purpose and calling for the congregation.

QUOTE: *“The truly blessed are those who find their strength in God, walking in His ways and bearing fruit for His kingdom.” – Unknown*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 17-19; Mark 14:1-25

G. P. A. Hymn 160 – Blessed are they in Jesus

Thursday, 13th March 2025

DIVINE INTERVENTION

Text(s): Exodus 14:13-14

Key Verse: *“Moses answered the people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.’” – Exodus 14:13-14*

Divine Intervention speaks to moments when God supernaturally intercedes in human affairs, often in dramatic and unmistakable ways. The story of the Israelites at the Red Sea is a powerful example of this, where God intervened to deliver His people from the pursuing Egyptian army. Such interventions reveal God’s power and sovereignty, affirming His active presence and concern in the lives of His followers. They serve as reminders that no situation, no matter how dire, is beyond God’s control or beyond the reach of His mighty hand.

Believers can draw comfort and confidence from the fact that the same God who parted the Red Sea is still at work in the world today. Divine intervention may not always come in the form of miraculous signs, but it is often evident in God’s timely provision, guidance, and protection. Recognizing these interventions helps strengthen faith and encourages believers to rely more fully on God rather than their own understanding or abilities. It also inspires awe and reverence for God, renewing commitment to Him and His purposes.

Furthermore, expecting divine intervention involves maintaining an attitude of hope and prayerfulness, especially in challenging circumstances. Believers are encouraged to pray with expectancy, believing in God’s willingness and ability to intervene in their lives according to His perfect will. Such a stance does not presume on God’s actions but aligns one’s heart with divine possibilities, remaining open to however and whenever God chooses to act.

Living in anticipation of divine intervention involves regular prayer, sharing testimonies of God’s acts, and cultivating a community of faith that supports and encourages faith in God’s active presence. It also means preparing oneself to respond rightly to God’s interventions—acknowledging His hand at work, giving thanks, and using the experiences of divine intervention to bolster one’s witness to others about the power and love of God.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord God, we thank You for Your ongoing intervention in our lives. May we remain hopeful and prayerful, ready to testify of Your great deeds in Jesus’ name, Amen.
2. Pray for members to be empowered to share their faith boldly and effectively with others, becoming active witnesses of Christ in their communities.

QUOTE: *“Divine intervention is not an exception but a promise; God is always ready to step into the lives of those who call upon Him.” – Unknown*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 20-22; Mark 14:26-50

G. P. A. Hymn 307 – As pants the hart for cooling streams

Friday, 14th March 2025

DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN

Text(s): 2 Samuel 23:8-39

Key Verse: *"These are the names of David's mighty warriors..."* – 2 Samuel 23:8

David's Mighty Men refers to a group of elite warriors who were renowned for their bravery and loyalty to King David. These men, detailed in 2 Samuel 23, were not just soldiers; they were key figures in David's reign, helping establish his kingdom despite immense challenges. Their stories are testaments to courage, fierce loyalty, and the power of committed relationships in achieving great feats. Each of these warriors brought unique skills and demonstrated extraordinary bravery that contributed to the stability and success of David's kingdom.

The narrative of David's mighty men offers profound insights into spiritual warfare and the importance of unity and loyalty in God's kingdom work. Just as these warriors supported David, believers are called to support one another and their leaders, fighting spiritual battles with faith and courage. This support involves prayer, encouragement, and active participation in the community of faith. Moreover, the diverse backgrounds of these men remind us that God's kingdom is built with people of various talents and pasts, unified under one cause.

Moreover, the loyalty and bravery of these warriors illustrate the concept of spiritual devotion and commitment to God's purposes. Each act of bravery and loyalty not only brought victory in battle but also strengthened the entire community. Similarly, when believers stand firm in their faith and support each other, the whole church is edified and made more resilient against spiritual attacks. Their stories encourage believers to persevere in their faith commitments, even in the face of overwhelming odds.

Embracing the spirit of David's mighty men means being ready to act boldly for God's kingdom, whether this involves evangelism, service, or spiritual warfare. It calls for a heart of courage and a willingness to stand by one another, fostering an environment where faith can thrive, and God's work can advance effectively. Believers are encouraged to seek out roles within their spiritual communities where they can best contribute their God-given talents and strengths, just as David's mighty men did.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, help us to embody the courage and loyalty of David's mighty men in our spiritual lives. Equip us to stand firm in faith and to act boldly in Your name. Amen.
2. Pray for the successful use of technology and digital media to enhance GPA activities and extend its reach, especially in online ministry.

QUOTE: *"Like David's mighty men, let us be warriors in faith, undeterred by challenges and dedicated to the cause of Christ."* – Unknown

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 23-25; Mark 14:51-72

G. P. A. Hymn 416 – Ye servants of the Lord

Saturday, 15th March 2025

VESSELS UNTO HONOUR

Text(s): 2 Timothy 2:20-21

Key Verse: *"In a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work."* – **2 Timothy 2:21**

Vessels unto Honor describes believers who are set apart for God's use, having purified themselves from sin and dedicated their lives to service. This metaphor from 2 Timothy highlights the diversity of roles within God's household and the personal responsibility of each believer to pursue holiness and usefulness in God's kingdom. Being a vessel unto honor involves a conscious decision to avoid corrupting influences and to engage in practices that promote spiritual growth and effectiveness in ministry.

To become vessels unto honor, believers must actively distance themselves from practices and relationships that compromise their spiritual integrity. This purification process is both internal and external, involving the heart and actions. It requires ongoing self-assessment and repentance, ensuring that one's life aligns with biblical standards of holiness. Furthermore, it calls for a commitment to the disciplines that foster spiritual health, such as regular prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with other believers.

Moreover, being a vessel unto honor means being ready for every good work—prepared and willing to act when God calls. This readiness is not just about availability but also about capability, having developed the character and skills necessary to perform tasks that further God's kingdom. Whether through teaching, hospitality, service, or leadership, each act performed as a vessel unto honor glorifies God and advances His purposes on earth.

Being a vessel unto honor involves seeking God's direction for one's life and submitting to His refining process. It means prioritizing spiritual growth and seeking out opportunities to serve within the church and community. Believers should strive to live lives that are transparent and consistent, serving as models of godliness that inspire others to pursue their own journey toward becoming vessels unto honor.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, purify us and make us vessels unto honor in Your house. Teach us to walk in holiness and integrity, equipped for every good work You have prepared for us. May our lives reflect Your glory and draw others to Your love in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for GPA leadership to have clarity in vision and direction, and for the ability to lead with wisdom and compassion in all their duties.

QUOTE: *"Being a vessel unto honor isn't about perfection but about dedication to the process of becoming who God has called us to be."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 26-27; Mark 15:1-26

G. P. A. Hymn 429 – Take my life and let it be

Sunday, 16th March 2025

INCORRUPTIBLE

Text(s): 1 Corinthians 9:25

Key Verse: *“Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.” – 1 Corinthians 9:25*

Incorruptible describes the enduring and eternal nature of the rewards that await believers in heaven, contrasting them with the fleeting and perishable rewards of this world. Paul uses the analogy of an athlete training for a perishable wreath to highlight the greater value of spiritual discipline and the imperishable crown that comes from a life lived in devotion to Christ. This concept encourages believers to focus on long-term spiritual rewards rather than short-term earthly gains, directing their efforts toward achievements that have eternal significance.

The pursuit of the incorruptible requires disciplined living, much like an athlete in training. Believers are called to exercise self-control, perseverance, and diligence in their spiritual lives. This discipline involves regular engagement with spiritual practices that strengthen faith, such as prayer, fasting, worship, and service. By maintaining a focus on the eternal, believers safeguard themselves against the corruption of materialism, pride, and selfish desires.

Furthermore, the incorruptible nature of our heavenly reward should inspire a sense of hope and motivation among believers. Knowing that their labor in the Lord is not in vain, they can endure hardships, resist temptations, and commit wholeheartedly to God’s work, confident that their efforts will yield eternal dividends. This perspective helps believers to prioritize their time and resources according to what truly matters—building up treasures in heaven rather than on earth.

In practical terms, living for the incorruptible means making daily choices that reflect eternal priorities. Believers are encouraged to invest in relationships, ministries, and activities that have lasting spiritual impacts. They should also be mindful of how they conduct themselves, striving to be examples of Christ’s love and integrity in a corrupt world. By doing so, they not only ensure their reward in heaven but also influence others to seek the imperishable riches found in Christ.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, help us to focus on the incorruptible crown as we live our lives for You. Help us to store up treasures in heaven through our faithfulness and dedication to Your will in Jesus’ name, Amen.
2. Pray for each branch to be a beacon of hope and a center of growth, effectively meeting the spiritual and practical needs of their local communities.

QUOTE: *“Focus on the eternal, and the temporal will gain true significance.” – Unknown*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 28; Mark 15:27-47

G. P. A. Hymn 256 – Immortal love, forever full

Monday, 17th March 2025

DISHONOURABLE VESSEL

Text(s): 2 Timothy 2:20-21

Key Verse: *“Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also those of wood and clay; some are for honorable use, some for dishonorable.” – 2 Timothy 2:20*

Dishonorable Vessel serves as a metaphor for those whose lives do not reflect the purity and purpose God intends. In 2 Timothy, Paul contrasts vessels of honor with those of dishonor, indicating that our choices and actions determine our usefulness in God’s kingdom. A dishonorable vessel, therefore, represents a life marred by disobedience and moral compromise, which ultimately hinders one’s effectiveness in service to God. This concept challenges believers to examine their lives under the light of God’s Word and to cleanse themselves from behaviors that lead to dishonor.

To avoid becoming a dishonorable vessel, believers must be vigilant about their spiritual health and conduct. This involves turning away from sinful practices and cultivating habits that promote spiritual growth, such as prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with other believers. The process of sanctification, which makes a vessel honorable, is both a divine and a personal responsibility. Believers are called to cooperate with the Holy Spirit’s transforming work by actively resisting temptation and embracing a lifestyle that honors God.

Moreover, being a dishonorable vessel can have broader implications for the church and its mission. When believers live in ways that contradict their professed faith, it diminishes their witness and can lead others astray. Thus, maintaining personal integrity is crucial not only for one’s spiritual well-being but also for the health and effectiveness of the Christian community. Believers are urged to hold one another accountable and to encourage each other toward love and good deeds.

Avoiding the status of a dishonorable vessel means making daily decisions that align with God’s will and seeking continual renewal through His Word and Spirit. It requires humility to acknowledge weaknesses and seek help when needed. Believers should aspire to be vessels of honor, not for personal glory but for the sake of God’s kingdom, knowing that their lives bear witness to the transformative power of the gospel.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, help us to be vessels of honor in Your house, cleansed and set apart for Your purpose. Guide us away from actions and attitudes that lead to dishonor. May we serve You faithfully and effectively, bringing glory to Your name and drawing others to Your saving grace. Amen.
2. Pray for effective administration and support from the Zonal Headquarters, ensuring that it serves as a strong backbone for the branches and facilitates their growth.

QUOTE: *“Every believer is a vessel; the question is whether we fill ourselves with honor or dishonor.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 29-30; Mark 16

G. P. A. Hymn 499 – Blessed invitation from the King of heaven

Tuesday, 18th March 2025

STRANGE FIRE

Text(s): Leviticus 10:1-2

Key Verse: *“Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them.” – Leviticus 10:1*

We can trace this phenomenon back to the actions of Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, who offered unauthorized fire before the Lord—an act of disobedience that resulted in their immediate death. This incident highlights the seriousness with which God regards obedience and the sanctity of worship. "Strange fire" symbolizes any form of worship or ministry that deviates from God's explicit commands. It serves as a sobering reminder that God's holiness and standards cannot be compromised or adjusted to fit personal preferences or cultural trends.

To avoid offering "strange fire" in our spiritual lives, believers must adhere strictly to the principles of Scripture in their worship and service. This requires a deep reverence for God and a commitment to understand and follow His instructions. The story of Nadab and Abihu warns against casual or presumptive approaches to God's presence and commands. It calls for a heart that seeks to please God rather than one that seeks to innovate or introduce unbiblical practices in the name of creativity or convenience.

Moreover, this concept encourages vigilance in how believers conduct their lives and ministries. Just as the Old Testament priests were to approach God in a prescribed manner, New Testament believers are urged to live and worship in ways that are pleasing to God, guided by the truth of His Word. This involves regular self-examination and a willingness to correct any areas of life that do not align with biblical truth.

Maintaining purity in worship means engaging in constant prayer, seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit, and studying Scripture diligently. Believers should be cautious of practices that seem spiritually significant but lack biblical foundation. They should seek counsel from mature, godly leaders who can provide biblical insight and oversight. This helps ensure that their worship remains pure, acceptable, and pleasing to God.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, keep us from offering strange fire in our service and worship. Protect us from the temptation to deviate from Your ways and fill us with a desire to honor You in all aspects of our lives. Amen.
2. Pray for GPA leaders to be spiritually refreshed and strengthened, finding renewal in their personal relationship with God and in their leadership roles.

QUOTE: *“True worship is defined by the reverence we show to our God and the adherence to His commands.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 31-32; Luke 1:1-23

G. P. A. Hymn 452 – Do not sinful action

Wednesday, 19th March 2025

SONS OF SCEVA

Text(s): Acts 19:13-16

Key Verse: *“Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, ‘I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.’” – Acts 19:13*

This story illustrates the dangers of invoking God’s power without a personal relationship or legitimate authority. These men attempted to cast out demons by using the name of Jesus, whom they did not personally know or follow. Their failure and subsequent humiliation underscore the importance of genuine faith and authority in spiritual matters. This account warns against the superficial or unauthorized use of spiritual power, highlighting that true authority comes from a genuine and obedient relationship with Christ.

The story serves as a caution to those who might seek to leverage Christian practices or symbols for personal gain or influence without a true conversion or commitment to Jesus Christ. It emphasizes that spiritual authority is not a formula or a technique but a byproduct of a lived relationship with Jesus. Believers are reminded that spiritual practices, including prayer and deliverance, should stem from a place of authenticity and submission to God’s will rather than from a desire to display power.

Furthermore, the incident with the Sons of Sceva teaches about the protective power of knowing Jesus personally. Those who truly know Him and live under His lordship are equipped with His authority to overcome spiritual opposition. This true knowledge comes from daily walking with Him, studying the Scriptures, and being led by the Holy Spirit. Without this foundation, attempts to wield spiritual authority can lead to spiritual danger and defeat, as was the case with the Sons of Sceva.

Believers are encouraged to deepen their relationship with Jesus to ensure that their spiritual endeavors are backed by His authority and power. This involves more than just knowing about Jesus; it means knowing Him personally and intimately, allowing His Word and Spirit to guide and empower every area of life. Believers should also seek accountability within their faith communities to maintain integrity and authenticity in their spiritual practices.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, help us to foster a deep and genuine relationship with You through Jesus Christ. Protect us from the error of the Sons of Sceva and teach us to rely on Your power and guidance in all spiritual matters. Amen.
2. Pray for divine guidance in setting and implementing GPA’s vision and strategic plans, ensuring they are aligned with God’s will and purpose.

QUOTE: *“Spiritual authority is not about the words we speak but the life we live in submission to Christ.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 33-34; Luke 1:24-56

G. P. A. Hymn 433 – Dismiss me not Thy service, Lord

Thursday, 20th March 2025

SPIRITUAL COVERING

Text(s): Psalm 91:1-2

Key Verse: *"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'"* – **Psalm 91:1-2**

Spiritual Covering refers to the protection and guidance that believers receive from dwelling in the presence of God. This concept is beautifully illustrated in Psalm 91, where the imagery of God as a shelter and fortress conveys His role as a protector and provider for those who trust in Him. Spiritual covering involves more than physical safety; it extends to spiritual, emotional, and psychological aspects of life, offering peace and security amid life's storms. This divine protection is accessed through a close relationship with God, characterized by trust and obedience.

To maintain this spiritual covering, believers are encouraged to live in constant communion with God, abiding in His Word and being responsive to the Holy Spirit's guidance. This daily walk strengthens their faith and equips them to handle challenges in a manner that honors God. It also involves the submission to godly leadership—pastors, mentors, and spiritual leaders who provide wisdom, counsel, and accountability. These relationships help to fortify the believer's spiritual life, offering additional layers of protection and guidance.

Furthermore, the concept of spiritual covering emphasizes the importance of prayer as a protective tool. Believers are urged to engage in regular, fervent prayer not only for themselves but also for their families, communities, and leaders. This intercession builds a spiritual shield around them, guarding against the enemy's attacks and fostering an environment where they can grow and thrive in faith.

In practical terms, upholding a spiritual covering means prioritizing spiritual disciplines that cultivate a deeper connection with God. It also means actively participating in a community of faith where mutual support and encouragement are foundational. By seeking and maintaining this covering, believers ensure they are operating under God's overarching care, fully equipped to face whatever comes their way with divine strength and wisdom.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, we seek Your spiritual covering as our ultimate protector and guide. Guide us through Your Spirit, and let us always find refuge in You in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for innovative and engaging activities for the youth, encouraging their active participation in church life and deepening their relationship with God.

QUOTE: *"Under God's spiritual covering, we find a place of safety, strength, and serenity."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Joshua 1-3; Luke 1:57-80

G. P. A. Hymn 362 – My blessed Savior is Thy love

Friday, 21st March 2025

TRUE WORSHIP

Text(s): John 4:23-24

Key Verse: *“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.” – John 4:23*

True Worship is a foundational element of the Christian faith, defined by Jesus during His conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well. He distinguishes true worship as that which transcends location or tradition and is characterized by its spiritual and truthful nature. True worship involves the heart, soul, and spirit, aligning with God’s truth as revealed in Scripture. It’s a full-bodied, genuine expression of reverence and adoration for God that reflects an authentic relationship with Him.

To engage in true worship, believers must first understand who God is and acknowledge His sovereignty in their lives. This recognition comes through studying the Bible, where God’s character and deeds are revealed. True worship also involves honesty before God—bringing our whole selves, with our vulnerabilities, thanks, and petitions. This sincerity deepens our relationship with Him, making our worship a true reflection of our reverence and love for God.

Moreover, true worship influences a believer's entire life, impacting how they interact with others, make decisions, and represent Christ in the world. It is not confined to music or church services but is evident in everyday actions and choices that honor God’s commands and exhibit His love. Believers are called to live lives of worship, continuously offering up their bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is their true and proper worship.

True worship involves daily decisions to submit to God’s will and seek His guidance in all areas of life. It encourages ongoing spiritual reflection and transformation, promoting a lifestyle that is consistent with biblical teachings. Believers should cultivate a spirit of worship through prayer, meditation, and communal worship, ensuring that their personal and corporate worship is grounded in spirit and truth.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, guide us into deeper levels of true worship, where we honor. Teach us to live as true worshipers who please Your heart in Jesus’ name, Amen.
2. Pray for effective programs and efforts to integrate new members into GPA, helping them feel welcome and involved.

QUOTE: *“True worship is more than a song; it’s a life fully devoted to honoring God in every act and thought.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Joshua 4-6; Luke 2:1-24

G. P. A. Hymn 60 – Jesus we assemble

Saturday, 22nd March 2025

NOT SO, LORD

Text(s): Acts 10:14

Key Verse: *"But Peter said, 'Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.'" – Acts 10:14*

"Not so, Lord" captures a critical moment of hesitation and learning in the life of the Apostle Peter, reflecting a common human experience of resistance to divine instructions that seem challenging or unfamiliar. Peter's response to the vision of unclean animals, as recounted in Acts 10, highlights the tension between previous religious convictions and the new revelation from God. This story is pivotal as it marks the expansion of the Gospel to the Gentiles, illustrating that God's ways and plans often exceed our understanding and expectations.

This incident teaches believers about the importance of flexibility and openness in their spiritual lives. It underscores the need to be attuned to God's leading, even when it calls for a change in longstanding beliefs or practices. For Peter, the command to eat what he considered unclean was a direct challenge to his Jewish beliefs. However, this divine directive was meant to teach him about God's inclusive love and the breaking down of barriers that separated Jews and Gentiles.

Moreover, "Not so, Lord" is a reminder that God often calls us out of our comfort zones and into deeper, sometimes unsettling, truths. Believers are encouraged to trust in God's goodness and sovereignty, believing that He leads them toward greater understanding and more profound service. This story prompts Christians to examine areas where they might be resisting God's direction due to comfort, tradition, or prejudice.

Navigating a "Not so, Lord" scenario involves prayerful consideration, consultation with the Scriptures, and seeking counsel from trusted spiritual mentors. Believers should ask for the humility and courage to relinquish control and follow where God leads, even when it disrupts their expectations. Embracing this posture not only fosters spiritual growth but also enhances the believer's effectiveness in serving God's diverse kingdom.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, help us to respond to Your leading with willingness, not resistance. Your broader vision for our lives and for Your church. Let us not be constrained by familiarity but be ever open to Your transformative work in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for the effectiveness and compassion of the counseling department, providing crucial assistance and hope to those in need.

QUOTE: *"Divine guidance often takes us beyond the familiar to teach us the fullness of God's love and purpose."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Joshua 7-8; Luke 2:25-52

G. P. A. Hymn 381 – Are you trusting Jesus, all along the way

Sunday, 23rd March 2025

INTIMACY

Text(s): James 4:8

Key Verse: *“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.” – James 4:8*

Intimacy with God is the deepening of a personal relationship with Him, characterized by closeness, communication, and mutual love. This spiritual intimacy is built through deliberate and consistent engagement with God, involving prayer, meditation on Scripture, and worship. As believers draw near to God, they experience His presence more profoundly and understand His will more clearly. This type of intimacy transforms their faith, making it vibrant and alive, and affects all areas of their life, aligning their desires and actions with God's heart.

To cultivate intimacy with God, believers must prioritize time with Him above all else. This means setting aside regular periods for Bible study and prayer, where they can communicate with God and listen for His voice. Intimacy also requires vulnerability, opening one's heart to God and allowing Him to search and know our innermost thoughts and feelings. This openness leads to greater spiritual growth and a stronger, more resilient faith.

Moreover, intimacy with God has a communal aspect. It involves sharing one's spiritual journey with other believers, participating in church life, and engaging in fellowship. These interactions enrich one's relationship with God, providing support and encouragement from others who are also seeking a closer relationship with Him.

Intimacy with God means living a life that constantly seeks His presence. It involves daily decisions to forsake worldly distractions and focus on the eternal. Believers are encouraged to create a prayerful environment in their daily lives, whether at home, work, or in transit, always seeking to maintain a sense of closeness with God.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, we seek to deepen our intimacy with You. Draw us closer to Your heart and help us to prioritize our relationship with You each day. Amen.
2. Pray for wisdom and grace in resolving conflicts that may arise within the church, GPA, seeking unity and reconciliation through Christ.

QUOTE: *“Intimacy with God is not about a formula; it is about forging a life-long relationship that deepens and matures over time.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Joshua 9-10; Luke 3

G. P. A. Hymn 80 – Be Thou with me to where I go

Monday, 24th March 2025

BROTHERLY LOVE

Text(s): 1 Peter 1:22

Key Verse: *“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.” – 1 Peter 1:22*

Brotherly Love refers to the affection and care that believers are called to show towards one another, rooted in the love that Christ has shown us. This type of love is sincere, selfless, and sacrificial, extending beyond mere feelings to actionable care and concern for each other's well-being. Brotherly love is a fundamental aspect of Christian community, serving as a witness to the world of the transformative power of the Gospel. It builds up the church, fosters unity, and provides a supportive environment where all can grow in faith.

To practice brotherly love, believers must look beyond personal preferences and prejudices to embrace each other in genuine affection. This involves practical expressions of love, such as helping those in need, offering encouragement, forgiving offenses, and bearing each other's burdens. Brotherly love also requires humility and patience, as living in community can bring challenges and conflicts.

Moreover, brotherly love extends beyond the local church community. It reaches out to other believers across cultural, denominational, and national boundaries. This universal love among believers serves as a powerful testament to the unity and diversity of the body of Christ.

In practical terms, fostering brotherly love involves participating actively in church life, volunteering in service projects, and seeking reconciliation where there is discord. Believers are encouraged to take the initiative to build relationships within the church, inviting others into their homes and lives, and showing genuine interest and care for their brothers and sisters in Christ.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, teach us to love one another deeply, from the heart. Help us to embody the brotherly love that reflects Your love for us. Amen.
2. Pray for the ushers to serve with a spirit of warmth and attentiveness, effectively managing the flow of worship services and creating a welcoming environment for all attendees.

QUOTE: *“Brotherly love is the hallmark of our faith, a testament to the world of the truth and power of our beliefs.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Joshua 11-13; Luke 4:1-32

G. P. A. Hymn 411 – There is no friend like Jesus in this world

Tuesday, 25th March 2025

TRANSFIGURATION

Text(s): Matthew 17:1-9

Key Verse: *“And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.”* – Matthew 17:2

This is the remarkable event where Jesus’ divine glory was visibly revealed to Peter, James, and John on a high mountain. This event not only confirmed the divinity of Christ but also provided a glimpse of His future glory, which believers are called to share. The transfiguration serves as a powerful reminder of Christ’s majesty and the ultimate reality of His kingdom, encouraging believers to maintain their hope and faith in the face of earthly trials and tribulations.

The event underscores the importance of spiritual revelation and the need for believers to seek deeper understanding and experience of God’s glory. It also highlights the role of Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, represented by the presence of Moses and Elijah during the transfiguration. This moment reassures believers of the continuity and fulfillment of God’s salvation plan through Jesus.

Furthermore, the transfiguration teaches about the importance of witnessing and experiencing God’s glory. Just as the disciples were called to not keep the experience to themselves but to share it after the resurrection, believers today are also called to testify about Christ’s transformative power. This event propels followers of Christ to live in a way that reflects His glory and grace, transforming their lives and those around them.

Living in the light of the transfiguration means focusing on Christ’s eternal glory rather than earthly concerns. Believers are encouraged to seek moments of spiritual retreat and reflection, where they can experience God’s presence and gain strength for their journey. They are also called to share their experiences of God’s glory with others, providing hope and encouragement in the Christian community.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord Jesus, reveal Your glory to us as You did at the transfiguration. May our understanding of Your divine nature deepen our faith and transform our lives in Jesus’ name.
2. Pray for the Protocol Department to carry out their duties with professionalism and grace, ensuring that all events and services are conducted smoothly and with proper respect for all attendees.

QUOTE: *“Transfiguration is the divine touch that turns our ordinary experiences into extraordinary revelation.”* – Anonymous

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Joshua 14-15; Luke 4:33-44

G. P. A. Hymn 36 – Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Wednesday, 26th March 2025

TREE OF LIFE

Text(s): Revelation 22:1-2

Key Verse: *"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."* – **Revelation 22:2**

The "Tree of Life" represents eternal life and God's provision for His people. Mentioned in the opening chapters of Genesis and again in the closing chapters of Revelation, this tree bookends the biblical narrative, symbolizing the full restoration of fellowship between God and humanity. In Revelation, the Tree of Life stands in the New Jerusalem, providing healing and sustenance for the nations. This imagery conveys hope and renewal, promising an end to curse and the beginning of a new existence where death and sorrow are no more.

This tree is symbolic of the life-giving power of God's presence. Just as the tree's leaves bring healing, so does Christ's redemptive work bring spiritual healing and wholeness to all who believe. This eternal life is not just a future hope but begins the moment one accepts Christ, continuing throughout eternity. The Tree of Life encourages believers to look forward to the ultimate restoration of all things and to seek spiritual health and vitality through their relationship with Christ.

Moreover, the Tree of Life is a call to unity and peace among nations and peoples. Its leaves, which are for the healing of the nations, suggest a divine plan for reconciliation and peace that transcends human divisions. Believers are encouraged to be agents of this healing and reconciliation, promoting peace and understanding in their communities and across the world.

Embracing the symbolism of the Tree of Life means nurturing the life Christ has given through ongoing spiritual disciplines and community engagement. Believers are called to be sources of healing and life in their own contexts, using their gifts and opportunities to minister to others and to promote the values of the kingdom of God.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, thank You for the promise of eternal life symbolized by the Tree of Life. Strengthen us to live in anticipation of Your kingdom, where we will enjoy Your presence forever. Amen.
2. Pray for the Choir Department to be anointed in their music and worship, providing uplifting and heartfelt praise that draws the congregation closer to God.

QUOTE: *"The Tree of Life stands as a beacon of hope, a reminder of God's ultimate plan for healing and restoration."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Joshua 16-18; Luke 5:1-16

G. P. A. Hymn 282 – Come unto Me, ye weary

Thursday, 27th March 2025

CROWN OF GLORY

Text(s): 1 Peter 5:4

Key Verse: *“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.” – 1 Peter 5:4*

The Crown of Glory symbolizes the eternal reward awaiting those who faithfully shepherd God’s flock and live righteously. This metaphorical crown is not only for church leaders but for all believers who persevere in faith and service despite challenges and temptations. The promise of this crown serves as a motivation to pursue holiness and diligence in one's Christian walk, keeping eyes fixed on the eternal perspective rather than temporal rewards.

To strive for the Crown of Glory, believers are called to engage in acts of service, love, and leadership that reflect the character of the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ. This includes mentoring others, providing spiritual guidance, and being an example of steadfast faith in one’s community. It also involves a commitment to personal growth and ethical conduct, ensuring that one’s life honors God and encourages others to seek Him.

Moreover, the pursuit of the Crown of Glory should inspire humility and godly leadership. As believers anticipate receiving this crown, they are reminded that true leadership mirrors Jesus’ servant-hearted nature, focusing on the needs of others and leading by example rather than seeking power or control. This perspective helps maintain the purity of one’s motives in leadership and service.

Earning the Crown of Glory involves daily choices to serve God and others with integrity and love. Believers are encouraged to seek continual spiritual growth through prayer, study of the Scriptures, and fellowship with other believers. They should also look for opportunities to serve within their communities, demonstrating the love of Christ in tangible ways.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, help us to live lives worthy of the Crown of Glory. May we lead and serve with humility, following the example of our Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ.
2. Pray for the Sunday School Department to deliver engaging and biblically sound lessons, fostering spiritual growth and understanding among adult, youth, and children.

QUOTE: *“The crown of glory is not given for a single act, but for a life lived in faithfulness and love.” – Anonymous*

IBLE IN ONE YEAR: Joshua 19-20; Luke 5:17-39

G. P. A. Hymn 338 – Jesus I my cross have taken

Friday, 28th March 2025

THE MASTER KEY

Text(s): Matthew 16:19

Key Verse: *"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."* – **Matthew 16:19**

The Master Key represents the authority and access granted to believers through their faith in Christ. This key, as described by Jesus, offers both the privilege and responsibility to open doors to God's kingdom through the Gospel and to bind or loose spiritual forces through prayer. The imagery of a key suggests that believers are equipped to navigate spiritual realms with authority, impacting both earthly and heavenly realms through their actions and decisions.

To effectively use the Master Key, believers must understand the weight of their spiritual authority and exercise it in accordance with God's will and Word. This involves engaging in prayer that aligns with God's purposes, interceding for others, and declaring God's truths over various life situations. It also requires a deep commitment to the Gospel, understanding that access to God's kingdom is shared through the message of Christ's death and resurrection.

Moreover, the concept of the Master Key encourages believers to live with a sense of purpose and empowerment. Knowing they hold the key to kingdom access, Christians are called to boldly share their faith and to pray with confidence, knowing their actions have eternal implications. This key unlocks the potential for significant spiritual impact, changing atmospheres and influencing destinies.

Wielding the Master Key means believers should regularly engage in spiritual disciplines that enhance their understanding of God's kingdom and their role within it. They should also be proactive in evangelism and spiritual warfare, using their God-given authority to bring light to dark places and hope to those in despair.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, thank You for entrusting us with the Master Key to Your kingdom. Grant us the wisdom and courage to use this key wisely, binding and loosing as You direct. May we handle this great responsibility with reverence and faithfulness. Amen.
2. Pray for the General Overseer to have divine wisdom, strength, and discernment in leading the entire church, guiding with vision and integrity.

QUOTE: *"With the Master Key of the kingdom, believers hold the power to unlock divine potential on earth and in heaven."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Joshua 21-22; Luke 6:1-26

G. P. A. Hymn 288 – All prayers He will answer

Saturday, 29th March 2025

MASTERING YOUR APPETITE

Text(s): Proverbs 25:28

Key Verse: *“Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.” – Proverbs 25:28*

Mastering Your Appetite speaks to the importance of self-control in managing one's desires and impulses. In a world where indulgence is often celebrated, Scripture calls for discipline, particularly in the areas of food, spending, media consumption, and other bodily appetites. Mastering these urges is crucial not only for spiritual well-being but also for mental and physical health. This mastery reflects inner strength and the ability to prioritize long-term blessings over immediate gratification.

To master one's appetite, believers must first recognize areas where they lack control and seek God's help in strengthening these weaknesses. This process may involve setting practical boundaries, such as fasting, budgeting, or limiting screen time. It also includes replacing unhealthy habits with godly pursuits, such as spending time in prayer and meditation on God's Word, which refocuses the heart's desires.

Furthermore, mastering your appetite is not about denial for denial's sake but about achieving freedom from enslavement to cravings. This freedom allows believers to live fully for God, using their resources—time, energy, and money—for His glory rather than mere self-satisfaction. It also enhances their testimony, demonstrating the transformative power of the Holy Spirit at work within them.

Mastering your appetite involves daily decisions to choose what is beneficial over what is merely permissible. Believers should seek accountability and encouragement from their faith community as they strive for discipline in all areas of life. Regularly reviewing one's habits and adjusting as necessary helps maintain a lifestyle that honors God and fosters genuine contentment and peace.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, give us the strength to master our appetites and to exercise self-control in all areas of our lives. Help us to choose Your will over our desires, finding our satisfaction in You alone. Amen.
2. Pray for the Senior Pastors to be spiritually refreshed and empowered, providing strong and compassionate leadership to the congregation.

QUOTE: *“True freedom is not the absence of restrictions, but the ability to choose obedience over indulgence.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Joshua 23-24; Luke 6:27-49

G. P. A. Hymn 486 – Yield not to temptation, For yielding is sin

Sunday, 30th March 2025

MARY: A MOTHER'S REQUEST

Text(s): John 2:1-12

Key Verse: *"Everything is possible for one who believes."* – Mark 9:23

Several years ago, I studied the biblical record of Mary from beginning to end. I looked at every passage where she is mentioned and traced her path as a woman, mother, and then disciple of her own son. Despite her extraordinary role in God's redemptive plan, she was also utterly human.

Mary was likely serving at the Cana wedding, which Jesus and His disciples were attending. Cana was not far from Nazareth, so it might have been the marriage of a family member or close friend. Weddings were important events in Jewish community life and often lasted for several days. The standard for hospitality was high, so when the host ran out of wine, it would have been humiliating.

Mary stepped up with some creative problem solving. She went to Jesus and told Him, "They have no more wine" (v. 3). The subtext was that He should do something about it. She knew He could perform a miracle. She was ready for the public display of His power; Jesus was not. Jesus' response of "woman" may sound disrespectful in English, but it was simply a formal address. Mary's request had presumed upon Jesus as her son, so He respectfully redefined their relationship yet again. He would not act under her direction, but only in submission to God.

Some sort of silent communication must have passed between them though. Maybe a look or a nod, because, despite Jesus' response, Mary instructed the servants to do everything Jesus said. Then Jesus told the servants to fill six stone jars with water and turned it into 120 gallons of the best wedding wine.

John called this event a "sign through which he revealed his glory" (v. 11). Through it, Jesus was doing more than merely displaying His power. He also revealed His identity, and His disciples responded with faith.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, as we make our requests to You, we remember that You are the God of the universe. We therefore make our requests humbly, with deference to Your will, secure in knowing that You listen with wisdom and love.
2. Pray for the Women's Department to empower women through meaningful activities and teachings that address their spiritual and personal growth.

QUOTE: *"Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever."* – Unknown

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Judges 1-2; Luke 7:1-30

G. P. A. Hymn 124 – I hear the Savior say

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Monday, 31st March 2025

GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN

Text(s): Joshua 14:12

Key Verse: *"Now give me this mountain whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said."* – **Joshua 14:12**

Today's topic reflects the bold faith and determination of Caleb as he claimed the inheritance promised to him by God despite the challenges. At the age of 85, Caleb's request for the mountain region of Hebron, inhabited by giants, symbolizes the believer's right to claim God's promises regardless of the obstacles. This story encourages believers to embrace faith over fear, actively pursuing the promises of God with confidence and determination.

To "give me this mountain" means not only asking for God's blessings but also being willing to face the giants that occupy those blessings. It requires preparation, courage, and persistence. Believers are called to remember past victories God has given and to use them as fuel for future battles. This attitude transforms challenges into opportunities for God to demonstrate His power and faithfulness.

Moreover, claiming your mountain involves identifying the promises God has made specifically to you through His Word and prayer. It calls for a proactive stance in spiritual warfare, using the tools of faith, the Word of God, and prayer to overcome any resistance. Believers must also cultivate patience and endurance, knowing that the fulfillment of God's promises may require sustained effort over time.

In practical terms, "Give Me This Mountain" means actively engaging in prayer and declaration over the areas of life where God has made promises. It involves spiritual readiness to act when opportunities arise and trusting God's timing and methods. Believers are encouraged to surround themselves with a community of faith that supports and strengthens their resolve to seize what God has ordained for them.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, like Caleb, give us the faith to claim the mountains You have promised us. May we inspire others with our boldness and faith as we claim our inheritance in Your kingdom. Amen.
2. Pray for pastors and their associates to be effective in their various ministries, providing support and guidance to their specific areas of responsibility.

QUOTE: *"Claiming your mountain isn't just about bold requests—it's about unwavering faith in God's promise and presence."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Judges 3-5; Luke 7:31-50

G. P. A. Hymn 420 – O Jesus, I have promised

Tuesday, 1st April 2025

RESURRECTION AND HOPE 1

Text(s): John 11:25-26

Confession: *“For God so love the world, that he gave his only begotten son that who soever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life” – John 3:16*

G. P. A. Hymn 208 – Alleluia! Alleluia!! Alleluia!!!

INTRODUCTION

Jesus Christ has many names, one of His spectacular names is the resurrection and the life. No one can however be called that name. among the Trinity, it is only Jesus that can bear that name. although everything was actualized through the help of God the Father and the Holy Ghost who raised Jesus from the dead the third day. God has given Jesus a name that is higher than any other name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Father, let your resurrection power activate every good thing dying in my life in the name of Jesus.
2. Father, grant me a newness of life in the name of Jesus.
3. Father, make my destiny to enjoy the power of Your resurrection in the name of Jesus.
4. Father, let the evidence of Your new life be seen in me in the name of Jesus.
5. Father, let all the precious gift that you have given me resurrect again.
6. O Lord, let your resurrection power, quicken all that is dead in my life today.
7. Pray for the Men and Women Departments to have impactful programs and activities that address the unique needs and growth of men and women within the church.
8. Pray for the Youth Department to engage young people with relevant and inspiring programs, helping them grow in their faith and become active members of the church.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Judges 6-7; Luke 8:1-21

QUOTE: *“Resurrection is not just about rising from the dead; it’s about finding hope and renewal in every aspect of life.”*

Wednesday, 2nd April 2025

RESURRECTION AND HOPE 2

Text(s): Titus 2:11-14

Confession: *“To whom God would make known `what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which id Christ I you the hope of glory” – Colossians 1:27*

G. P. A. Hymn 209 – Jesus lives thy terrors now

INTRODUCTION

What is our hope as Christians, and why have we chosen to turn our backs on the world and its pleasures? It is the hope of glory, hoor, immortality and an eternity spent in the bosom of our Lord (Romans 2:7). This mother of all hopes shall be made manifest at the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Normally a person hopes for something good and pleasant. However, for the children of God, there is hope that compares with the return of Jesus to Earth. It is on account of this hope of Jesus returning for His people that Apostle Paul confidently declared in 1 Tess 4:13-14.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. I decree today, that those who say you will die, you will attend their funeral in the name of Jesus.
2. Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, overshadow my life now I the name of Jesus.
3. Thou resurrection power, work miracles in my life, in the name of Jesus.
4. Resurrection power of the Lord Jesus Christ, enter into my body, soul and spirit, in the name of Jesus.
5. Powers assigned to disgrace the works of my hands, I bury you now, in the name of Jesus.
6. The miracles that will multiply my joy, manifest in my life in the name of Jesus.
7. Pray for the Mission Department to effectively plan and execute outreach efforts, reaching those in need and spreading the gospel both locally and globally.
8. Pray for the Choir Department to be filled with inspiration and unity, that their music may enhance worship and lead the congregation into a deeper experience of God's presence.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Judges 8-9; Luke 8:22-56

QUOTE: *“Hope transforms the desolate into the divine; resurrection is its most profound expression.”*

Thursday, 3rd April 2025

RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Text(s): John 11:25-26, John 5:28-29

Confession: *“To whom God would make known `what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which id Christ I you the hope of glory” – Colossians 1:27*

G. P. A. Hymn 209 – Jesus lives thy terrors now

INTRODUCTION

Resurrection simply means revival. It means that which is dead bouncing back to life. Resurrection also means a quickening. In the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus said, it was right we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead, and is alive again... Luke 15:32. The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:1 referring to born again believers in Christ, said, Ad you made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Father, I pray, let your resurrection and hope make fresh contact with my life in the name of Jesus.
2. Father, let me find eternal rest in your kingdom in the name of Jesus.
3. Father, let my future be glorious in the name of Jesus.
4. Let the resurrection power fall upon me mightily in the name of Jesus.
5. O Lord, speak to the situation in my life so as to enable me experience great turnaround in my life.
6. Lord Jesus, You spoke life to Lazarus and he became a living soul, all dead things in my life, receive resurrection power today.
7. Pray for the ushers to have a spirit of patience and attentiveness, effectively handling any disruptions and ensuring a smooth and orderly worship experience.
8. Pray for the Choir Department to cultivate unity and harmony among its members, and for their music to be both a ministry and a means of drawing others to Christ.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Judges 10-11; Luke 9:1-36

QUOTE: *“Resurrection is the ultimate affirmation that life triumphs over death, and hope is the beacon that guides us through.”*

Friday, 4th April 2025

CITY OF GOD

Text(s): Revelation 21:2-3

Key Verse: *“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” – Revelation 21:2*

The City of God symbolizes the ultimate fulfillment of God’s promise of redemption and eternal fellowship with His people. Described in Revelation 21, this heavenly city represents a place of perfect peace, beauty, and the presence of God, where there will be no more death, sorrow, or pain. The imagery of the city coming down from heaven signifies the unification of the divine and the earthly, indicating that the holy and the mortal realms will be forever merged under God’s sovereign reign.

This divine city encourages believers to maintain an eternal perspective, prioritizing spiritual values over worldly concerns. The promise of living in the City of God motivates Christians to live holy and obedient lives, anticipating the joy and perfection of eternal communion with God. It reminds them that their ultimate citizenship is not of this world but of a heavenly city designed and built by God.

Furthermore, the City of God serves as a beacon of hope and assurance, especially in times of trouble and uncertainty. It assures believers of God’s ultimate control over history and His unwavering commitment to fulfill His redemptive plan. This vision encourages the faithful to persevere in faith, knowing that their struggles and sufferings are temporary and will give way to everlasting joy and peace.

Living in the light of the City of God means engaging in behaviors that reflect its holy and loving nature. Believers are encouraged to cultivate community, extend grace, and actively participate in spreading the gospel, thereby foreshadowing the unity and joy of the heavenly city. It also involves daily spiritual disciplines that keep one’s heart and mind focused on God and His promises.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, we thank You for the promise of the City of God, where we will dwell with You forever. Keep our hearts focused on Your eternal kingdom, and use us to spread the hope of Your heavenly city to others in Jesus’ name, Amen.
2. Pray for the Protocol Department to provide excellent logistical support, coordinating all events and services with efficiency and attention to detail.

QUOTE: *“The City of God is not just a destination but a motivation to live righteously and joyfully in the present.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Judges 12-14; Luke 9:37-62

G. P. A. Hymn 236 – Ten thousand times ten thousand

Saturday, 5th April 2025

IN THE DAYS OF THY POWER

Text(s): Psalm 110:3

Key Verse: *"Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours."* – **Psalm 110:3**

"In the Days of Thy Power" refers to times when God's sovereignty and might are manifestly displayed, compelling His people to willingly commit themselves to His purposes. This expression highlights the transformative influence of God's power in mobilizing and equipping believers for spiritual endeavors. Such times are marked by a significant outpouring of the Holy Spirit, resulting in revival, deepened faith, and expanded ministry impact. The readiness of God's people to serve Him during these periods demonstrates the compelling nature of divine power in action.

To participate effectively in the days of His power, believers must maintain a posture of readiness and willingness. This involves cultivating a spiritual sensitivity through prayer and meditation on the Scriptures to discern the movements of God's Spirit. It also requires a commitment to holiness and personal surrender, allowing God to use one's life as a vessel for His purposes. During these times, the faithful find that their spiritual capacities are enlarged, and their youthful vigor is renewed, like the fresh dew of the morning.

Furthermore, such times call for collective action among God's people. Unity and collaboration in the church are crucial as the body of Christ moves together in response to God's call. The power of God often brings diverse groups within the church to work in harmony, showcasing the beauty of God's design for His church—a tapestry of talents and gifts united under His lordship.

Believers are encouraged to seek God's power in their lives and ministries, asking Him to manifest His presence in ways that draw more people to Christ. They should also prepare themselves through spiritual disciplines and active engagement in their local churches to be ready for when God chooses to move powerfully in their midst.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, we ask for Your powerful presence to be evident in our lives and in our churches. May our service be pleasing to You, clothed in holiness and propelled by Your Spirit. Amen.
2. Pray for church workers to have endurance and enthusiasm in their roles, that their service may be both effective and fulfilling.

QUOTE: *"When God moves powerfully, His people find renewed strength to serve Him with unprecedented fervor and unity."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Judges 15-17; Luke 10:1-24

G. P. A. Hymn 330 – Jesus my strength my hope

Sunday, 6th April 2025

GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Text(s): Romans 5:17

Key Verse: *“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!” – Romans 5:17*

The Gift of Righteousness is a fundamental concept in Christian theology, emphasizing that righteousness is not earned but bestowed upon believers through Jesus Christ. This gift is the basis of our justification before God, allowing us to stand blameless in His sight not because of our works but because of Christ's atoning sacrifice. Understanding and accepting this gift is crucial for all believers as it shapes their identity and their approach to spiritual life, freeing them from the burden of trying to earn God's favor through their own efforts.

To embrace the gift of righteousness, believers must first acknowledge their inability to achieve righteousness on their own. This acknowledgment leads to a deeper appreciation of Christ's work on the cross and His immeasurable grace. It encourages a relationship with God based on faith and gratitude rather than fear and striving. This gift not only secures a believer's eternal standing before God but also empowers them to live victoriously over sin and the condemnation it brings.

Moreover, the gift of righteousness should transform how believers view themselves and others. It promotes a spirit of humility and compassion, recognizing that all are dependent on the same grace for salvation. This understanding fosters a more inclusive and supportive community within the church, where believers are motivated to encourage and build up one another in faith.

Receiving the gift of righteousness involves daily reliance on God's grace and a commitment to live in a manner that reflects the righteousness received from Christ. Believers are encouraged to grow in their knowledge of God's Word, which reaffirms the truth of this gift and guides them in righteous living. They should also be active in sharing this gift with others, presenting the gospel as a message of grace and hope available to all.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, thank You for the incredible gift of righteousness through Jesus Christ. May our lives reflect Your righteousness and draw others to Your grace. Amen.
2. Pray for the Sunday School teachers to be inspired and equipped to deliver lessons that captivate and teach children, fostering a love for God's Word.

QUOTE: *“The gift of righteousness is the divine exchange—our sin for His purity—granting us the power to live as heirs of the kingdom.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Judges 18-19; Luke 10:25-42

G. P. A. Hymn 359 – He gave to me a seal

Monday, 7th April 2025

SANCTIFICATION

Text(s): 1 Thessalonians 4:3

Key Verse: *“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;” – 1 Thessalonians 4:3*

Sanctification is the process by which believers are gradually made holy through the work of the Holy Spirit. It involves being set apart for God’s use and being transformed into the image of Christ. This ongoing process is God’s will for all believers, calling them to live lives that reflect His holiness and purity. Sanctification is not an instant occurrence but a lifelong journey that influences every decision and action, leading to spiritual maturity and deeper intimacy with God.

To pursue sanctification, believers must engage actively in practices that promote spiritual growth, such as prayer, reading the Bible, and fasting regularly. These disciplines help to renew the mind and align one's heart with God’s desires. Sanctification also involves turning away from sin and consciously choosing actions that are pleasing to God, which often requires personal sacrifice and a commitment to obey God’s commands.

Moreover, sanctification has a communal aspect; it is supported and enriched through relationships with other believers. The church community plays a crucial role in encouraging, teaching, and correcting, which are all important for growth in holiness. This shared journey enhances the body of Christ, making it a more effective witness to the transforming power of the gospel.

Sanctification involves daily decisions to forsake worldly values and embrace godly virtues. Believers are encouraged to seek accountability within their spiritual communities and to remain open to the Holy Spirit’s correction and guidance. Regular self-examination and repentance are crucial in maintaining a path of sanctification, as is the continual application of God’s Word in personal life.

PRAYER(S):

1. Holy Spirit, guide us in our journey of sanctification, that we might be more like Christ each day. May our lives testify to the purity and love of Your kingdom. Amen.
2. Pray for the General Overseer to have protection from any spiritual attacks and for a clear, God-given vision for the church’s future.

QUOTE: *“Sanctification is the divine art of transforming flawed believers into the likeness of Christ through the gentle touch of the Spirit.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Judges 20-21; Luke 11:1-28

G. P. A. Hymn 414 – Oh, for a heart to praise my God

Tuesday, 8th April 2025

OBEDIENCE

Text(s): John 14:23

Key Verse: *"Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'"* – **John 14:23**

Obedience is a core principle in the Christian faith, reflecting a believer's love and respect for God. It involves adhering to God's commandments and teachings, demonstrating faith through action. Jesus emphasized that true love for Him is shown through obedience, which not only pleases God but also deepens the believer's relationship with Him. This commitment to obey God's Word is evidence of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and is fundamental to authentic Christian living.

To live a life of obedience, believers must first know what God requires by studying the Scriptures. This knowledge must then be applied to everyday life, which can often require tough choices and sacrificial actions. Obedience is not merely about following rules but about aligning one's will with God's will, seeking to glorify Him in all things.

Moreover, obedience often involves trusting God's wisdom over one's own understanding. It requires faith, especially when God's commands seem challenging or when obeying may lead to difficult consequences. However, the blessings of obedience are profound, including peace, spiritual growth, and increased intimacy with God.

Obedience can be cultivated by regular prayer for strength and courage to follow God's will. Believers should also seek the support of a faith community that encourages adherence to biblical teachings. Finally, reflecting on the outcomes of obedience in one's life can reinforce the value and importance of this discipline.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, instill in us a heart of obedience that seeks to honor You in all aspects of our lives. May our obedience demonstrate our love for You and inspire others to seek You. Amen.
2. Pray for the Mission's Department to develop effective strategies and programs that connect with diverse communities, bringing the message of Christ and meeting practical needs.

QUOTE: *"Obedience is the practical expression of a faith that trusts God's heart and wisdom above all."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ruth 1-4; Luke 11:29-54

G. P. A. Hymn 263 – Just as God who reigns on high

Wednesday, 9th April 2025

POWER OF ASSOCIATION

Text(s): Proverbs 13:20

Key Verse: *“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.” – Proverbs 13:20*

The Power of Association emphasizes the significant impact that our relationships have on our personal and spiritual growth. This concept is clearly articulated in Proverbs, which teaches that the company we keep can either elevate us towards wisdom or pull us down towards folly. Associating with wise and godly individuals encourages us to develop similar traits, as their habits, thought processes, and behaviors often rub off on us. Conversely, spending time with those who exhibit poor judgment and ungodly behavior can lead to negative consequences, influencing us to make similar poor choices.

To harness the power of positive association, believers are encouraged to seek out and cultivate relationships with individuals who embody the characteristics and values they aspire to. This involves actively participating in communities of faith where such relationships can be formed, such as church groups, Bible study circles, and ministry teams. By surrounding themselves with godly mentors and peers, believers can gain wisdom, receive encouragement, and stay accountable in their spiritual walk.

The power of association extends beyond just avoiding negative influences; it is also about being a positive influence on others. Believers have the opportunity to impact the lives of those around them through their own example. By living out biblical principles and showing the love of Christ in everyday interactions, believers can lead others towards righteousness and serve as catalysts for spiritual renewal in their communities.

Effectively managing the power of association means being intentional about choosing friends and companions. It requires regular self-evaluation of one's relationships and adjusting as necessary to ensure that one's closest associations are supportive of spiritual growth. Believers should also pray for discernment and wisdom to navigate complex social dynamics and to know when to draw closer or create boundaries in certain relationships.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, help us to understand the power of our associations and guide us in forming and maintaining godly relationships. Grant us wisdom to choose companions who will encourage our growth in faith and help us to be a positive influence on those around us in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for a fresh outpouring of God's presence during services and events, that GPA may experience His power and transformation in new ways.

QUOTE: *“Show me your friends, and I will show you your future. Association shapes aspirations and actions.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Samuel 1-3; Luke 12:1-34

G. P. A. Hymn 149 – When we walk with the Lord

Thursday, 10th April 2025

FASTING

Text(s): Isaiah 58:6-7

Key Verse: *"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?" – Isaiah 58:6*

"Fasting" is a spiritual discipline designed to deepen one's relationship with God through voluntary abstinence from food and other physical pleasures. In the Bible, fasting is often associated with seeking greater spiritual insight, repentance, and intercession. Isaiah 58, in particular, challenges believers to pair fasting with actions that reflect God's concerns for justice and compassion. This coupling of inward piety with outward acts of love highlights the true purpose of fasting: it's not merely about personal sacrifice, but about cultivating a heart that mirrors God's heart, particularly towards the oppressed and needy.

To engage in effective fasting, believers are encouraged to approach the practice with a clear and focused intent. The primary goal should be to enhance one's spiritual receptiveness and responsiveness to God. This might involve seeking guidance, mourning over sin, or interceding for others. Fasting should also be accompanied by prayer, meditation on Scripture, and reflection. These complementary practices help to create a spiritual environment conducive to growth and insight.

As Isaiah points out, true fasting that pleases God involves addressing social injustices and extending kindness to those in need. This approach transforms fasting from a mere religious exercise into a powerful act of faith that impacts the broader community. It challenges believers to not only abstain from physical nourishment but also to feed the hungry, support the weak, and stand against oppression in tangible ways.

To integrate fasting into one's spiritual life, a believer should start with specific, manageable commitments and seek guidance from spiritual mentors or leaders, especially when undertaking longer fasts. It's important to consider one's health and motives before beginning a fast. Believers should also be prepared for the physical and emotional challenges that might arise during fasting and have strategies in place to maintain their focus on the spiritual purposes of their fast.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, guide us as we seek to draw nearer to You through fasting. Help us to understand the needs of those around us and give us the strength to meet those needs in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for ongoing encouragement and renewal for church leaders, especially those facing burnout or discouragement, that they may be revitalized and inspired.

QUOTE: *"Fasting is a shield with which a servant protects himself from the fire and is a fortress for the body."* – Unknown

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Samuel 4-6; Luke 12:35-59

G. P. A. Hymn 383 – I strive to walk the narrow way

Friday, 11th April 2025

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Text(s): 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Key Verse: “*Pray without ceasing.*” – 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Praying without ceasing is a directive from Apostle Paul that encapsulates the essence of a persistent and enduring prayer life. This call to continual prayer is not about non-stop speaking, but rather maintaining a constant, living connection with God throughout the day. It's an invitation to make prayer a fundamental part of life, integrating it into every moment, situation, and thought. This ongoing communication deepens our relationship with God, aligns our will with His, and equips us to navigate life's challenges with spiritual insight and resilience.

To pray without ceasing, believers must cultivate an awareness of God's presence in all aspects of life. This can be achieved by transitioning from scheduled prayer times to integrating prayer in all activities, whether working, commuting, or engaging with others. Each moment presents an opportunity to thank God, seek His guidance, intercede for others, or simply acknowledge His presence. This habit transforms how believers view their daily routines, seeing them as opportunities to engage with God rather than as secular tasks.

Unceasing prayer has the power to transform not just the individual's heart and mind but also their circumstances. It keeps believers spiritually alert and sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings, enabling them to respond to God's leading promptly. It also fosters a spirit of dependence on God, reinforcing the truth that we operate not by our might but by the Spirit of God. Through continual prayer, believers maintain a posture of humility and openness to God's intervention in their lives.

Praying without ceasing involves simple, short prayers that connect believers to God throughout the day. Techniques such as using prayer prompts—like alarms or specific daily tasks—can remind believers to turn their thoughts towards God regularly. Additionally, cultivating a thankful heart and using Scripture as a basis for prayer can enrich one's dialogue with God, making it more meaningful and rooted in biblical truth.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, teach us to pray without ceasing, to keep our hearts and minds constantly connected to You. Strengthen us to rely on You at all times, trusting that Your wisdom and strength are always available to us in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for the Media and Communications Department to effectively share the church's message and mission through various channels, reaching and engaging a broad audience with clarity and impact.

QUOTE: “*To pray without ceasing is less about the quantity of words spoken and more about the quality of the heart's posture towards God.*”

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Samuel 7-9; Luke 13:1-21

G. P. A. Hymn 329 – Trust on, trust on, believer

Saturday, 12th April 2025

POWER IN THE NAME OF JESUS

Text(s): Philippians 2:9-11

Key Verse: *“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.” – Philippians 2:9-10*

The power in the Name of Jesus is a central tenet of Christian faith, underscoring the authority and sovereignty vested in Christ by God the Father. This divine power is encapsulated in Jesus' name, which signifies His roles as Savior, Healer, and King. The Scriptures affirm that through His name, believers can access salvation, healing, and deliverance, reflecting the comprehensive dominion Jesus holds over both the physical and spiritual realms. The name of Jesus is not merely a set of letters, but a declaration of His godly essence and the authority granted to Him over heaven and earth.

Invoking the name of Jesus in prayer, worship, and daily life activates the spiritual authority given to believers. It is a profound acknowledgment of His power to intervene in our circumstances. When Christians call upon Jesus' name, they are not just uttering a word but engaging the power of Christ Himself. This act of faith can break chains of despair, open doors of opportunity, and summon peace into troubled situations. It is a spiritual tool gifted to believers, enabling them to overcome the trials and temptations of this world.

The power in Jesus' name brings comfort and assurance to believers. It reminds them of the victory Jesus achieved over sin and death, a victory they share in as His followers. This victory is not just theoretical but has practical implications for daily living, empowering believers to live in freedom and hope. The name of Jesus also serves as a rallying cry for unity and strength within the Christian community, drawing believers together under the banner of His love and authority.

Believers are encouraged to cultivate a deep and personal reverence for the name of Jesus. This can be enhanced through prayer, the study of Scripture, and the testimony of His works in their lives and the lives of others. Regularly acknowledging His name in various aspects of life can help believers remain conscious of His presence and power. Additionally, sharing the significance of Jesus' name with others can extend the reach of His saving and transforming power to those who do not yet know Him.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord Jesus, we recognize the immense power in Your name. Teach us to call upon You faithfully and reverently, trusting in Your authority and might. May Your name be our stronghold and refuge, the source of our salvation and every victory. Amen.

2. Pray for GPA members to experience spiritual revival and renewal, and for a deepening of their relationship with God and commitment to His work.

QUOTE: *“The name of Jesus is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Samuel 10-12; Luke 13:22-35

G. P. A. Hymn 34 – How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

Sunday, 13th April 2025

SPIRITUAL INHERITANCE

Text(s): Ephesians 1:13-14

Key Verse: *"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."*

– Ephesians 1:13-14

Spiritual Inheritance refers to the blessings and promises bestowed upon believers through their faith in Christ. This inheritance includes eternal life, a restored relationship with God, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are not earned but are given as part of the divine legacy through Christ's redemptive work. Understanding our spiritual inheritance is crucial for believers because it shapes how we view our identity, purpose, and the resources available to us in Christ.

The New Testament frequently emphasizes that believers are heirs of God's kingdom, highlighting the richness of the spiritual blessings in Christ. This inheritance is both a present reality and a future promise. Believers experience aspects of this inheritance now, such as peace and spiritual empowerment, but the fullness of the inheritance, including the redemption of our bodies and the complete restoration of creation, remains a future hope. This dual aspect encourages believers to live with confidence and expectancy, knowing that what they experience now is only a foretaste of what is to come.

Understanding one's spiritual inheritance can profoundly affect how believers live their daily lives. It provides a sense of belonging and value, knowing that they are loved and chosen by God. This realization compels them to live not as orphans without resources but as cherished children who have access to the riches of their heavenly Father's kingdom.

Living in light of one's spiritual inheritance involves regular engagement with the Scriptures to understand the breadth and depth of what God has promised. Prayer and worship are also vital in cultivating a deeper appreciation and connection to these truths. Additionally, believers are encouraged to share their hope with others, extending the invitation to partake in this glorious inheritance through faith in Christ. As they grow in understanding their inheritance, believers are empowered to endure trials and to invest their lives in eternal pursuits.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, thank You for the rich spiritual inheritance we receive as Your children. Strengthen us to share this good news with others, that they too may come into the family and enjoy the blessings You have prepared in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for the effective implementation of health programs and support for GPA members, promoting physical and mental well-being.

QUOTE: *"Our spiritual inheritance transforms our present and assures our future, anchoring our lives in the eternal promises of God."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Samuel 13-14; Luke 14:1-24

G. P. A. Hymn 285 – Quiet be thou my heart
Monday, 14th April 2025

TEACH US TO PRAY

Text(s): Luke 11:1

Key Verse: *“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’” – Luke 11:1*

This topic reflects the disciples’ request for Jesus to guide them in the practice of prayer, recognizing the depth and power of His communion with the Father. This request led to the teaching of the Lord’s Prayer, a model that outlines the foundational aspects of prayer. This moment underscores the necessity for believers to seek understanding and guidance in prayer, recognizing it as a vital component of their spiritual life. Learning to pray effectively is about more than reciting words; it's about cultivating a meaningful relationship with God, where prayer becomes a dialogue rather than a monologue.

Believers are encouraged to follow the model of the Lord’s Prayer by acknowledging God’s holiness and sovereignty first, thereby setting the tone of reverence and submission. Prayer should also include petitions for daily needs, requests for forgiveness and deliverance, and affirmations of God’s eternal reign and power. This structure ensures that prayers are balanced between adoration, petition, and confession, helping believers maintain a focus on God’s priorities alongside their own.

Learning to pray involves regular practice and openness to the Holy Spirit’s guidance. Believers are encouraged to set aside specific times for prayer, make use of scriptural prayers, and remain attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Keeping a prayer journal can also enhance one’s prayer life, providing a space to record insights, track prayer requests, and reflect on God’s answers. Engaging in communal prayer, such as in church services or small groups, allows believers to learn from others and experience the power of collective prayer.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, teach us to pray with sincerity, depth, and understanding. Guide us into a deeper prayer relationship with You each day in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for ongoing training and development opportunities for current and emerging leaders, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed for effective ministry.

QUOTE: *“Effective prayer is not about the eloquence of our words, but the sincerity of our hearts and alignment with God's will.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Samuel 15-16; Luke 14:25-35

G. P. A. Hymn 437 – Come ye yourselves apart and rest awhile

Tuesday, 15th April 2025

STRONG TOWER

Text(s): Proverbs 18:10

Key Verse: *“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe.” – Proverbs 18:10*

Strong Tower symbolizes the security and protection offered by God to those who trust in Him. This imagery of a fortress or tower conveys the safety and refuge that God provides in times of distress or danger. The name of the LORD embodies His character and promises—His power, faithfulness, and salvation. For believers, invoking God’s name in prayer is akin to running into a fortified place where enemies cannot reach, and threats cannot penetrate. This assurance encourages believers to rely on God's strength and protection rather than their own resources.

To access the safety of this strong tower, believers must cultivate a relationship of trust and dependence on God. This involves not only acknowledging God's sovereignty in times of trouble but also maintaining a steady faith in everyday circumstances. By consistently turning to God—through prayer, worship, and obedience—believers reinforce their spiritual foundation, making it easier to run to Him when crises arise. The practice of relying on God's name helps to fortify believers against fear and anxiety, providing peace that transcends understanding.

Making God's name a strong tower involves regular meditation on His attributes and promises found throughout Scripture. Believers are encouraged to declare these truths in their prayers and affirm them in their hearts, especially during difficult times. Additionally, sharing testimonies of how God has been a refuge can strengthen both personal faith and the faith of others. Engaging in communal worship that exalts God’s name also reinforces the collective security that His strong tower provides to the community of believers.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, we thank You that Your name is a strong tower where we can find safety and strength. May we always be mindful of the power and security that Your name provides and let us live confidently as a testament to Your faithfulness in Your mighty name, we pray, Amen.

2. Pray for strong and supportive relationships between different generations within GPA, fostering mutual respect and collaboration.

QUOTE: *“In the name of the LORD, we find not just refuge, but a rallying point for our souls, a place where our spirits are lifted and our strength is renewed.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Samuel 17-18; Luke 15:1-10

G. P. A. Hymn 404 – Thou art my hiding place, O Lord

Wednesday, 16th April 2025

BREAKING BARRIERS

Text(s): Ephesians 2:14

Key Verse: *"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility."* – **Ephesians 2:14**

Breaking Barriers speaks about the transformative power of the Gospel to dissolve the divisions that separate people, whether they are based on race, social status, gender, or cultural differences. This concept is vividly illustrated in the New Testament, where Jesus breaks down the "dividing wall of hostility" between Jews and Gentiles, establishing peace and creating a new unified community in Him. This spiritual principle encourages believers to transcend societal divisions and to foster unity and reconciliation through the love and peace of Christ.

To actively engage in breaking barriers, believers must first recognize and confront personal prejudices and biases that may hinder unity. This involves a willingness to learn from and empathize with those who are different, seeking to understand their experiences and perspectives. It also requires courage to challenge and change traditional patterns of thought and behavior that perpetuate division. Christians are called to mirror Jesus' example, who reached out to the marginalized and crossed cultural boundaries to show God's love.

Breaking barriers involves deliberate actions such as engaging in community service, participating in reconciliation efforts, and fostering inclusive environments within churches and organizations. Believers should also seek ongoing education about social issues and engage in open, honest dialogues with others about faith and justice. Prayerfully seeking God's guidance in these efforts ensures that the actions taken are grounded in biblical principles and led by the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, help us to break down the barriers that divide us. May our actions reflect your heart for unity and reconciliation, and may your church be a model of diversity and harmony in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for the Senior Pastors to have insight and strength as they shepherd the congregation, balancing personal and pastoral responsibilities with grace.

QUOTE: *"In Christ, barriers are broken and new pathways for unity and peace are forged."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Samuel 19-21; Luke 15:11-32

G. P. A. Hymn 390 – Almighty Father, hear our cry

Thursday, 17th April 2025

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Text(s): Matthew 5:16

Key Verse: *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* – **Matthew 5:16**

Today's topic encapsulates Jesus' call for His followers to live in such a way that their lives visibly reflect God's love and truth to the world. This directive, part of the Sermon on the Mount, emphasizes the transformative impact that Christians are meant to have in their surroundings. Just as light dispels darkness, believers are to influence their environments positively, guiding others toward God and His kingdom values. This shining is not for personal glory but to direct attention to God, highlighting His grace and goodness through their actions and interactions.

Believers must cultivate a life that is consistently aligned with God's principles. This alignment involves more than just avoiding sin; it includes active engagement in good works such as helping the needy, promoting justice, and showing kindness and integrity in everyday situations. These actions serve as a practical demonstration of faith, making the gospel attractive to those who do not yet believe. Each act of kindness and moment of integrity is like a beam of light that pierces through the shadows of indifference and injustice.

Letting your light shine involves daily choices to embody Christ's teachings. Believers are encouraged to seek regular spiritual nourishment through prayer and Scripture to maintain their spiritual vitality. Additionally, engaging in community life and fellowship provides opportunities to support and be supported in living out this call. Christians should also be proactive in seeking opportunities to serve and witness within their communities, using their talents and resources to make a tangible difference in the lives of others.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, empower us to let our light shine brightly in this world. Equip us to be beacons of hope and agents of change wherever we are placed in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for pastoral associates to receive support and encouragement in their roles, and for them to effectively minister to and care for their specific congregational needs.

QUOTE: *"Your life as a believer should illuminate the path to Christ, guiding others away from darkness and into His glorious light."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Samuel 22-24; Luke 16:1-18

G. P. A. Hymn 422 – Shine Thou upon us, Lord

Friday, 18th April 2025

A PERFECT SACRIFICE

Text(s): Luke 22:1-23

Key Verse: *“For this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.”* – **Matthew 26:28**

Jesus inaugurated the Lord’s Supper, also called the Eucharist or Communion, during His last Passover meal with His disciples. Today, Christians continue to observe the Lord’s Supper as part of corporate worship. Partaking together of the bread and the cup, which represent Christ’s body and blood, reminds us of our life together as the spiritual body of Jesus. This is made possible only because of who He is and what He has done for us.

Today’s passage describes Jesus’ final Passover meal with disciples in the hours preceding His death. It was the first day of Passover, also called the Festival of Unleavened Bread, which commemorated God’s deliverance of Israel from bondage in Egypt (see Exodus 12). As part of their rescue, an unblemished lamb had to be killed and its blood applied to the doorposts. The firstborns within houses with the blood applied would be spared from death.

The meal began with a somber announcement. Jesus declared that one of the Twelve would betray Him. Each of the disciples proclaimed his innocence, but Jesus persisted. Then, while they were eating, Jesus broke a piece of bread, distributing it to His disciples: “This is my body given for you” (v. 19). He distributed a cup of wine, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you” (v. 20).

Jesus was identifying Himself as the Lamb who delivers us from the bondage of sin. His blood would be shed, and all those who trust in His work of redemption will be saved from sin and death. Only through His blood can we find forgiveness (see Matt. 26:28). In an echo of Exodus 12:24, Jesus instructed His disciples to participate in this Lord’s Supper in “remembrance of me” (v. 19).

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, we come before You in awe and gratitude for the perfect sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us strength to follow in His footsteps, to bear our own crosses with faith and perseverance.
2. Pray for the Youth Department to address the relevant issues facing young people today, offering guidance, support, and opportunities for spiritual development.

QUOTE: *“A perfect sacrifice is not just an act of giving, but a profound expression of love and commitment.”* – Anonymous

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Samuel 25-26; Luke 16:19-31

G. P. A. Hymn 198 – I gave my life for Thee

GOOD FRIDAY!

Saturday, 19th April 2025

THE GIFT OF GOD'S LOVE

Text(s): Romans 5:6-17

Key Verse: *"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."* – **Romans 5:8**

In today's passage, we are reminded of an even greater gift. God gave us the incredible gift of His love. He gave the life of His Son, Jesus Christ, so we could live. There is an urgency to this gift. Just like a donor heart arriving when a patient is about to die, God's gift came "at just the right time" (v. 6).

Consider the fact that rarely will anyone willingly give up their life for another person. Yet, while we were undeserving in our sin, rebellious "enemies" of God (v. 10), Christ gave His life for us (v. 8).

This undeserved gift of God's love rescues, saves, and transforms us. As the passage explains, we existed in a state of death since Adam. Through the fateful act of Adam and Eve, sin came to all people, and therefore we were all condemned. Sin is the common denominator of humanity, the common ailment of us all. No one is exempt (Rom. 3:10).

The good news is that God provided an incredible gift of salvation through His Son. We didn't have to become good enough to deserve God's love. It was freely given to us. Every sinner can receive "God's abundant provision" through Jesus Christ (v. 17). "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (v. 8).

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, we pray that Your love, as demonstrated through Jesus Christ, will transform us from the inside out.
2. Pray for the Mission Department to have innovative strategies and the resources needed to effectively carry out its mission locally and internationally, impacting lives and spreading the gospel.

QUOTE: *"The gift of God's love is the most precious treasure, freely given and endlessly abundant."* – **Anonymous**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Samuel 27-29; Luke 17:1-19

G. P. A. Hymn 514 – O sweet is the story of Jesus

Sunday, 20th April 2025

THE MIRACLE OF EASTER

Text(s): Matthew 28:5-6

Key Verse: *"The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.'"* – **Matthew 28:6**

The Miracle of Easter embodies the cornerstone of Christian faith—the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This event transcends mere historical fact; it is a profound declaration of victory over death and sin. Through His resurrection, Jesus not only fulfilled ancient prophecies but also opened a new pathway for humanity to experience eternal life and reconciliation with God. The empty tomb on Easter morning is not just an empty space but a promise fulfilled and a powerful testament to God's unfailing love and sovereign power over death.

Easter invites believers to reflect on the transformative power of Christ's resurrection. It is a celebration of new life and hope that springs eternal from Jesus' triumph over the grave. This miracle signifies that no situation, no matter how dire, is beyond God's reach; and that life, in its truest form, is made possible through Christ. It assures us that just as Christ was raised from the dead, those who believe in Him will also experience resurrection, granting them a living hope that does not fade away.

Moreover, the miracle of Easter is not meant to be observed from afar; it is an invitation to a personal experience of Jesus' power and presence. Believers are called to live in the reality of the resurrection, which includes embracing a life transformed by the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. This involves renewing our minds, living out our faith boldly, and spreading the good news of Jesus' resurrection to all. Easter challenges us to move beyond mere acknowledgment of this event to a vibrant, daily celebration of this life-changing truth.

Living in the light of the Easter miracle means letting the joy and power of the resurrection permeate every aspect of our lives. It means allowing our lives to be guided by the hope and renewal that Easter represents. As believers, we are to be agents of this resurrection life, demonstrating its power through acts of love, service, and compassion to a world in need of hope.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord Jesus, we thank You for the miracle of Easter and the incredible hope it brings into our lives. Empower us to be messengers of this great news, sharing the hope of Easter with everyone we meet in Your victorious name, Amen.
2. Pray for effective communication and collaboration among the GPA leadership team, that they may work together in harmony and achieve the church's goals.

QUOTE: *"Easter is a time of new beginnings, renewal of faith, and rejoicing in the victory of life over death."* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Samuel 30-31; Luke 17:20-37

G. P. A. Hymn 397 – Conquerors and overcomer now are we

EASTER SUNDAY!

Monday, 21st April 2025

ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

Text(s): 1 Peter 2:9

Key Verse: *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” – 1 Peter 2:9*

Royal Priesthood conveys the elevated and holy calling of all believers, emphasizing their dual role as members of God’s royal family and as priests who serve in His spiritual temple. This concept, drawn from the teachings of the New Testament, underscores the believer's privilege and responsibility to mediate between God and the world. As priests, Christians are to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, which includes praise, thanksgiving, good works, and sharing the gospel. The royal aspect of this priesthood highlights the dignity and authority with which believers are endowed as children of the King of Kings.

Embracing the identity of a royal priesthood involves recognizing and living out the implications of this calling daily. Believers are to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects their royal status—honorable, just, and loving, demonstrating the character of Christ in all interactions. As priests, they are called to be mediators who draw others to God, actively sharing the message of reconciliation found in the gospel. This dual role enriches the Christian’s purpose, aligning their actions with God’s kingdom agenda.

The concept of a royal priesthood emphasizes the collective identity of the church. This identity transcends individual backgrounds, uniting diverse believers into one holy nation dedicated to serving God and representing His interests on earth. The communal aspect of this priesthood encourages collaboration and mutual edification, as believers work together to fulfill their priestly duties within the body of Christ.

Living as a royal priesthood means believers should cultivate a life of prayer and worship, both privately and corporately. They should engage in studying and meditating on Scripture to deepen their understanding of God’s character and His will. Believers are also encouraged to seek opportunities to serve within their communities and beyond, using their gifts and resources to glorify God and to minister to others. Regular involvement in church activities and outreach programs can further enhance their effectiveness in fulfilling their priestly roles.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, thank You for calling us to be a royal priesthood. Empower us to live as true representatives of Your kingdom, displaying Your character and proclaiming Your praises. Amen.
2. Pray for the Mission Department to have divine guidance and the necessary resources to execute successful outreach programs that make a lasting impact on communities in need.

QUOTE: *“As members of a royal priesthood, our lives are not our own; they are a testament to the King we serve and the kingdom we represent.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Samuel 1-3; Luke 18:1-17

G. P. A. Hymn 416 – Ye servants of the Lord

Tuesday, 22nd April 2025

THE GIFT OF GRACE

Text(s): 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Key Verse: *"I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus."*
– 1 Corinthians 1:4

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound / That saved a wretch like me. / I once was lost, but now am found / was blind, but now I see." The words of this famous hymn were penned by John Newton. In the mid-1700s, Newton worked on a slave vessel and was described as the most profane man the captain had ever met. During a storm, Newton advised his fellow sailors to tie themselves to the ship to avoid being washed overboard. He begged God for mercy. God found him in his wretched state and redeemed him. Newton experienced the gift of God's grace.

Grace is the unmerited favor of God. We were once condemned because of our sin, but we are now saved by God's grace (see Rom. 3:24). We did nothing to merit this act of mercy from God. We did not prove ourselves good enough in any way. We could not even lift one finger to save ourselves.

God's grace provides a way. In our text today, Paul thanks God for the grace that saved the church in Corinth and brought them together as the body of Christ. We are joint recipients of this grace, united by this act of divine mercy, a gift we all share. And this grace produces results. Paul says by grace, we are enriched in every way, including our speech and the way we think (v. 5). Grace produces changes in our lives that are visible to others.

And grace will see us home! "He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 8). Not one of us could appear blameless before God without this amazing gift of grace!

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the precious gift of Your grace. We pray that we may live in a way that honors and reflects Your amazing grace.
2. Pray for the Children's Department to create engaging and safe environments where children can learn about God's love and grow in their faith.

QUOTE: *"The grace of God is not just a gift but a way of life that transforms our existence."* – **Anonymous**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Samuel 4-6; Luke 18:18-43

G. P. A. Hymn 4 – For Thy mercy and the grace

Wednesday, 23rd April 2025

CIRCUMSTANCE AND CALLING

Text(s): 1 Corinthians 7:1-24

Key Verse: *“Yes, each of you should remain as you were when God called you.” – 1 Corinthians 7:20*

April was thrilled to announce her engagement. But later, she began to wonder if she should follow through with it. Her fiancé had a drinking problem and an increasing lack of interest in spiritual things. After prayer and reflection, she made the difficult decision to call off the wedding.

Believers in Corinth also had relationship concerns. Some who were unmarried wondered if they should marry or remain single. Others, whose conversion came after they had been married, wondered if they should divorce. Paul’s general counsel to both was not to act rashly but to consider both their context and their calling. Those who were single were not sinning if they married, but given the current circumstances in Corinth, it might be “good for them to remain unmarried” (vv. 8–9). Paul commanded the already married to be faithful to their marriage vows (vv. 10–11). He assured those whose conversion had come after they had already married that their union was holy in the eyes of God and urged them not to separate (vv. 12–14).

Always the biblical realist, Paul also acknowledged the impossibility of controlling the choices that others make. Despite a believer’s best efforts to remain in the relationship, some unbelieving spouses may choose to leave—Paul judges that in such cases, the believer “is not bound” (v. 15). When Paul says, “each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them,” he is not offering case law but laying down a general principle that will apply in a variety of contexts. Paul does not mean that no one should ever change. He counsels the Corinthians to consider biblical guidelines and employ common sense when making such decisions.

God was aware of the circumstances of your life when He called you to faith in Christ. Before you make a change, study the guidelines of His Word. Scripture will show you what needs to change. Then trust Him for the rest.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, we seek Your wisdom and guidance as we navigate the challenges within our marriage. We ask that You speak to us through Your Word, illuminating the path we should take.
2. Pray for the ushers to demonstrate Christ-like hospitality and remain calm under pressure, creating a positive and welcoming atmosphere for all attendees.

QUOTE: *“Our calling transcends circumstance, offering a vision of purpose that inspires us to persevere through any adversity.”*
– Anonymous

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Samuel 7-9; Luke 19:1-28

G. P. A. Hymn 387 – I’m pressing on, the upward way

Thursday, 24th April 2025

FEAR OF THE LORD AND PROTECTION

Text(s): 2 Chronicles 17:1-11

Key Verse: *"The fear of the Lord fell over all the surrounding kingdoms so that none of them wanted to declare war on Jehoshaphat."* – 2 Chronicles 17:10

"Don't mess with Israel" might be a good summary of today's reading. This is what the fear of the Lord feels and looks like to non-worshippers (vv. 10–11). The Philistines and other enemies of Israel did not worship God. They did not respond to His greatness with awe and reverence. But they also weren't blind. They saw God clearly present and working among His people. What remained, then, was simply fear, or literally, "terror" (v. 10). They were afraid to attack Judah because they knew God was protecting them. In fact, they paid tribute to stay on good terms with them.

For King Jehoshaphat, living in the fear of the Lord, and leading his people to do the same, meant trusting in God's protection. This didn't mean he sat on his hands. He made strategic military decisions as well (vv. 1–2). His heart, like David's, was devoted to the Lord (vv. 3–6). He did not seek idols, and he removed many places of idolatry from around the country. He sought the Lord and followed His commands. He also sent court officials and Levites on a Scripture teaching tour (vv. 7–9). In all of this, the Lord was with him and helped establish his kingdom.

The fear of the Lord has a flip side. From the inside, it means awe, reverence, love, obedience, and worship. We draw nearer to God. But from the outside, it means only fear—seeing God at work, but choosing not to worship Him. One day these unrepentant, terrified people will call the mountains to fall on them (Luke 23:30).

Jehoshaphat removed the idolatrous high places, but they came back later (2 Chron. 20:33). In light of this, how can we make positive, lasting changes in our spiritual lives?

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, as we seek to live in Your fear, we also ask for Your divine protection. Guide our hearts and minds against the schemes of the enemy, and keep us safe under the shadow of Your wings.
2. Pray for the Choir Department to experience a deepening of their worship experience, with every performance becoming a true expression of praise and reverence to God.

QUOTE: *"The fear of the Lord acts as a spiritual shield, safeguarding us from harm and leading us towards peace and security."*
– Anonymous

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Samuel 10-12; Luke 19:29-48

G. P. A. Hymn 322 – The holy must undaunted be

Friday, 25th April 2025

ASKING OUR FATHER

Text(s): Luke 11:1-13

Key Verse: *“So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.” – Luke 11:13*

If good parent’s desire to give their children good gifts, how much more does our heavenly Father desire to give good things to His children? Today’s verse follows a discussion with Jesus’ disciples about how to pray to their heavenly Father.

The Lord’s Prayer, often said corporately in churches, provides an order to the way we communicate with our heavenly Father. We acknowledge who He is and His purpose in our lives (v. 2). We ask for His provision (v. 3) and express our dependence on Him. And, finally, we ask forgiveness for our sins and confess our willingness to forgive others (v. 4).

Jesus tells His disciples to ask God, their heavenly Father, to supply their needs. As God’s children, we are to ask with boldness and confidence. Consider the illustration in verses 5 through 8. The owner gives bread because of the “shameless audacity” of the request (v. 8). Jesus assures us, “Ask and it will be given to you” (v. 9).

As our Father, God wants to give us good gifts that will help and not harm us. If we ask for an egg, He will not give us a scorpion. Best of all, He has given us the Holy Spirit (v. 13), not as a temporary gift that will pass away, but as One who will abide with us to preserve and protect us.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, as we knock on the door of Your heart, we ask for Your grace and mercy to fill our lives. Let your favor be upon us, and may we experience Your goodness in ways that exceed our expectations.
2. Pray for the Church Workers Department to have effective systems in place to coordinate the efforts of volunteers and ensure that their contributions are impactful and appreciated.

QUOTE: *“To ask our Father is to acknowledge our dependence on Him, trusting that He will provide what we need with perfect timing and grace.” – Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Samuel 13-14; Luke 20:1-26

G. P. A. Hymn 288 – All prayers He will answer

Saturday, 26th April 2025

THE BREATH OF LIFE

Text(s): Genesis 2:4-23

Key Verse: *“Then the Lord formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person.” – Genesis 2:7*

Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation, better known as CPR, dates to 1740 when the Paris Academy of Sciences officially recommended a mouth-to-mouth method of resuscitation for victims of drowning. But it did not gain popularity in the United States until endorsed by the military in 1957. In 1972, a man named Leonard Cobb began mass training efforts in Seattle, Wash., showing more than 100,000 people how to give the breath of life.

When God formed man from the very dust of the ground, He did something extraordinary. He breathed into Adam’s nostrils “the breath of life” (v. 7). It was God’s breath that transformed man into a “living being.” What an amazing gift God gave at that moment: the gift of life. As Acts 17:28 says, “For in him we live and move and have our being.”

The creation of human life was the finale of God’s creative work. He had formed the heavens and the earth “in all their vast array” (v. 1). His magnificent handiwork included the sun, moon, and stars. He had designed a multitude of living creatures and abundant foliage. But the creation of man and woman stands out among these creative acts as unique.

But the giving does not stop with life; God gives three additional gifts. First, Adam was given a vocation. He was placed in the Garden of Eden and given the task of caring for God’s creation and naming each animal (vv. 15, 19). Second, Adam was given provision (and a warning): while he was allowed to eat from any tree in the garden, there was one from which he should not eat (v. 17). And third, he was given a companion, Eve (v. 18). Adam recognized this extraordinary gift when he said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh” (v. 23).

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, just as You breathed life into Adam, breathe new life into our hearts and souls. Refresh us with Your Spirit, bringing us peace, hope and joy.
2. Pray for creativity and dedication in the Sunday School Department, that they may continuously adapt and provide age-appropriate and engaging lessons that encourage students’ spiritual growth.

QUOTE: *“The breath of life is not just the air we inhale, but the spirit that sustains and inspires us through every challenge and triumph.” – Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Samuel 15-16; Luke 20:27-47

G. P. A. Hymn 240 – O Spirit of the living God

Sunday, 27th April 2025

HOW GREAT A LOVE

Text(s): 1 John 4:7-21

Key Verse: *“This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.” – 1 John 4:10*

Today’s passage defines love from God’s perspective. John explains that being loved by God shapes our behavior. John says love can be a gauge to reveal if you know or do not know God. If your life is marked by hate and disgust for others, it indicates that you do not fully understand God’s love. God demonstrated His love to us through His Son Jesus, and by sending Him into the world as an “atoning sacrifice” to pay for our sins (v. 10).

We were not deserving of that gift. This act of God’s love should produce results in our own lives. It should change the way we act toward others. God’s love “is made complete in us” (v. 12). This does not mean that God’s love is lacking but that others can more fully experience God’s love through us. When God’s love changes our hearts and behaviors, others get a glimpse of who He is and how He loves. Certainly, this should affect the way we live.

Fear has no part in love (v. 18). The atoning sacrifice of Christ has removed fear from our lives. We no longer fear judgment. We can face the future without fear of failure. Finally, we are only able to love because we have been given the supreme example. “We love because he first loved us” (v. 19). As God’s children, we should reflect through our lives what He has modeled so clearly for us.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, Your love is beyond measure, a love that surpasses all understanding. We thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior, for His willingness to leave the glory of heaven and come to earth to redeem us.
2. Pray for the General Overseer to receive clear guidance and strength from God, balancing the demands of leadership with personal spiritual health and well-being.

QUOTE: *“The greatness of love is seen in its ability to endure through trials, inspire forgiveness, and bring light to the darkest places.” – Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Samuel 17-18; Luke 21:1-19

G. P. A. Hymn 206 – There’s not a friend, like the lowly Jesus

Monday, 28th April 2025

ALL HAVE SINNED

Text(s): Daniel 9:1-14

Key Verse: *“But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him.” – Daniel 9:9*

Although they did not bear a scarlet letter, God’s people were experiencing the consequences of their disobedience and sin. They had spent the past seventy years exiled from their land. In today’s passage, Daniel utters a heartfelt prayer on behalf of his people, lamenting the sins of those who have often betrayed and disobeyed God.

Notice first Daniel’s humility in confession (v. 3). He was a respected leader in the Persian Empire, but he put on sackcloth to signify his penitent position before God. Second, notice Daniel’s focus in confession. He began his prayer by keeping the focus on God’s character and love (v. 4).

God’s character provides the context for confession. Our sin contrasts with His faithfulness: “We have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws” (v. 5). These sins are all too common. God’s righteousness is in direct contrast to our shame and unfaithfulness (v. 7). Daniel notes that outright disobedience against God has brought calamity and trouble upon His people (vv. 11–14).

We have all sinned against God (see. Rom. 3:23). Daniel’s prayer here can be a model of our confession—urgent, anguished, and crying out to God for His mercy while remembering God’s qualities of love and compassion to forgive His disobedient children (v. 19).

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, we come before You with humble hearts, acknowledging that we have all sinned, forgive us our sins. We are forever grateful for Your forgiveness and the new life we have in Christ.
2. Pray for the General Overseer to receive clear guidance and strength from God, balancing the demands of leadership with personal spiritual health and well-being.

QUOTE: *“All have sinned, yet the path to healing and renewal begins with the acceptance of our flaws and the pursuit of forgiveness.” – Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Samuel 19-20; Luke 21:20-38

G. P. A. Hymn 126 – Once a sinner far from Jesus

Tuesday, 29th April 2025

THE BLESSING OF FORGIVENESS

Text(s): 2 Chronicles 6:12-39

Key Verse: *“May you hear the humble and earnest requests from me and your people Israel when we pray toward this place. Yes, hear us from heaven where you live, and when you hear, forgive.” – 2 Chronicles 6:21*

To be forgiven is indeed an extraordinary gift, modeled for us by God Himself. For the next five days, we’re going to explore how forgiveness is a blessing. Today’s passage transcribes Solomon’s prayer of dedication for the temple. He knelt, with his hands extended toward heaven, and addressed God: “There is no God like you in heaven or on earth” (v. 14). He praised God’s greatness, and declared that this earthly temple—no matter how grand—could not contain Him (v. 18).

Recognizing the exalted nature of God and the earthly nature of God’s people, Solomon asked that God hear their prayers—and when He hears their confessions, that He would forgive them (v. 21). Notice how often Solomon makes the plea in these verses: “hear from heaven and forgive” (vv. 25, 27, 30, 39). No matter what circumstances might afflict God’s people, they must come to the Lord and plead for His forgiveness.

God cannot ignore sin, but He also extends the blessing of forgiveness. This gift of forgiveness is not for the purpose of enabling us to persist in sin; rather, forgiveness gives us the blessing of being able to follow God and serve Him. “Forgive, and deal with everyone according to all they do, since you know their hearts (for you alone know the human heart), so that they will fear you and walk in obedience to you” (vv. 30–31).

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, as we experience Your forgiveness, teach us to forgive others. Help us to extend the same grace and mercy to those who have wronged us, knowing that forgiveness brings healing and restoration.
2. Pray for the Senior Pastors to have continued vision and inspiration, leading with both wisdom and compassion to meet the needs of the congregation.

QUOTE: *“Forgiveness is the gift of freedom; it liberates us from the chains of anger and allows us to embrace love and peace.”—Anonymous*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Samuel 21-22; Luke 22:1-30

G. P. A. Hymn 2 – My soul is so happy in Jesus

Wednesday, 30th April 2025

GOD IS OUR FAITHFUL PROVIDER

Text(s): Psalm 18:1-29

Key Verse: *"You light a lamp for me. The lord, my God, lights up my darkness."* – **Psalm 18:28**

If you've ever seen the sun rise over the ocean, you know it is breathtaking. Over the darkness of the horizon, you see a tiny pinpoint of light. Then, steadily and surely, the light rises, and the point becomes a circle. The entire sky is transformed by this fireball of light. People often burst into spontaneous applause at the sight of a sunrise. What a magnificent reminder of God's daily provision.

While today we are focusing only on the first portion of Psalm 18, the entire psalm celebrates God's faithfulness. The first verse sums up the Psalm: "I love you, Lord, my strength." David had been delivered from his enemies and from Saul, whose intent was to take his life. Here David sings praise to God, who consistently comes to his rescue.

David's situation was so severe that he teetered on the brink of death. Note the poetic description he uses, as death entangles, overwhelms and confronts him (vv. 4–5). When we face significant trials, it can certainly feel like the problems take on a life or character of their own. But those problems pale in the face of the mighty God, our redeemer and rescuer. David believes God can and will rescue him. When believers pray, God hears and reacts (vv. 6–10). God does not sit passively by and ignore our call. He takes dramatic action against David's enemies and rescues the one He loves: "he rescued me because he delighted in me" (v. 19).

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, thank You for Your promise to supply all our needs. In moments of uncertainty and need, remind us of Your faithfulness. Help us to rely on Your provision and to seek Your guidance in all things.
2. Pray for the pastors and their associates to experience renewal and encouragement, enabling them to effectively support and minister to their specific congregations.

QUOTE: *"God's provision is a testament to His unwavering faithfulness, meeting our needs and exceeding our expectations with divine generosity."* – **Anonymous**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Samuel 23-24; Luke 22:31-53

G. P. A. Hymn 5 – O Lord of heaven and earth and sea

Thursday, 1st May 2025

DOMINION 1

Text(s): Genesis 1:26-28, Psalm 8:3-8

Confession: *"Thou madest him to have dominion over works of thy hands; thou has put all things under his feet."* – Psalm 8:6

G. P. A. Hymn 398 – Christ our mighty captain leads against the foe

INTRODUCTION

Luke 21:15 – From this scripture, we understand that every child of God has a great destiny in Christ. We are not redeemed to be pitied but to be envied by the world. As it is written: for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. However, the devil raises several oppositions to deny us access to our glorious destinies in Christ: hence as great as our destinies are, so are the opposition against them (1 Corinthians 16:9). We need to embark on aggressive prayer to claim back our rights from the devil.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Dominion power, fall upon my life, in the name of Jesus.
2. Dark dominion over my life and destiny, die, in the name of Jesus.
3. I receive divine dominion to rule, reign, and be victorious over dark powers, in the name of Jesus,
4. Every stumbling block to my walking in dominion, catch fire, in the name of Jesus.
5. I subdue the powers of darkness assigned to fight me, in the name of Jesus.
6. Sin shall not have dominion over me, by the power in the blood of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Kings 1-2; Luke 22:54-71

QUOTE: *"To be a ruler is not to possess power, but to be the guardian of it."* – **Anonymous**

Friday, 2nd May 2025

DOMINION 2

Text(s): Psalm 8:1-8

Confession: *“And God said, let us make man in our own image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” – Genesis 1:26*

G. P. A. Hymn 395 – Ho! My comrades, see the signal

INTRODUCTION

Dominion can be described as power, authority or control over something or someone. It was Adam's birthright and pleasure. However, Adam sinned against God and lost his dominion. God in his mercy restored dominion through Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:15 says and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Brethren, let us live a holy life so that we can claim back our right as a man of authority.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. By your power, O Lord, I have dominion over devils, in the name of Jesus.
2. I subdue the powers of darkness assigned to fight against me, in the name of Jesus.
3. By virtue of my position in Christ, I have dominion over sin, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every stumbling block to my walking in dominion, catch fire, in the name of Jesus.
5. By your authority O Lord, I have dominion over witches and wizards, in the name of Jesus.
6. I shall not be disgraced in any area of my life in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Kings 3-5; Luke 23:1-26

QUOTE: *“Dominion is not about control over others but about mastering oneself.” – Anonymous*

Saturday, 3rd May 2025

DOMINION 3

Text(s): Genesis 1:26-28, Psalm 8:3-8

Confession: *“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” – Luke 10:19*

G. P. A. Hymn 387 – I’m pressing on the upward way

INTRODUCTION

Life is all about walking in dominion. It is either you dominate or you are subdued. You have to decide where you belong. Choose to be among the brave and tough ones in Christ to harass devils. You are seated with Christ in heavenly places far above principality and power, and might and dominion consciousness and subdue the world.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. By the power in the blood of Jesus, I receive power to break evil yoke off my neck, in the name of Jesus.
2. Dominion power, fall upon my life in the name of Jesus.
3. I receive power to exercise dominion over evil powers of my father’s house, in the name of Jesus.
4. Let the lordship of wicked elders in my life perish, in the name of Jesus.
5. Father, don’t allow darkness to have dominion in my home in the name of Jesus.
6. Powers that fought my father, powers that fought my mother, and you are fighting me, die in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Kings 6-7; Luke 23:27-38

QUOTE: *“The true measure of dominion is not how much you command, but how you command with wisdom and justice.” – Anonymous*

Sunday, 4th May 2025

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Text(s): Deuteronomy 31:6-8

Key Verse: *“Fear thou not, for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” Isaiah 41:10*

Loneliness is a fickle thing. You can be happily married, have children, friends, and co-workers you enjoy, and feel alone. But this is exactly why Jesus came, He didn’t want us to be alone anymore. He wanted to bring the presence of God into our world.

If you and your family have ever been affected by a natural disaster, you may feel as if you’ve been abandoned by God. However, if trouble has hit your life in some other disaster or form of tragedy—the death of a loved one, a dreaded medical diagnosis, the loss of home and property, or the loss of your job, you are experiencing your own super storm. You may feel as if your whole world has been turned upside down and wonder how you can possibly survive the loss.

In times like these, you can feel very much alone. But you are not alone. In the midst of unspeakable sorrow, God is with you. Even if you do not feel Him near, God is there. He promises to never leave you alone. Therefore, wherever you are, God is. He is with you before, during, and after the storm, never losing sight of you, or your suffering. Even as you ponder how you will begin picking up the pieces of your life, God is there ... loving you beyond understanding, holding you up, and making a way where it seems there is no way. Reach out for Him today. He is a very present help in times of trouble (see Psalm 46:1).

PRAYER(S):

1. I feel lost, find me Lord, pull back the wreckage of my life so that I can breathe again. Embrace me Lord, cover my wounds with your healing love so that I might stand restored.
2. Pray for the Men’s Department to cultivate a strong brotherhood, encouraging men to grow in faith, take on leadership roles, and support one another in their spiritual journeys.

QUOTE: *“Even when you feel isolated, know that there are countless souls who share your journey and understand your heart.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Kings 8-9; Luke 23:39-56

G. P. A. Hymn 391 – Jesus will be with you whereso’er you stray

Monday, 5th May 2025

HE SEES AND UNDERSTANDS YOUR PAIN

Text(s): Hebrews 4:15-16, Proverbs 3:5-6

Key Verse: *“The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.” – Psalm 34:15*

God knows in great detail the devastation caused by tragedy. He understands the pain and sorrow acquainted with grief and loss. He understands because He is all knowing. Furthermore, Jesus endured suffering (see Isaiah 53) and experienced pain—even the pain of feeling abandoned (see Matthew 27:46). And because God is with you always, He knows that you are hurting. He sees your pain, and hears the cries of your heart. You are not alone in your suffering; He is there for you.

God cares very deeply about you, and is attentive to every detail of your life—even those things that burden your heart. First Peter 5:7 says that you should cast “all your cares on Him, because He cares for you.” Isn’t it comforting to know that God Almighty cares about you! It may seem like your life has been shaken to the core, but His love for you is never shaken. ““For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed; but My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.” (Isaiah 54:10).

No matter how bad things may seem, God is in control. Nothing happens without His knowledge. Matthew 10:29-31 says, “Not one sparrow (What do they cost? Two for a penny?) can fall without your Father knowing it. ... So don’t worry! You are more valuable to Him than many sparrows.” If God’s eye is on the sparrow, He’s most certainly watching you. In the midst of sadness and uncertainty, His hand is there to guide you; His strength is there to support you. You are never out of His reach.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, thank you for being a God who sees me and knows me completely. Thank you for having compassion for my pain and struggles. Please take my pain and use it for good in my life, drawing me closer to you in Jesus’ name.
2. Pray for the Protocol Department to effectively manage all ceremonial and official functions, ensuring that protocols are followed and the church’s image is upheld.

QUOTE: *“In your darkest moments, know that there is an understanding presence that feels your pain and shares your burdens.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Kings 10-11; Luke 24:1-35

G. P. A. Hymn 31 – Through all the changing scenes of life

Tuesday, 6th May 2025

POURING OUT YOUR HEART

Text(s): Psalm 142:1-8; 62:6-8

Key Verse: *"The righteous cry, and the Lord beareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles."* – **Psalm 34:17**

One of the most difficult things we can face in life is loss, and in the aftermath of a tragedy, the pain of loss can be very difficult to cope with. At times, it may even seem unbearable. Because God made us with feelings, there are many other difficult emotions we may experience when grieving or facing tough circumstances. We can feel hopeless, helpless, confused, fearful, anxious, and even angry. Recognizing these emotions, and releasing them in healthy ways, is extremely important in the journey toward healing and wellness. Ignoring or suppressing them can be very destructive, crippling to say the least.

What emotions do you feel in your heart? Heartache and pain are undoubtedly among them. You're probably hurting so badly that all you really want to do is cry. And that's okay! Even the Lord Jesus Christ wept when faced with the tragedy and sorrow of death (see John 11:35). He was so deeply moved within because of the sorrow resulting from Lazarus' death that He began to weep.

Sure, it's good to be strong in the midst of difficult circumstances, but it is also important to acknowledge the emotions that pain, suffering, and loss can bring. Think about it. How can your heart truly heal if you don't acknowledge that you're hurting? So take the first step. Get alone with God, and tell Him honestly how badly you are hurting. Cry if you want to. Cry out to Him, "God, help me!" You will find that as you pour out your heart to the Lord, you'll begin to feel the burdens of your soul roll away.

PRAYER(S):

1. Gracious God, thank you for making yourself known to me, thank you for helping me to trust you, even in hard times, thank you for being a refuge to me, a place of safety and rest.
2. Pray for the Mission Department to have effective partnerships and collaborations, maximizing their impact and reach in both local and international mission fields.

QUOTE: *"In the openness of your heart lies the strength to heal and the power to transform."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Kings 12-13; Luke 24:36-53

G. P. A. Hymn 319 – O Lord my God hear my complains

Wednesday, 7th May 2025

PASSING THROUGH DEEP WATERS

Text(s): Isaiah 43:2-3

Key Verse: *"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."* – **Isaiah 43:2**

In a desperate fight for survival, many people passed through the floodwaters left by heavy flood. It had to be a frightening experience to wade, and in some areas, swim, through the murky, contaminated waters to save self, family members, neighbors, family pets, and in some cases, total strangers. But in the midst of fear, desperation, and uncertainty, many passed through the deep waters courageously, and will eventually be rescued and taken to safety.

As you pass through the deep waters of your circumstances, you may be wondering, who can rescue me from this? Be encouraged! Even in the deepest of waters, God promises to be with the one who trusts in Him. He alone can truly rescue you and keep you from drowning. Just as Jesus rescued Peter when He invited him to walk on water in the midst of a storm (see Matthew 14:22-33). At first, Peter trusted Jesus and joined Him on the water, but as soon as he began to focus on the storm, and give in to the fear of it, he began to sink. Still, when he cried out, "Lord, save me!" (Matthew 12:30), Jesus stretched out His hand and rescued Peter.

He can rescue you too. All you need do is take a deep breath of faith, reach out, and take hold of the mighty hand of God. Do not fear the deep, murky waters of uncertainty surrounding you. Though the way seems difficult, and at times impossible, you can be confident in this, "Nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).

Write down everything that seems impossible about your situation. Next to each item write, "Nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). Spend a few minutes in prayer about the items on your list, and be sure to thank God that none of those things are too big or too hard for Him to handle. Commit Luke 1:37 to memory, and every time your situation seems too difficult or impossible, speak it to yourself, as a reminder that God can handle whatever is troubling you. As opportunities arise, you can encourage others using this verse as well.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, I find myself crying out to you day and night. You calm my soul even as I turn my heart to you. May I long for you as the deer longs for streams of water. May I thirst for you even as the tears flood my face.
2. Pray for new and ongoing spiritual growth initiatives to be effective in deepening the faith of the congregation, fostering a more vibrant and active church.

QUOTE: *"There is always a way through, and always hope on the other side."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Kings 14-15; John 1:1-28

G. P. A. Hymn 356 – Toss'd with rough winds, and faint with fear

Thursday, 8th May 2025

FINDING HOPE IN GOD

Text(s): John 1:1-10

Key Verse: *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” – Jer. 29:11*

As you think about your own circumstances, you may feel completely discouraged. The reality of what you are facing can seem so overwhelming that you might feel like giving up. But don't give up. The circumstances may be too difficult in human terms, but in Christ there is always hope. “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” (Jeremiah 29:11).

When you consider all that you are facing, ask yourself, “Is there anything too hard for God?” (See Jeremiah 32:17). Absolutely nothing! No matter what is going on in your life, you can trust that He is in control, and is working everything out for your good (see Romans 8:28). When you wake up in the morning and wonder how you will face the day, God is working it out. When you wonder how you can get through and overcome this difficult time, God is working it out. And when you lay down at night, wondering how you will face the challenges of tomorrow, whatever they may be, God is already working it out. God knows intimately the concerns of your heart (see Psalm 139:1-3), and can provide all the peace, strength, and courage you need. So don't give up! Confidently hope in Him. Hope ... and persevere!

PRAYER(S):

1. Dear God, I come before You with a heavy heart, seeking a renewal of my faith and hope. Help me to see the possibilities that lie ahead and trust in Your divine purpose for my life. May Your hope shine brightly in my heart and guide my steps in Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

2. Pray for wisdom and grace in handling and resolving conflicts within the church, seeking unity and reconciliation in all situations.

QUOTE: *Take from a man his wealth, and you hinder him; take from him his purpose, and you slow him down. But take from man his hope, and you stop him. He can go on without wealth, and even without purpose, for a while. But he will not go on without hope.* – C. Neil Strait

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Kings 16-18; John 1:29-51

G. P. A. Hymn 406 – ‘Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus

Friday, 9th May 2025

A CONSTANT PLACE OF REFUGE

Text(s): Psalm 91:1-16

Key Verse: *“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?” – Romans 8:31-32*

If you and your family have been displaced as a result of tragedy you may be experiencing feelings of anxiety, insecurity, uncertainty, and more. Or if you are facing death or disease you may feel like running for shelter ... a place to hide. There is a place where anyone facing tragedy can go—a place that provides our spirits never-ending shelter from danger, and offers powerful strength to weather any storm life may bring our way. That place is in God. In Psalm 32:7, David says this of God, “You are my hiding place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with songs of deliverance.”

Though life is sometimes difficult and painful, when we take shelter in Him, His help is always ready, has been proven time and time again, and is completely reliable. In Psalm 62:7-8, David wrote, “In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.” Like David, you can take shelter in His protective presence. There you will find peace for today, strength for tomorrow, and hope for a brighter future.

In Psalm 57:1-2 David prayed, “Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast”. I will cry to God most High, to God who accomplishes all things for me.” How can you use or apply this prayer to your circumstances today? How does it feel to know that you can find permanent shelter in God, where everything you need (peace, joy, strength, protection, hope, etc.) is provided? When you have some time, open a Bible and read Psalm 91 to learn more about the blessings of taking refuge in God.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, by your mighty power you rescue those who seek refuge from their enemies. Guard me as you would guard your own eyes. Hide me in the shadow of your wings. Protect me from wicked people who attack me, from murderous enemies who surround me.
2. Pray for the planning and execution of GPA events and programs, asking that they be well-organized, impactful, and that they bring glory to God and benefit the congregation.

QUOTE:

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Kings 19-20; John 2

G. P. A. Hymn 404 – Thou art my hiding place, O Lord

Saturday, 10th May 2025

TAPPING INTO THE POWER OF PRAYER

Text(s): Psalm 61:1-4; 34:4-6

Key Verse: *“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” – 1 John 5:14-15*

Throughout the Bible, God makes it clear that our prayers are very important to Him. He loves for us to talk with Him, just as we would our closest friend, and promises to be there for us whenever we call. He says, “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13).

He wants you to tell Him about your burdens, and to give Him all your cares, so that He can bring hope to your heart, peace to your soul, and strength to your life (see 1 Peter 5:7). But even when you’re at a loss for words, and don’t know what to pray, the Holy Spirit Himself speaks on your behalf (see Romans 8:26). Yet God is not only interested in your struggles. He wants you to talk with Him about everything, from your smallest victories to your greatest fears and all things in between.

Isn’t it good to know that you have a direct line to God? That He is available to talk to you anytime, day or night? In fact, you can talk to Him right now. Tell Him how you’re feeling; that you’re hurting. Tell Him about your disappointment. Talk to Him about your anger and your pain. Tell Him how you love Him and need Him so. He hears your weeping, your requests, your praise, and thanksgiving. Prayer moves God. And when He moves in your life, you will feel His presence, experience His peace, and draw from His strength in ways you never thought possible.

Hebrews 4:16 says, “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” God actually invites us to spend time in His presence to communicate with Him. Will you accept His invitation? Start a prayer journal today. You don’t have to use a fancy notebook. Any paper that you can find will work. Use the journal to write down your feelings, emotions, and struggles as if you are writing letters to God. List your specific requests at the end of each page, and as God answers your prayers, be sure to write down the date and the way in which He answered you.

PRAYER(S):

1. Oh Lord, let every stubborn enemy fighting against my calling be destroyed now in the name of Jesus. Father, bestowed upon me the grace to be able to pray without ceasing whether it is convenient or not.
2. Pray for effective management and allocation of church resources, ensuring that financial and material assets are used wisely to support the church’s mission and needs.

QUOTE: *“Prayer is the key that unlocks the door to divine power and endless possibilities.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Kings 21-22; John 3:1-21

G. P. A. Hymn 288 – All prayers He will answer

Sunday, 11th May 2025

BUILDING UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Text(s): 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Key Verse: *“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” – Romans 15:5-7*

We are to reflect on a fundamental aspect of our Christian journey - unity within the Church. The Bible consistently emphasizes the importance of unity, describing it as the very essence of the body of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, the Apostle Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to illustrate the necessity of unity within the Church. In Ephesians 4:7-16, we are further reminded of the role unity plays in building the body of Christ to maturity.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul compares the Church to a human body, where each member has a unique function. Just as a body cannot function if its parts are divided, the Church cannot thrive without unity. Unity is not about uniformity; it's about recognizing the diversity of gifts and talents among believers and working together for a common purpose.

The early Church in Acts 2 provides an inspiring example of Christian unity. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. Unity requires active participation. It's not enough to passively attend church; we must engage in the life of the community, just as the early Christians did.

Acts 2:42 tells us that the early Christians were "devoted" to certain practices. Devotion implies commitment, dedication, and a willingness to prioritize the things of God. To achieve unity in the Church, we must be devoted to prayer, the Word of God, and the fellowship of believers.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, thank You for the unity that we share in Christ. Help us to actively pursue and maintain unity within the body of believers, remembering that we are all part of one body with one Spirit.
2. Pray for the Women's Department to foster a supportive community where women are empowered to serve, lead, and grow spiritually in a nurturing environment.

QUOTE: *“Let love be the foundation of our unity, and through it, the body of Christ will shine brightly in a divided world.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Kings 1-3; John 3:22-36

G. P. A. Hymn 150 – When you start for the land of heavenly rest

Monday, 12th May 2025

TAMING THE TONGUE: HARNESSING THE POWER OF OUR WORDS

Text(s): James 3:2-10

Key Verse: *“For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile.” – 1 Peter 3:10*

The power of our tongue and the impact our words have on others. The Bible contains numerous warnings and instructions regarding our speech, reminding us of the weight our words carry in shaping our character and influencing those around us. Let us explore God's Word and understand the significance of guarding our tongues and using our words wisely.

- i. No Corrupt Word is to Proceed from Our Mouths – (Ephesians 4:29).
- ii. Lie is Not Fitting for a Christian – (Matthew 26:73-74).
- iii. A Slandorous Tongue Comes from an Evil Heart – (Luke 6:45).
- iv. A Slandorous Tongue is the Characteristic of the Hypocrite – (Proverbs 11:9).
- v. A Slandorous Tongue is the Characteristic of the Devil – (Revelation 12:10).
- vi. We Will Be Judged by Our Words – (Matthew 12:36-37).

Other people are always watching us and listening to us. We therefore must always be mindful of our example. It will cause others to want to become Christians themselves, or it will drive them away. To see good days, one must keep their tongue in check. Keep our tongue from telling lies. Tongue can create a web of lies hard to untangle.

The tongue is a powerful tool that can either build up or tear down. Let us be intentional in guarding our tongues and using our words wisely. As followers of Christ, our speech should be characterized by love, grace, and truth, reflecting the nature of our Savior.

May we seek the Lord's guidance to transform our hearts and minds, so our words align with His will. Let us be instruments of healing and encouragement, speaking words that bring life to those around us. Remember, the power of our tongue lies in the hands of the Holy Spirit, who can empower us to speak words that honor and glorify God.

PRAYER(S):

1. Let the fire of God purge my tongue from every filthy contamination and empower me to tame my tongue and deliver me from the spirit of self-destruction in Jesus' name.
2. Pray for the Youth Department to be a dynamic and relevant ministry that addresses the challenges faced by young people today, helping them to navigate their faith with confidence and clarity.

QUOTE: *“Words spoken in anger can wound deeply, but those spoken with love can mend even the greatest of hurts.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Kings 4-5; John 4:1-30

G. P. A. Hymn 251 – Jesus to Thee we raise our voice

Tuesday, 13th May 2025

RESIST THE DEVIL, AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU

Text(s): Matthew 4:1-11

Key Verse: *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."* – **Ephesians 6:12-13**

The powerful truth found in James 4:7, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." The Bible teaches us how to stand strong against the schemes of the enemy, and in doing so, experience victory in our spiritual journey. Let us delve into God's Word and discover the key principles to resist the devil and see him flee from our lives.

- i. Learn from the Temptation of Christ – (Matthew 4:1-11).
- ii. Be Aware of His Devices – (2 Corinthians 2:11).
- iii. Gird up the Loins of Your Mind – (1 Peter 1:13-16).
- iv. Put on the Full Armor of God – (Ephesians 6:10-14).
- v. Resist Because There Is Always a Way of Escape – (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- vi. We Are Hard Pressed on Every Side – (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

We have been given the power and strength through Christ to stand firm against the enemy's attacks. As we face trials and temptations, let us remember that God provides a way of escape, and He promises to be with us every step of the way.

As followers of Christ, we are not defenseless against the schemes of the devil. By learning from Jesus' example, being aware of Satan's devices, girding up the loins of our minds, and putting on the full armor of God, we can resist the devil, and he will flee from us.

Let us commit ourselves to know God's Word, to cultivate a disciplined mind, and to rely on the strength of the Holy Spirit as we face the enemy's attacks. May we stand united as a church, supporting and praying for one another as we resist the devil's temptations and experience the victory and freedom found only in Christ.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, I pray to ask for help in resisting the devil and the temptations he throws at me. Give me wisdom, give me strength, and give me the patience to make a wise decision instead of an easy decision. Help me keep my eyes on the ways of Christ. Amen.
2. Pray for the Children's Department to be innovative in its approach, creating engaging programs that not only teach biblical principles but also make learning fun and memorable.

QUOTE: *"Have courage and commitment and through Christ, you will find the victory."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Kings 6-8; John 4:31-54

G. P. A. Hymn 513 – Christian walk carefully, danger is near

Wednesday, 14th May 2025

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

Text(s): Joshua 1:6-9

Key Verse: *“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” – Deuteronomy 31:6*

In this passage, God is speaking to Joshua, who has just been appointed as the leader of the Israelites following the death of Moses. God is calling Joshua to be strong and courageous as he leads the people into the Promised Land.

The call to be strong and courageous is repeated three times in this passage, emphasizing its importance. The reason for this call is that Joshua has a difficult task ahead of him: leading the people of Israel in conquering the land that God had promised to give them.

God reminds Joshua that his success in this task is dependent on his obedience to the law that Moses had given to the people. He instructs Joshua to meditate on the law day and night, to keep it in his mouth, and to be careful to do everything that is written in it.

God also reassures Joshua that he will be with him wherever he goes. Joshua does not need to be afraid or dismayed, because God is with him and will give him the strength and courage he needs to fulfill his mission. This passage is a powerful reminder that God calls his people to be strong and courageous in the face of difficult tasks and challenges. By meditating on and obeying God's word, and by relying on his presence and strength, we can have the confidence we need to face whatever lies ahead.

These things shouldn't hinder us: Fear prevents many from doing as they ought to do (Matt. 25:25). Our character is the stuff from which greatness is made. Even great historical figures had weaknesses that led them down dark paths.

PRAYER(S):

1. God, give me courage and strength today. Help me to face everything today with my head held high, may I be confident, able and willing to do your will. Take away my spirit of fear and assure me that you are always there when I call.
2. Pray for boldness and effectiveness in the Mission Department's outreach efforts, both locally and internationally, impacting lives and advancing God's kingdom.

QUOTE: *“Embrace the unknown with faith and conviction, knowing that you are never alone.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Kings 9-11; John 5:1-24

G. P. A. Hymn 397 – Conquerors and overcomer now are we

Thursday, 15th May 2025

THE PROFOUND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

Text(s): Ephesians 5:22-33

Key Verse: *“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” – Colossians 1:18*

The Scriptures reveal profound truths about the identity and role of Christ in relation to His beloved body, the Church. Let us explore the remarkable facets of this relationship and the significance it holds for our lives.

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus declared that He would build His Church, emphasizing His divine role as the cornerstone upon which the Church is founded. Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection laid the foundation for the community of believers, demonstrating His love and commitment to His people.

Romans 16:16 highlights the significance of the Church bearing the name of Christ. This embodies the idea that we are identified with Him and His redemptive work. The Church stands as a living representation of Christ's character and message, carrying His name into the world.

In Colossians 1:18, Christ is described as the head of the Church. Just as the head guides and directs the body, Christ guides and nurtures His Church. His authority and guidance ensure the Church's unity, growth, and purposeful mission.

Ephesians 1:22-23 poetically illustrates the Church as the body of Christ. Each member plays a unique role, united in purpose and functioning harmoniously under Christ's headship. The Church represents Christ's work on earth, continuing His ministry of love, grace, and reconciliation.

The relationship between Christ and His Church is a profound and sacred one. As we contemplate what Christ is to the Church, we realize that He is not only its foundation and cornerstone, but also its leader, identity, and guiding force. The Church exists to glorify Christ, making Him known through its words, actions, and unity.

May we fully grasp the honor and responsibility of being part of Christ's body, the Church. Let us embrace our role as ambassadors of His love and grace, carrying His name into a world in need of salvation. As Christ continues to build His Church, let us be fervently committed to the mission He entrusted to us, serving as His hands and feet, and reflecting His light in the darkness.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, I pray that You help the Church be in the world without being of the world. Especially as divisions grow in our society. Please give confidence and wisdom to those in charge and encouragement to all to dig into Your word.
2. Pray for the success of spiritual growth initiatives, asking that they deeply impact participants and lead to genuine transformation and revival.

QUOTE: *“Christ’s love for the Church is the ultimate example of sacrificial love, calling us to live in unity and grace.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Kings 12-14; John 5:25-47

G. P. A. Hymn 368 – I’ve found a friend, oh such a Friend

Friday, 16th May 2025

TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD

Text(s): Hebrew 12:28-29, 1 Chronicles 16:23-31

Key Verse: *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."* – **John 4:23**

In the Gospel of John, Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at the well, and in their conversation, He reveals a crucial aspect of true worship. He says, "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him" (John 4:23). True worship is not confined to a specific place or set of actions; it's a matter of the heart.

Worshiping in spirit and truth means offering ourselves wholly to God, engaging our hearts, minds, and souls in genuine adoration. It means seeking to honor God in every aspect of our lives, recognizing that our worship extends far beyond the walls of a church building.

As Paul writes to the Corinthians, he reminds them of the importance of giving as an integral part of worship. In 1 Corinthians 16:1, he encourages them to set aside a portion of their resources for the Lord's work, emphasizing that their giving is an act of worship. Giving reflects our gratitude for God's blessings and our commitment to His kingdom.

Let us remember that true worship is a lifestyle, not just an event. It encompasses our will to honor God, our sacrificial giving, and our heartfelt prayers. True worship involves engaging our whole being in spirit and truth, seeking to live out our faith authentically and meaningfully.

May our worship extend beyond our songs and prayers to our actions, interactions, and choices. May our lives be a reflection of our devotion to God, a living sacrifice that pleases Him. Let us worship in spirit and truth, giving our all to the One who is worthy of all honor, praise, and glory.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, I desire to learn how to worship You as You deserve. Help me Lord, to grow into the sort of worshipper that You are seeking, one who worships You in spirit and truth.
2. Pray for unity and a strong sense of community within the choir, that they may harmonize not just musically but in their shared mission of leading worship.

QUOTE: *"Give God the honor and adoration He deserves from the depths of our hearts."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Kings 15-17; John 6:1-21

G. P. A. Hymn 47 – Oh worship the Lord

Saturday, 17th May 2025

A STRONG CHRISTIAN FAMILY

Text(s): Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18, 21-25

Key Verse: *"But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."* – **Mathew 12:48-50**

The Christian family finds its roots in God's divine plan. In Genesis 2:24, we read, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." God's intention from the beginning was to create a sacred union within the family.

God has ordained specific roles for husbands and wives within the family. Ephesians 5:22-33 beautifully outlines the mutual respect, love, and submission that should characterize this relationship. Husbands are called to love their wives sacrificially, while wives are encouraged to submit to their husbands in love.

Parents play a crucial role in the spiritual upbringing and education of their children. Proverbs 22:6 instructs us to "train up a child in the way he should go." Ephesians 6:4 reminds fathers to bring up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. The family is where faith is nurtured and passed down through generations.

The Christian family is a sacred institution designed by God to reflect His love and glory. As we follow God's design, embracing our roles, nurturing our children, practicing respect and love, and serving the Lord together, our families become testimonies of faith. Let us remember that God is at the center of our Christian families, guiding, blessing, and strengthening us every step of the way.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, bless my family and children. Give them the heart to follow after you, give my family the strength to not be afraid, give them the courage to stand up for what is right. Produce within them an attitude of integrity, giving their lives to giving glory.
2. Pray for the Sunday School Department to develop programs that are both biblically sound and engaging, capturing the attention and imagination of young learners.

QUOTE: *"Strength comes from walking together in faith, sharing the burdens, and celebrating the joys."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Kings 18-19; John 6:22-44

G. P. A. Hymn 508 – God give us Christian homes

Sunday, 18th May 2025

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Text(s): John 3:16-17

Key Verse: *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17*

The concept of being born again signifies a spiritual rebirth, where we become new creatures in Christ. This transformation is not superficial but goes to the very core of our being. The old life marked by sin and separation from God is replaced by a new life filled with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

In Ephesians (Ephesians 2:1-9), we are reminded that prior to our new life in Christ, we were spiritually dead in our sins. However, through God's grace, we have been resurrected spiritually. Our sins have been forgiven, and we are made alive in Christ. This resurrection is not of our own doing but is a gift from God, received by faith.

(2 Peter 1:4)- As recipients of the new life in Christ, we are granted the privilege of partaking in God's divine nature. This means we are called to emulate the character of Christ and live a life that reflects His holiness, love, and righteousness. It is through our faith and relationship with Him that we draw from His divine nature.

The new life in Christ is a profound and miraculous transformation that begins with faith in Jesus as our Savior and Lord. It involves being born again, experiencing a spiritual resurrection, and participating in God's divine nature. This new life is marked by regeneration, where the Holy Spirit works within us to renew and transform us.

As we embrace this new life, let us remember that it is not a one-time event but an ongoing journey of growth and sanctification. Let us strive to live out this new life daily, reflecting the love, grace, and holiness of our Lord Jesus Christ to a world in need of His salvation. May we continually rejoice in the incredible gift of new life through faith in Christ.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, we live in a world that is tainted by sin and a world that is becoming more and more evil, but I thank you that I have made a new creation in Christ, and have been given a new life in Him.
2. Pray for effective communication and coordination within the Church Workers Department, that all tasks and responsibilities are managed smoothly and efficiently.

QUOTE: *“In Christ, every day is a new beginning, where old burdens are lifted and new possibilities unfold.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Kings 20-22; John 6:45-71

G. P. A. Hymn 429 – Take my life and let it be

Monday, 19th May 2025

THE JOY OF THE LORD: FINDING TRUE SATISFACTION

Text(s): Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Key Verse: *“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” – Romans 15:13*

In a world where many seek happiness in wealth, good health, and power, we often find that true satisfaction eludes us. But the Word of God reveals to us a different kind of joy, a joy that transcends circumstances and fills our hearts with lasting contentment.

The writer of Ecclesiastes, King Solomon, sought joy and pleasure in every imaginable way. He indulged in all his desires and acquired great wealth, yet he found it to be vanity, like grasping for the wind. The pursuit of earthly pleasures does not bring lasting joy; it leaves us empty and unsatisfied (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11). We must recognize that true joy cannot be found in material possessions or worldly achievements.

The joy of the Lord is not dependent on wealth or good health. The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, speaks of the Macedonian churches who, despite their deep poverty and afflictions, experienced an abundance of joy in their generosity (2 Corinthians 8:1-2). It is through the grace of God that joy can abound even in the midst of trials and hardships.

The joy of the Lord is not found in the things of this world but in the presence of God Himself. It is a joy that surpasses human understanding and sustains us through every trial. May we seek this true joy by focusing on our relationship with God, finding contentment in His grace, and rejoicing in the salvation we have through Jesus Christ. Let us allow the joy of the Lord to fill our hearts and overflow into every aspect of our lives, being a testimony of His goodness to the world.

PRAYER(S):

Father, I come to you today to ask for your joy, I know you are the source of all joy, and I ask that you fill my heart with your presence.

QUOTE: *“In the presence of the Lord, joy flourishes, transforming our struggles into triumphs and our burdens into blessings.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Kings 23-25; John 7:1-31

G. P. A. Hymn 138 – I have found his grace is all complete

Tuesday, 20th May 2025

THE WISDOM OF CONTROLLED COMMUNICATION

Text(s): Proverbs 18:1-8

Key Verse: *"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness."* – **Proverbs 15:1-2**

The profound wisdom found in James 1:19: "be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath." In a world that often encourages quick reactions and hasty words, the Scriptures guide us toward a path of wisdom and self-control. Let us open our hearts and minds to the teaching of God's Word as we explore the significance of being quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger.

The first aspect we will explore is being quick to hear. In John 8:47, Jesus emphasizes the importance of listening to His words. 1 Peter 1:22 urges believers to "love one another fervently with a pure heart" through obedience to the truth.

The second aspect we will consider is being slow to speak. Proverbs 17:27 emphasizes the wisdom of one who has knowledge and keeps silent. Ecclesiastes 5:2 warns against rushing into words, highlighting the importance of considering the weight of our speech. Colossians 4:6 instructs us to let our speech be seasoned with grace. It's easy to respond impulsively, without considering the long-term impact of our words. But a measured response, born from thoughtfulness, can bring about understanding, healing, and growth.

The third aspect we will explore is being slow to anger. Proverbs 16:32 speaks of the strength of one who controls their temper, while Ecclesiastes 7:9 reminds us that anger resides in the lap of fools. Ephesians 4:26, 31 encourages believers to not let the sun go down on their wrath and to put away bitterness and anger. Anger, when left unchecked, can lead to destructive behavior and relationships. Being slow to anger means maintaining emotional control, which is essential in addressing conflicts in a healthy and Christ-like manner. By being quick to listen, we display empathy and openness. By being slow to speak, we offer words of wisdom and grace. And by being slow to anger, we cultivate an environment of love and harmony.

May these principles shape our interactions with God and with one another, leading us to a deeper understanding of His Word, healthier relationships, and a more Christ-like demeanor. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to empower us in this journey toward controlled communication, so that our words and actions may consistently reflect the heart of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, I confess that I have often used my words in anger or for selfish gain. I repent of this and ask for your forgiveness. Help me to use my words wisely from now on, for your glory and not my own.
2. Pray for spiritual renewal and protection for the General Overseer, that they may continue to lead with vision and courage, fulfilling their calling with grace.

QUOTE: *"Speak with purpose, listen with empathy, and respond with love."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Chronicles 1-2; John 7:32-53

G. P. A. Hymn 149 – When we walk with the Lord
Wednesday, 21st May 2025

CHILDREN OF LIGHT

Text(s): Ephesians 5:7-14, John 8:12; 1:4-5

Key Verse: *"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light."* – **Ephesians 5:8**

The transformation that occurs when we become children of light, delivered from the power of darkness. Through the gospel, God's light shines upon our hearts, revealing truth and leading us to a life of freedom and purpose.

The Apostle Paul declares that the light of the gospel shines upon our hearts, dispelling the darkness of sin and ignorance. Just as God commanded light to shine out of darkness in the creation story (Genesis 1:3), He also calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light. The gospel reveals Christ's glory and saves us from the power of sin, making us children of light.

In the beginning, God spoke light into existence, separating it from darkness. This act of creation symbolizes the transformative power of God's light in our lives. Through Christ, the light of the world (John 8:12), we are called out of darkness and into His marvelous light. As children of light, we carry the truth and love of Christ into a world in need of His saving grace.

Jesus proclaimed, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." The light of Jesus not only guides us but also reveals truth. In a world clouded by deception and falsehoods, the light of Christ illuminates the path to righteousness and eternal life. By following Jesus, we walk in the light of truth and experience true freedom.

God's deliverance from the power of darkness has made us children of light. As we walk in this new identity, we are called to live as children of light, reflecting the love, truth, and righteousness of our Heavenly Father. Let us be vigilant in walking in the light, for it is in the light that we have fellowship with God and experience the fullness of His grace.

As children of light, we have been delivered from the power of darkness through the gospel of Jesus Christ. God's light shines upon our hearts, transforming us and revealing truth. We are called to walk in the light of Christ, following His example and sharing His love with others.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, I am your image and I know and believe I carry power. With that power in me Lord, I command light into my day and let darkness disappear.
2. Pray for discernment and attentiveness among ushers, that they may effectively assist and guide attendees during worship services and events.

QUOTE: *"Shine brightly in the darkness, reflect the grace and truth of Christ in all we do."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Chronicles 3-5; John 8:1-20

G. P. A. Hymn 197 – Uncreated Fount of light

Thursday, 22nd May 2025

HOW TO BE BLESSED

Text(s): Matthew 5:1-12, Deuteronomy 28:2-8

Key Verse: *"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."* – **Number 6:24-26**

How can you get blessed in life? How can you experience a rich experience of life? I mean a richness that goes beyond money into a full satisfaction with life—how do we get that? Wanting a life of genuine blessing is something people have wanted for as long as individuals have been on earth. It certainly was desired in the time of Christ. Today we'll see the results of believing in Christ, followed by what to do about these results.

Our exploration begins with the profound truth that blessings flow to those who show mercy and compassion. In Matthew 5:7, Jesus declares, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." When we extend grace and compassion to others, we open ourselves to receiving God's abundant mercy in return. As recipients of God's mercy, we are called to reflect that same mercy to those around us.

The second key to true blessings is found in humility and trust in God. In Matthew 5:3-4, Jesus teaches, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Humility acknowledges our need for God's grace, and mourning recognizes the brokenness of the world. In our humility and reliance on God, we find the comfort and assurance of His presence and promises.

True blessings are not measured by worldly standards, but by the alignment of our lives with God's principles. Showing mercy and compassion, being humble and trusting God, and serving Him and others are key pathways to experiencing God's blessings. These attitudes and actions transform our hearts, attitudes, and relationships.

May we actively pursue these traits in our daily lives, allowing God's Spirit to work within us. As we show mercy, cultivate humility, and work for peace, may we experience the richness of God's blessings that transcend circumstances.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, help me to follow your Word and obey your commands, that I may receive your blessings each day. Grant me and my family peace, joy, and favor through your spiritual blessings.
2. Pray for the Protocol Department to have clarity and efficiency in organizing GPA functions, ensuring that every detail is handled with excellence and respect.

QUOTE: *"Blessings are found in the joy of giving, the peace of forgiveness, and the love shared with others."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Chronicles 6-7; John 8:21-36

G. P. A. Hymn 419 – Nearer my God to Thee

Friday, 23rd May 2025

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Text(s): Psalm 130

Key Verse: *“And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”* – **Mark 11:25**

Psalm 130 is a beautiful expression of the power of forgiveness. The psalmist cries out to God from the depths of despair, acknowledging his own sinfulness and pleading for forgiveness. In verse 4, he writes, “But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.”

This verse captures the essence of the power of forgiveness: it is the means by which we can approach God, and it inspires reverence and awe for Him.

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do..." – Luke 23:34.

God's forgiveness is our pattern for forgiving others – Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:12-13.

Our forgiveness of others is the measure of forgiveness we will receive – Matt. 6:14-15.

Forgiving yourself for past mistakes is an essential part of healing. It helps us move on and live in the present – a) Jesus taught forgiveness – Mt. 6:12, 14-15, 18:21-35, b) Jesus demonstrated forgiveness – Mk 2:1-12, Jn 8:10-11, Lk 23:34, c) Jesus expects us to forgive others as He forgave us – Col. 3:13.

Ephesians 4:32 sets the stage by presenting the divine model of forgiveness. God's forgiveness, marked by compassion and grace, serves as our guide. As recipients of this unmerited forgiveness, we are called to extend the same grace to others. Understanding the depth of God's forgiveness becomes the foundation for our journey into the transformative power of forgiving others.

May our hearts be stirred by the divine example, the freedom offered, and the profound impact forgiveness has on our relationships and well-being. Let us, as recipients of God's mercy, become agents of grace, extending forgiveness generously. May the transformative power of forgiveness be evident in our lives, bringing glory to our forgiving God.

PRAYER(S):

1. God, I have been trying to forgive myself, but I still carry shame. Today, I receive that gift of forgiveness You hold out to me. Thank you for doing a healing work inside of me that I cannot do on my own.
2. Pray for the Senior Pastors to have wisdom in counseling and shepherding, balancing the needs of their congregation with personal and family life.

QUOTE: *“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.”* – **Lewis B. Smedes**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Chronicles 8-10; John 8:37-59

G. P. A. Hymn 206 – There's not a friend, like the lowly Jesus

Saturday, 24th May 2025

PATIENCE

Text(s): Psalm 40

Key Verse: *“Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.” – Psalm 37:7-9*

In the Bible, patience is often referred to as a virtue and a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Patience is defined as the ability to remain calm and composed while waiting for something or dealing with difficult situations.

One of the most well-known verses about patience in the Bible is found in James 1:2-4. This passage highlights the importance of patience in enduring difficult circumstances and allowing perseverance to strengthen one's faith. Other verses in the Bible also emphasize the importance of patience in relationships, in waiting on the Lord, and in pursuing righteousness.

Among these challenges are: A world of rigorous toil – Matt. 25:34-40; Mk. 16:15; 1 Cor. 15:58, Many grueling battles – 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:3-4, Temptations to overcome – James 1:12; 1 Pet. 2:11, Last, but not least, persecution from without as well as within-2 Tim. 3:12, 1 Pet. 4:12.

Psalm 40 is a powerful reminder of the benefits of waiting patiently on the Lord. Here are some steps you can take to cultivate patience and trust in God's timing as you wait on Him:

1. Cry out to the Lord – Verse 1, 2. Trust in God's faithfulness – Verse 2, 3. Wait expectantly – Verse 3, 4. Keep your focus on God – Verse 4, 5. Surrender your will to God's – Verse 8.

Praying and waiting on God also involves listening to His voice and following His leading. As we spend time in prayer and meditation, we can tune our hearts to His voice and discern His will for our lives.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, I pray that I hold my peace and remain patient in all things. I declare that I will not react out of emotion, instead I will reflect and wait before I act.
2. Pray for the pastors and their associates to be encouraged and supported, finding strength and joy in their ministry roles and interactions with the congregation.

QUOTE: *“Patience is a vital quality that helps us handle challenges gracefully and with perseverance.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Chronicles 11-13; John 9:1-23

G. P. A. Hymn 112 – O God the rock of ages

Sunday, 25th May 2025

CALL TO SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Text(s): 1 Kings 18, Genesis 12; 35, Psalm 43, Romans 12

Key Verse: *“Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.”* – **Genesis 8:20**

In the journey of our Christian lives, there are times when the altars of our hearts, symbolic places of worship and surrender to God, may need rebuilding. We find inspiration in the Scriptures to explore the significance of rebuilding altars as a transformative act of devotion. Today, we delve into 1 Kings 18, Genesis 12, Genesis 35, Psalm 43, and Romans 12 to discover the profound meaning of rebuilding the altar of God in our lives.

Our journey commences with the acknowledgment of the need to rebuild altars, as exemplified in 1 Kings 18:30. Elijah, amidst a spiritually desolate nation, rebuilds the altar of the Lord as a symbolic act of reconnection with God. This narrative sets the stage for us to consider the altars in our own lives that may need reconstruction.

Genesis 12:7 introduces us to Abraham, who, upon God's call, builds an altar to the Lord. This act marks the beginning of his journey of faith and establishes the importance of personal altars as expressions of devotion and commitment to God. **In Genesis 35:1**, Jacob commands his household to put away foreign gods and purify themselves, highlighting the symbolic meaning of altars as places of consecration and separation unto God. Rebuilding altars involves cleansing our lives and dedicating ourselves afresh to the Lord. **Psalm 43:3** expresses the relevance of altars in worship. The psalmist yearns to come to God's altar, recognizing it as a place of communion and intimacy with the Divine. Rebuilding altars involves restoring our passion for worship and seeking God's presence with a fervent heart. **Romans 12:1** presents the altar as a metaphor for total surrender to God. The apostle Paul urges believers to offer their bodies as living sacrifices—holy and pleasing to God. Rebuilding altars involves renewing our commitment to surrender every aspect of our lives to the Lord.

As we engage in this transformative act, may the altars of our hearts become places of worship, intimacy, and surrender—a reflection of our unwavering commitment to the Lord. May the reconstruction of altars be a catalyst for spiritual renewal in our individual lives and in the life of the Church.

PRAYER(S):

1. I pray for the renewal and fortification of my faith, that it may stand unshaken in the face of adversity. Strengthen my belief in your divine plan, O Lord, and grant me the unwavering trust that you are guiding my steps.
2. Pray for reconciliation and understanding in any conflicts within GPA, seeking God's guidance to heal and restore relationships.

QUOTE: *“Open your heart to transformation, allow divine grace to refresh and rejuvenate you.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Chronicles 14-16; John 9:24-41

G. P. A. Hymn 421 – My life, my love, I give to Thee

Monday, 26th May 2025

FINDING TRANQUILITY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Text(s): Psalm 46

Key Verse: *"The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."* – **Exodus 14:14**

In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, we often find ourselves caught in a whirlwind of activity. Today, we turn to Psalm 46:10, where God invites us to "Be still and know that I am God." We shall look at the need for calm and reflection, understanding the profound knowledge of who God is, and how His presence offers comfort during life's struggles.

Psalm 46:10a begins with a simple but powerful command: "Be still." This directive reminds us of the importance of calmness and reflection in our lives. In the midst of our hectic schedules and the world's chaos, taking time to be still allows us to find serenity and hear God's gentle whisper amidst the noise.

The latter part of Psalm 46:10, "And know that I am God," calls us to a deeper understanding of God's character. To be still is to contemplate the profound knowledge that He is God—the Almighty, the Creator, and the Sustainer of all. By knowing Him, we acknowledge His sovereignty over our lives, filling us with hope and trust.

Psalm 46, in its entirety, acknowledges life's struggles. Verses 2 and 3 illustrate this vividly: "Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging." Despite these challenges, the psalm reassures us of God's unfailing presence and protection.

Amidst life's chaos and struggles, we are called to "Be still and know that I am God." This divine invitation serves as a reminder of the importance of finding calm and reflection in our lives. As we embrace stillness, we gain a profound knowledge of who God is, recognizing His sovereignty over all.

May we take to heart the words of Psalm 46:10, embracing stillness as an act of trust and a path to knowing God more intimately. In the quiet moments, may we hear His gentle whisper and find the peace that surpasses all understanding. Amen.

PRAYER(S):

1. Prince of Peace, I come before you with a heart burdened and restless. Grant me the inner peace that surpasses all understanding. Calm the storms within me and fill me with the assurance of your presence.
2. Pray for the effectiveness and sensitivity of counseling, ensuring they provide practical and spiritual help to those in distress.

QUOTE: *"When we seek God's presence, we discover a peace that surpasses all understanding, calming every storm within us."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Chronicles 17-19; John 10:1-21

G. P. A. Hymn 308 – I always go to Jesus

Tuesday, 27th May 2025

CHILDREN OF GOD

Text(s): 1 John 3:1-6

Key Verse: “*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!*” – 1 John 3:1

As a parent, I can safely say that I have no idea what my children will be when they grow up. No one knows! Not the parents, not the grandparents, and certainly not the children. What about children of God? John wrote, “What we will be has not yet been made known” (v. 2). The only One who knows our future is God, and He has revealed just enough to excite and encourage us!

Having urged his readers to take confidence in their assurance of salvation in chapter 2, John now continued in chapter 3 to explore what it means to be children of God. The transition in today’s reading, appropriately, is an exclamation of praise: “See what great love the Father has lavished on us!” (v. 1).

As God’s children, we’re destined to become like His Son, Jesus Christ (v. 2). The goal of following and imitating Jesus is not just a dream but a certainty. The world doesn’t understand the journey we’re on, and even we ourselves don’t know exactly how things will turn out. Yet, in another sense, we do know: “We shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” John was probably thinking here of the time he saw Christ’s glory revealed on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1–9).

In response to this truth, we’re to purify ourselves, meaning we’re to live a life of obedience and love (vv. 3–6). “No one who lives in him keeps on sinning” habitually, though we know we will sin and need forgiveness on occasion. This dimension of salvation is called sanctification—the process of making us like Christ. We should therefore treat sin and holiness seriously, but not anxiously. Our perseverance is guaranteed by our new life in Christ!

Consider the difference between worldly hope and heavenly hope. The first amounts to wishful thinking. The second, though, is marked by certainty. Our future is secure in God’s hands.

PRAYER(S):

1. Our hope in You is a certainty. No matter the suffering we endure, the sin we commit, or the doubts we have, Your grace is sufficient and Your forgiveness final. Sanctify us to live lives characterized by obedience and love.
2. Pray for the Children’s Department to provide a nurturing and educational environment, teaching children about God’s love and fostering a strong foundation in their faith.

QUOTE: “*Children are the hands by which we take hold of heaven.*” – Henry Ward Beecher

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Chronicles 20-22; John 10:22-42

G. P. A. Hymn 19 – Children of Jerusalem

HAPPY CHILDREN’S DAY!

Wednesday, 28th May 2025

THE JOURNEY OF WALKING WITH GOD

Text(s): Hebrews 11:5-6, John 15:1-6

Key Verse: *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* – **Proverb 3:5-6**

There is no greater privilege than walking with God, aligning our lives with His purpose, and embracing His transforming presence. Today, we embark on a journey to explore what it truly means to walk with God, drawing wisdom and inspiration from His Word. Let us learn how this remarkable journey shapes our character, aligns our will, and empowers us to overcome the challenges of the world.

"Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him" (Gen. 5:24). The original Hebrew meaning for walked implies that him went to and fro with God, continually conversing with him and growing closer to him. In him, we see a new kind of believer. He walked arm in arm every day with the Lord – the Lord was his very life — so much so that at the end of his life, he did not taste death but was translated out of life (Heb. 11:5). Those who walk closely with God are translated out of Satan's reach — taken out of his kingdom of darkness and put into Christ's kingdom of light (Col. 1:13)

Walking with God implies a conscious effort to become more like Him. As Psalm 42:7 beautifully portrays, just as deep calls unto deep, our souls yearn to reflect the nature of our Creator. In Matthew 5:48, Jesus calls us to be perfect, even as our Heavenly Father is perfect. Walking with God involves growing in holiness, love, and compassion, allowing His attributes to shine through us.

Walking with God is a transformative journey that shapes our character, aligns our will, empowers us through the Spirit, helps us overcome the flesh, and inspires us to glorify Him at all costs. It's a journey of obedience, surrender, and growth. As we walk with God, may we continually draw closer to Him, imitating His nature, embracing His will, and yielding to His Spirit.

Let us be intentional in our pursuit of God, seeking to emulate His love, wisdom, and holiness. Through every step of this journey, let us remember that walking with God is not a mere duty but a profound privilege, an intimate relationship that brings us closer to our Heavenly Father. May we walk with Him faithfully, leaning on His strength and grace, as we navigate the challenges and joys of life.

PRAYER(S):

1. As I seek to walk daily with You, let Your scriptures guide and direct my steps.
2. Pray for the Marriage Counselling Department to be a source of healing and support for couples.

QUOTE: *"Continually trust in God no matter the path."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Chronicles 23-25; John 11:1-17

G. P. A. Hymn 243 – O for a closer walk with God

Thursday, 29th May 2025

THE PRAYER OF JABEZ: SEEKING GOD'S BLESSING

Text(s): Numbers 6:24-26, Matthew 6:30-33

Key Verse: *"Now therefore, may it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before You. For You, O Lord God, have spoken; and with Your blessing may the house of Your servant be blessed forever."* – **2 Samuel 7:29**

We delve into the life-transforming prayer of a man named Jabez, as recorded in 1 Chronicles 4:10. Jabez's humble prayer reveals profound insights about seeking God's blessings and favor in our lives. Despite his challenging circumstances, Jabez dared to ask God for His blessings, expansion, presence, protection, and ultimately, he received an answer from the Almighty.

Jabez's prayer begins with a simple yet profound request: "Bless me, Lord." Jabez recognized that true blessings come from God, and he sought them with humility. Similarly, we must approach God with a heart of humility, acknowledging that all good things flow from Him. Our first step in seeking God's blessings is to ask.

Jabez's next plea was for the expansion of his territory or lands. This aspect of his prayer reminds us that it is not wrong to desire growth and abundance in our lives. While material expansion is not the ultimate goal, we can seek God's favor in our endeavors, trusting Him to provide the resources and opportunities for us to thrive and bless others.

Jabez's prayer also reflects his desire for God's presence. He asked, "Your hand be with me." This plea underscores the importance of seeking God's guidance, protection, and empowerment in all that we do. When God's hand is with us, we can navigate life's challenges with confidence, knowing that His presence is our greatest asset.

The prayer of Jabez is a powerful reminder of our privilege as children of God to seek His blessings, presence, guidance, and protection in our lives. As we follow in Jabez's footsteps, may we approach the throne of grace with humility, desiring God's hand to be with us. Let us trust that our Heavenly Father hears our prayers and will grant us what is in line with His divine plan. Ultimately, may our lives be a testimony to the power of seeking God's blessings, just as Jabez's life was transformed through his heartfelt prayer.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, I humbly come before you, seeking your divine favour and grace. May your blessings surround me, keeping me safe and secure in your loving care.
2. Pray for healing and restoration in the marriages being counseled, asking God to mend broken relationships, bring forgiveness, and renew love and commitment between couples.

QUOTE: *"Remember that His timing and plans are perfect, even when they differ from our own."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Chronicles 26-27; John 11:18-46

G. P. A. Hymn 301 – In the hour of trial

Friday, 30th May 2025

LOVE OF GOD

Text(s): 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Key Verse: *“Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” – 1 John 4:7-8*

We are acquainted with human love, we revel in the human love of parents, we delight in the love of classmates, friends and relatives. Their love is fickle and falls far short of the standards of love as set forth in 1 Cor. 13, the love chapter of the Bible.

1 Cor 13:1-13, is an exposition defining the love of Christ. The richest, highest possible attainments in the Church are useless without true Christian love. Love is more essential than prophecy, more essential than mystery, even more essential than knowledge, love is more essential than faith. Faith as a grain of mustard seed would be wonderful, but useless without love.

Without love man is nothing, he is a nonentity, a nobody, a minus quantity. Giving without love is useless, God manifested His love by giving. The gift of Christ to man was bathed in love.

True love says, I love you and will go through fire, sorrow and trouble for you. True love is able to endure suffering and yet remain sweet and kind. The Christian pathway is one of suffering, yet the Christian learns love. Through suffering his Christian character matures and deepens. Love that turns to hate overnight was mere human love or perhaps only infatuation.

True love does not envy success, gifts, talents and possession of others, it does not show off but rather maintains humility. Love delight to tell the truth, lovers are not afraid to confide their weaknesses to their partners for mutual benefits. True love always expects the best, it endures through time, deception and even death.

Christ, the one who indwells us desires that daily we should manifest this love, the world is dying for a little bit of love, let us share His love with others.

PRAYER(S):

1. Abba, father, you love me so wonderfully; may I reflect your love in my relationships with others.
2. Pray for the Women's Department to address the diverse needs of women in the church, providing support, fellowship, and spiritual growth opportunities.

QUOTE: *“The love of God is the light that guides us through the darkest times and the warmth that comforts us in moments of need.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 1 Chronicles 28-29; John 11:47-57

G. P. A. Hymn 467 – O perfect love, all human thought transcending

Saturday, 31st May 2025

TEMPTATION

Text(s): James 1:13-18

Key Verse: “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” – 1 Corinthians 10:13

Temptation is one of the most familiar experiences of the true child of God, but some seem to be tempted much more than others. No one can escape from temptation – Adam, Lucifer and Christ were tempted. The Lord taught us to include this petition in our daily prayer, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Some saints are greatly troubled because they are tempted for they think they must be so wicked; to be tempted is not a sin; sin is yielding to temptation. We cannot stop birds from flying over our heads but we can stop them from nesting in our hair; we cannot stop evil thoughts from passing through our minds but we need not accept them nor dwell upon them.

Someone asked a little girl what she did when temptation comes, she replied, “Temptation is like Satan knocking at my heart and when I see him there, I tell Jesus to answer the door.” Satan flees when the mighty conquering Jesus appears and speaks of Calvary.

Temptation may come our way as a test of our faith, James:1:2-3, as a test of obedience, Gen. 22:1. God tests men to know the depth of their love and sincerity of their obedience. Words are easy; we say we love God and that we would obey Him under all circumstances, but how can this be proven except by some form of testing.

Temptations are common to all men, every Christian must expect to be tempted, praise the Lord for the possibility of victory and bringing glory to His name. Beware of yielding to sin, to fall is easy but the scars often remain, be conscious of immediate restoration through confession, repentance and the blood of Christ – 1 John 1:9.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, I know my body is weak, and if I solely rely on my body, I will easily fall into temptation. Please help me to rely on your Spirit within me to hold me back from temptations.
2. Pray for effective leadership and vision within the Men’s Department, creating opportunities for men to grow spiritually and serve GPA.

QUOTE: *“Temptation is a chance to prove that you are stronger than the urge to stray.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Chronicles 1-3; John 12:1-19

G. P. A. Hymn 406 – ‘Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus

Sunday, 1st June 2025

WISDOM

Text(s): Isaiah 43:18-19

Confession: *"Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new do I declare, before they spring forth I tell you of them"* – Isaiah 42:9

G. P. A. Hymn 329 – Trust on, trust on believer

INTRODUCTION

When God gives some people wisdom, they begin to use it against Him. Have you acquired degrees or certificates and now use such against God's kingdom? You are treading on a very dangerous path! If what you have acquired cannot be used to enlarge God's kingdom and improve the welfare of fellow men, that knowledge is useless. Daniel 2:21 says God is the one who gives wisdom to the wise. Wisdom is a gift from God. One word of wisdom from God can confound your enemies. It is wisdom to be quiet when everybody else is talking. How wise are you? Pray that God will keep you on the side of wisdom and keep you from foolishness.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Father, open my spiritual eyes to behold wondrous things according to riches of your wisdom and knowledge in the name of Jesus.
2. Father, distinguish my business model to appear in a different way and bless people in a different way in the name of Jesus.
3. Gracious Father what good things people think I can do shall happen in my life in the name of Jesus.
4. My Father, my Father, my Father, give me all I need that will distinguish me from others to bless my people in the name of Jesus.
5. Eternal Rock of Ages, endow me with creative wisdom that will stand me out of others in my revelations, jobs, and spiritual life today in the name of Jesus.
6. O Lord, send me a purposeful and focused mentorship that will take me to the level of my success today in the name of Jesus.
7. Father, grant our Ministers the wisdom to lead Your people just as Solomon asked and received wisdom.
8. Lord, fill us daily with the Holy Spirit for effective ministry.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Chronicles 4-6; John 12:20-50

QUOTE: *"Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you'd have preferred to talk."*

Monday, 2nd June 2025

DIVINE WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING

Text(s): I Kings 3:15-28

Confession: *"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad. For who is able to judge this thy so great a people."* – **1 Kings 3:9**

G. P. A. Hymn 323 – They that trust in the Lord are secure

INTRODUCTION

A person who possesses competency in knowledge and skill has a great success in life. When such competency is derived from God, it is referred to as divine understanding. Succeeding in life is all about recognizing and utilizing the opportunities God brings our way coupled with making the right choices in life. A person endowed with divine understanding is therefore able to excel in life because he or she has the ability to discern what is true, ethically right and sound.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Father, fill my heart with divine understanding today.
2. Father, please teach me your ways and lead me through the path of wisdom in Jesus' name.
3. O Lord, bless me with wisdom in the name of Jesus.
4. O lord increase your fear in my heart in the name of Jesus.
5. O power of God, break the curse of stagnancy upon my spirit man, in the name of Jesus.
6. O Lord, prepare me to be a vessel that populates your kingdom, in the name of Jesus.
7. I pull down every high thing in me exalting itself against the knowledge of God in the name of Jesus.
8. God, as a worker in your vineyard, let me be a good steward of time, talent, and treasure in Your house.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Chronicles 7-9; John 13:1-17

QUOTE: *"The invariable mark of wisdom is to see the miraculous in the common."* – **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Tuesday, 3rd June 2025

HOW TO GROW IN WISDOM

Text(s): James 3:13-17

Confession: *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."* – **James 1:5**

G. P. A. Hymn 303 – Guide me O Thou great Jehovah

INTRODUCTION

From the Confession verse of today, the Bible says if anyone lacks wisdom, he should ask from the heavenly Father. He is the giver of every good gift. As we always ask our parents for our needs. So also, we must ask our heavenly Father for what we need. Wisdom does not come from our friends, nor can we buy it from the market. It comes only from God and if you associate with wise people, you can receive it. The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Lord open ideas to our spirits that can be translated into products and services.
2. Father, let your wisdom prevail in every meeting held to promote my business in the name of Jesus.
3. Let all unproductive and destructive meetings on my business fail to take place in the name of Jesus.
4. Lord help me to carry out my decision making accurately and profitably.
5. I claim divine wisdom to enable us create and develop new products and services.
6. O Lord, I ask for the wisdom to be able to make rightful decisions in life in the name of Jesus.
7. I rebuke every spirit of confusion and division in GPA in Jesus' name.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Chronicles 10-12; John 13:18-38

QUOTE: *"The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing."* – **Socrates**

Wednesday, 4th June 2025

THE FRUIT OF WISDOM

Text(s): James 3:13-18

Key Verse: *“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”* – **Colossians 4:5-6**

There is victory in wisdom. It overcomes sin, strife, stubbornness, selfishness, snobbishness, and shame. And where there is victory, there's peace. James 3:18 says, "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. "A wise man is a peacemaker. The war is over and wisdom has won the peace.

The world claims to know the path to a successful and rewarding life: ambition, education, wealth, public recognition, power, and influence. But human wisdom is foolishness in God's eyes – 1 Cor. 3:19. While it may feel risky to set aside our own reasoning, the benefits of walking in God's wisdom are great.

Divine wisdom could be defined as seeing life from the Lord's perspective and responding accordingly in reliance on His strength. Then we are able to stand firm in our faith and choose His way. If we are to graciously submit to the hardships God allows, it is essential that we have His viewpoint – James 1:2-4.

Wisdom is especially needed in our relationships. If we act out of bitter jealousy and selfish ambition, then we are operating with worldly wisdom, and the results will be disorder, animosity, and conflicts. In contrast, God's wisdom is pure, peace-loving, gentle, reasonable, merciful, and genuine – James 3:14-17. When our responses reflect these qualities, we'll reap righteousness along with peace in our relationships.

What do your interactions with others reveal about your source of wisdom? Are you growing more Christlike or following worldly ways?

James with pastoral care and precision tries to root out the disease before it destroys the flock. He essentially says, “We can't live by God's wisdom and the world's wisdom. We must choose!” The wisdom guiding us speaks to us about our faith—whether it is genuine or false. It reveals who is Lord of our lives, God or the world. Likewise, as we consider the fruits of these two wisdoms, we must ask ourselves, “What wisdom are we living by—God's or the world's?” and “How is God calling us to make changes?”

PRAYER(S):

1. God, fill us with supernatural wisdom to lead impactful lives that sow peace and righteousness into family, friends, and communities.
2. Father, let the teachings and preachings of GPA ministers be filled with revelations from You.

QUOTE: *“Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens.”* – **Jimi Hendrix**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Chronicles 13-16; John 14

G. P. A. Hymn 139 – As I journey thro' the land, singing as I go

Thursday, 5th June 2025

SEEK THE LORD EARLY

Text(s): Psalm 63:1-8

Key Verse: “I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word. Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.” – Psalm 119:147-148

Any time of the day is a great time to be with the Lord, but the morning is special because it can affect the remainder of the day. Psalm 63 reveals that David began his day with the Lord, as he described seeking God early (the literal translation of “shall be watching”). He woke up hungry for His Creator, filled his yearning soul with the fullness of the Lord, and broke out in thanksgiving and praise to Him. And when night eventually came and David was lying in bed, he was still thinking about His heavenly Father.

Just imagine having a day like David’s, filled with joy and gratitude to God. Of course, all time with the Lord is precious. But when we set apart the beginning of our day—to hear God speak through His Word, to talk with Him in prayer, to contemplate who He is and how He works—we have the opportunity to continue that mindset throughout the day and into the night.

Do you find it a struggle to spend time with the Lord? Lifelong habits begin with baby steps, not grand resolutions. Set aside five minutes tomorrow morning, and see how the Lord nourishes your soul and increases your hunger for Him.

PRAYER(S):

1. Help me walk in your will. Keep me fixed on your Word and not my ever-changing feelings.
2. Lord, keep me from temptations that would derail my calling.

QUOTE: *“Build a foundation of faith that supports you through a life time trials and triumphs.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Chronicles 17-19; John 15

G. P. A. Hymn 65 – Come to the morning pray’r

Friday, 6th June 2025

JESUS, OUR ROCK

Text(s): Psalm 62:1-12

Key Verse: *“He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.” – Luke 6:48*

The Bible teaches that God is our rock, and that faith in Jesus is our foundation upon which we should build our lives. Jesus emphasized that just standing on a rock is not enough, and that His every word needs to be put into practice. Christ is our rock in every storm of life, and is our shelter, stability, security, shade, support, and solace

Jesus Christ always remains the same. What a comfort for believers! And the better we know Him, the easier it will be to turn to Him for refuge. So today, let's learn more about His nature. Jesus ...

- Forgave others. He showed mercy, not judgment, to those who recognized their sin.
- Comforted the hurting. He visited Mary and Martha, who were mourning the loss of their brother Lazarus – John 11:1-45.
- Provided for needs. After spending three days healing, He was concerned that the large crowd hadn't eaten. He could have sent all 4,000 away to find their own food, but He provided more than enough to satisfy their hunger – Mark 8:1-9.
- Interceded for His disciples. Just before He was crucified, Jesus asked the Father to protect and sanctify His followers, including you and me – John 17:15-20.
- Strengthened believers and gave them power to do God's work. In Acts 1:8, the Lord sent His disciples out to share the gospel, assuring them, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” Jesus still forgives, still comforts, still provides, still intercedes, and still empowers. What a blessing that we can find refuge in our amazing Lord!

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, you are my rock and refuge. Forgive me for my failings, lead me away from temptation.
2. I pray for unity among the leadership and workers in GPA.

QUOTE: *“Christ, our rock, provides an unmovable foundation in times of trouble and a source of unwavering peace.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Chronicles 20-22; John 16:1-15

G. P. A. Hymn 121 – Rock of ages cleft for me

Saturday, 7th June 2025

FEAR IS YOUR CUE

Text(s): Numbers 13:1-33; 14:1-45

Key Verse: “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” – Isaiah 41:10

You’ve probably heard that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, but do you know why? Because in their fear, they doubted God’s call. He had intended for the Israelites to finally inhabit the Promised Land, but when Moses sent spies to scope it out, they reported, “The people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large” – Num. 13:28. The Israelites became afraid and mistrusted what the Lord had said. As a result, they didn’t reach the land of milk and honey.

One of the reasons we, like the Israelites, often question what we’ve heard from God is the fear of failure. Feeling afraid is a normal, human response, but it’s also an internal cue that it’s time to do two things:

1. Investigate what is going on inside: What is scaring you? How do you think God views this situation? How do you believe He’ll respond to your feelings?
2. Connect with the Father: You are always safe to share your fears with God—He wants to know about them.

It’s the Lord’s desire that we move through life with confidence and assurance in Him – 2 Tim.1:7. Whenever fear tempts you to change course, take a moment to pause, look inward, and talk to God.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, give me courage to surrender my fear to your capable hands. Lord, shield me from every form of harm and danger that often paralyze me with fear, in Jesus’ name.
2. God, let Your presence never depart from me or our congregation.

QUOTE: *“Let fear be your cue to lean into growth, not retreat into comfort.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Chronicles 23-25; John 16:16-33

G. P. A. Hymn 335 – Through the love of God our Savior

Sunday, 8th June 2025

THE SECRET OF CONTENTMENT

Text(s): Philippians 4:10-13

Key Verse: *“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.” – 1 Timothy 6:6-7*

In Philippians 4:10-13, a man who sits in prison because of corrupt officials awaiting possible execution over false charges tells us how to find contentment. The answer lies buried in the midst of a thank you note. The Philippians church had sent a financial gift to Paul the prisoner. He wants to express his heartfelt thanks, but at the same time he doesn't want to give the impression that the Lord was not sufficient for his every need. Even though he had been in a very difficult situation, he doesn't want his donors to think that he had been discontented before the gift arrived; but he does want them to know that their generosity was truly appreciated. So, he combines his thanks with his valuable lesson on the secret for contentment. In 4:10, he shows that he rejoiced in the Lord greatly when he received the gift, not because of the money, but because it showed the Philippians heartfelt love and concern for him. Paul was not detached from people nor from his feelings. He loves people dearly and was not afraid to show it. And, Acts 4:13 clearly shows that Paul did not mean the word in the pagan sense of self-sufficiency, since he affirms that his sufficiency is in Christ.

Neither does contentment mean complacency. As Christians, we can work to better our circumstances as we have opportunity. The Bible extols hard work and the rewards that come from it, as long as we are free from greed. Paul tells slaves not to give undue concern to gaining their freedom, but if they are able to do so, they should (1 Corinthians 7:21). If you are in an unpleasant job, there is nothing wrong with going back to school to train for better job or from making a change to another job, as long as you do so in submission to the will of God.

So, what does contentment mean? It is an inner sense of rest or peace that comes from being right with God and knowing that he is in control of all that happens to us. It means having our focus on the kingdom of God and serving Him, not on the love of money and things. If God grants us material comforts, we can thankfully enjoy them, knowing that it all comes from His loving hand. But, also, we seek to use it for His purpose by being generous. If He takes our riches, our joy remains steady, because we are fixed on Him. Contentment also means not being battered around by difficult circumstances or people, and not being wrongly seduced by prosperity, because our life is centered on a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ; so, no matter what happens to us or what others do to us, we have the steady assurance that the Lord is for us and He will not forsake us.

PRAYER(S):

1. Fill my heart with contentment, I pray, That in Your love, I find peace every day.
2. Father, help me to be a peacemaker and problem-solver in Your house.

QUOTE: *“Do not seek for more, always appreciate and embrace what you already have.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Chronicles 26-28; John 17

G. P. A. Hymn 430 – We give Thee but thine own

Monday, 9th June 2025

A CHRISTIAN WITNESS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Text(s): Matthew 28:19-20

Key Verse: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” – Acts 1:8*

In the heart of the Great Commission, as recorded in Matthew 28:19-20, lies the call for Christians to be witnesses of Christ's love and salvation to all corners of the earth. This divine mandate is not limited to the act of preaching but encompasses the entirety of a believer's life. Being a Christian witness in the world means embodying the values, teachings, and character of Jesus in our daily lives—whether at home, in the workplace, or in our communities. It's about being a living testimony to the transformative power of God's love.

To witness effectively, we must cultivate a deep, personal relationship with Jesus, allowing His Spirit to guide our actions and words. It's through acts of kindness, integrity in dealings, steadfast faith in trials, and unconditional love in relationships that the world sees Christ in us. Witnessing is not always about grand gestures; often, it's the small, consistent acts of love and faith that draw others to Christ.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace and love in this world. Help me to embrace the calling of being Your witness, showing others the hope and grace found in You.
2. I ask for the grace to be diligent, punctual, and committed in all church activities.

QUOTE: *“Your life is the greatest sermon you will ever preach; let your actions reflect the love of Christ.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Chronicles 29-31; John 18:1-23

G. P. A. Hymn 130 – Blow ye the trumpet blow

Tuesday, 10th June 2025

A CONSCIENCE THAT IS CLEAR

Text(s): Hebrews 13:18

Key Verse: *“Having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.” – 1 Peter 3:16*

A clear conscience is a precious gift, reflecting a life lived in harmony with God's will. Paul's emphasis on striving for a clear conscience towards God and man highlights the importance of integrity and moral clarity in our Christian walk (Acts 24:16). This endeavour requires constant self-examination, confession, and a commitment to repentance and forgiveness.

Living with a clear conscience doesn't mean we won't face moral dilemmas or make mistakes. Instead, it's about how we respond to those challenges—seeking God's guidance, making amends where possible, and learning from our experiences. A clear conscience fosters peace within our hearts, strengthens our relationship with God, and builds trust with those around us.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, grant me the courage and wisdom to live with a clear conscience. Help me to recognize my faults, seek Your forgiveness, and walk in Your righteousness.
2. We ask for forgiveness of every sin causing disunity and powerlessness in the body of Christ.

QUOTE: *“Walk in peace knowing that you have done your best.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Chronicles 32-33; John 18:24-40

G. P. A. Hymn 505 – Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine

Wednesday, 11th June 2025

A FATHER'S LOVE

Text(s): Hosea 11:1-4

Key Verse: *"I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love."* – **Hosea 11:4**

In today's passage, God expressed a similar sense of nostalgia for Israel. He reminisced about the early days, when He first called them out of Egypt—in love—and they followed Him. "When Israel was a child, I loved him" (v. 1). Deuteronomy 7:6–8 describes this same loving call: "The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors."

All-too-quickly His people fell into apostasy: "The more they were called, the more they went away from me" (v. 2). Yet, like a loving parent, God continued to guide them despite their rebellion. He taught them to walk, bound up their wounds, led them through the wilderness, and provided them with food (vv. 3–4). Both of our children came to us through adoption. Sometimes my daughter asks me: "What if you didn't get me?" And I tell her over and over, "God chose you for us. You are ours. And we love you—no matter what." The magnitude of the metaphor is not lost on me.

Yes, today's passage still reminds us of Israel's sin. But we are also reminded of God's tender love for His people. Sit in that love today.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, we recognize in You the perfection of fatherly care—yet You also model the nourishing tenderness of maternal love. We thank You for the incomprehensible love You lavish upon Your children!
2. We bind and cast out every spirit causing seduction, false doctrine, deception, hypocrisy, pride and errors, in GPA in Jesus' name.

QUOTE: *"A father is someone you look up to no matter how tall you grow"* – **Unknown**

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: 2 Chronicles 34-36; John 19:1-22

G. P. A. Hymn 22 – Father, our creator

Thursday, 12th June 2025

A GOSPEL – WORTHY LIFE

Text(s): Ephesians 4:1-3

Key Verse: *“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.”* –

Philippians 1:27

Living a life that is worthy of the gospel of Christ is a call to embody the principles and spirit of the gospel in every aspect of our existence (Philippians 1:27). This entails a commitment to live out the values Jesus taught—love, humility, service, forgiveness, and justice—in our interactions, choices, and priorities. A gospel-worthy life is not marked by perfection but by a persistent effort to align our will with God's and to reflect His love to the world.

Such a life impacts those around us, offering a glimpse of God's kingdom here on Earth. It challenges the status quo, brings hope to the hopeless, and shines light in the darkness. Living in a manner worthy of the gospel is the highest calling of every believer, requiring reliance on God's strength and grace every step of the way.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, empower me to live a life that reflects the beauty and truth of the gospel. May my words, actions, and thoughts be pleasing to You and lead others to Your love. Guide me in Your ways and fill me with Your Spirit. Amen.
2. I pray that all members of the branches of GPA will remain kingdom people and take the Great Commission as a kingdom project towards saving souls and growing churches in the name of Jesus.

QUOTE: *“Let your life be a testament to the gospel, showing through your deeds the grace and truth you have received.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezra 1-2; John 19:23-42

G. P. A. Hymn 129 – Go forth and preach all my gospel

Friday, 13th June 2025

A NEW CREATION THAT IS NOT QUITE PERFECT

Text(s): Romans 7:18-19

Key Verse: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”* – 2 Corinthians 5:17

Becoming a new creation in Christ marks the beginning of a transformative journey—one that involves growth, learning, and occasional missteps. While we are made new by God's grace, the process of sanctification—becoming more like Jesus—is ongoing and often challenging (2 Corinthians 5:17). This journey is not about striving for perfection through our own efforts but about allowing God to refine us, shape our character, and mold our desires to align with His.

In this process, we will face trials and temptations, but these are opportunities for growth and deeper reliance on God. Our imperfections remind us of our need for a Savior, and God's grace in our lives is a testament to His patience and love. Embracing our status as new creations, we press on, knowing that God is at work in us, perfecting us until the day of Christ Jesus.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, thank You for the gift of new life in Christ. Help me to embrace the journey of becoming more like You, trusting in Your timing and Your ways. When I falter, remind me of Your grace and love. Continue Your transforming work in me. Amen.

2. Father, let GPA experience unprecedented growth in all dimensions.

QUOTE: *“Embrace growth and grace, knowing that imperfection is part of the journey.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezra 3-5; John 20

G. P. A. Hymn 427 – I am thine O Lord, I have heard Thy voice

Saturday, 14th June 2025

A BETTER WAY OF LIFE

Text(s): John 14:6, Psalm 16:11

Key Verse: *"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"* – John 14:6

A better way of life is found through a relationship with Jesus Christ. In John 14:6, Jesus clearly states that He is the way, the truth, and the life. This declaration invites us to follow Him, promising a path that leads to eternal life with the Father. This way is not only better but is the ultimate truth and the source of real life.

Psalm 16:11 complements this by revealing that fullness of joy and eternal pleasures are found in God's presence: "You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." A life centered on Christ leads to joy, purpose, and fulfillment that the world cannot offer.

PRAYER(S):

1. Heavenly Father, guide me in Your way, and let me find joy and fulfillment in following Jesus. Help me to embrace the better life You offer through Your Son in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Lord, shield every GPA worker and leader from the snares of the enemy.

QUOTE: *"Strive for a life that is not just better, but one that brings fulfillment, purpose, and joy each day."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezra 6-8; John 21

G. P. A. Hymn 337 – My hope is built on nothing less

Sunday, 15th June 2025

A WONDERFUL AND PERFECT FATHER

Text(s): James 1:17

Key Verse: *"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" – Matthew 7:11*

Jesus' depiction of God as a loving Father who delights in giving good gifts to His children offers profound comfort and assurance (Matthew 7:11). This image of God challenges us to trust in His goodness and perfect plans for our lives, even when faced with uncertainty or hardship. Recognizing God as our Father also invites us to embrace a relationship with Him characterized by intimacy, communication, and reliance.

Our earthly experiences with fatherhood may vary, but the perfection of God's paternal love stands as a constant source of strength and comfort. He knows our needs, hears our prayers, and acts in our best interest, teaching us and guiding us through every season of life.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, thank You for being my Father and for Your perfect love that never fails. Help me to trust in Your provision and care, knowing that You work all things for my good. Strengthen my faith and deepen my relationship with You.
2. Pray for the Men's Department to develop strong, supportive relationships among its members and to provide programs that foster spiritual growth and accountability.

QUOTE: *"A father should lead by example, teach by heart and love unconditionally."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezra 9-10; Acts 1

G. P. A. Hymn 510 – O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Monday, 16th June 2025

CHRIST – CENTERED LIVING

Text(s): Galatians 2:20, Colossians 3:17

Key Verse: *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” – Galatians 2:20*

Christ-centered living means allowing Jesus to be the focus and driving force of our lives. Galatians 2:20 speaks of a profound transformation where our old selves are crucified with Christ, and our new lives are lived through faith in Him. This transformation involves letting Christ live in us, guiding our thoughts, actions, and decisions.

Colossians 3:17 further instructs, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Christ-centered living involves dedicating every aspect of our lives to Him, ensuring that our words and actions reflect His love and grace.

The phrase “When Christ, who is your life, appears” encapsulates the essence of Christ-centered living. Jesus is not merely a part of our lives; He is our life. This central truth impacts every aspect of our being – our decisions, our relationships, and our purpose. The promise of appearing with Him in glory reminds us of our ultimate hope and future, motivating us to live faithfully and expectantly.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord Jesus, help me to live a Christ-centered life. May Your presence guide my actions, and may my life reflect Your love and grace in everything I do in Your name. Amen.
2. God, let Your will be done in GPA, as it is in heaven.

QUOTE: *“See the world through the lens of His grace and act with His compassion in every situation.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Nehemiah 1-3; Acts 2:1-13

G. P. A. Hymn 368 – I’ve found a friend, oh such a Friend

Tuesday, 17th June 2025

SURROUND YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text(s): Acts 1:8, Ephesians 5:18

Key Verse: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* – **Acts 1:8**

Surrounding ourselves with the Holy Spirit empowers us to live as witnesses of Christ. Acts 1:8 promises that the Holy Spirit gives us power to share the Gospel and live out our faith boldly. The Spirit equips and strengthens us, enabling us to fulfill God's mission on earth.

Ephesians 5:18 encourages us to "be filled with the Spirit." This involves continually seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance and allowing Him to influence our thoughts and actions. Being filled with the Spirit means living in a way that reflects His presence, producing the fruit of love, joy, peace, and righteousness.

The Holy Spirit is not a temporary helper but a constant presence in our lives. As we navigate our daily challenges and opportunities, the Holy Spirit is always with us, guiding, comforting, and empowering us. By surrounding ourselves with the Holy Spirit through prayer, worship, and obedience, we stay attuned to His voice and leading.

PRAYER(S):

1. Holy Spirit, fill me with Your presence and power. Guide my actions and thoughts, and help me to live as a faithful witness of Christ.
2. Every plan and strategy of Satan against GPA, be bound, in the name of Jesus.

QUOTE: *"Every step you take is filled with strength, wisdom, and peace beyond understanding."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Nehemiah 4-6; Acts 2:14-47

G. P. A. Hymn 240 – O Spirit of the living God

Wednesday, 18th June 2025

THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH

Text(s): John 17:17, Psalm 119:160

Key Verse: *“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” – John 17:17*

The absolute truth is found in God's Word. In John 17:17, Jesus prays to the Father, asking Him to sanctify His disciples through the truth, declaring that God's Word is the ultimate truth. This truth sets us apart and guides us in righteousness.

Jesus' declaration, “Your word is truth,” affirms the absolute and unchanging nature of God's word. In a world where the concept of truth is often relative and subjective, the Bible stands as the ultimate standard of truth. It provides a reliable foundation for our faith, guiding our beliefs and actions.

Psalm 119:160 echoes this sentiment: “All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.” The entirety of God's Word is truth, providing us with a foundation that is unchanging and eternal. In a world filled with relative truths and shifting morals, God's Word stands as the absolute truth, offering us direction and clarity.

Being sanctified by the truth calls us to live in accordance with God's word. This means allowing the truth to influence our decisions, actions, and interactions. It involves standing firm in our faith, even when faced with opposition or challenges. As we live by the truth, we become testimonies of God's grace and power, shining His light in a dark world.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, thank You for Your Word, which is the absolute truth. Help me to live by Your truth and be sanctified by it. Guide me in Your ways and keep me grounded in Your eternal Word in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Pray for GPA branches and members for unity of purpose for advancement in spiritual and structural developments in the name of Jesus.

QUOTE: *“In a world of shifting opinions, truth remains a steadfast beacon guiding us through the uncertainties of life.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Nehemiah 7-8; Acts 3

G. P. A. Hymn 140 – Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?

Thursday, 19th June 2025

LIFE IN ABUNDANCE

Text(s): John 10:10, Ephesians 3:20

Key Verse: *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."* – John 10:10

Jesus promises us life in abundance. In John 10:10, He contrasts His purpose with that of the thief, declaring that while the thief seeks to harm, He came to give us a rich and satisfying life. This abundant life is characterized by joy, peace, purpose, and fulfillment found in Him.

Ephesians 3:20 emphasizes God's ability to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." This promise of abundance extends beyond material blessings to include spiritual richness and the overflowing of God's blessings in every aspect of our lives.

Living in abundance is a daily experience that comes from walking closely with Jesus. It involves trusting Him in all circumstances, finding contentment in His provision, and allowing His presence to permeate every aspect of our lives. It's about living with purpose, knowing that we are part of God's plan, and embracing the opportunities He provides to serve and love others.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord Jesus, thank You for the promise of abundant life. Help me to experience and embrace the fullness of life that You offer in Jesus' name.
2. Pray for the GPA branches and members for continuous financial supplies to keep breaking new ground and protected always in the name of Jesus.

QUOTE: *"Embrace each moment with gratitude and allow joy to overflow in every aspect of your life."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Nehemiah 9-11; Acts 4:1-22

G. P. A. Hymn 499 – Blessed invitation of the King of heaven

Friday, 20th June 2025

ACCEPTABLE IN THE EYES OF GOD

Text(s): Romans 12:1-2, Micah 6:8

Key Verse: *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”* – **Romans 12:1**

To be acceptable in the eyes of God, we must live lives of holiness and obedience. Romans 12:1-2 calls us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is our true worship. This involves not conforming to the patterns of this world but being transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Micah 6:8 provides a clear directive on what God requires of us: “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Living justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God are the key aspects of living a life that is acceptable to Him.

In Romans 12, Paul describes this act of offering ourselves as true and proper worship. Worship is not confined to singing songs or attending church services; it is a lifestyle. True worship is expressed in our daily choices, our interactions with others, and our commitment to living out our faith. It is about integrating our faith into every aspect of our lives, acknowledging God’s lordship over all.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, help me to live a life that is holy and pleasing to You. Transform my mind and heart, so that I may act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Father, grant us the grace to be humble in serving You and Your people.

QUOTE: *“Live with integrity, love, and a heart aligned with His will.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Nehemiah 12-13; Acts 4:23-37

G. P. A. Hymn 23 – Now thank we all our God

Saturday, 21st June 2025

GOD'S ADOPTED CHILDREN

Text(s): Ephesians 1:5, Romans 8:15-17

Key Verse: *"He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will."* – Ephesians 1:5

Through Christ, we are adopted into God's family. Ephesians 1:5 tells us that God predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ. This adoption is a part of His divine plan and reflects His immense love and grace towards us.

Romans 8:15-17 reinforces this truth: "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." As God's adopted children, we are heirs with Christ, enjoying the privileges and inheritance of His family.

Our adoption is made possible through Jesus Christ. His sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection opened the way for us to be reconciled to God and brought into His family. It is through Jesus that we receive the Spirit of sonship, by whom we cry, "Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15). Jesus is the means by which we are adopted, and His love and grace are the foundation of our new identity.

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, thank You for adopting me into Your family. Help me to live in the assurance of my identity as Your child and to walk in the inheritance and privileges You have given me through Christ in Jesus' name, Amen.

2. God, renew my strength like the eagles for the tasks ahead.

QUOTE: *"Embrace a love that is eternal and a family that is boundless, regardless of your past."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Esther 1-3; Acts 5:1-16

G. P. A. Hymn 429 – Take my life and let it be

Sunday, 22nd June 2025

GRACE IN ITS ENTIRETY

Text(s): Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 2:11-12

Key Verse: *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."* – **Ephesians 2:8-9**

Grace is the unmerited favor of God, freely given to us. Ephesians 2:8-9 highlights that we are saved by grace through faith, and this is a gift from God. Our salvation is not something we can earn; it is entirely the work of God's grace.

Titus 2:11-12 teaches us that "the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age." Grace not only saves us but also trains us to live in a way that honors God.

Understanding and accepting God's grace should transform our lives. It calls us to live in a way that reflects God's love and mercy. While our works do not save us, they are evidence of a life touched by grace. We are called to do good works as a response to the grace we have received.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, thank You for Your amazing grace. Help me to embrace it fully and live a life that reflects Your grace, saying no to ungodliness and worldly passions in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. Lord, give me a heart of worship that seeks You in spirit and truth.

QUOTE: *"Grace is not just a gift; it is the entire essence of God's love and forgiveness poured out upon us."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Esther 4-6; Acts 5:17-42

G. P. A. Hymn 307 – As pants the hart for cooling streams

Monday, 23rd June 2025

JESUS CHRIST ALL-SUFFICIENT SACRIFICE

Text(s): Hebrews 10:10, 1 Peter 3:18

Key Verse: *“And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” – Hebrews 10:10*

Jesus Christ's sacrifice is all-sufficient for our salvation. Hebrews 10:10 declares that we have been made holy through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ once for all. His sacrifice on the cross was a one-time event that accomplished everything necessary for our redemption and sanctification.

1 Peter 3:18 emphasizes the purpose and sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice: “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.” Jesus' death bridged the gap between us and God, providing a way for us to be reconciled with Him.

The phrase “once for all” underscores the completeness and sufficiency of Jesus’ sacrifice. There is no need for any further sacrifices for sin. His one-time offering on the cross is sufficient for all time, for all people. This assures us that our salvation is secure in Him.

Understanding the sufficiency of Christ’s sacrifice should impact how we live. It calls us to live a life of gratitude, holiness, and devotion to God. We are invited to rest in the assurance that our sins are forgiven and to live out our faith in response to His incredible love.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord Jesus, thank You for Your all-sufficient sacrifice. Help me to live in the fullness of what You have accomplished for me, knowing that Your sacrifice has made me holy and brought me into a relationship with God in Your name, Amen.

2. Every spirit of prayerlessness, discouragement and vain glory in GPA, be bound, in the name of Jesus.

QUOTE: *“Jesus Christ has given us the gift of redemption and the assurance of eternal life.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Esther 7-10; Acts 6

G. P. A. Hymn 266 – Jesus loves me this I know

Tuesday, 24th June 2025

BACKSLIDING

Text(s): Jeremiah 3:22, Hosea 14:4

Key Verse: *"Return, faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding."* – Jeremiah 3:22

Backsliding refers to falling away or turning back from following God. In Jeremiah 3:22, God calls His people to return to Him, promising to heal their backsliding. This verse reveals God's mercy and His willingness to restore those who have strayed from Him.

Hosea 14:4 reinforces this message: "I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them." God is always ready to forgive and heal our backsliding, welcoming us back with open arms when we repent and return to Him.

God promises to cure us of our backsliding. This healing is not merely a return to former ways but a profound transformation. God's cure involves forgiveness, restoration, and a renewed relationship with Him. It is a reminder that no matter how far we've strayed, God's grace is sufficient to bring us back and heal our spiritual wounds.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, I confess my backsliding and ask for Your forgiveness. Heal my wayward heart and draw me back to You. Help me to remain faithful and steadfast in my walk with You in Jesus' name, Amen.
2. O Lord, send down the fire of revival into GPA.

QUOTE: *"Even when we stumble, God's grace remains constant, inviting us back to His loving embrace."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 1-3; Acts 7:1-19

G. P. A. Hymn 364 – More love to Thee, O Christ

CHRISTIAN LIVING IS A TEAM SPORT

Text(s): Colossians 4:7-18

Key Verse: *"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."* – 1 Corinthians 12:26

Have you ever been in a workplace where everyone got along perfectly all the time? What about a family? Or a sports team? Living in community with harmony does not come automatically. It's a learned skill. That's true in the Christian life. It is no accident that God designed the church to function as a body (see Col. 3:15).

As he closes this letter, Paul sends personal greetings to several people in the Colossian church. He also mentions members of his ministry team. Tychicus and Onesimus probably brought this letter to Colosse (vv. 7–9). Onesimus is an individual we will learn about in the next two days since he is the subject of Paul's letter to Philemon.

Paul also mentions names that we may recognize from other letters. The apostle conveys the greetings of Aristarchus alongside those of Mark and Barnabas. During Paul's first missionary journey, he and Barnabas had a falling out because of Mark (Acts 15:36–40). By the time this letter was written, they had reconciled (2 Tim. 4:11). In verse 14 Paul writes, *"Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings."* We know Luke as the author of the third Gospel and the book of Acts. Demas, however, had a scandalous reputation.

Several years after Colossians was written, love for this world motivated Demas to desert Paul (2 Tim. 4:10). Archippus, mentioned in verse 17, will also show up in Paul's letter to Philemon. Here the tone seems to be one of reproof. "Complete the ministry," Paul says, implying that Paul fears he might not. Paul clearly realized that not all members of the church would get along all the time. Even so, he urges believers toward the unity we have in Christ.

Christian living is a team sport. Not everyone on the team plays well. Nor do they always play well together. No matter how much we do for Jesus, we never outgrow our need for grace, patience, and forgiveness.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord, for ourselves and those we clash with, we ask for humility, patience, and eyes to recognize truth and justice. By Your grace lead us to resolution and reconciliation.
2. O Lord, release faithful committed, dedicated and obedient laborers into the vineyard.

QUOTE: *"Just as a team relies on each member to achieve its goals, Christian living flourishes through the strength and support of the community."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 4-6; Acts 7:20-43

G. P. A. Hymn 503 – Marching on in the light of God

Thursday, 26th June 2025

A PRISONER FREES A SLAVE

Text(s): Philemon 1:1-13

Key Verse: *"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* – John 8:36

Frederick Douglass wrote, "I prayed for freedom for twenty years, but received no answer until I prayed with my legs." Onesimus tried to obtain his freedom in the same way. He ran away from Philemon's household and somehow ran into Paul, "the prisoner of Christ Jesus."

Paul doesn't say how he and Onesimus became acquainted. What the apostle does reveal is that he had been instrumental in his conversion. In verse 10, Paul explains that Onesimus "became my son while I was in chains." It is possible that Paul already knew Onesimus before. In verse 6, he describes Philemon as a partner in the faith. In addition to being one of those who supported Paul financially, Philemon had also come to faith under Paul's preaching (see v. 19). But Paul wrote this personal letter to inform Philemon that Onesimus had become a Christian and was now "a dear brother" (v. 16).

Indirectly, Paul was asking Philemon to welcome Onesimus back and then return him to the apostle (vv. 8, 12–13). More than a help, Onesimus had become like a son to Paul (v. 10). When he describes Onesimus as "useful" in verse 11, he is making a pun based on his name, which means "helpful" or "profitable."

It may bother us that Paul did not tell Philemon directly that it was his moral obligation to grant Onesimus freedom. Indeed, Paul never speaks of the morality of slavery. Nor does he flex his apostolic muscles, although he gives a gentle reminder of his authority when he speaks of his request as something that Philemon "ought" to do (v. 8). Paul's gentle tone is a testimony to his confidence in Philemon and to the transforming power of the gospel. Although a prisoner, Paul was used by God to introduce Onesimus to the freedom of Christ.

We are all slaves and prisoners when it comes to sin. But Jesus promised, "...if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

PRAYER(S):

1. Teach us to love the light of holiness more than sin's temptations.
2. Father, let the spirit of brokenness be released upon us as a church, in the name of Jesus.

QUOTE: *"The liberation of a prisoner can become a beacon of hope, showing that true freedom is not just a personal triumph but a call to free others."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 7-9; Acts 7:44-60

G. P. A. Hymn 208 – Alleluai! Alleluai!! Alleluai!!!

Friday, 27th June 2025

A DEBT OF GRACE

Text(s): Philemon 1:12-25

Key Verse: *"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."* – **Matthew 6:12**

Salvation is by grace. We cannot earn it. The gift we have received from Christ is so great that we could never pay it back. And although we cannot repay this debt, we still owe something to Jesus. As the old song says, "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe."

As we close our study of Paul's letters from prison, we are reminded of all that we owe to Jesus. Many of the Christian duties Paul emphasized in his prison letters, especially in those sections that describe the nature of the Christian life, come together in the apostle's appeal to Philemon.

Philemon owes a debt of gratitude to Paul (v. 19). Onesimus, who had broken the law by running away, owes it to Philemon to return to him but in a humble spirit (v. 11; see also Eph. 6:5-6; Col. 3:22). Philemon, in turn, has an obligation to recognize that he and Onesimus are equals in Christ. Now that he belongs to Christ, Onesimus is "no longer as a slave, but better than a slave." He should be even dearer to Philemon than he is to Paul "as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord" (v.16).

Paul's request calls for sacrifice on both parts. Onesimus sacrifices his pride by returning to his old master. Philemon will lose a servant if he sends Onesimus back to Paul. Commentators are divided on whether Paul expects Philemon to free Onesimus. Elsewhere, however, Paul warns Christians not to become enslaved and urges those who already are slaves to obtain their freedom if possible (1 Cor. 7:21–23). Paul tells Philemon to charge any wrong that Onesimus has done or debt he has incurred to Paul's account (v. 18). If there is shared loss, there is also love. Love for one another, and ultimately for Christ.

As we conclude these studies of Paul's letters from prison, what are your takeaways? What have you learned about the Christian life? How has Paul encouraged you to become more faithful to Jesus?

PRAYER(S):

1. We love You and worship You and want our lives to bring You glory. Lead us in the way we should go!
2. Let the power of the cross and of the Holy Spirit be released to dethrone flesh in the lives of GPA members, in the name of Jesus.

QUOTE: *"Understand that each act of compassion and forgiveness is a tribute to the grace we've been shown."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 10-12; Acts 8:1-25

G. P. A. Hymn 337 – My hope is built on nothing less

Saturday, 28th June 2025

PRAYER AND PROCLAMATION

Text(s): Colossians 4:2-6

Key Verse: *Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt.* – Colossians 4:6

Most sermons begin with a prayer. Sometimes we are tempted to treat it as a formality, like playing the national anthem before the game. Paul saw prayer as far more. For him, it was a source of help and power.

Sometimes when we pray, we say we are having our “devotions.” But in verse 2, Paul urges the Colossians to “devote” themselves to prayer. The Greek expresses the idea of being busily engaged with something. Prayer is not a formality but an occupation. Furthermore, it is a demanding occupation. It requires the disposition of someone who is on guard and keeping watch. Prayer also requires a particular kind of expectation. Not the disposition of someone who makes demands but a grateful and trusting spirit that believes that God will answer in a way best suited to our needs.

Paul asked the Colossians to pray that God would “open a door for our message” (v. 3). This is a striking request given his circumstance. We might have expected him, as a prisoner, to ask for his freedom or maybe for justice. Instead, he asks for an opportunity to make Christ known. Paul’s request reflects not only his sense of mission but also his conviction that success in preaching is dependent upon God. In addition to opportunity, Paul asked for clarity: “Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should” (v. 4). The skill that is required to preach is also a work of God.

Most opportunities to proclaim Christ happen outside the assembly of believers. That’s why Paul urges the Colossians to season their ordinary conversations with grace and salt (v. 6). Grace does not mean elegant speech but the message of grace. Salt alludes to Jesus’ command that His disciples be “the salt of the earth” (Matt. 5:13).

You do not need to be a pastor to proclaim the grace of Christ. As you pray today, ask God to give you the opportunity, clarity, and courage to tell someone about Jesus.

PRAYER(S):

1. Today we ask You for opportunities to tell others about Jesus, and the clarity and courage to seize every opportunity. May our lives proclaim the gospel as much as our words. Teach us to be constant in prayer.
2. Lord, make me a channel of blessings to GPA members and even visitors.

QUOTE: *“In prayer, we receive divine strength; in proclamation, we extend that strength to others, spreading hope and truth.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 13-15; Acts 8:26-40

G. P. A. Hymn 182 – Pass me not, O gentle Savior

Sunday, 29th June 2025

THE CHRISTIAN HOUSEHOLD

Text(s): Colossians 3:12-21

Key Verse: *“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.” – Colossians 3:15*

As Christians, we are a part of two families. The first is made up of those people to whom we are related by birth or have joined through marriage. We gather for holidays and birthdays. Sometimes we share physical features. For believers, our other family is the church, the family of God. Sometimes these two groups overlap. Paul speaks to both in Colossians 3:12–21.

The church’s basic rule is love and the recognition that all Christians are bound together in Him (v. 12). The church is not a perfect community. Participation often requires patience and forgiveness from those who are part of it (v. 13). Paul describes the church as a worshiping community, constituted by the Word of God (v. 16). Those who make up the church are “members of one body” who speak and act “in the name of the Lord Jesus” (vv. 15, 17). This is a community whose only boundary is Christ Himself. It is not limited by ethnicity, gender, economic status, or nationality (see also v. 11).

What Paul describes in verses 18–25 is more accurately a household than a family. The fact that Paul includes slaves is significant because it introduces a cultural element into the idea. God established the family as a divine institution in Creation. The New Testament household Paul describes has the family at its core. But the apostle also includes slaves, a social structure God did not establish. He urges slaves to remember that God accepts their sincere service as being offered to Him (v. 22). Christians live in a fallen world that has been shaped by God and has also been altered by sin. We are bound to live by the Word of God while in it.

Even though our social systems are sometimes broken, it does not exempt us from the responsibility of living Christianly within them. Are you a member of a less than ideal family? Seek God’s wisdom, then trust and obey.

PRAYER(S):

1. None of us have perfect families. How do we honor and glorify You when family life gets messy? How do we love family when it is difficult? How do we seek truth among so many diverging opinions? Lead us and guide us to family peace, Father.

2. I plead the blood of Jesus over every plan and program of GPA.

QUOTE: *“Every challenge becomes an opportunity for growth and every joy is a shared blessing.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 16-18; Acts 9:1-22

G. P. A. Hymn 377 – More holiness give me, more strivings within

Monday, 30th June 2025

LIVING BEYOND RULES

Text(s): Colossians 2:16-23

Key Verse: *“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink.” – Colossians 2:16*

Pastor and author Kent Hughes observes that legalism reduces the message of the gospel. He explains that it “enshrines spirituality as a series of wooden laws” and calls it godliness. “Being in Christ is a relationship,” he explains, “and like all relationships, it deserves disciplined maintenance, but never legalistic reductionism.”

This kind of false teaching had crept into the Colossian church. Based on Paul’s rebuke in verses 16 and 21, they had begun to observe particular days as sacred and certain foods as religiously clean or unclean. It is unclear whether Paul had in mind legalists who wanted Christians to follow the law of Moses or the kind of rigid rule-following associated with some forms of mystery religions. Perhaps he had both in view.

His statement (v. 17) that dietary rules and the observance of special days are only a shadow of the reality found in Christ sounds much like the argument made in the book of Hebrews. His warning about the false worship of angels (v. 18) may refer to Gnostic ideas about spiritual intermediaries or certain magical practices involving angels.

Legalism does not work! Legalism will not help us control the flesh. Instead, it promotes spiritual pride. A Christian who falls into this way of thinking has forgotten the power of the cross. Christ’s victory over sin is the only thing that can truly keep us from “sensual indulgence” (v. 23). The rituals and observances of the Mosaic law were fulfilled with the coming of Christ. The rules and regulations of this type of religion have no lasting value and are “destined to perish with use” (v. 22). Without the power of the cross, the harshest discipline is merely a show.

Sometimes we may be tempted to reduce the message of the gospel to a list of “dos and don’ts.” Be careful not to let someone else’s judgment about such matters control your practice. Instead, rely on the grace of God in Christ to make you righteous.

PRAYER(S):

1. We associate firmness with strength, and this makes legalism attractive: rules are more concrete than relationships. In our relationship with You, teach us to rely on You rather than outward forms.
2. Father, I pray for the resources needed to advance Your Kingdom here on earth.

QUOTE: *“True growth happens when we move beyond the confines of rules to live with purpose, authenticity, and a deep sense of inner conviction.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 19-20; Acts 9:23-43

G. P. A. Hymn 425 – All to Jesus I surrender

Tuesday, 1st July 2025

MY LIGHT HAS COME

Text(s): Matthew 4:14-16

Confession: *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* – Matthew 5:16

G. P. A. Hymn 397 – Conquerors and overcomers now are we

INTRODUCTION

"Ye are the light of the world" – this is a word of encouragement for we that are called Christians. God's word to someone is that you light have come, but what is light? - light represents illumination, enlightenment or understanding in an area. Light represents direction. Light is the opposite of darkness (evil wickedness, corruption, sin. So, when light comes, illumination comes, enlightenment comes deliverance comes. We are going to pray now so that darkness will no longer overcome our light in Jesus' name.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Dark powers operating in the day, dark powers operating in the night, against my life, before the end of tonight's meeting, die, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every power diverting my journey into stagnancy, die, in the name of Jesus.
3. Let my environment be too hot for any private enemy to operate in the name of Jesus.
4. Every cooperation from the spirit of darkness around me scatter in the name of Jesus.
5. Let your light expose every hidden evil structure planted around me in the name of Jesus.
6. I shall arise and go forth in the name of Jesus.
7. We command the works of the flesh in the lives of the brethren to die, in the name of Jesus.
8. Let the life of our Lord Jesus Christ be truly established in GPA, in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 21-22; Acts 10:1-23

QUOTE: *"The arrival of your light signifies a new beginning, where darkness gives way to clarity, purpose, and the power to shine brightly."*

Wednesday, 2nd July 2025

I WILL ARISE AND GO FORTH

Text(s): Psalm 68:1

Confession: *"Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily, and thy righteousness shall go before thee: the glory of God shall be thy reward."* – **Isaiah 58:8**

G. P. A. Hymn 325 – Through the world allure with its guided charm

INTRODUCTION

Human beings on earth sing "let God arise". We too shout "let God arise". A powerful prayer indeed. But strangely, in heaven, angels are not singing "let God arise". They are singing let me arise, and let God's enemies be scattered.

There are enemies that will not scatter until you and I arise. The Bible says I Isaiah 60:1 says "arise and shine. Until you arise there will be no shining. Let us cry unto the Lord this evening for His mercy upon us.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. I bind every strongman delegated to hinder the manifestations of my miracles in the name of Jesus.
2. Every past dream of failure that is now affecting my employment, release me and die, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every family bondage of unemployment, release me and die, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every evil effect of the evil word spoken to my gainful employment, I break your backbone, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every evil mark of rejection, stagnancy, frustration, failure and disappointment be erased from my life and my documents, in the name of Jesus.
6. Any strange hands that has touched or in possession of my academic documents/certificates, you and the evil effects die, in the name of Jesus.
7. We take authority over the power of darkness in all its ramifications in GPA, in the name of Jesus.
8. Every power of selfishness, over-ambition and unteachableness in the lives of GPA members, be broken, in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 23-25; Acts 10:24-48

QUOTE: *"For every new day is an opportunity to embrace change and pursue the dreams that lie ahead."*

Thursday, 3rd July 2025

BREAKTHROUGH DELIVERANCE

Text(s): 1 Corinthians 16:9

Confession: *"Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily, and thy righteousness shall go before thee: the glory of God shall be thy reward."* – **Isaiah 58:8**

G. P. A. Hymn 424 – O happy day that fixed my choice

INTRODUCTION

At the edge of breakthrough lies very dangerous dragons. These dragons have swallowed so many eagle destinies. What a lamentable tragedy that a man will fail at the edge of his breakthroughs because of these dragons that are always organizing themselves there. When Jesus was going to start His Ministry, temptation came. "Bow down and worship me, jump down from the cliff". He won it.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Every evil meeting summoned against my prosperity, scatter without repair, in the name of Jesus.
2. O Lord, lead me to those who will bless me in the name of Jesus.
3. I bind the spirit of debt, I shall not borrow to eat, in the name of Jesus.
4. O Lord, the riches of the Gentiles be transferred to me in the name of Jesus.
5. O Lord, let every design of poverty I inherited melt away by fire, in the name of Jesus.
6. I withdraw my wealth, from the hand of bondwoman and her children, in the name of Jesus.
7. O Lord, let every pocket made that is full of holes for my prosperity return to the owner without repair in the name of Jesus.
8. Father, grant unto GPA, the mind of Christ, forgiving spirit, Tolerance, genuine repentance, understanding, submission, humility, brokenness, watchfulness and the mind to commend others better than ourselves, in Jesus' name.
9. We challenge and pull down the forces of disobedience in the lives of the saints, in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 26-28; Acts 11

QUOTE: *"Trust in God's timing and power, allow Him to turn your obstacles into stepping stones."*

Friday, 4th July 2025

I WILL ARISE AND BREAKFORTH

Text(s): Psalm 68:1, 1 Kings 18:41-46

Confession: *"Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before Him."* – Psalms 68:1

G. P. A. Hymn 386 – Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war

INTRODUCTION

There are enemies that will not scatter until you and I arise. The Bible says in Isaiah 68:1 "arise and shine" until you arise, there will be no shinning. Our God is all powerful, but he is limited in many ways until human intervention. Between it shall come to pass and it came to pass, there is a human intervention. There is a promise, there is a prayer and there is a performance. Even our Lord Jesus while on earth, did not sit down, but he began to do and to preach – Acts 1:1.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Power that gives up when miracles are around, may that power scatter in the name of Jesus.
2. Thunder of God, arise and scatter my enemies.
3. Powers that must die for my life to move forward, die, in the name of Jesus.
4. Evil altars tying down my testimonies, die in the name of Jesus.
5. Powers ambushing testimonies and blessings that are on the way coming to me, what are you waiting for summersault and die in Jesus' name.
6. Every agent of darkness diverting my journey to stagnancy, die in the name of Jesus.
7. Father, create the thirst and hunger for God and holiness in our lives, in the name of Jesus.
8. O Lord, break and refill Your ministers and vessels afresh.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 29-30; Acts 12

QUOTE: *"Embrace the power within you to overcome obstacles and transform challenges into triumphs"*

Saturday, 5th July 2025

WAR AT THE EDGE OF BREAKTHROUGH

Text(s): 1 Corinthians 16:9

Confession: *“After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years and ye shall know my breach of promise.” – Numbers 14:34*

G. P. A. Hymn 395 – Ho! My comrades, see the signal

INTRODUCTION

Had Apostle Paul just said, “for a great door and effectual is opened unto me” and stopped, we would have every cause to jump up and shout. However, notice how he continues: “and there are many adversaries. That’s war at the edge of breakthrough. The door was opened and it was not an ordinary door. Paul described it as a great and effectual door. The moment the enemies saw that the door was opened, they showed up to close it, thereby hindering Paul from going through his breakthrough. We too are at the edge of breakthrough; we are going to cross-over in Jesus’ name.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. May the power to find my bearing in the journey of life come upon my life in the name of Jesus.
2. Desert arrows fired against me, backfire, in the name of Jesus Christ.
3. I withdraw my name from the books of born for nothing, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every witchcraft agenda for my destiny, I kill you now in the name of Jesus.
5. O Lord let the anointing of the Holy Spirit break every yoke of backwardness in my life in the name of Jesus.
6. Father, let anti-breakthrough decrees, be revoked, in the name of Jesus.
7. 14. We command these blessings on GPA and ministers – love - joy - peace - - longsuffering - gentleness - goodness - faith - meekness - temperance - divine healing - divine health - fruitfulness - progress - faith - the gifts of healing - prophecy - discerning of spirits - the word of wisdom - the word of knowledge - the working of miracles - diverse kinds of tongues - the interpretation of tongues - beauty and glory of God - righteousness and holiness - dedication and commitment
8. Let there be a full and fresh outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon the ministers of God, in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 31-32; Acts 13:1-23

QUOTE: *“No matter how dire the situation, God's grace can bring about unexpected and transformative change.”*

Sunday, 6th July 2025

OPEN HEAVENS – TREASURES OF HEAVEN

Text(s): Deuteronomy 28:12

Confession: *“What a beautiful truth of faith this is for our lives the mercy of God! God’s love for us is so great, so deep, it is an unfailing love, one which always takes us by the hand and supports us. By the hand and supports us, lifts us up and leads us on” – Pope Francis*

G. P. A. Hymn 252 – There shall be showers of blessings

INTRODUCTION

For your life to prosper and move forward, the heavens must be involved, because the heaven above us is seeing everything that we do. A person who desires to have divine intervention, he or she must be fervent in prayers. When you continue to render your prayers to the heavenlies, you will soon experience the opening of your heaven. If you notice that your heaven is opened and you are living a sinful life, it will close back. Pray very well.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to purge out demonic forces hanging out in the heavenlies in the name of Jesus.
2. Heaven over my prayers, open by fire, in the name of Jesus.
3. My heaven be opened for divine revelation and direction, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every hinderance to my answer prayers, catch fire and burn to ashes, in the name of Jesus.
5. Territorial powers that have closed down my heaven, you are a liar, open it, in the name of Jesus.
6. Every network of darkness working against my advancement in life, die by fire, in the name of Jesus.
7. O Lord, set me apart for miracle every day of my life, in the name of Jesus.
8. O Lord, give unto Your ministers the power for effective prayer life.
9. We break down the authority and dominion of Satan over the souls of men, in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 33-34; Acts 13:24-52

QUOTE: *“Live a life of compassion, grace, and devotion to God.”*

Monday, 7th July 2025

STOP THEM BEFORE THEY STOP YOU

Text(s): Acts 12:1-11

Confession: *“Peter was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.” – Acts 12:5*

G. P. A. Hymn 323 – They that trust in the Lord are secure

INTRODUCTION

We did not really have a clear idea of the prayer points they were praying that day or the prayer points the church was praying at that time, but by the time we read down, we saw one of the prayer points. Herod wanted to kill Peter. Initially, when Herod arrested James and killed him, the Jews were happy, and this situation encouraged him to arrest Peter and wanted to killed him also. The disciples woke from their slumber and prayed for the deliverance of Peter from Herod and his cohorts. If not, they would have wiped off all the disciples from the surface of the earth thence truncated their destiny. Stop them before they stop you.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Anyone waiting to hear the news of my death shall die in my place, in the name of Jesus.
2. Any agent of darkness, planning to poison me, swallow your poison and die in my place in the name of Jesus.
3. Every stubborn pursuer of my life, turn back and perish in your Red Sea, in the name of Jesus.
4. Anyone assigned to kill me before the day of my joy, shall be buried alive, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every congregation that has been assigned to destroy me and my family, destroy your senders in the name of Jesus.
6. O Lord, let your mercy snatch me back from those who seek my death in the name of Jesus.
7. Every spirit holding the souls of men in captivity, we shatter your back-bone, in the name of Jesus.
8. Every covenant between the souls of men and Satan, we dash you to pieces, in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 35-37; Acts 14

QUOTE: *“Success often requires that you address obstacles before they have a chance to hinder your progress or dim your vision.”*

Tuesday, 8th July 2025

WAITING ON THE LORD

Text(s): Genesis 25:19-34

Key Verse: *“Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.”* – Psalm 27:14

It is not easy to wait. We are used to getting things quickly. The internet has made it possible to get almost any information we want immediately. When it comes to ordering things online, I find myself getting impatient if it does not arrive at my house within a day.

In chapter 25 of Genesis, we meet Isaac’s son Jacob, a man who would learn a lot about waiting upon the Lord. Before he was born, Jacob’s mother Rebekah noticed something odd happening in her womb. Distressed by this, she inquired of the Lord who granted her a prophetic oracle, “Two nations are in your womb...one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger” (v. 23). Against all expectations, God told Rebekah that the younger would be the leader of the family and receive the Abrahamic promise.

Although Jacob and Esau were brothers, they did not have much in common. Esau loved the outdoors, hunting, and an active lifestyle, while Jacob was more of a homebody (v. 27). Esau was his father’s favorite, while Rebekah preferred Jacob (v. 28).

The passage ends with a brief story that characterizes both brothers. Esau is portrayed as thoughtless and driven by appetite. He came in from hunting famished and begged his brother for some stew (v. 30). To get it, he was willing to sell his birthright (vv. 32–33), one of the most significant and valuable rights that he possessed. And he traded it for a meal! Jacob, on the other hand, is portrayed as cold- blooded and calculating. Rather than having compassion on his brother, he used the opportunity to get ahead (vv. 31–33). Instead of waiting upon the Lord’s timing, he grasped for position through his own efforts.

Is there some area of your life where you are being required to wait? How has God worked during times of waiting in your past?

PRAYER(S):

1. We ask You, Lord, to increase our faith in Your promises and to instill in us patience to wait for their fulfillment. What a joy it is to know that Your timing is perfect, and Your promises are faithful and true!
2. Let the spirit of steadfastness, consistency, hunger and thirst for the words of God come upon new converts in GPA, in Jesus’ name.

QUOTE: *“Trust that His timing is perfect and His plans are always for our good.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 38-39; Acts 15:1-21

G. P. A. Hymn 164 – Thy kingdom come O Lord

Wednesday, 9th July 2025

BREAD FROM HEAVEN

Text(s): John 6:41-65

Key Verse: *"I am the bread of life."* – John 6:48

Many churches take steps to make certain that visitors feel comfortable. The greeting at the door, the music during the service, and the illustrations used in the sermon are all especially designed to make people curious about faith feel at home, in the hope that they will consider the gospel.

Jesus' interaction with the crowd that came seeking Him after the miraculous feeding of thousands of people took a radically different approach. First, Jesus rebuked the multitude for their motives in seeking Him out. When they demanded that He provide a miraculous sign to back up His claims, Jesus pushed back by saying that He was the bread from heaven (v. 48).

In one of the most staggering statements of His entire ministry Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (v. 51). These words were not intended to make those who heard it feel comfortable. If anything, they were designed to disturb.

When the crowd asked for clarification, Jesus did not say that He was trying to make a spiritual point by using a figure of speech. Instead, He answered, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day" (vv. 53–54). These words were so shocking that even His disciples balked at them (v. 60).

Instead of marketing appeals, Jesus used inflammatory language. His aim was not to make people feel good about the experience but to awaken them to the truth.

PRAYER(S)

1. Lord, we come before You as the Living Bread that came down from heaven. May we partake in Your presence daily, finding spiritual nourishment and strength in You.
2. O Lord, release fresh fires to disgrace territorial spirit upon all our missionaries and evangelists.

QUOTE: *"Divine gift that feeds our deepest hunger and satisfies our soul's longing for true fulfillment."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Job 40-42; Acts 15:22-41

G. P. A. Hymn 268 – Lord Thy word abideth

Thursday, 10th July 2025

WALK THIS WAY

Text(s): Colossians 3:1-11

Key Verse: *“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” – Colossians 3:2*

The other day during a conversation with one of my grown sons, I noticed a familiar facial expression and gesture. It was a bit like looking in a mirror. How did he learn it? Was it DNA or imitation? Perhaps it was a little of both.

Living the Christian life is similar in one respect. There is a place for imitating Christ, but it is ultimately grounded in something much deeper. Christian living involves three important actions that are noted in Colossians 3: seeking, being, and doing.

In verse 1, Paul urges us to “set your heart on things above.” The Greek word means to “seek.” It is referring to our aspiration and pursuit, but it is not “pie in the sky.” This seeking is only possible because the Christian has been united with Christ in His death and resurrection (vv. 1, 3). Being and seeking lead to doing. The Christian seeks the things above by living in the power of the cross. We put to death “whatever belongs to your earthly nature” by saying no to those sinful impulses that were part of our former life (v. 5).

Our earthly nature, as Paul describes these sinful impulses, continues to assert itself even after we have been saved. Paul describes it almost as if it were an alien force. It may stir within us, but it is not who we are in Christ. Paul calls the Colossians (and us) to cast off the vestiges of the old self and walk in the new self (vv. 7–10). The change in life that Paul envisions for the Christian is not instantaneous. We are “being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator” (v. 10). The Greek verb is in the present tense. Our new life in Christ is a continuous and transforming experience.

Christians do not walk a certain way so that we can obtain new life. That life is already yours if you are in Christ! Now, what we need to do, is walk in it.

PRAYER(S):

1. Knowing we are already forgiven, we ask You for the strength and discipline to say no to our sins, especially those that have become ingrained. Help us choose the righteous path over the easy path.
2. We break the power and the grip of the world upon the souls of men, in the name of Jesus.

QUOTE: *“Choose a path of purpose and integrity, guided by values that reflect your true self.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 1-3; Acts 16:1-15

G. P. A. Hymn 384 – Where He may lead me I will go

Friday, 11th July 2025

TRULY ALIVE

Text(s): Colossians 2:1-15

Key Verse: *“God made you alive with Christ.” – Colossians 2:13*

The second-century church leader Irenaeus famously said, “Life in man is the glory of God; the life of man is the vision of God.” In Colossians 2, Paul is also talking about life and our vision of God. Christian living, he points out, is the life of Christ at work in us.

Our knowledge of God comes through Christ (v. 3). When we accept Him as Lord, we are empowered to live under His rule (v. 6). Instead of being taken in by fine-sounding arguments, “human tradition,” or speculating about “elemental spiritual forces” (v. 8), we look to Christ to understand what God is like (v. 9). The themes Paul emphasizes in verses 9–12 counter some of the false teachings that the Colossians faced at the time. It appears that false teachers in Colosse were denying that Christ was truly human. They speculated about a vast hierarchy of spiritual powers and authorities and taught that circumcision was necessary for salvation.

In contrast, the gospel teaches that Jesus is enough. We are complete in Him (v. 10). More than this, we are united with Christ in such a way that His death becomes ours. This union with Christ in His death is the spiritual reality that Old Testament circumcision symbolized (v. 11).

Believers, who are united with Christ in His resurrection and by it, have been made “alive with Christ” (vv. 13–14). By dying on our behalf, Jesus paid the debt. By rising from the dead, Jesus triumphed over evil (v. 15). This is just the basic gospel. Yet it is a message of immense spiritual power. Those who know Christ are alive in Christ. The glory of God is the believer truly alive in Christ.

Can you say that you are alive in Christ? The key is to come to Him in faith. Recognize that He died and rose for you. Trust in Him today, and His victory will be yours.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord Jesus, I want to be alive in You. I believe that You died and rose in my place, granting the forgiveness that I now ask to receive. I believe You are the Son of God. Accept me as Your servant and send Your Spirit to dwell in me.

2. O Lord, remove all the hindrances to Your purpose for homes in GPA.

QUOTE: *“Choose a path of purpose and integrity, guided by values that reflect your true self.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 4-6; Acts 16:16-40

G. P. A. Hymn 209 – Jesus lives Thy terrors now

Saturday, 12th July 2025

RECONCILED TO GOD

Text(s): Colossians 1:15-29

Key Verse: *“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him.”* – Colossians 1:19

If you ask the average person to describe what it means to be a Christian, they will probably identify a moral view, lifestyle choice, or even a political position. While Christianity does have implications for all these areas, that is not what it means to be a Christian.

Today’s passage reveals that Jesus Christ is the essence of the Christian faith. The heart of the Christian message has to do with the nature of Christ and the reason He shed His blood on the cross. Paul describes Jesus as both “the image of the invisible God” and “the firstborn over all creation” (v. 15). Paul’s choice of words is deliberate, probably intended to counter aspects of the false teaching that had crept into the church in Colosse.

By taking a human nature, Jesus brings the image of the invisible God to light. The fact that Paul calls him the “firstborn” does not mean that Jesus was the first created being; it means that He is superior to creation. Jesus existed as God before He was born in Bethlehem. Indeed, He existed as God before anything was created (v. 17). As Creator, Jesus upholds all creation.

Paul goes on to say that Jesus died “to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross” (v. 20). By “all things,” he primarily means people who are alienated from God because of sin (v. 21). As Creator, Jesus is the glue that holds the universe together. But He is also the Redeemer who reconciles us to God by the death of His physical body (v. 22). Paul reminds the Colossians that this was the message that was preached to them. It is the bedrock of the Christian faith.

With so many varying ideas about Christianity swirling about, we must remember the first principles of our faith. Christianity is about Jesus, the Creator who took on human nature to die for us.

PRAYER(S):

1. What is there to fear when we are united with the Creator of all, the Son of God, and the all-sufficient Lamb whose blood has covered our sin? What can we do but worship You in all circumstances!
2. We release the spirit of salvation upon areas that have not been reached by the gospel, in the name of Jesus.

QUOTE: *“Embrace His boundless forgiveness and open your hearts to a renewed relationship full of hope and grace.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 7-9; Acts 17:1-15

G. P. A. Hymn 180 – Lord in this Thy mercy’s day

Sunday, 13th July 2025

STRENGTHENED BY MIGHT

Text(s): Colossians 1:1-14

Key Verse: *“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you.”* – **Colossians 1:9**

I doubt that the apostle Paul would have been surprised by this. In today’s reading, we get a snapshot of Paul’s lifestyle of prayer. Every time Colossians came to mind, he gave thanks for them (v. 3). Located in the Lycus valley near the city of Laodicea, Colosse, had fallen on hard times by Paul’s day. But of even greater concern was a form of teaching that had begun to creep into the church. Paul does not give many details in this letter. He is more interested in dwelling on the truth than in detailing all the false tenets of something he describes as a “hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ” (Colossians 2:8).

Paul’s prayers for the Colossians focused primarily on two things. The apostle prayed that the Holy Spirit would grant them wisdom and understanding to know how they should live. He also asked that God’s Spirit would strengthen them with power so that they would live out the truth as it was revealed to them (1:9–12). Paul did not pray for them to live this way in order to be redeemed. They were already saved. He prayed this way because redemption had already come to them through Christ. Jesus had already “qualified” them to “share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light” (v. 12).

This lifestyle is as possible for us as it was for the Colossians. God “has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves” (v. 13). In Christ, we have redemption, which Paul defines further in verse 14 as “the forgiveness of sins.”

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord God, fill us with the knowledge of Your will through all wisdom and understanding from the Spirit, so we may live worthy lives pleasing to You, bearing fruit, and growing in our knowledge of You (Col. 1:9–10).
2. Every power destroying joy in homes in GPA, be dismantled, in the name of Jesus.

QUOTE: *“We are emboldened to embrace our challenges and seize our opportunities with unwavering faith and determination.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 10-12; Acts 17:16-34

G. P. A. Hymn 250 – When the pow’r of God descended

Monday, 14th July 2025

SUBMISSION TO GOD

Text(s): Ephesians 6:1-9

Key Verse: *“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people.” – Ephesians 6:7*

Escaped slave, abolitionist, and statesman Frederick Douglass observed, “Between the Christianity of this land and the Christianity of Christ, I recognize the widest possible difference—so wide that to receive the one as good, pure, and holy, is of necessity to reject the other as bad, corrupt, and wicked.”

Modern readers of today’s passage are often troubled to see Paul include masters and slaves in his directions about how Christian families ought to operate. It is a fact, however, that in the New Testament era, slaves were considered a part of the household as much as children were. Obedience was expected of both (vv. 1, 6).

As we read Paul’s directives, it is crucial to recognize that he is not endorsing the practice of slavery. Rather, he is offering guidelines for Christians forced to live within that social structure. He does not tell them to unravel the practice but to be Christlike within its constraints. His directions to children, however, while essentially the same, are based on something else. They grow out of the commandment to “Honor your father and mother” (Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16). Paul observes that this is the first of the ten commandments to include a promise.

Family was a biblical institution grounded in Creation. Slavery was not. Yet followers of Jesus in Paul’s day were called to live Christianly within both. This does not mean they were obligated to accept either institution’s “bad, corrupt, and wicked” elements as part of God’s will. Elsewhere, Paul advises slaves to gain their freedom if they can (1 Cor. 7:21). He says that those who submit should take comfort in knowing that God sees their obedience as something rendered to Him. Those who expect obedience must keep in mind that they will one day answer to God.

While our own experience may not fit this passage exactly, we all have people to whom we must submit. How can we do this in a way that will bring glory to Christ?

PRAYER(S):

1. “There is no authority except that which God has established” (Rom. 13:1). Submission to earthly authority begins with submission to You. Whatever our qualms about our earthly leaders, we trust that You are ultimately in control.

2. We take authority over the plans and activities of Satan on GPA ministers’ homes, in the name of Jesus.

QUOTE: *“Trust in God’s plan, even when you don’t understand it. Surrendering to His will brings true peace.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 13-16; Acts 18

G. P. A. Hymn 420 – O Jesus, I have promised

Tuesday, 15th July 2025

BRING THE EXILES HOME

Text(s): Nehemiah 8:5-12

Key Verse: *“They now understood the words that had been made known to them.”* – **Nehemiah 8:12**

According to the United Nations, there are 103 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, whether inside or outside their home nations. A total of 32.5 million are classified as refugees, fleeing war or persecution. Of these, 72 percent come from the five countries of Syria, Venezuela, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and South Sudan.

After decades of exile following the Babylonian conquest, the Jews were finally allowed to return home. In today’s passage, the public reading and teaching of the Scriptures kindled spiritual renewal among the returned exiles. The leaders, including Ezra and Nehemiah, showed the way (vv. 5–8). Preparations had been made: A day had been set, a reading platform built, and the Levites organized for teaching. When the Law was opened, the people stood as a sign of respect.

When Ezra praised the Lord, they bowed facedown to the ground in worship. As they listened, they wept, showing—like King Josiah—godly sorrow and repentance.

This day, though, was a day for celebration not weeping (vv. 9–12). The people certainly had sins to repent of, and the broken remains of the city reminded them of past sins and God’s judgment. In Nehemiah 9, we read of their repentance. But that day, however, was a day for rejoicing. God had kept His promise and returned their people to the land after 70 years of exile! He commanded a real party (the Feast of Booths) described as “holy to our Lord”—with food and drink and sharing for those who didn’t have enough. This is the context for the often-quoted verse, “The joy of the Lord is your strength” (v. 10). Why were they joyful? “Because they now understood the words that had been made known to them” (v. 12).

We often equate holiness with a somber mood, but the Bible speaks of “joy” in holiness! In our churches, we see this lived out through music and singing. In what other ways does holiness spark joy in us?

PRAYER(S):

1. We rejoice in Your holiness and unspotted goodness! We rejoice in the promise that we are being made holy like You, and one day we will be fully sanctified! We rejoice in the truth that You have forever defeated sin and death!
2. O Lord, increase the power and strength of the ministration of Your words amongst us.

QUOTE: *“The true measure of our compassion is found in our willingness to bring those who have wandered far from home back to the sanctuary of their roots.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 17-18; Acts 19:1-20

G. P. A. Hymn 265 – We love the place, O God

Wednesday, 16th July 2025

GOD'S WORD DWELLS IN US

Text(s): Colossians 3:15-17

Key Verse: *"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly."* – **Colossians 3:16**

In most sports, a rule book is necessary to control and shape the game. Team members, from the coach to the player on the sideline, are expected not only to be familiar with the book but also to abide by these rules. When a player violates rules, a penalty hurts the entire team.

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul exhorted them (and us) to "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" (v. 15). The imperative "let" reminds us that this is not something for us to do, but something to allow God to do. The "peace of Christ" is another name for the gospel (Rom. 5:1). Just as an umpire or referee controls the game by enforcing the rule book, everything we think, feel, say, and do should be governed by the gospel, both individually and collectively. Why? Because "as members of one body [we] were called to peace."

Second, the apostle exhorted us to "let the message of Christ dwell among you richly" (v. 16). The "message of Christ" is ultimately the Word of God. To "dwell" is to live or make a home with. How can we let the Word make a home within us? By teaching and admonishing "one another...through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit."

Third, Paul exhorted us to "do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (v. 17). This means that in everything we do we should seek God's glory (see also 1 Cor. 10:31).

The fourth and final exhortation of the passage is found in every verse: "Be thankful" (v. 15). "With gratitude in your hearts" (v. 16). "Giving thanks to God the Father" (v. 17). If we live like this, we'll truly show that we've been made alive in Christ (Col. 3:1-14).

If you are on God's team, you need to familiarize yourself with His "rule book," our guide, the Bible. How can you be an effective servant of the Lord if you don't know what the Bible says?

PRAYER(S):

1. In Scripture we learn how to pray, how to love, how to avoid temptation, how to hope. Father, don't let these teachings fall on barren soil. Transform us through Your words as we study and follow them.
2. O Lord, dismantle every man-made program in GPA and set up Your own program.

QUOTE: *"The true power of God's word is realized when it takes root in our hearts, shaping our thoughts, actions, and the essence of who we are."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 19-21; Acts 19:21-41

G. P. A. Hymn 121 – Rock of ages cleft for me

Thursday, 17th July 2025

A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE

Text(s): Joshua 2:1-24

Key Verse: *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* – **Romans 3:23**

In Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel, *The Scarlet Letter*, Hester Prynne conceives a child during an affair and is reluctant to name the father. In Puritan Massachusetts in the mid- 1600s, Hester's punishment involved public shaming. She was ordered to wear a scarlet "A" throughout her life.

In Joshua 2 we meet Rahab who was essentially branded with a scarlet letter of adultery. She was one of Jericho's well-known prostitutes, living inside its massive walls (v. 1). Joshua's spies assumed that Rahab's place would be the perfect hiding spot to remain anonymous. But rumors traveled quickly, and the king sent men to scope out her house (v. 3). After hiding the spies and turning the king's men away, Rahab gives a confession of faith.

Rahab expressed that she and all the Jerichoans heard of what Yahweh had done to the other cities and were terrified. However, she turned her fear into reverence, proclaiming her belief in Yahweh's supremacy. Her expression of trust would have been shocking to the spies, Joshua, the Israelite army, as well as the readers of the book of Joshua.

This woman, at whom others looked with judgment and scorn, put her transformed faith into action, kept her commitment to the spies, and tied a scarlet cord on her window to signify which home not to destroy. As early as the first century, commentators such as Clement of Rome, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Origen, and others indicated the scarlet cord as a symbol of Jesus' blood shed on the cross. Only God can take our scarlet letter of sin and turn it into a scarlet cord of faith.

We all deserve to wear a scarlet letter that marks our sinfulness. But the good news is that Jesus' death and resurrection gives us a second chance. If you have not accepted Jesus, turn to Him today. If you know Him, don't hesitate to share how God has transformed your life. Your past may change someone's future.

PRAYER(S):

1. Overcome in us the fear or insecurity that prevents us from proclaiming the gospel to the lost. Remind us of what You have done for us and fill us with fervor for others to experience the same deliverance.
2. O Lord, grant parents in GPA special wisdom to train our children in the glory of the Lord.

QUOTE: *"Embrace the opportunity to make it extraordinary."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 22-24; Acts 20:1-16

G. P. A. Hymn 429 – Take my life and let it be

Friday, 18th July 2025

FROM WHEAT TO WIFE

Text(s): Ruth 3:1-13

Key Verse: *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”* – Proverbs 3:5

Losing someone you love, especially a spouse, is heart wrenching. There is no easy way to move on. Tragedy struck the marriages of a woman named Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, when they both lost their husbands. Faced with a difficult decision, Ruth displayed her loyalty to Naomi and moved back to Israel to stay by her mother-in-law’s side (Ruth 1:16).

Together, the two women sought refuge with a man named Boaz, who, providentially, happened to be Naomi’s family redeemer. The family redeemer, also known as kinsman redeemer, was a cultural practice in Israel where if a man died and left behind a wife and no sons, the family redeemer was responsible to marry and provide for the widow. Ruth’s loyalty to Naomi, bravery toward Boaz, and character led to her second chance at having a family.

In chapter three, Ruth followed Naomi’s instructions and prepared for a life-altering opportunity (vv. 1–4). As Boaz slept, she “uncovered his feet and lay down,” which was essentially a gentle way to wake him up (v. 8). Then she requested he take her in and care for her.

Ruth showed her loyalty in her treatment of Naomi, and Boaz affirms it here (v. 11). He calls her a “woman of noble character,” which is the same expression used to introduce the ideal godly woman in Proverbs 31:10. Not only does everyone in the town know Ruth has a godly character, but so does the Lord. While the Lord is never directly mentioned in this story, His providential hand is evident. Ultimately, God gave Ruth a second chance, a husband, and a home, because of her loyalty and faithfulness.

We will experience hard times, but what we do during those seasons of life reveals truths about who we really are. While we may never get back what we lost, the Lord knows what we need for the future. Like Ruth, we can trust God and obey His commands.

PRAYER(S):

1. Without You, hardship hardens us, and difficulty makes us difficult people. In loss and trials, grant us qualities of patience, hope, faith, and gentleness. Comfort us, speak to us, and hold us fast.
2. Father, thank you for destroying all the interferences of the devil against the growth and continuous expansion of GPA in Jesus’ name.

QUOTE: *“Just as wheat must be nurtured to yield a fruitful harvest, relationships require patience and care to blossom into lasting commitments.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 25-27; Acts 20:17-38

G. P. A. Hymn 160 – Blessed are they in Jesus

Saturday, 19th July 2025

FINDING HEALING

Text(s): Mark 2:1-12

Key Verse: *“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.” – Ephesians 1:7*

In today's text, we read about the paralyzed man who was taken to Jesus by his friends in an unorthodox way. In Capernaum, very possibly at the home of Peter, an outside staircase led to a flat roof made of mud and straw. The friends of the paralytic could not get in the crowded house, so they climbed the stairs, made a hole in the roof, and carefully lowered their friend (vv. 1–4). What determination! Nothing would stand in their way of getting their crippled friend in front of Jesus. Not a crowd, not a roof, nothing.

However, Jesus' first words were not what they sought (v. 5). The man came to be physically healed, not to be forgiven of his sins! Nonetheless, Jesus was teaching them a powerful lesson. He had come to the world to be more than a physical healer. He had come to heal people from their sins.

This is one of many instances where the teachers of the Law got upset with Jesus and His divine claims (vv. 6–7). But Jesus was on a mission. He was not just healing their bodies but also saving their souls. He came as God's Son and the Son of Man to forgive sins and offer salvation.

We tend to focus on our physical ailments, but there is nothing more impossible than the forgiveness of sins. Jesus is the only one with the power to forgive sins. Surrender your life to Him and watch Him do a miracle!

PRAYER(S):

1. We can take our physical and mental ailments to professionals who can offer treatment, but no doctor can cure sin. Dear God, we confess that we fall short of Your glory. Forgive us for our sins; You are the only one who can.
2. Father, thank you for the massive inputs of the GPA workers towards the continuous growth and increase of the church in Jesus' name.

QUOTE: *“Healing begins when we choose to confront our pain with love and transform it into strength and wisdom.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 28-30; Acts 21:1-14

G. P. A. Hymn 131 – The great Physician now is here

Sunday, 20th July 2025

AT THE CENTER OF LIFE

Text(s): Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Key Verse: *“Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”* – **Deuteronomy 6:9**

On a wall in our family room hangs a plaque with 1 Corinthians 15:58: “Your labour in the Lord is not in vain.” As my wife and I prepared to return to the U.S. from Vietnam, where we served for many years, a good friend of ours, a Vietnamese pastor and church planter, gave us this plaque as a farewell present. It holds a special place of honor in our home.

This plaque symbolizes our desire to put God’s Word at the center of family life. In Deuteronomy 6, we learn two significant truths. The first is that God is one (v. 4, called the “Shema”). As opposed to those in the ancient Near East who worshiped many gods, Christians worship only one true God. He alone is worthy of our worship.

The second truth is also known as the greatest commandment: We are to love God “with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (v. 5). Such love includes wholehearted faith and uncompromising obedience.

How can we live out these two truths? They should be on our hearts and thoughts. We should reflect or meditate on them in our inmost beings (v. 6). We should talk about them often, during all kinds of situations and activities, especially in our homes and with our children (v. 7). These truths and God’s commandments in general should be at the heart of our personal and family lives (vv. 8–9; see also Prov. 3:3).

Many Jews take the imagery of verses 8 and 9 literally. They tie phylacteries to their foreheads and left arms and attach mezuzot to the doorframes of their houses. Phylacteries and mezuzot are small boxes with specific Scripture passages inside—including today’s reading.

How do you keep God and His Word at the center of your life? Do you post Bible verses in places as reminders? Some people hang plaques, others use screen savers. Today there are many ways you can keep God and His Word at the forefront of your mind.

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord God, as we study Scripture, memorize Your Word, and absorb sound teaching, cause Your truth to penetrate to our inmost being. As we encounter different people and scenarios, bring pertinent passages to our minds for guidance.

2. Father, in the name of Jesus, fill every worker in GPA with the Spirit of the fear of the Lord, resulting in the manifestation of Your favour in everyone’s life this year.

QUOTE: *“Embrace each experience fully, find peace amidst chaos, and align with your true self.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 31-33; Acts 21:15-40

G. P. A. Hymn 386 – Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war

Monday, 21st July 2025

A COMPROMISING CHOICE

Text(s): 1 Kings 11:1-13

Key Verse: *“His heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God.”* – 1 Kings 11:4

Sometimes what seems like a small compromise can lead to devastating results. Maybe you’ve taken a short cut to home repair only to discover the resulting damage was far worse than if you’d fixed it the right way at the beginning.

The same was true of Solomon. Considering the wisdom and wealth Solomon received from the Lord in the early years of his life, it is great disappointment that the king turned away from the Lord. How did this happen? The desertion comes through worshipping false gods. Solomon disobeyed the instructions God gave Israel about kingship. In Deuteronomy 17:14–21, God commanded that Israel’s kings were not to take many wives. We can assume non-Israelite wives were in view because the command comes with a reason. These wives would turn the king’s heart after foreign gods.

As Israel’s leader, it was of utmost importance to remain faithful to Yahweh. For as the heart of the king goes, so goes the nation. Solomon brought wives into his home who worshiped foreign gods. Over time he allowed himself to be persuaded to worship those gods. He even built shrines to false gods on a hill opposite Jerusalem within sight of the Temple he built for Yahweh (vv. 7–8)!

In an echo of the golden calf incident in Exodus when Israel worshiped an idol in full view of Yahweh on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 32), Solomon’s act of betrayal resulted in an extreme consequence—his kingdom would be turned over to an adversary. God raised up enemies, including Jeroboam, who upon Solomon’s death would gain control of a large portion of the kingdom. But the consequences would not only affect Solomon but also the lives of everyone he led.

Today’s reading serves as a caution in our own walk with God. Are you making compromising choices? Stop and consider the effect this will have on your relationship with God and with others. Is the cost worth the compromise?

PRAYER(S):

Expediency, simplicity, conformity—these are often the goals that lead us into making small compromises. Lord, anything that is not holy is wrong. Remind us of the seriousness of sin when we want to compromise.

QUOTE: *“Create a new way forward that respects everyone’s needs and fosters mutual growth.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 34-35; Acts 22

G. P. A. Hymn 206 – There’s not a friend, like the lowly Jesus

Tuesday, 22nd July 2025

GOING PUBLIC WITH YOUR FAITH

Text(s): John 19:38-42

Key Verse: *“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” – John 3:17*

In the first century, it was illegal for family members to retrieve the crucified bodies of their loved ones. Dead bodies typically hung for days, if not weeks, so the message was clear: Do not mess with the Roman Empire! After some time, the Romans would pry the bodies off the cross, carry them in a wagon, cart them down to the Valley of Gehenna, and dump them into a rat-infested mass grave. The same would have happened to Jesus’ body if not for the boldness of two unlikely leaders, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.

At some point, as the rest of the followers fled, Nicodemus and Joseph looked at Jesus’ body and reflected on the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah’s suffering (Isa. 53:5–6). They must have concluded that Jesus was indeed the Son of Man who took away the sins of the world (John 3:1–17). They decided that they couldn’t hide their faith in Him any longer. They mustered up the strength to go directly to Pilate and ask for the body (v. 38). John is very meticulous about how Nicodemus and Joseph prepared the body, wrapped it in cloths, and placed it in a tomb (vv. 39–42). Matthew and Mark tell us they sealed the tomb shut and went home.

They probably had no expectation of ever seeing Jesus alive again. If the Romans threw Jesus’ body into the open grave known as Gehenna, and then He appeared a few days later, skeptics could have easily debunked the resurrection. People would have said Jesus was exhausted, not executed. But Nicodemus’s and Joseph’s faith, courage, and concern for the body of Jesus made it possible for first-century believers (and us!) to be confident that Jesus actually died and rose again. These unlikely leaders were bold in their faith.

If people found out you were a Christian, would they be surprised? List three things that may prevent you from expressing your love for Christ. Stop hiding your faith and go public, despite the consequences.

PRAYER(S):

1. Whatever prevents us from boldly proclaiming our relationship with You— whether fear, embarrassment, or a desire for privacy—forgive us and change us, Lord. Others need to know that salvation is found in You alone (Acts 4:12).
2. Father, in the name of Jesus and by the Holy Ghost, let every worker of GPA be liberated from all filthiness of the flesh and of the spirit this year.

QUOTE: *“Shine a light that reflects your deepest values, guiding others with the courage of your convictions.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 36-37; Acts 23:1-11

G. P. A. Hymn 337 – My hope is built on nothing less

Wednesday, 23rd July 2025

SERVANTS WHO LEAD

Text(s): Luke 10:38-42

Key Verse: *“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.”* – **Mark 10:43**

The phrase “servant leadership” was coined by Robert Greenleaf in the 1970s. While working at AT&T, Greenleaf recognized that individuals and organizations ought to be known as servants who lead instead of leaders who happen to serve. He said the best test to determine if one is a true servant leader is asking, “Do those served grow as persons? Do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants?” In Luke 10, Jesus visits the home of Mary and Martha. Today, we turn our attention to Martha.

It is easy to read this passage and shake our heads in disappointment at Martha who, rather than sitting and listening to Jesus, was bustling around preparing dinner. We may think, “Oh, Martha, Martha, Martha. You’re not focusing on what truly matters. Always trying to impress...” But before we criticize Martha for her Southern-Bethany hospitality, take a closer look at where Luke places this account. Notice that it comes directly after Jesus’ Good Samaritan parable of going above and beyond to help one’s neighbor. Is Luke simply playing mind games with his readers? No.

Martha was fulfilling the lesson of the Good Samaritan (vv. 25–37). Like the Good Samaritan, she saw a need and was doing everything she could to meet it. The problem was that her efforts to make everything perfect outdid the need to serve, and the text says she was “distracted” (v. 40). Could she have simplified her preparations? Was her focus on the right thing? Servant leaders don’t serve just to complete a task. Instead, they serve, so that they and others will grow and become more like Christ.

What part of servant leadership challenges you? Do you struggle to see the needs of others? Or, in serving, do you focus more on perfection than meeting the actual need? Challenge yourself to find a way to serve someone selflessly today.

PRAYER(S):

1. “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Help us when we need to buckle down on a task and to know when we should set it aside to meet another’s needs.
2. Father, in the name of Jesus, let every barrier standing in the way of the return of any challenged worker back to GPA, be brought down this year.

QUOTE: *“Serve with a heart of compassion and guide others toward their highest potential.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 38-40; Acts 23:12-35

G. P. A. Hymn 12 – Since Christ my soul from sin set free

Thursday, 24th July 2025

THE BEST OF PLANS

Text(s): Genesis 31:1-55

Key Verse: *“The Lord knows all human plans; he knows that they are futile.”* – **Psalm 94:11**

Has your life ever taken an unexpected turn? Have you ever made plans only to have them dramatically rearranged? When Jacob fled from his childhood home to Laban’s to escape Esau’s anger, he was only planning to be gone for “a few days” (Gen. 27:44 NASB). Those “few” days had turned into 20 years!

Genesis 31 tells how and why Jacob finally left to return home. The members of Jacob’s extended family did not trust each other. Laban’s sons accused Jacob of stealing from their father (v. 1). Laban cheated Jacob by changing his wages (v. 7). Jacob deceived Laban by not telling him he was running away (v. 20). And Rachel stole the household gods from her father (vv. 19, 32). She clearly did not fully understand what it meant to worship the Lord alone. It would be hard to miss the ineffectiveness of these so-called gods. They are only saved by Rachel hiding them under her saddle, thus rendering them unclean (vv. 34–35).

Meanwhile, Jacob was growing in his reliance upon the Lord. He gave God credit for his increased wealth (vv. 5, 9). He obeyed God’s command to return to his homeland (v. 13). More importantly, God was faithful to Jacob. God did not allow Laban’s attempt to cheat him succeed (vv. 5, 42). When Laban chased after Jacob to catch him, God warned him not to harm Jacob (v. 24). Finally, He allowed Laban and Jacob to come to terms with one another. All along, Laban had been treating Jacob as a slave. We end with Laban making a covenant with Jacob as an equal (vv. 44–54).

We can rely on the truth that God is with us, and that no matter how life changes our plans, God will be faithful to His promises. How have you seen God at work in your life? How has He helped you grow in your faith through different trials?

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, You know the futility of our human plans. I choose to trust Your promises for my life. I open my clenched fists to surrender my plans to You. “The LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge” (Ps. 94:22).
2. Father, in the name of Jesus, by the Holy Ghost, redirect the steps of every embattled worker back to GPA this year and grant each one of them a welcome package.

QUOTE: *“Prepare to adjust course and seize opportunities as they arise.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 41-43; Acts 24

G. P. A. Hymn 427 – I am Thine O Lord, I have heard Thy voice

Friday, 25th July 2025

WRESTLING WITH GOD

Text(s): Genesis 32:22-32

Key Verse: *"I will not let you go unless you bless me."* – Genesis 32:26

Have you ever been so focused on one problem that you didn't even realize your real problem? We might pray to God, "Help me with my job" or "Bring healing to my loved one." While these are important issues, they might not be the primary ones that God wants us to address. Often our most significant need is our relationship with God. We have not yielded to Him.

In Genesis 32, Jacob was focused on a problem: He would reunite with Esau. He had thought hard about how to manage the relationship. He even prayed to God for help. Jacob had been given his name because he came out of the womb grabbing his brother's heel (Gen. 25:26). He had been wrestling with people ever since. He had stolen Esau's blessing, and then struggled with his uncle Laban for 20 years. After Jacob stole Esau's blessing, Esau exclaimed, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob?"

In verse 24, Jacob wrestled with a mysterious man all night. God had come in the form of an angel to grapple with Jacob (Hos. 12:4). After God dislocated his hip, Jacob still would not give up (v. 25). He clung to God and begged for a blessing (v. 26). God then changed Jacob's name to Israel, declaring that he had "struggled with God and with humans" and overcome (v. 28). But this was a different kind of overcoming. Jacob had turned to God in weakness and desperation.

Every time we fight with God, we can only win by losing. This is not just the story of one man's spiritual transformation. It is the story of the founding of a new nation. Israel's namesake is one who overcame through defeat. Every time Jacob would take a step for the rest of his life, he would be reminded of his dependence upon the Lord and upon God's severe mercy.

Have you ever "wrestled" with God? What circumstances prompted that struggle? What did you learn through it?

PRAYER(S):

1. Jacob's wrestling with God is a good reminder of our dependence on Him and His severe mercy. Lord, we pray that in our own times of "wrestling" with You, we would turn to You, coming closer to You in our weakness and desperation.
2. Father, in the name of Jesus, let Your angels appear to every member, thereby guiding them back to GPA for their restoration and breakthroughs this year.

QUOTE: *"In the struggle with the divine, we discover not only our own strength but also the boundless grace and transformative power of God."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 44-46; Acts 25

G. P. A. Hymn 419 – Nearer my God to Thee

Saturday, 26th July 2025

FLEE IDOLATRY

Text(s): Genesis 35:1-29

Key Verse: *“Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.” – 1 Corinthians 10:14*

Evangelist D. L. Moody once explained idolatry this way: “You don’t have to go to heathen lands today to find false gods. America is full of them. Whatever you make most of is your God. Whatever you love more than God is your idol.”

In Genesis 35 God appeared to Jacob, instructing him to return to Bethel to fulfill a vow he had made back when he initially fled from home (Gen. 28:20–22). Clearly, God had not given up on Jacob, despite his many mistakes. In Genesis 34, we read how Jacob acted in fear and apathy in response to the crime against his daughter. He also did not restrain the excessive violence of his sons. Yet even when Jacob failed, God was faithful.

Here, God gives Jacob a command to “get rid of all the foreign gods you have with you” (v. 2). These gods may have included the ones Rachel had stolen from her father or gods that the sons had taken as spoils from their slaughter of the people of Shechem (see Gen. 34:27–28). God requires exclusive worship. This is true today as well. The Bible frequently warns believers to “flee from idolatry” (1 Cor. 10:14). This includes anything we put in the place of God in our lives, whether a literal god, a relationship, a job, or politics. Our primary allegiance should be to God alone.

God also strongly affirmed his commitment to Jacob, including Jacob’s name change to Israel (v. 10). He also proclaimed, “A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will be among your descendants” (v. 11). God would keep His promises to Abraham through Israel. This also includes the promise of the coming future King who would free us from our slavery to sin (Rom. 6:15–18).

What would it look like for us to “get rid of all the foreign gods” in our lives? What do you sometime put “first” in your life? How do you keep God as your focus and priority?

PRAYER(S):

1. In response to today’s warning about the dangers of idolatry, let’s pray that we would seek the One true God in all circumstances, that we would find our identity in Him—not in the promises of the world.
2. Father, in the name of Jesus, visit every discouraged worker of GPA, thereby re-establishing them in the faith and in this church this year.

QUOTE: *“Seek the true and living God, placing our trust in His unchanging grace rather than in the fleeting illusions of the world.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 47-49; Acts 26

G. P. A. Hymn 121 – Rock of ages cleft for me

Sunday, 27th July 2025

FOREVER CHANGED

Text(s): Genesis 38:1-30

Key Verse: *"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* – Luke 5:32

Have you ever seen someone's life change dramatically? In the Old Testament, Judah is a good example. It was his idea to sell his brother Joseph into slavery (Gen. 37:26). But by the end of the story, Judah offered to become a slave to save his youngest brother, Benjamin (Gen. 44:16–34). Genesis 38 helps explain how that change took place.

Judah's oldest son married Tamar (v. 6). Due to an unspecified sin against the Lord, the son died (v. 7). Custom (and later Mosaic law) required that when a family member died leaving behind a widow without children, the brother was to marry the widow and have children in his name (Deut. 25:5–10). This would provide for the widow and preserve the name and inheritance of the deceased.

Following this custom, Judah married his second son to Tamar. Motivated by greed, this son refused to have children and died at the hand of the Lord (vv. 9–10). Judah sent Tamar back to her father's house on the false promise that he would marry his youngest son to her at the right time (v. 11).

Tamar, realizing she had been deceived, took matters into her own hands. She dressed as a prostitute and when Judah propositioned her, she extracted his seal and cord as a pledge of future payment (v. 18). When Judah discovered she was pregnant, he called for her execution (v. 24). She sent his cord and seal to him and declared, "I am pregnant by the man who owns these" (v. 25). Judah immediately recognized his wrongdoing (v. 26). He would never be the same. One of the sons born out of this affair would be the ancestor of the future Messiah. We see how God can accomplish His purposes despite the most sordid circumstances (Ruth 4:18–22; Matt. 1:3).

Judah's story is shocking. How does this once again show God's ability to keep His promises? Why did this event change Judah's heart?

PRAYER(S):

1. God, again and again we see in Genesis how Your love breaks through human sin, deceit, betrayal. We too know what it is to wander, to be foolish, to sit in the darkness. We cry to You—may we remember Your steadfast love!
2. Father, in the name of Jesus, open the eyes of every discouraged GPA member to see GPA as their God-ordained city of refuge, where their trials shall be turned to testimonies this year.

QUOTE: *"In every significant change, we find an opportunity for renewal, embracing the journey that forever shapes our hearts and minds."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 50-52; Acts 27:1-25

G. P. A. Hymn 411 – There is no friend like Jesus in this world

Monday, 28th July 2025

THE LORD GOES WITH YOU

Text(s): Genesis 39:1-6

Key Verse: *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you.”* – Deuteronomy 31:6

According to the Department of Justice, there has been a 49 percent increase in human trafficking cases in the United States between 2011 and 2021. This form of evil is nothing new. In the Bible, Joseph was a victim of trafficking. Hated by his brothers, he was sold to slave traders, and then purchased by a wealthy Egyptian.

Joseph’s life had a dramatic downward spiral. He had gone from being the favored son of a wealthy father to a slave in a foreigner’s household. He was treated like a commodity by his brothers, traders, and his new owner. Yet through all this, we are assured that God had not forgotten or given up on him. Twice we are told that “the LORD was with Joseph” (vv. 2–3). Genesis 39 also highlights that God’s blessing was on him (vv. 3, 5).

God has not promised the followers of Jesus an easy life. Jesus warned, “If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also” (John 15:20). But, just as with Joseph, the Lord promises that He will be with His people. Jesus’ parting words to the disciples in the Gospel of Matthew were: “I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matt. 28:20).

God is with us in our joy and in our suffering. Even more importantly, God equips us with everything we need to accomplish His purpose for us. As the Psalm states, “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me” (Ps. 23:4). For Joseph things were going to get worse before they got better, but God was with him through it all.

Contrast God’s blessing described in Genesis 39:3 with the actual events happening in Joseph’s life. What might have caused Joseph to doubt God’s presence? Why do we sometimes doubt that God is with us?

PRAYER(S):

1. In all the difficulties he encountered, Joseph could have doubted God. But today’s reading assured him (and us) that “the LORD was with Joseph” (Gen. 39:2). Lord, we ask for faith to believe it for our journey through life as well.

2. Father, in the name of Jesus, instantly heal every member called sick in GPA and restore them to perfect health.

QUOTE: *“No matter where you go, remember that the Lord walks beside you, guiding your steps and providing strength in every moment.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 53-55; Acts 27:26-44

G. P. A. Hymn 149 – When we walk with the Lord

Tuesday, 29th July 2025

PERSEVERING IN FAITH

Text(s): Genesis 39:7-23

Key Verse: *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time."* – 1 Peter 5:6

Have you ever gotten in trouble for doing the right thing? After being sold into slavery and then purchased by a wealthy Egyptian, Joseph had flourished. He also caught the eye of his master's wife (v. 7). Unlike his brother Judah who did not restrain himself when tempted (Gen. 38:15–16), Joseph was a model of integrity.

In response to the proposition from Potiphar's wife, Joseph gave a speech (vv. 8–9). He told her that he could not betray his master. More importantly, he told her that he wanted to do what was right before God: "How then can I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" (v. 9). With all that has happened, we might have wondered if Joseph still maintained faith in God. His response assures us that he has. Perhaps he was still waiting for God to fulfill his dreams of the sheaves and the stars (Genesis 37).

In response, Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph and had him sent to prison (vv. 14–20). Joseph had acted with wisdom and faith, but his "reward" was jail time. Again and again in Scripture we notice that the righteous suffer. After being anointed king, David had to run for his life from Saul. The prophet Elijah was persecuted by King Ahab and Jezebel. And in the New Testament, Paul and Silas were imprisoned for preaching the gospel. God did not keep them from suffering, but He was with them through it (vv. 21–23). In a world groaning under the weight of sin, walking with God means trusting that He is with us in disappointment, pain, and loss. The apostle Peter reminds us, "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps" (1 Peter 2:21).

What can we learn from Joseph's response to Potiphar's wife? Are there times you can look back on your life and see how God has been with you through the tough seasons?

PRAYER(S):

1. Jesus, give us strength to persevere in faith! Open our eyes to see Your boundless love and care.
2. Father, in the name of Jesus and by the revelation of Your Word, supernaturally restore the health of every member of GPA under the siege of any terminal condition right now.

QUOTE: *"Trust God even when the path is unclear and the journey is long, believe that His promises remain true."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 56-58; Acts 28:1-15

G. P. A. Hymn 292 – What a friend we have in Jesus

Wednesday, 30th July 2025

HOPES AND DREAMS

Text(s): Genesis 40:1-23

Key Verse: *"I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope."* – Psalm 130:5

Have you ever had your hopes raised, followed by a quick and crushing disappointment? Perhaps you were counting on a job promotion that went to someone else. Or your application for a loan was denied. Most of us have! That is why it is so easy for us to relate to Joseph's story.

Joseph had been falsely accused and imprisoned. Yet in prison, he flourished. The warden recognized Joseph's abilities and gave him many responsibilities (Gen. 39:22–23). Genesis 40 opens with the line, "Some time later" (v. 1). We don't know how long Joseph was in prison, but his total time of slavery and imprisonment was about 13 years. Much as Abraham and Sarah waited years for a child, Joseph had to wait years to see how God would fulfill His promise to Abraham through him.

In prison, Joseph met the former cupbearer and baker for Pharaoh (v. 1). Each one had a dream that troubled them (v. 8). Dream interpretation was a complex process in the ancient world. Joseph knew better. He told them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams" (v. 8). Through his God-given ability, he interpreted the dreams of both men. He affirmed that the cupbearer would be restored to his position while the baker would be executed (vv. 13, 18).

The story is full of dramatic tension. Joseph had finally found a way to escape his life in prison. He begged the cupbearer, "Remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison" (v. 14). But the passage ends on a despairing note: "The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph" (v. 20). We can imagine the crushing disappointment as Joseph waited day after day for release. But the suffering of Joseph would end up being a blessing not only for Egypt but also for the "saving of many lives" (Gen. 50:20).

Have you experienced times when a door closed unexpectedly? Have you ever seen God use a disappointing answer in a positive way?

PRAYER(S):

1. Lord God, thank You for all the lessons we've been learning in Genesis. Thank You that the story of Joseph's disappointments ends in huge blessings. Holy Spirit, give us strength to trust God amid our own disappointments.

2. Father, in the name of Jesus, destroy every form of disabilities ravaging the life of any GPA member, resulting in their perfect soundness.

QUOTE: *"The greatest achievement is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall, fueled by hope and driven by dreams."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 59-61; Acts 28:16-31

G. P. A. Hymn 487 – Grace tis a charming sound

Thursday, 31st July 2025

IN PHARAOH'S COURT

Text(s): Genesis 41:1-36

Key Verse: *"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances."* – **Philippians 4:11**

I have never been gifted at working with my hands. In high school art class, the teacher gave an award to every student at the end of the school year. The award I received was the "Willing to Try Anything" award.

In Genesis 41, we find Pharaoh troubled by a series of disturbing dreams. To discover their meaning, he also was willing to try anything. He gathered top experts to ask for their interpretation (v. 8)—these were the smartest and most educated in the kingdom. These men had risen through the ranks until they worked as advisors to Pharaoh, but they were baffled (v. 8). Perhaps sensing Pharaoh's desperation, the chief cupbearer remembered that his former prison mate might be a potential source of help (v. 11).

We should not miss how strange it was that Pharaoh actually listened to this advice and called for Joseph (v. 14). This unexpected deliverance of Joseph demonstrates both the failure of the wisdom of Egypt and God's ability to orchestrate his release from prison. When the cupbearer "remembered" Joseph, it was really God who remembered Joseph and delivered him (v. 9).

When Joseph was praised by Pharaoh as one skilled in dream interpretation, Joseph immediately gave the credit to God (v. 16). Despite all the suffering he had endured, Joseph still affirmed his faith in God's sovereignty over his life, over Pharaoh, and even over the weather for the next fourteen years (vv. 25–32). The Apostle Paul wrote, "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 can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Phil. 4:11–13).

Joseph learned that God was with him, even in slavery, in prison, and in Pharaoh's court. Why do you think God had Joseph endure so much before his deliverance?

PRAYER(S):

1. Jesus, You have taught us to show love to others by serving them. We pray for wisdom and courage to tell our neighbor about Your death and resurrection and give us grace to love and serve even those with whom we disagree.
2. Father, in the name of Jesus, deliver every worker of GPAS from all oppressions of the devil and establish their liberty right now.

QUOTE: *"Where power and intrigue reign, faith and integrity can shine as beacons of wisdom and courage."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 62-64; Romans 1

G. P. A. Hymn 322 – The holy must undaunted be

Friday, 1st August 2025

NEW DAWN

Text(s): Isaiah 43:18-19

Confession: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature: old things have passed away; behold, all things are become new."* – 2 Corinthians 5:17

G. P. A. Hymn 36 – Immortal invisible, to God only wise

INTRODUCTION

There is a voice that is superior to any other voice. There is a voice no other voice can counter. There is a voice that silences all other voices. There is a voice that has over ruling power. The Bible says in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and the earth was without form and void. And darkness was upon the face of the earth. And the Spirit of God moved upon the waters (Genesis 1:1-2). The revival of the enemy went on like that until a voice spoke. And a voice said "Let there be light".

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Daniel remained relevant during the reign of his many kings, all through my life, O Lord cause me to be relevant in the name of Jesus.
2. Whatever I have started this year will experience God's hand of mercy for supernatural enlargement in the name of Jesus.
3. In these perilous times, Father, hide me under the shadow of your wings in the name of Jesus.
4. From today and beyond, O Lord, make my life a rallying point for helpers.
5. My Father, my Father, my Father, please step into the situation of my life and silence the enemy impeding your progress and destroy the devourer for my sake in the name of Jesus.
6. Every evil utterance designed to shorten my life shall backfire in the name of Jesus.
7. Almighty God, solidify my slippery path and guide my steps to favor, blessings and prosperity in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 65-67; Romans 2

QUOTE: *"We are gifted with the opportunity to rewrite our story and approach life with renewed vigor and hope."*

Saturday, 2nd August 2025

NEW BEGINNING

Text(s): Exodus 12:1-11

Confession: *"We have also a more sure word of prophecy: whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts."* – **2 Peter 1:19**

G. P. A. Hymn 252 – There shall be showers of blessings

INTRODUCTION

The children of Israel experienced a new dawn when they left Egypt in circumstances that only God could have made possible. If the Lord could give a new dawn to a nation of slaves, I know that you will also experience a new dawn this season in the name of Jesus. The Lord told Moses and Aaron that month of their exodus from Egypt would be the beginning of months for them. In other words, it would become the first month of a new year to them. Regardless of the fact that we are in the month of August, this shall be the beginning of new month for you in the name of Jesus.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Father, bring a new dawn to me, to the extent that my neighbors will not easily recognize me, because my level would have changed.
2. Pharaoh asked Moses to pray for him, Father, accomplish what you intend to do for me, and let my enemies come begging for intercessory prayers.
3. Almighty Father, I receive my new dawn of joy, victory, breakthrough and perfect walk with you in the name of Jesus.
4. I announce to myself, it is a new dawn and so shall it be in the name of Jesus.
5. O Lord touch my life and let me never remain the same in the name of Jesus.
6. Father, please direct me to the right scriptures, sermons, and teachings for my growth and development in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 68-69; Romans 3

QUOTE: *"We are gifted with the opportunity to rewrite our story and approach life with renewed vigor and hope."*

Sunday, 3rd August 2025

NEW SONG

Text(s): John 9:24-25

Confession: *"He answered and said, whether he e a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."* – John 9:24-25

G. P. A. Hymn 33 – To God be the glory

INTRODUCTION

A single contact with God can put a new song in your mouth. This was the experience of the man who was born blind recorded in John 9:24-25. After the Lord opened his eyes, people began to argue so much on his issue. But when he was called to clarify his story, he told them: whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. That will be your new song as from today, you will be singing once I was sick but now, I am healed etc.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Father as you put a new song in the mouth of the blind man of the above message, put a new song in my mouth today in the name of Jesus.
2. O God as you turned the life of Mary to a wonder, turn my life to a wonder in the name of Jesus.
3. My father, baptize me with favor and a new song in the name of Jesus.
4. Any sickness that wants to overtake my life, any problem that wants to bring sadness to my life, I command you to die in the name of Jesus.
5. Power of recovery, enter into every area of my life in the name of Jesus.
6. I magnify the Lord with my whole life and my soul shall sing of His name always.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 70-72; Romans 4

QUOTE: *"Declare a fresh start, to let go of the past, and to embrace the joy and possibility that each new day offers."*

Monday, 4th August 2025

GUILTY CONSCIENCE

Text(s): Genesis 42:1-38

Key Verse: *"I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.' And you forgave the guilt of my sin."* – **PSALM 32:5**

As a seminary teacher, over the years I have had a handful of students confess to me that they cheated in a course. By the time they come to me, I can tell that they had been living with the guilt and it ate away at them. There is almost nothing worse than a guilty conscience.

After the famine, predicted by Pharaoh's dream, hit the land of Canaan, Jacob sent his sons down to Egypt to purchase food for the family (v. 2). We get a glimpse into the family life of Joseph's brothers. Jacob was protective of Joseph's full-brother, Benjamin, and did not send him on the journey (v. 4). Their father was still playing favorites.

In Egypt, Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him (v. 7). We can only imagine the thoughts and emotions that ran through Joseph's mind and heart. After questioning his brothers closely, he discovered that Benjamin was not sent with the rest. Joseph decided to put his brothers to the test. Would they betray Benjamin like they had betrayed him (v. 15)?

After three days in custody, the brothers confessed to each other what was on their minds: "Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come on us" (v. 21). All these years, they had been living with guilt over what they had done to Joseph.

David vividly described the experience of living with guilt in Psalm 32: "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer" (Ps. 32:3–4).

Are there things in your life that you need to make right with God and others? There is joy and freedom in repentance and forgiveness.

PRAYER(S):

Today's reading reminds us of the heavy burden of unrepentant guilt. Lord, is there a word or action we need to repent of? Is there someone we need to forgive? Whom do we need to ask for forgiveness? Thank You for Your divine guidance!

QUOTE: *"Though heavy, can be a powerful catalyst for positive change when it leads us to act with integrity and compassion."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 73-74; Romans 5

G. P. A. Hymn 429 – Take my life and let it be

Tuesday, 5th August 2025

THERE AND BACK AGAIN

Text(s): Genesis 43:1-34

Key Verse: *“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” – Ephesians 2:13*

Can people change? This question has been debated for generations. There is a lot at stake in the question for most people. Can I trust this person again? Should I give up hope? Yet Scripture is clear that God can transform even the most hardened heart.

Joseph’s plan to test his brothers to see if they had changed ran into a roadblock. He promised not to provide any more food for the family unless they brought Benjamin to Egypt, but Jacob refused to allow Benjamin to go. As their food supply dwindled, Judah stepped in. He reasoned with his father that if he did not send Benjamin, he would die anyway of starvation. He promised, “I myself will guarantee his safety” (v. 9). He pledged that he would bear the blame if Benjamin did not return safely (v. 10). Judah’s previous persuasive speech to his family was to convince his brothers to sell Joseph into slavery (Gen. 37:26–27). His priorities had certainly changed. Jacob agreed to send the boy to Egypt (v. 14).

When God transforms a life, it is possible for deep and real change to take place. The apostle Paul reminds us that “because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved” (Eph. 2:4–5).

We have hope for real change not because we can manufacture it in someone else or even ourselves, but because we worship a God who is able to do the impossible. The chapter ends with Judah and his brothers back in Egypt. Joseph hosted a meal for them, showing favoritism to Benjamin (v. 34). He would have his own way of discerning whether his brothers had truly changed.

Why are we naturally skeptical of change that happens in people’s lives? Why can we trust God to produce authentic change?

PRAYER(S):

Loving Father, today we thank You for Your precious Word that You preserved for us through the ages. What a joy it is to dive into its wisdom, to marvel at its riches, and praise You for Your love and mercy!

QUOTE: *“Embrace life’s adventures and challenges, emerging from each experience with a deeper understanding of oneself.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 75-77; Romans 6

G. P. A. Hymn 180 – Lord in this Thy mercy’s day

Wednesday, 6th August 2025

PUT TO THE TEST

Text(s): Genesis 44:1-34

Key Verse: *“As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”* – Psalm 103:12

How do you know if someone has really changed? Their change has to be put to the test. Joseph was in a unique position to discern whether his brothers had changed. He knew his younger brother Benjamin was being treated as the favorite, just as he had been. So, he decided to orchestrate a situation to test how his brothers would treat their younger sibling.

After they finished their dinner, Joseph filled the sacks of his brothers with food to sustain them through the famine (v. 2). In Benjamin’s sack, Joseph had his silver cup placed (v. 2). As the brothers began their journey home, Joseph instructed a servant to catch up with them and accuse them of stealing the silver cup. Sure enough, the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack (v. 12). This sets up the most dramatic scene in the story.

Joseph declared that Benjamin must become his slave for the theft, but the rest of the brothers could return home (v. 17). Joseph was placing his brothers in a situation in which they could easily repeat their sinful behavior. Would they leave Benjamin as a slave and ensure their own freedom? Would they view this as another opportunity to punish a favored brother?

Judah gave a long, impassioned speech in which he confessed, “God has uncovered your servants’ guilt” (v. 16). He was speaking not of stealing a cup, of which they were innocent, but of what they had done to Joseph. Judah offered to take Benjamin’s place and be a slave in Egypt in place of Benjamin (v. 33). Clearly, Judah’s heart had been transformed. He had gone from a man willing to sell his brother into slavery to one who was willing to be sold into slavery to save his brother.

God is still at work, transforming sinners and bringing them to repentance today. What are some ways, which you can see, that God has changed you as a result of your relationship with Him?

PRAYER(S):

Christ Jesus, only You can change hearts! We hold fast to Your promise: “I am making everything new” (Rev. 21:5). We rejoice in Your sure forgiveness and steadfast love.

QUOTE: *“Embrace life's adventures and challenges, emerging from each experience with a deeper understanding of oneself.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 78; Romans 7

G. P. A. Hymn 351 – In all ways chosen by the Lord

Thursday, 7th August 2025

THE UNVEILING

Text(s): Genesis 45:1-28

Key Verse: *"It was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you."* – **Genesis 45:5**

Why is there so much evil and suffering in the world? There are no easy answers. But one truth the Bible consistently affirms is that God can redeem and use evil to accomplish His own purposes. This belief not only enabled Joseph to sustain years of hardship, but it also made it possible for him to reconcile with his brothers.

In Genesis 45, Joseph finally revealed his identity. In this emotional scene, Joseph's first message to his brothers is to offer his own interpretation of what has happened to him. Instead of blaming his brothers, Joseph pointed to God's sovereignty. Four times he declared that God is the One who brought him to Egypt. Joseph affirmed, "It was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you" (v. 5). Joseph's brothers had acted in envy, greed, and violence. But God was able to use this evil act to accomplish His purpose. This did not absolve the brothers of the great evil they had done. Instead, it demonstrated how God could use even the most dysfunctional and difficult situation for His purpose.

From a broader perspective, God made promises to Abraham and his descendants. One of those promises was that Abraham's offspring would be a blessing to the nations (Gen. 12:1–3). In the Joseph story, we see that promise being partially fulfilled. Joseph was able to save not just his own family from the famine but also the lives of people in Egypt, Canaan, and much of the ancient world (Gen. 41:57). Despite the faithlessness of Joseph's brothers, God was faithful to this promise. On this side of eternity, we do not always get to see the larger picture of what God is doing. But Joseph's story provides hope that God is sovereign. Just as He was with Joseph, He is with His children today.

What is Joseph's reaction to his brothers? What is the bigger truth in Joseph's story? How does Joseph's story help us gain perspective when we walk through times of suffering or witness great evil?

PRAYER(S):

Lord, it's sometimes hard for us to believe that You can redeem evil, that evil can be turned to good. Thank You that the story of Joseph reveals it's possible. Give us faith to trust You and eyes to see the bigger picture.

QUOTE: *"Be opportuned to embrace change and growth, revealing the potential within us and the world around us."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 79-81; Romans 8:1-18

G. P. A. Hymn 340 – Why should I fear the darkest hour

Friday, 8th August 2025

DOWN TO EGYPT

Text(s): Genesis 46:1-34

Key Verse: *"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ."* – 2 Corinthians 1:20

Most of us would agree that a promise is only as good as the person who made it. But what if the One making the promise is God? Genesis 46 records the final time God appeared to Jacob. Here God reaffirmed many of the promises He had made over the years.

As Jacob set out for Egypt, he paused at Beersheba at the southern border of Canaan and offered sacrifices to the Lord (v. 1). During an earlier famine, God had forbidden Isaac from traveling to Egypt for relief (Gen. 26:2). Perhaps Jacob wondered if going to Egypt was the right decision. Should he leave the land God had promised Abraham?

That night, God appeared to Jacob to provide affirmation (v. 2). Not only was it acceptable for Jacob to travel to Egypt, but God would be with him (v. 4). God was not bound by geography. God also revealed something else. Egypt would be the place where Jacob's family would grow to become a great nation (v. 3). God had promised to Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation (Gen. 12:1–3). Up to this point, they were just one family living among many other nations. But in Egypt, Jacob's family would grow and thrive.

Egyptian culture was quite a bit different than Canaan. In Canaan, shepherding was one of the primary occupations, and it was respected. In Egypt, shepherds were despised (v. 34). This allowed Jacob and his family to live separately and maintain their distinct identity even through generations of living in Egypt. As he had done in the past, Jacob believed God's promises and moved forward in faith (v. 5). God has made promises to believers today as well: We are filled with His Spirit, Jesus is with us even to the end of the age (Matt. 28:20), and He is coming again.

Why can we place absolute trust in God's promises? What would it look like for you to move forward in faith, based on all that God has promised?

PRAYER(S):

Almighty God, Your promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are true even today. As we thank You for their legacy, we pray that our own stories will leave a legacy of faith to the next generation.

QUOTE: *"Even in the most challenging journeys, we find that each step leads us to greater wisdom and a deeper understanding of our purpose."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 82-84; Romans 8:19-39

G. P. A. Hymn 165 – Take the name of Jesus with you

Saturday, 9th August 2025

OUR FAMILY STORY

Text(s): Genesis 48:1-22

Key Verse: *“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.”* – **Romans 6:5**

Joseph’s wife was an Egyptian from a high-ranking priestly family (Gen. 41:45). Joseph himself was one of the highest ranked government officials in Egypt. He could have raised his children as Egyptians and provided them with all the benefits of an elite Egyptian upbringing. Yet, he gave them Hebrew names. In Genesis 48, he has them adopted as sons of Jacob.

As Jacob was nearing death, Joseph brought his two sons to be blessed by Jacob. Jacob told these boys a story about their family. Jacob recounted the story of when God appeared to him and promised, “I am going to make you fruitful and increase your numbers. I will make you a community of peoples, and I will give you this land as an everlasting possession to your descendants after you” (v. 4). There was no more formative story for Jacob’s family than the promise that God had given to him and to his fathers, Isaac and Abraham before him. Joseph’s sons became a part of this story as the blessing was passed on to them. Jacob prayed that they would be called “by my name and the names of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac” (v. 16).

As followers of Jesus, we too have a family story. We have been rescued from our slavery to sin and forgiven by God (Rom. 6:1–14). We have been adopted into God’s family as His sons and daughters (Rom. 8:14–17). We have a new citizenship in heaven (Phil. 3:20). And one day, we will be raised with Christ and reign with Him (1 Cor. 15:20–28)!

What is your family story? How has it shaped your faith? Remember, that your most important identity is found in Christ!

PRAYER(S):

As we study the family stories in Genesis, we lift up our own families in prayer. Lord Jesus, You see the many needs we face. Give us faith, wisdom, and perseverance so we can be a blessing to all generations.

QUOTE: *“Reminder that through every trial and celebration, the love and support we give each other create a legacy of hope and unity.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 85-87; Romans 9

G. P. A. Hymn 189 – Redemption, oh wonderful story

Sunday, 10th August 2025

IN, BUT NOT OF IT

Text(s): Genesis 47:1-31

Key Verse: *"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one."* – John 17:15

How should a Christian engage with the world? Jesus called His followers to be in the world but not of it (John 17:14–16). Both the terms “in” and “not of” are important. They call us to be deeply engaged with the world, but not to become like the world. As many have noted, we often seem to get this backward. We are “of” the world, but not really “in” it.

Genesis 47 shows how Joseph and his family tried to maintain this balance. Joseph was careful to ensure that his family lived in a separate region of Egypt. Because Egyptians despised shepherds, it would be easy for them to maintain their own identity. Joseph’s father also affirmed his commitment not to become assimilated to Egypt. After living in Egypt for 17 years, Jacob made Joseph swear that he would not bury him in Egypt (vv. 29–30). He wanted to be buried in Canaan, the land God had promised. Joseph and his family were committed to not being “of” Egypt.

Even so, Joseph was a leader in the Egyptian government. Throughout the famine, Joseph wisely distributed the food in a way that was beneficial to the people and to Pharaoh. After people ran out of money to pay for grain, they negotiated with Joseph to sell first their livestock and then their land to get food (vv. 16–19). By the end of the famine, the people were essentially sharecroppers. Pharaoh owned the land technically, but the people could use and farm it provided they paid a 1/5 tax. This was the same level of taxation that existed before the famine. The people were grateful to Joseph for this arrangement, they declared, “you have saved our lives” (v. 25).

What would it look like to be in the world but not of it for you? What are ways Christians can be in the world today but not of it? How do we sometimes get this wrong?

PRAYER(S):

Lord, show us how to put our trust in You, and not in the things of this world. Help us turn to You in hardships, like Joseph did. May we remember that “your love is better than life” (Ps. 63:3).

QUOTE: *“Participate in life's journey with grace and integrity, without letting its distractions divert you from your true path.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 88-89; Romans 10

G. P. A. Hymn 160 – Blessed are they in Jesus

Monday, 11th August 2025

A CERTAIN FUTURE

Text(s): Genesis 49:1-27

Key Verse: *“The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his.” – Genesis 49:10*

A few years ago, I was at a conference where the speaker was introduced as a “futurist.” I had never heard of that as a job title before. A futurist is someone who analyzes data and trends to forecast what might happen in different areas of life such as technology, government, or medicine. Humans have always desired a glimpse into what the future holds.

In Genesis 49, Jacob gathered his sons to share one final message (v. 1). He introduced his speech by declaring that he would “tell you what will happen to you in the days to come” (v. 1). His speech described the future tribes of Israel and some of their qualities. The sons are grouped by their mutual mothers and then listed in their birth order.

The first three sons are told why they will not be considered as the firstborn. Reuben engaged in sexual sin (v. 3). Simeon and Levi violently overreacted to the crime committed against their sister by killing many (Gen. 34:25–31). But while Judah had his own issues, he had demonstrated repentance and a changed life. Jacob prophesied that Judah will be a leader among the tribes of Israel. He declared, “The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his” (v. 10). Jacob here tells of a Messianic king who will rule over the nations. The New Testament writers affirm that this prophecy finds its fulfillment in Jesus (Rev. 5:5).

Just as God has been faithful to keep His promises to Abraham, we can be confident that He will keep His promises to us regarding the Lord Jesus’ Second Coming when He will rule over the nations! Jesus said, “Yes, I am coming soon” (Rev. 22:20). To which we can respond, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”

Do you worry about the future? How does knowing we can depend on God’s promise about Jesus’ return change the way we live today?

PRAYER(S):

1. Jesus, we eagerly await Your return! Teach us how to live in the light of Your Second Coming. May we grow in faith as Christians and citizens of Your eternal kingdom. “Come, Lord Jesus” (Rev. 22:20).
2. Father, in the name of Jesus, let every worker in GPA experience the reality of divine health all through this year, thereby turning us into living wonders among men.

QUOTE: *“Reflect in confidence and hope in what lies ahead.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 90-92; Romans 11:1-21

G. P. A. Hymn 335 – Through the love of God our Savior

Tuesday, 12th August 2025

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

Text(s): Genesis 50:22-26

Key Verse: *“The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.” – Psalm 145:13*

If I make a promise to one of my children, I can be sure they will not forget it. Whether it's a promise to get ice cream after dinner or go to the park, they will not rest until my promise is kept. In any relationship, keeping promises is an important part of building trust. I want my children to know that they can count on me to keep my word.

The most important verses in Genesis are God's initial promises to Abraham: “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Gen. 12:2–3). God specified that the land of Canaan would be given to Abraham's descendants as their inheritance (Gen. 17:8).

These were big promises. By the end of Genesis, the only land in Canaan that Abraham or his descendants owned was the burial cave and field that housed the remains of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Leah. None of Abraham's descendants were living in the land of Canaan. They had all gone down to Egypt. It might be easy to understand if Joseph had some doubts about God's promises.

Yet, there are some important hints that God was at work. God had prophesied to Abraham that his descendants would live a long time in foreign land before receiving the Promised Land (Gen. 15:13–16). God also had clearly been with Joseph throughout his life. As a final act of hope and faith, Joseph left clear instructions regarding his burial.

Joseph's final message to his family was: “God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place” (v. 25). What a wonderful testimony of the hope he had in God's word!

What are some key takeaways from your study in Genesis? How has this study helped you better understand God and His promises?

PRAYER(S):

1. Father, thank You for the lessons we've learned this month from the book of Genesis. Thank You that all Your promises “are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so, through him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God” (2 Cor. 1:20).

2. Father, in the name of Jesus, let everyone called jobless among the workers in GPA receive their miracle jobs this month.

QUOTE: *“For God's word is a beacon of hope and a foundation of unwavering faith.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 93-95; Romans 11:22-36

G. P. A. Hymn 411 – There is no friend like Jesus in this world

Wednesday, 13th August 2025

JOHN'S FEAR OF THE LORD

Text(s): Revelation 1:9-18

Key Verse: *"Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last."* – **Revelation 1:17**

Fear of the Lord is an important part of worship in the book of Revelation: "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water" (14:7). "Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed" (15:4).

This truth is seen and the tone set at the very start of the book, in John's vision of the risen Christ. When he saw Him, he "fell at his feet as though dead" (v. 17). A mere man like John should feel overwhelmed upon seeing a vision of the incarnate and glorified Christ. Awe, reverence, and a sense of God's greatness literally knocked him out!

What did John see (vv. 12–16)? Christ appeared "like a son of man," a Messianic allusion (Dan. 7:13) and Jesus's favorite name for Himself in the synoptic Gospels. His robe with a golden sash indicates His role as both priest and judge as well as His kingly status. His white hair signifies wisdom, dignity, and eternity. His eyes of blazing fire represent penetrating insight and omniscience. His feet of glowing bronze symbolize victorious strength. The two-edged sword in His mouth is the Word of God (Heb. 4:12). His face shining like the sun suggests God's glory.

Christ placed His hand on John and reassured him, "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades" (vv. 17–18). How incredibly comforting! The eternal Lord of the universe has won the victory and is on our side.

John experienced his vision on the Lord's Day, that is, Sunday (v. 10). In what ways have you experienced the fear of the Lord during your church's Sunday worship services?

PRAYER(S):

1. Dear Jesus, You told John, "Do not be afraid" (Rev. 1:17). What comforting words! We praise You for Your victory over death, for bringing us freedom from sin, for taking away worldly fear, and giving us godly fear. Bless Your holy name!

2. Father, in the name of Jesus, cause every GPA member to enjoy divine favour resulting in supernatural breakthroughs this month.

QUOTE: *"A deep respect that leads to wisdom, aligning one's heart with divine truth and righteousness."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 96-98; Romans 12

G. P. A. Hymn 250 – When the pow'r of God descended

Thursday, 14th August 2025

A FEARFUL CONCLUSION

Text(s): Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

Key Verse: *“Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.” – Ecclesiastes 12:13*

When a judge or jury renders their final verdict in a trial, it’s a significant event. People stand and pay attention. Reporters might be present in the courtroom. Everyone wants to know the outcome. Which way did the evidence lean? Which arguments were most persuasive?

In Ecclesiastes 12, we read such a verdict. King Solomon had experimented with “life under the sun”—the meaning and purpose of human life on its own, without God— and he was now ready to present the “conclusion of the matter” (v. 13). He’d already called everything “meaningless, a chasing after the wind” (Eccl. 1:14). Is there any hope?

Yes. “Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind” (v. 13). Earthly wisdom is not sufficient to be its own end. Only godly wisdom, which begins with the fear of the Lord, gives meaning and purpose to life. To say this another way: Loving worship of the one true God is the foundation of all true wisdom. Without God, human endeavors are empty and end in death. But with God, in the context of a right relationship with Him, human endeavors can take on meaning for His glory.

Why? Because the bottom line of everything is God (v. 14). At times we act as if it’s all about us—our beliefs, our choices, our actions. But it is God who will one day “bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil” (see Rom. 2:16). To his verdicts there will be no appeal.

The Teacher (Solomon) communicated his conclusion in “just the right words” (v. 10). But the right words can be irritating, “like goads” (v. 11). These are sticks with embedded nails used for prodding straying animals back to the right path. May God’s wisdom have that effect in our lives!

In what ways is the fear of the Lord a foundational aspect of following Christ? How can we make it a fundamental dimension of our daily discipleship?

PRAYER(S):

Lord, enable us to live in light of Your future coming, when everything will come under Your judgment. As we look forward to the Second Coming, teach us to live by the guidance of Your Spirit, with hope, love, joy, and peace.

QUOTE: *“Remember that each challenge is an opportunity for growth, pushing us to rise above our fears and discover our true potential.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 99-102; Romans 13

G. P. A. Hymn 149 – When we walk with the Lord

Friday, 15th August 2025

ALL NATIONS WILL FEAR THE LORD

Text(s): Revelation 15

Key Verse: *“Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name?”* – **Revelations 15:4**

The Israelites spent a good part of the book of Exodus building the tabernacle according to God’s specifications. When it was time for the dedication, the nation rejoiced (Ex. 40). Everything was consecrated. The priests purified themselves. “Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle” (vv. 34–35).

The “cloud,” as a manifestation of God’s glory, was a beautiful and fearful thing. It filled the tabernacle in a way that excluded all else. In a similar scene (v. 8), Revelation 15 introduces the book’s third sevenfold cycle of God’s judgments—first seven seals, then seven trumpets, and now seven bowls of God’s wrath. On such an occasion, the prophet Habakkuk said, “The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him” (Hab. 2:20). Silence here signifies awe, reverence, humble submission, and worship. Before God’s perfect justice, there is nothing to be said, from one perspective. Yet from another perspective, shouts of praise are also appropriate.

For those who love the Lord, the outpouring of His wrath means that justice is at last being done to the wicked. The God who has redeemed us has now come to reign! The day has finally arrived when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:9–11). In today’s reading, “those who had been victorious over the beast...sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb” (vv. 1–4). In the end, all will show the fear of the Lord and glorify His name. “For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you.”

Where do you stand with Christ? Will you rejoice when He returns (see 2 Thess. 1:7–10)? If in doubt, make your peace with God today by calling on the name of Christ our Savior (John 3:16).

PRAYER(S):

Father, we await the time when everyone will glorify the name of Your Son, when all nations will come to Your throne and will know the fear of the Lord. As we conclude our study, give us wisdom to walk worthy of Your kingdom. Amen!

QUOTE: *“A future where divine wisdom governs hearts and actions, leading to a world marked by justice, peace, and mutual respect.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 103-104; Romans 14

G. P. A. Hymn 250 – When the pow’r of God descended

Saturday, 16th August 2025

THE EARLY CHURCH FEARED THE LORD

Text(s): Acts 9:26-31

Key Verse: *“Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.” – Acts 9:31*

Saul had inspired much fear in the early church by pursuing and persecuting believers in Christ. When Christ met him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1–19), he found the true fear of the Lord and did a complete turnaround. But when he arrived in Jerusalem, the original disciples remained afraid of him (v. 26). They didn't trust him. Was this another trap? How could an outspoken enemylike Saul become a believing friend?

In faith, Barnabas took a risk and became Saul's advocate with the apostles (v. 27). Barnabas probably felt a bit afraid, like Ananias when he was told to go and heal Saul (9:13–14). It would have been normal, even sensible, humanly speaking. By obeying God in faith, they put the fear of the Lord ahead of their own human fears.

The church's former greatest enemy had become one of them (vv. 28–30)! The believers perhaps watched with amazement as Paul evangelized boldly in Jerusalem, debated successfully with the Hellenistic Jews, and aroused their enmity to the point where they even tried to kill him. The believers then sent him to Tarsus for his own safety.

Otherwise, with Saul the persecutor transformed into Paul the apostle, the church enjoyed a time of relative peace and growth. “Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers” (v. 31).

John taught, “There is no fear in love” and “Perfect love drives out fear.” He meant the fear of punishment. That fear is gone for us because Christ took the punishment for our sins (1 John 4:16–18). The apostles, Barnabas, Paul, and all the believers did not fear punishment or persecution. They did, though, fear the Lord and on this basis the church grew and was encouraged.

As the apostles' behavior toward Paul illustrates, it's difficult to change fearful habits. How can we retrain our hearts away from human fears and toward holy fear, that is, the fear of the Lord?

PRAYER(S):

Jesus, You saved us into a community. In You we have our family of faith, our brothers and sisters who walk this road of faith alongside us. We are grateful that we can journey together in courage, support, and godly fear of the Lord.

QUOTE: *“A heartfelt reverence that inspired unity, devotion, and a powerful witness to the world.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 105-106; Romans 15:1-21

G. P. A. Hymn 419 – Nearer my God to Thee

Sunday, 17th August 2025

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA DID NOT FEAR

Text(s): Acts 5:1-11

Key Verse: *"How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord?" – Acts 5:9*

Many these days have been wondering if we're too casual or "flip" with God. We livestream church for our convenience. We check our phones during the worship service. We wear very informal clothing and judge a church by the quality of its snacks and coffee. God is our "good buddy."

The story of Ananias and Sapphira gives us fair warning of what can happen when we lack the fear of the Lord. We're including this negative example to underline the seriousness of the issues involved. Taking the fear of the Lord lightly is not a chuckle-worthy mistake but rather a fatal error in our relationship with God. Ananias and Sapphira did not have the fear the Lord. Their gift to the church from their land sale was not an act of worship. Rather, they put on a show to be admired for their "generosity" and to earn status in the eyes of others. Apparently, they viewed "church" as just another social ladder to climb. In pride, both told a premeditated lie (vv. 3–4, 9). They must have had a pretty low opinion of God if they thought they could fool Him in this way. Unsurprisingly, Satan was behind their actions.

Ananias and Sapphira were punished with death for their pride and lies. Among other things, they didn't understand that "Humility is the fear of the LORD" – (Prov. 22:4). God is not to be tested or trifled with (v. 9). "Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events" (v. 11). As God's name had been dishonored by the couple's actions, so their deaths brought Him glory. The church and a watching world learned a memorable lesson: Everyone was reminded of God's greatness and power and that He absolutely must be approached with awe and reverence.

What are your motivations for giving or for doing good deeds? Are there deeper layers that need exposing? If applicable, ask the Spirit to help you confess any sins in this area.

PRAYER(S):

Sin is powerful and destructive. As we read of Ananias and Sapphira, we are reminded of the dangers of pride and lack of the fear of the Lord. God, search our hearts and keep us humble! Reveal to us any hidden sin we should confess.

QUOTE: *"Integrity and reverence are vital in our relationship with God and with one another."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 107-108; Romans 15:22-33

G. P. A. Hymn 12 – Since Christ my soul from sin set free

Monday, 18th August 2025

PETER'S FEAR OF THE LORD

Text(s): Luke 5:1-11

Key Verse: *"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"* – Luke 5:8

Luke 5 contains another good fishing story. Jesus boarded Peter's boat so that He could put out from shore a bit and better teach the crowds. Sadly, Peter and Andrew hadn't caught any fish all night. When Jesus gave the word, though, they let down their nets and miraculously caught so many that the nets were near breaking and the boat near sinking (vv. 6–7). They had to call James and John to help!

Peter knew he was in the presence of a Man who could do the impossible. He felt "astonished" at Jesus's awe-inspiring display of power over creation, as well as a strong sense of his own sin and unworthiness. He fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" (v. 8; see Isa. 6:5). In short, he felt the fear of the Lord. Though Peter had turned in the right direction, toward Jesus, the Lord still had to tell him, "Don't be afraid" (v. 10). All four fishermen responded in faith to this miracle and to Jesus's compelling and somewhat humorous call, "From now on you will fish for people" (vv. 10–11).

In this episode, Peter and the others felt God's power and authority. They sensed that Jesus was the Son of God. They felt a fear that pulled them toward Him, and they left everything to become His disciples.

How firm is your loyalty to being Christ's disciple? What are you willing to do or endure? Compare your answers to the cost of discipleship outlined in Luke 14:25–27.

PRAYER(S):

Dear Lord, help us better understand the true cost of following You, of sacrifices and rewards of discipleship, and what it means to die to ourselves. Thank You that we can experience You through Your Word the way Peter and others did.

QUOTE: *"Even the most imperfect disciples can find strength and transformation through divine grace."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 109-111; Romans 16

G. P. A. Hymn 287 – Toss'd with rough winds, and faint with fear

Tuesday, 19th August 2025

EZEKIEL'S FEAR OF THE LORD

Text(s): Ezekiel 1

Key Verse: *"Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him."* – **Ezekiel 1:28**

Why did Rahab betray the city of Jericho to the invading Israelites (Joshua 2)? She told the two spies: "I know that the LORD has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. ...When we heard of it [Israel's victories], our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below."

Because the people of Jericho stood against God, fear of the Lord was just plain fear. But when Rahab switched sides, she chose to worship the one true God. Her fear turned to awe, reverence, and delight. Ezekiel felt similarly in today's passage. While initially overwhelmed by his visions of God, he later felt strengthened and called to ministry (see chapters 2–3).

At first, Ezekiel saw what looked like a windstorm, with clouds and flashing lightning. When it came closer, he saw four angels (cherubim) with otherworldly appearances (vv. 5–14, 22–24) and the wheels-within-wheels by which they moved (vv. 15–21). They were impressive, but they were only God's messengers, or attendants.

Finally, God is described indirectly by way of a vaulted sky, a throne, and "a figure like that of a man" (vv. 25–28). His appearance like glowing metal and fire represents God's power and glory. He's also compared to a rainbow's appearance after the rain. The passage informs us that this was only "the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD." A direct description or vision wasn't possible.

When he saw this vision, Ezekiel "fell facedown" in extreme awe, humility, and respect (v. 28). Many others in Scripture have also done so, including Abram (Gen. 17:3) and the three disciples during the Transfiguration (Matt. 17:6).

What exactly is holy fear? How can the fear of the Lord overwhelm us and yet at the same time draw us nearer to Him?

PRAYER(S):

Ezekiel saw only "the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord" (Ezek. 1:28). Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us through Your Son who is "the radiance of God's glory" (Heb. 1:3).

QUOTE: *"Fearing the Lord involves more than reverence; it encompasses a dedicated life of service, prayer, and a fearless proclamation of divine truth."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 112-115; 1 Corinthians 1

G. P. A. Hymn 301 – In the hour of trial

Wednesday, 20th August 2025

THE WIFE WHO FEARS THE LORD

Text(s): Proverbs 31:10-31

Key Verse: *“A woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.”* – **Proverbs 31:30**

A good woman is priceless! Nonetheless, Salary.com recently tried to appraise the financial value of a stay-at-home mom. Based on the market value of the skills she needs and uses daily, their analysis estimated that her annual salary should be \$184,820.

But, according to Proverbs 31, her inward character is even more valuable than outward factors. We need to understand that the “wife of noble character”—or literally, “a woman of valor” (v. 10)—is an ideal, not an individual person. The climax of the description is found in today’s verse: “Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised” (v. 30). This brings the Book of Proverbs full circle from the first chapter (1:7).

What virtues and actions are associated with her fear of the Lord? She works hard (vv. 13–15, 17, 19, 27), plans wisely (and so “can laugh at the days to come” because she’s not anxious, v. 25), and has good business sense (vv. 16, 18, 24). She’s strong (v. 17), dignified (v. 25), and wise (v. 26). She’s generous toward the poor (v. 20; Prov. 14:31). She takes good care of her family (vv. 15, 21–22, 27), including teaching her children and guiding them toward maturity (v. 26). She supports her husband and he in turn has full confidence in her (vv. 11–12). He’s respected in the community, in part because of her (v. 23). She, too, is respected in the community and praised by her family (vv. 28, 31).

Such a woman’s outward actions flow from her inward virtues, and these in turn flow from her overall orientation of fearing the Lord. The “wife of noble character,” then, is an ideal we can all learn from!

How might we, men and women, cultivate our inward orientations and virtues? Our culture pushes us toward outward appearances, our brand, our image. How can the fear of the Lord help us resist this?

PRAYER(S):

Pray with Us: Lord, if we are honest, the Proverbs 31 woman seems unrealistic and often intimidating. But, like her, we follow the same God who guides and gives gifts. Help us, men and women, to become people “of noble character” (Prov. 31:10).

QUOTE: *“Sacred reverence should be in her home, embodying faithfulness and courage that inspire and uplift those around her.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 116-118; 1 Corinthians 2

G. P. A. Hymn 421 – My life, my love, I give to Thee

Thursday, 21st August 2025

FEAR OF THE LORD AND PROTECTION

Text(s): 2 Chronicles 17:1-11

Key Verse: “*The fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands surrounding Judah.*” – 2 Chronicles 17:10

In 1985, the Texas Department of Transportation started an anti-littering campaign that, as we would say today, went viral: “Don’t mess with Texas.” Since then, this well-known slogan has become a distinctive indicator of Texan pride and swagger.

“Don’t mess with Israel” might be a good summary of today’s reading. This is what the fear of the Lord feels and looks like to non-worshippers (vv. 10–11). The Philistines and other enemies of Israel did not worship God. They did not respond to His greatness with awe and reverence. But they also weren’t blind. They saw God clearly present and working among His people. What remained, then, was simply fear, or literally, “terror” (v. 10). They were afraid to attack Judah because they knew God was protecting them. In fact, they paid tribute to stay on good terms with them.

For King Jehoshaphat, living in the fear of the Lord, and leading his people to do the same, meant trusting in God’s protection. This didn’t mean he sat on his hands. He made strategic military decisions as well (vv. 1–2). His heart, like David’s, was devoted to the Lord (vv. 3–6). He did not seek idols, and he removed many places of idolatry from around the country. He sought the Lord and followed His commands. He also sent court officials and Levites on a Scripture teaching tour (vv. 7–9). In all of this, the Lord was with him and helped establish his kingdom (see April 10).

The fear of the Lord has a flip side. From the inside, it means awe, reverence, love, obedience, and worship. We draw nearer to God. But from the outside, it means only fear—seeing God at work, but choosing not to worship Him. One day these unrepentant, terrified people will call the mountains to fall on them (Luke 23:30).

Jehoshaphat removed the idolatrous high places, but they came back later (2 Chron. 20:33). In light of this, how can we make positive, lasting changes in our spiritual lives?

PRAYER(S):

Jesus, we praise You today as our shield and protector! “The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe” (Prov. 18:10). When we encounter obstacles and opposition in our lives, may we run to You.

QUOTE: “*A sanctuary of protection, where divine care surrounds us and ensures our journey is safeguarded.*”

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 119:1-103; I Corinthians 3

G. P. A. Hymn 289 – There’s an eye that never sleeps

Friday, 22nd August 2025

KINGS WHO FEARED THE LORD

Text(s): 2 Samuel 23:1-7

Key Verse: *“When he rules in the fear of God, he is like the light of morning at sunrise.”* – 2 Samuel 23:3–4

Watching the sun rise is a worship-filled experience. God paints the morning sky daily with spectacular shades of purple, red, and gold. If we’re watching the sun rise over the ocean, a woodland lake, or a snow-topped mountain, the effect is even more breathtaking.

David said that a godly king is a beautiful blessing to his people, like a sunrise after a rain on a cloudless morning (vv. 3–4). Such a king “rules in the fear of God,” that is, he governs righteously and in trust and dependence on the “Rock of Israel.” He knows that he, the human king, is not the bottom line. The real Ruler is God. If he remembers and acts like this, then he’s the blessing described above. These were David’s “last words,” meaning the most important thing he wanted to say before he died, and the most important legacy he wanted to leave for his son Solomon (vv. 1–2).

David also reminded Solomon that God made a covenant with their house because they’d been “right with God,” not because they deserved it (v. 5; 2 Sam. 7:16). God received all the credit and glory, even, and especially, from the king. This, too, shows his fear of the Lord.

Evil kings, on the other hand, are like thorns, to be cast aside and burned in the fire (vv. 6–7). They do not fear the Lord and are not a blessing to their people. They disappear without a trace. Sadly, the books of Kings and Chronicles are mostly a downward-spiraling record of such men. Godly rulers, such as Hezekiah and Jehoshaphat, stand out by contrast.

Fear of the Lord in leadership, then, includes faith, dependence, and submission to Him, as well as awe, reverence, and obedience. Authority is a responsibility to be stewarded for the good of others.

What kind of legacy do you hope to leave behind? Why? What life choices are you making to help make this happen? Where is the fear of the Lord in all this?

PRAYER(S):

As we learn about the kings who feared the Lord, let’s pray for our national, local, and church leaders. Lord, we pray for the godly fear to rule in their lives, their deeds, and their decisions. You can change the heart of every leader.

QUOTE: *“Lead with a heart of humility and reverence, shaping God’s kingdom with righteousness and the principles of divine truth.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 119:49-104; 1 Corinthians 4

G. P. A. Hymn 10 – All hail the power of Jesus’ name

Saturday, 23rd August 2025

MIDWIVES WHO FEARED THE LORD

Text(s): Exodus 1:11-21

Key Verse: *“The midwives, however, feared God . . . they let the boys live.”* – Exodus 1:17

Sara McKinney was born without hands. One day she came home from school and announced she wanted to play a musical instrument. Settling on the trombone, she learned quickly and practiced hard, using prosthetics with myoelectric fingers. She ended up in the regional Honors Band. She also participated in gymnastics, swimming, and horseback riding. Sara achieved beyond what anyone expected, including the doctors who told her mother that her daughter would have a “miserable life.”

Every human being is made in the image of God, and so every life has value. The Israelite midwives feared the Lord and thus believed this as well. When Pharaoh decreed that Israelite boy babies should be killed at birth, these courageous women disobeyed. The historical context was the Israelites’ slavery in Egypt (vv. 11–14). Though they were worked “ruthlessly,” they multiplied because God blessed them. God’s favor only increased the Egyptians’ fear and dread. They responded by making the slaves’ lives even more bitter. The Pharaoh’s order to murder the Israelite baby boys was a strategy of extermination (vv. 15–19). If they could get rid of the men, the women could be absorbed by force. The brave midwives resisted, however. Why? They feared the Lord (vv. 17, 21). They knew all life is sacred to Him as the Creator. Unlike false gods, the true God does not delight in death, especially the slaughter of the helpless and the oppressed.

The midwives obeyed God from a position of weakness, that is, they risked their own lives to honor God and save the babies’ lives. Their fear of the Lord had practical implications, and God gave them a practical reward. The Israelite population continued to increase, and the midwives were given families of their own (vv. 20–21).

What are some practical ways the fear of the Lord might impact your life? How would this play out in your personal life, your church, or your community?

PRAYER(S):

Dear God, we want to live as Your worthy followers. Help us to stay faithful and obedient, walking humbly before You every day of our lives. Keep our eyes focused on You and on the truth of Your Word. Guide our steps today.

QUOTE: *“Let it reflect in her actions and choices, showing that true reverence leads to a life of purposeful love and enduring strength.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 119:105-176; 1 Corinthians 5

G. P. A. Hymn 303 – Guide me O Thou great Jehovah

Sunday, 24th August 2025

ABRAHAM'S FEAR OF THE LORD

Text(s): Genesis 22:1-14

Key Verse: *"Now I know that you fear God."* – **Genesis 22:12**

In the Marines, new recruits learn to obey their commanding officer quickly and without hesitation. When responding to a command, they say, "Sir, yes sir!" Why? Because in the heat of battle, there is no time to debate. The commanding officer knows the best action and cares about the safety and success of the troops.

Genesis 22 tells about Abraham and his son Isaac. Abraham's actions clearly demonstrate his fear of the Lord, a fear that responded with complete and unquestioning obedience. The key that unlocks today's story, is God's words to Abraham: "Now I know that you fear God" (v. 12). He didn't mean "fear" in the sense of fear of punishment but in the sense of awe and reverence.

When God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son, Abraham's obedience was prompt. Though he had lots of time to think during the three-day journey to Moriah, his faith didn't waver. And even though Isaac was his only son and the next step in God's promises and covenant, Abraham's faith extended to believing that God would raise Isaac from the dead if necessary (Heb. 11:17-19).

Abraham trusted God to keep His promises. He figured that whatever God commanded must be right—He had His reasons and a sovereign plan. Abraham staked everything on his absolute belief in God's loving faithfulness. His obedience was rooted in his reverence and love for the Lord. In doing so, he passed God's test. He withheld nothing from the Lord. He valued the Giver above His gifts, even the precious gift of a son. "His faith was made complete by what he did" (James 2:21-23). He lived wholeheartedly in the fear of the Lord.

God's provision of the ram for the burnt offering is a hint of what is to come when He gives His own son to die on our behalf (John 3:16).

How did Abraham respond to this difficult task? What does it look like for us to obey God without question and holding nothing back?

PRAYER(S):

Lord, we confess that often we don't want, or don't know how, to obey. Thank You for Abraham's example of wholehearted obedience. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for Your obedience unto death that gave us a way to salvation and freedom.

QUOTE: *"A heart full of reverence can inspire obedience and a willingness to step into the unknown, trusting in divine providence."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 120-123; 1 Corinthians 6

G. P. A. Hymn 198 – I gave my life for Thee

Monday, 25th August 2025

WHERE IS WISDOM FOUND?

Text(s): Job 28:12-28

Key Verse: *“The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.” – Job 28:28*

One of the most famous riddles in history is the “riddle of the Sphinx” found in a Greek tragedy: “What walks on four legs in the morning, on two legs at noon, and on three legs in the evening?” The answer, as you may know, is: “Human beings. Infants crawl on all fours. Then adults walk on two legs. Finally, elderly people walk with a cane, hence three legs.”

Riddles like this join humor with wisdom. These are often the kind of “riddles” found in biblical wisdom literature as well. The riddle in Job 28 is “Where can wisdom be found?” (v. 12). Job chapter 28 is an interlude in the book. The anonymous author is responding to Job and his friends’ failures to reach a valid or wise understanding of Job’s suffering.

The preliminary finding is nowhere in human experience (v. 13) or the natural world (v. 14). Human technology can delve the depths of the earth but cannot find wisdom (vv. 1–11). Although the rich and powerful can usually obtain whatever they want with money, wisdom is not to be had at any price (vv. 15–19).

So the question is renewed: “Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell?” (v. 20). The riddle’s solution is hidden not only from nature (v. 21) but also from elemental forces like Death and Destruction (v. 22).

The answer: “God [alone] understands the way to it” (v. 23). Not only does He know what no one else knows, He controls and commands everything. His wisdom runs the world!

This conclusion anticipates God’s speeches beginning in chapter 38. If the fear of the Lord leads to wisdom, then the answer to Job’s questions about suffering, the answer to the larger “riddle,” is to learn more about God by drawing worshipfully nearer to Him.

Where is wisdom found? How does that answer help us better understand suffering and evil?

PRAYER(S):

Where can we find wisdom? Again, Scripture points to the fear of the Lord (Job 28). Lord, we rejoice that true wisdom is found only in You. You control and guide our world. You show the way out of hardships and suffering!

QUOTE: *“Be humble enough to seek understanding and the grace in the application of life itself.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 124-127; 1 Corinthians 7:1-24

G. P. A. Hymn 361 – There is a name I love to hear

Tuesday, 26th August 2025

THE KEY TO WISDOM

Text(s): Isaiah 33:2-6

Key Verse: *“The fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.” – Isaiah 33:6*

Losing keys is a common experience at our house. Did we leave them in the laundry room? With the groceries? In a coat pocket? Might they still be in the car? In any case, when we do find them, we are relieved and joyful!

Isaiah 33:6 says, “The fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.” Without a key, the “treasure” or “rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge” remains locked away.

Chapter 33 begins with a prayer for God’s presence, grace, strength, and salvation (v. 2). For Isaiah’s original audience, the threat of Assyria loomed. The phrase “every morning” reveals God to be the ultimate renewable resource. His mercies are indeed “new every morning” (Lam. 3:22–23).

The prayer goes on to express faith in God’s power (vv. 3–4). The Lord can easily defeat any army. Nations flee before Him. The plunder of powerful countries which have looted their victims will vanish as if devoured by locusts, that is, the tables will be turned and the conquerors conquered. God is going to battle on behalf of His people!

The prayer then goes beyond the immediate circumstances to express faith that God has even bigger and better things planned for Israel and for the world (vv. 5–6). His plan is about much more than one solution or one victory. It’s about His glory! He Himself is the only “sure foundation for your times,” the only hope for a just and righteous world. He is indeed a priceless treasure!

Wisdom is more than a quality or a virtue. It’s a Person, God Himself, specifically the Second Person of the Trinity (see Proverbs 8). So, the fear of the Lord is first and foremost a relationship. If we are in a right relationship with the Lord, then we know the key to the treasure!

What is the key that Isaiah describes? What does it unlock? Why do you think the fear of the Lord leads to wisdom?

PRAYER(S):

What is the key to wisdom? In Isaiah we learn that it’s the fear of the Lord. God, give us this key to Your beautiful treasure chest—of wisdom and knowledge and salvation. May we find joy in communion with You through Jesus Christ.

QUOTE: *“We can navigate life’s uncertainties, making choices that reflect our deepest values and lead to lasting fulfillment.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 128-131; 1 Corinthians 7:25-40

G. P. A. Hymn 358 – O love of God, how strong and true

Wednesday, 27th August 2025

THE HOUSE OF WISDOM

Text(s): Proverbs 9:1-11

Key Verse: *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” – Proverbs 9:10*

On the road to the Celestial City in Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*, Christian stops to rest at the Palace Beautiful. There he meets four sisters— Discretion, Piety, Prudence, and Charity (that is, Love). They listen to the story of his journey and teach him valuable spiritual truths. They also encourage him with a vision of the future (Immanuel’s Land) and outfit him in the armor of God, which he will soon need for his battle with the demon Apollyon.

Similarly, in Proverbs 9, we are called to visit the House of Wisdom (vv. 1–4). This house is a welcoming place. Wisdom has set her table for a banquet and sent out invitations. The meal will be delicious. The “seven pillars” of her house symbolize perfection. Who is especially invited (vv. 4–6)? The “simple,” meaning those who are young, naive, or immature. They lack sense, but they can grow and eventually learn to “walk in the way of insight.”

Who is more likely to accept or reject Wisdom’s invitation (vv. 7–9)? Those who are humble enough to accept instruction, correction, and rebuke will probably accept the invitation to learn more. Those who are unwilling, however—the mocker and the fool—will reject the invitation and even respond to it with insults and abuse. Frankly, how we respond to the invitation indicates which category we belong to or desire to join.

The rewards of wisdom are clear (v. 11). Wisdom leads to long life and blessing (see Prov. 10:27). By contrast, for those who enter the House of Folly, “her guests are deep in the realm of the dead” (v. 18). Where does the journey to wisdom start? The answer is the same as we’ve seen in recent devotions: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom” (v. 10).

Verses 13–18 give a contrasting invitation to the House of Folly. In what ways does this invitation differ from the first? Which features of both stand out to you and why?

PRAYER(S):

Our Father, how we want to reach the House of Wisdom, to eat at the Wisdom’s banquet! We want to “walk in the way of insight” (Prov. 9:6). Guide us to this House every step of the way, we pray, and keep us away from the House of Folly.

QUOTE: *“Every room is a space for growth, where the pursuit of knowledge and the practice of discernment lead to enlightenment and clarity.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 132-135; 1 Corinthians 8

G. P. A. Hymn 368 – I’ve found a friend, oh such a Friend

Thursday, 28th August 2025

THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM, PART 1

Text(s): Proverbs 1:1-7

Key Verse: *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."* – **Proverbs 1:7**

"Two people may possess essentially the same knowledge," wrote author Jerry Bridges in *The Joy of Fearing God*. "One person views this knowledge as a means of acquiring position, power, or possessions, and uses it to that end. The other person sees it as a gift from God and as a stewardship to be used to serve Him." What makes the difference? "The fear of God must be the foundation upon which knowledge is built. It is the fear of the Lord that gives us the right perspective and prompts us to use it for the right end."

That is to say, the fear of the Lord is the necessary condition for all true knowledge and wisdom (v. 7). What this basically means is that to start learning wisdom, we need to seek a close relationship with the Lord. The only way to do that, of course, is on His terms. This is why one source defines the fear of the Lord as "a loving reverence for God that includes submission to his lordship and to the commands of his word."

To learn wisdom is to grow and mature (vv. 2–6). We gain insight into the realities of life, including good and evil. We become more able to do what is right and just. Our behavior becomes more prudent, which is the virtue of governing oneself with reason (especially in terms of planning for the future) and is thus related to self-control. We increase in discretion and good judgment. We become lifelong learners, always ready to learn more and to keep growing.

The opposite of wisdom is foolishness (v. 7). Only a fool would despise the benefits of wisdom. Only a fool would want to stay immature, proudly refuse to learn, be gullible or "simple," and keep choosing poorly or wrongly.

How familiar are you with the virtue of prudence? Biblically, what does this mean? How can we grow in it? How can we better put it into practice?

PRAYER(S):

How do we attain wisdom? The first step is the fear of the Lord. Father, we ask You for wisdom, understanding and knowledge. Keep us from foolishness! May we walk through every circumstance and every trial with dignity and wisdom!

QUOTE: *"There is always more to learn and an openness to growing beyond what we already know."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 136-138; 1 Corinthians 9

G. P. A. Hymn 149 – When we walk with the Lord

Friday, 29th August 2025

THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM, PART 2

Text(s): Proverbs 111

Key Verse: *“Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.” – Psalm 111:2*

Psalm 111:10 expresses wholehearted praise founded on the fear of the Lord: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.”

We praise God for His attributes. He’s glorious, majestic, and eternal, as well as righteous, gracious, and compassionate (vv. 3–4). He’s also faithful, just, trustworthy, and upright (vv. 7–8). He is further to be praised for His deeds, especially in Israel’s history. He powerfully freed them from slavery and brought them to a new land. He miraculously provided food (manna) along the way. He remembers His covenant, even when His people forget and disrespect it (vv. 5–6). The bottom line: “Holy and awesome is his name” (v. 9).

How should we respond? We should praise and worship our God! These truths should delight us and inspire awe-filled gratitude. We should continually ponder them and marvel at God’s greatness (v. 2). This is how we learn the fear of the Lord, grow in godly wisdom, and can begin to seek His glory as our life’s purpose.

The word “beginning” in verse 10 means “start” or “precondition,” and it indicates that tenacious commitment and faith will be required to move forward. One translation renders this word “foundation,” also indicating the first step in a lifelong process.

Where are you in your journey to wisdom? One way to find out is to make a list of God’s attributes that you especially praise Him for and of things He’s done for you that you’re especially thankful for.

PRAYER(S):

How do we grow in wisdom? Praise and worship our God, says Psalm 111. Lord Jesus, give us every day the desire to pray, to ponder Your truths, to study Your Word, to marvel at Your greatness, and to seek Your glory. Increase our faith!

QUOTE: *“Find the courage to confront your own ignorance and the grace to learn from every challenge and encounter.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 139-141; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

G. P. A. Hymn 149 – When we walk with the Lord

Saturday, 30th August 2025

FEAR OF THE LORD, WISDOM, AND SHALOM

Text(s): Proverbs 2:1-11

Key Verse: *“Then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.” – Proverbs 2:5*

In the book of Proverbs, we learn that wisdom is far more valuable than any treasure. We should search for it, like those children, with expectant eagerness (vv. 1–4). We need to be teachable, open-minded, and attentive. We should also be responsive and ready to apply whatever we learn. Eagerness is seen in the crying aloud and in the comparison to searching for hidden treasure.

What will we find (vv. 5–8)? The fear of the Lord and related blessings. In this passage, the fear of the Lord, knowledge, wisdom, and understanding are all intertwined and interrelated. All of them come from the Lord. He also blesses the upright, is a shield to the blameless, guards the way of the just, and protects the way of the faithful. When God gives wisdom, these blessings come with it. When we seek wisdom, we’re seeking the fear of the Lord as well.

How will we benefit (vv. 9–11)? In addition to the above, we’ll gain discretion and the ability to make wise decisions. We’ll understand which path is the godly one. Wisdom, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord will be “pleasant to your soul.” Why? Because it is delightful to be in close communion with the awesome Giver of all wisdom. We call this shalom, a word meaning peace, blessedness, and overall well-being.

No wonder Proverbs says that the fear of the Lord is a “fountain of life” (14:27) and further teaches: “The fear of the Lord leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble” (19:23).

How does peace with God (Rom. 5:1) bring us the peace of God (Phil. 4:6–7)? In what other ways does the good news of salvation have an impact on our daily lives?

PRAYER(S):

God, keep us from pride and false beliefs that we can attain anything without You! Proverbs tells us that true wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and godly fear are found only in You. Help us give You the rightful place in our lives.

QUOTE: *“A shield that guards us from harm, enveloping us in divine protection and guiding our steps with wisdom and peace.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 142-144; 1 Corinthians 10:14-33

G. P. A. Hymn 359 – He gave to me a seal

Sunday, 31st August 2025

FEAR AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Text(s): Psalm 34:8-16

Key Verse: *"Fear the LORD, you his holy people."* – **Psalm 34:9**

To be "righteous" means to be morally upright, to be without sin. Of course, holy perfection is an unreachable goal. Romans 3:10 tells us: "There is no one righteous, not even one." How then do we "pursue righteousness" (2 Tim. 2:2)?

Psalm 34:9 guides us: "Fear the LORD, you his holy people." The Psalmist explains that righteousness does not come from us but from God. Fearing the Lord is commanded for "holy people" (v. 9). By drawing near to God in love and respect, we are able to control our tongues and in general "turn from evil and do good" (vv. 13–14).

As we pursue righteousness, the fear of the Lord is comforting and even pleasurable. Why? One reason is that we're perfectly safe in Him as our refuge (v. 8). Drawing near to God or "tasting" His presence brings genuine pleasure and delight. In addition, "those who fear him lack nothing" (v. 9). God is our Provider. He cares for us. We can trust Him. Even lions, the kings of the jungle, might get weak from hunger, but not us. By relying on God, we "lack no good thing" (v. 10).

Verse 11 is a summons: "Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD." And what does he advise? Control your tongue, do good, and pursue peace, and the loving eyes of the LORD will be upon you (vv. 13–15). But be warned. The opposite is also true: "The face of the LORD is against those who do evil" (v. 16).

The implication is that we cannot live in this way—righteously—without the fear of the Lord. If we draw near to Him in awe and reverence, however, and depend wholly on Him, the relationship is a blessing beyond imagining!

As James 3:1–12 teaches, controlling our tongue is a major challenge. How can we bring our words under God's control, including everyday speech and social media?

PRAYER(S):

Too often our words are unloving and hurtful. Remind us today, Lord, that as Your people we have to control our tongue and let the Holy Spirit guide our speech. Give us a holy fear and a heart of thankfulness.

QUOTE: *"Righteousness is not the absence of fear, but the courage to act rightly despite it."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 145-147; 1 Corinthians 11:1-15

G. P. A. Hymn 139 – As I journey thro' the land, singing as I go

Monday, 1st September 2025

JOY

Text(s): Philippians 4:4-8

Confession: *"Thou wilt shew me the path of life in thy presence is fulness of joy, at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."* – **Psalms 16:11**

G. P. A. Hymn 23 – Now thank we all our God

INTRODUCTION

Joy is a component of the fruits of the Spirit and as Christians, we should cultivate and manifest it, even as we seek to achieve the full stature in Christ – Galatians 5:22. God is delighted to see us in joyful situations regardless of contrary circumstances. Paul was in prison when he wrote to Philippian Christians to rejoice. The Bible also talks of great joy, which the people of Samaria experienced at their encounter with the good news of salvation through Philip in Acts 8.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Joy that swallow troubles and afflictions, envelope my life in the name of Jesus.
2. O God arise and increase my joy, no matter the situation around me, in the name of Jesus.
3. I receive the goodness of joy in God's presence all the days of my life, in the name of Jesus.
4. Enemies of my full-scale laughter, be baptized with unlimited sorrow, in the name of Jesus.
5. Joy that is catching, envelope me now in the name of Jesus.
6. Heavenly Father, you are the source of my Joy, fill me with Your fulness, in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Psalm 148-150; 1 Corinthians 11:16-34

QUOTE: *"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."* – **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Tuesday, 2nd September 2025

HARVEST OF MIRACLES

Text(s): Galatians 6:7-10

Confession: *"Seeds with defects will never grow even in the best of soil with adequate amount of rain and sunlight."* –
Author Unknown

G. P. A. Hymn 252 – There shall be showers of blessings

INTRODUCTION

To harvest is to reap whatever has been sown. Before anyone can reap, there must have been the act of sowing. A seed is that unit that is sown by farmers before they begin to reap the fruits (harvest). There is a spiritual seed that gives birth to spiritual fruits. Beloved, the Shunamite woman sowed the seed of hospitality, Hezekiah sowed the seed of repentance, and the Lord visited them with fruits of miracles.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Thou power of sin standing between me and my divine harvest, now is your end, die, in the name of Jesus.
2. Spiritual termites attacking the seed of my miracles, catch fire and burn in the name of Jesus.
3. I begin to harvest my miracles as from today in the name of Jesus.
4. Inherited bondage that needs to break for my miracles to begin to appear, break by fire in the name of Jesus.
5. Every barrier to my miracles, begin to break in the name of Jesus.
6. Satanic hinderances to my divine harvest, collapse, in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 1-2; 1 Corinthians 12

QUOTE: *"Sometimes the miracles we seek are the harvest of our own diligent efforts and unwavering faith."*

Wednesday, 3rd September 2025

A TIME OF HARVEST

Text(s): Genesis 8:22

Confession: *"The joy of the Lord is my strength."* – **Nehemiah 8:10c**

G. P. A. Hymn 20 – Be glad in the Lord and rejoice

INTRODUCTION

God is a God of times and seasons and he has appointed also a time of harvest. There is a time of harvest, although our harvest may be different from one another but surely there is an appointed time of harvest as you can see from our text in Genesis 8:22. However, in order to receive your harvest, you need to be aware of what harvest really means. It will be difficult to experience and recognize your harvest if you don't know what harvest is all about. Today, the Lord of the harvest is bringing you into the fullness of the harvest in Jesus' name.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Lord, I am sowing now, let my appointed time for harvest begin to come in the name of Jesus.
2. Heavenly Father, help me not to miss on my time of harvest in the name of Jesus.
3. Thou power of sin standing between me and my divine harvest, now is your end, die, in the name of Jesus.
4. Spiritual termites attacking my seed of miracles, catch fire and burn, in the name of Jesus.
5. I begin to harvest my joy from today in the name of Jesus.
6. Satanic hindrances to my divine harvest and joy, collapse, in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 3-4; 1 Corinthians 13

QUOTE: *"Celebrate the abundance that follows the diligent work and carefully nurture of your dreams."*

Thursday, 4th September 2025

THE LORD COMFORTS

Text(s): Nehemiah 1:1

Key Verse: *"I was cupbearer to the king."* – **Nehemiah 1:11**

Do you know what your name means? There are websites and books dedicated to explaining the meaning behind names. Maybe you were given a family name—I'm named after my paternal grandfather—or maybe your name evokes a favorite song, or your parents just liked the way it sounds.

In the Old Testament, names held special significance and could reveal something about the person, their story, or their God. For example, Abraham was called "the father of many nations" (Gen.17:5), Abel's name meant "breath" or "vapor," and the mighty prophet Elijah's name meant "Yahweh is my God"—certainly a reminder he needed during the darkest days of his ministry.

This month we are reading about Nehemiah whose name means "The Lord Comforts." Now, most of us are familiar with the idea that God comforts His people, but put yourself in Nehemiah's shoes and the shoes of his original readers. God's people had been living in exile for decades—first under the rule of the Babylonians and then the Persians. Their country had been invaded, their best and brightest leaders forced into service, and untold numbers slaughtered before the rest were carted off into exile. What's more, God did all of this as punishment for His people's sin.

It is hard to imagine the pain, difficulty, and disillusionment the Hebrew people must have experienced in exile, but I'm certain we can all relate to feeling loss or abandonment. Like Nehemiah's audience, we have walked through times where we desperately needed the Lord's comfort. As this story unfolds, we'll see that comfort is exactly what the Lord provided as He led His people back to the Promised Land and restored their relationship with Him.

Do you need comfort from the Lord today? Ask God to use this study to remind you of His love for you. He has a plan and a purpose for Your life. And if our relationship with God is broken, He is ready to restore it.

PRAYER(S):

Father, with sore hearts we seek Your comfort. When our faith is strong, we trust that You are with us, but in weakness we need reassurance. Please make Your loving presence apparent to us. Be strong for us.

QUOTE: *"In our darkest moments, the Lord's presence is a gentle whisper of reassurance, reminding us that we are never alone."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 5-6; 1 Corinthians 14:1-20

G. P. A. Hymn 287 – Toss'd with rough winds, and faint with fear

Friday, 5th September 2025

TIMES OF TROUBLE

Text(s): Nehemiah 1:2-3

Key Verse: *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” – Psalm 46:1*

Travel back to December of 445 BC, and meet Nehemiah, a trusted advisor to the king in the Persian capital Susa, which is the modern-day city of Shush in southwestern Iran. You probably know the city from the book of Esther, where events occurred about 20 years before this. Nehemiah had waited a long time for his message, and the news was even worse than he expected. Nehemiah’s brother Hanani (whose name means “The Lord Is Gracious”) told him that “those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace” (v. 3). Even the wall of Jerusalem had been destroyed.

The people to whom he referred had been left in Jerusalem and the surrounding area when the rest of God’s people were deported to Babylon (see 2 Kings 24–25). We’ll learn later in our study that not all the people remaining in Jerusalem were truly God’s people, but God’s people in Jerusalem clearly needed the comfort and protection that Yahweh brings, for even the wall around the city had been destroyed.

Our cities today don’t typically have walls around them, but walls were a necessity in the ancient world. They protected the city’s inhabitants from invaders and other threats. Without the wall and the gates that controlled traffic, God’s people were in constant danger from enemy’s attack.

Think about a time in your life when you felt disgraced, under attack, or in trouble (or perhaps that is your situation today). How did God meet your need? Try to think of someone who might feel like you once felt, and, like Nehemiah, reach out to comfort that person today.

PRAYER(S):

We know these things are true: You and only You are holy, You alone see to the depths of our hearts, and Your love is deeper still. Even in disgrace, we depend on Your love and forgiveness. We trust You and rely on You, Lord!

QUOTE: *“When faced with difficulties, know that each struggle is a stepping stone towards greater wisdom and strength.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 7-8; 1 Corinthians 14:21-40

G. P. A. Hymn 286 – From every stormy wind that blows

Saturday, 6th September 2025

A PRAYER GOD HEARS

Text(s): Nehemiah 1:4-11

Key Verse: *“Let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying.” – Nehemiah 1:6*

These eight verses in Nehemiah offer us a lesson on prayer. First, Nehemiah teaches that we should pray—even when we are sad or mourning (v. 4). God doesn’t want to hear from us only when things are going well! Second, just like Jesus taught the disciples, prayer begins with worship and submission to the Lord. In Nehemiah’s words, God is “the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments” (v. 5). Third, Nehemiah asks God to hear him, making his requests known to God (v. 6; Phil. 4:6).

Fourth, prayer should include clear and honest confession and repentance (vv. 6–7). Nehemiah confesses “the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you.” There is no “spin” here, no attempt to make himself look better.

Finally, prayers should be saturated with Scripture—Nehemiah draws on an earlier passage of the Bible to ground his prayers in who God is and what He has promised. Doing this is no guarantee that God will grant your request, but this prayer is a model for our benefit and edification.

In the very last verse, we are given Nehemiah’s profession. He “was cupbearer to the king” (v. 11). This was traditionally an office of high rank whose job was to pour and serve drinks at the king’s table. The king placed a high level of trust in him.

It is often helpful to use Scripture to guide our prayers. You can even pray aloud a portion of Scripture making it personal and specific to your situation. Nehemiah’s prayer in verses 5–11 is an excellent one to try.

PRAYER(S):

“LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God...let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant” (Neh. 1:5, 11). Please grant us growth in our love for You. Make us more like You.

QUOTE: *“When faced with difficulties, know that each struggle is a stepping stone towards greater wisdom and strength.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-32

G. P. A. Hymn 182 – Pass me not, O gentle Savior

Sunday, 7th September 2025

GOD'S GRACIOUS HAND

Text(s): Nehemiah 2:1-8

Key Verse: *"Because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests."* – **Nehemiah 2:8**

Have you ever been afraid to ask your boss for something, such as a raise or maybe some time off? I know I have! I've been anxious that the answer would be no, or—even worse—that I'd be fired for presuming my worth. Now, imagine if your boss could literally murder you any time with no repercussions whatsoever. And what if you're asking for something the boss already promised would never happen. That was the situation for Nehemiah in today's passage.

It had been four months since Nehemiah ("The Lord Comforts") learned from his brother Hanani ("The Lord is Gracious") about the devastation in Jerusalem. "When wine was brought for" King Artaxerxes, it was likely at a feast and, thus, he would be in good spirits, but he sensed something wrong with his trusted cupbearer: "Why does your face look so sad?" (v. 2). Nehemiah, though fearful (v. 2), answers honestly. Even though he knows that Artaxerxes had already halted construction of Jerusalem's walls (see Ezra 4), Nehemiah prays to God and asks the king to allow him to return to do the very thing the king said should not be done.

Miraculously, Artaxerxes reverses the course set in Ezra 4 and allows Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem, even providing letters to guarantee his safe passage, soldiers to guard his caravan, and materials for the rebuilding project. All of this, Nehemiah says, is "because the gracious hand of my God was on me" (v. 8). Nehemiah does not claim credit for the king's stunning response. He does not post on social media "Just got that promotion!! All my hard work finally paid off!!" Instead, he recognizes that God has been gracious to him and turned the king's heart (Prov. 21:1).

Have you experienced God's gracious hand on you? Don't take the credit for this wonderful event! Instead, tell someone about the miraculous (and ordinary) ways that God has shown you favor. This is a God-story worth sharing!

PRAYER(S):

How often we give ourselves the credit for Your gifts! Today we name the blessings You have given us and glorify You, generous Father; You know so well how to delight us and build us up.

QUOTE: *"We are never alone; His support and love are always with us."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 11-12; 1 Corinthians 15:33-58

G. P. A. Hymn 323 – They that trust in the Lord are secure

Monday, 8th September 2025

ENEMIES OF GOD'S WORK

Text(s): Nehemiah 2:9-10

Key Verse: *"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first."* – John 15:18

Like many people, I typically interpret opposition as a sign that I am doing something wrong, while a smooth road ahead makes me think I'm on the right path. We learned yesterday that God made the way smooth for Nehemiah, but today we read the first hint that not everyone would support Nehemiah's mission. Should he take the displeasure of two important men as a sign he should not rebuild Jerusalem's walls?

Of course not! This was just another opportunity for Nehemiah to put his trust in the Lord. He should stand strong in what God had called him to do—to love God and his neighbor by restoring Jerusalem. One of the opposers was Sanballat whose name means "Sin [the moon god] Gives Life." Those familiar with the Old Testament will remember that the Ammonites were sworn enemies of Israel. Sanballat and Tobiah would continue to oppose Nehemiah's efforts, but at every step of the way Nehemiah demonstrated trust in the Lord, refusing to turn away from what God has called him to do.

It is quite unlikely that God will call any of us to as huge a task as Nehemiah undertook, yet He has called all of us to love Him, love our neighbors, and share the gospel without fear. We should not be surprised when people oppose those efforts. Remember that Jesus taught His disciples to expect rejection. "If the world hates you," Jesus said, "keep in mind that it hated me first...Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also" (John 15:18, 20).

We are no exception to the rule. When we spread the gospel of Christ, we will experience resistance. Do not lose heart!

Nehemiah's story should encourage us to continue serving the Lord no matter what comes your way. Have you experienced hostility from others when you knew you were doing what God had asked you to do? How do you respond?

PRAYER(S):

Opposition is discouraging, making us question our own motives and calling. We seek Your guidance and wisdom, Lord. We need solid footing in You to be able to remain steadfast in the life You have for us.

QUOTE: *"The presence of adversaries in God's work is a testament to the power and impact of the mission; they challenge us to rise above and trust in His greater plan."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 13-14; 1 Corinthians 16

G. P. A. Hymn 399 – Christian seek not yet repose

Tuesday, 9th September 2025

THE COURAGE TO BEGIN

Text(s): Nehemiah 2:11-18

Key Verse: *"Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace."* – **Nehemiah 2:17**

Have you ever been faced with a huge task, afraid to take the first step even when you knew God had called you to it? Perhaps you had everything planned out, knew God was with you, and all that was left was to begin—returning to school, starting foster care classes, or sharing the gospel with that one person in your life. Beginning takes courage!

And courage is exactly what we see in Nehemiah and the rest of the people of Jerusalem who would rally with him to rebuild the city's walls. Once Nehemiah finished his reconnaissance mission to learn the lay of the land, he saw just in what a bad shape the city had been (vv. 13–16). Nehemiah gathered the rest of the people of Jerusalem and shared his vision with them.

Most importantly, Nehemiah told them all God had already done for him, ensuring that this was not some hair-brained idea from a Persian official: "I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me" (v. 18). Nehemiah's testimony of God's favor gave the people of Jerusalem the courage they needed to begin the enormous task: "They replied, 'Let us start rebuilding.' So, they began this good work" (v. 18).

Sometimes in our lives we will be like Nehemiah, called by God to lead for Him in a certain area, perhaps in our family or at our job. Other times we will be like the rest of the people in Jerusalem, called by God to follow someone as they lead out in a way God has called them to. At all times God calls us to trust in Him and go courageously wherever He leads.

Is there something in your life that God has called you to do, but you've been too afraid to begin? Like Nehemiah, share your plans with those who can help you, trust the Lord, and get to work.

PRAYER(S):

Lord, sometimes we hesitate because we're not sure if our decision is in Your plan. Though we don't understand where free will and Your sovereignty converge, help us move forward boldly, trusting You for course corrections.

QUOTE: *"Beginning is often the most challenging part, but it's where courage meets opportunity and dreams start to take shape."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 15-16; 2 Corinthians 1

G. P. A. Hymn 491 – Come, oh come! While Christ is calling

Wednesday, 10th September 2025

MOCKING AND RIDICULE

Text(s): Nehemiah 2:19-20

Key Verse: *“The God of heaven will give us success.”* – Nehemiah 2:20

Nehemiah had shared with God’s people all the Lord had done to bring them to Jerusalem, and God had given them the courage to join Nehemiah in the seemingly impossible task of restoring Jerusalem’s wall. Perhaps you can imagine the joy and excitement they felt when they listened to Nehemiah and knew, just knew, that God was going to do a mighty work.

That is when their enemies—and the Enemy—attacked: “But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. ‘What is this you are doing?’ they asked. ‘Are you rebelling against the king?’” (v. 19). The people now had a decision to make: Would they walk away from the task because of the scorn and mockery of others? Would they second-guess their God and what He called them to do? Or would they trust the Lord, pick up their tools, and get to work?

The very next verse tells us their response, and it gives us an important strategy in similar situations. Rather than believe the enemies’ lies, Nehemiah focused on what he knew was true: “I answered them by saying, ‘The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it’” (v. 20).

When God gives us a task, we should not listen to those who question and ridicule. Consider all the people who undertook what seemed impossible for God: Noah, Joshua, Mary, Peter. Keep your focus on Him. God will give you success!

PRAYER(S):

God, Your idea of success doesn’t always align with ours. Teach us to measure our success according to Your standards. May our focus be on loving and obeying You, more than on concrete results. We rely on Your wisdom and guidance.

QUOTE: *“The best response to mockery is to rise above it and let your success be your greatest revenge.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 17-18; 2 Corinthians 2

G. P. A. Hymn 490 – Who would raise the fallen Jacob?

Thursday, 11th September 2025

TOO GOOD TO SERVE

Text(s): Nehemiah 3:1-32

Key Verse: *“There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.”* – 1 Corinthians 12:5

Nehemiah shared God’s work, encouraged the people, and rejected the scorn of naysayers. But it was God’s people who got to work rebuilding Jerusalem’s walls. The chapter may seem a bit boring—it simply lists off people and the sections of the wall they rebuilt. It’s kind of like the list of acknowledgments at the back of a book, except that it comes right at the front. But if you take the time to read through the people and the work they did, it’s absolutely fascinating. Everyone went to work including goldsmiths, priests, Levites—people who relied on a wide variety of work to support their families pitched in to rebuild the broken-down wall, towers, and gates surrounding Jerusalem. What could have been a huge almost unsurmountable task, became possible when so many contributed. This was an equalizing team effort if there ever was one!

However, verse 5 singles out a group who refused to help: The “nobles [from Tekoa] would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.” They apparently didn’t want to work for a boss other than themselves. They apparently viewed themselves as too important, too powerful, too big to humble themselves and join the rest of God’s people in rebuilding Jerusalem.

As Christians, we must resist the temptation to think of ourselves as “better than.” Instead, we should remember that we are all part of one body, and no part is more important than another (see 1 Cor. 12:12–27). What can you do today to develop humility and a heart to serve the Lord in any capacity?

PRAYER(S):

We need You to foster genuine humility in us; we struggle not to fall into an extreme either of conceit or self-loathing. Rather than trying to manufacture the proper feelings, teach us to dwell on Your glorious nature and to love You.

QUOTE: *“No one is too good to serve; in serving others, we find the true essence of our own greatness.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 19-20; 2 Corinthians 3

G. P. A. Hymn 428 – How sweet the voice of Jesus sound

Friday, 12th September 2025

FACING DOWN OPPOSITION

Text(s): Nehemiah 4:1-14

Key Verse: *“Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome.” – Nehemiah 4:14*

Have you ever experienced a time in your life when it felt like everyone and everything was against you? Everywhere you turned, you faced the enemy’s fiery darts. Such times call us to trust in the Lord and stand firm in our faith. In today’s reading, Nehemiah and the rest of those rebuilding Jerusalem continued to face opposition.

Nehemiah 4:1–3 recounts the taunts that Sanballat and Tobiah lobbed at the Jewish people—and not just privately. Sanballat ridiculed them “in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria” (v. 2). They derided the people, calling them “feeble,” along with their work—“even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!” (v. 3).

Nehemiah sprang into action, showing believers even today how to address opposition to God’s work. First, Nehemiah prayed (vv. 4–6). This isn’t the sort of prayer we are accustomed to. Nehemiah asked God to turn the enemies’ taunts back on them, even imploring God to “not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight” (v. 5). Prayers like this (see also Psalms 58, 109) show that it is good and right to bring all of our concerns to the Lord. When we leave vengeance to the Lord, we are free to forgive our enemies.

Second, the people got back to work (v. 6), even though the opposition continued (vv. 7–14). The continued opposition led the people to pray more and even take a third step—they readied themselves for battle. They trusted God’s sovereignty, but they also prepared appropriately. Finally, Nehemiah encouraged the people: “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes” (v. 14).

We each react in different ways to opposition. But Nehemiah’s example helps us remember to keep on task and to trust God, even when the going gets tough. Remember these four points when you face trouble.

PRAYER(S):

There is so much potential for fear—fear that we made the wrong choice, that we heard You wrong, that those who ridicule us are right. Lord, we need to hear and recognize Your voice. We can face anything if You are with us.

QUOTE: *“In the face of opposition, remember that every setback is a setup for a greater comeback.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 21-22; 2 Corinthians 4

G. P. A. Hymn 399 – Christian seek not yet repose

Saturday, 13th September 2025

WEAPONS AT THE READY

Text(s): Nehemiah 4:15-23

Key Verse: *“Our God will fight for us!”* – Nehemiah 4:20

Today’s reading in Nehemiah helps us understand the relationship between God’s sovereignty and human responsibility. It shows what it means to trust God while also being fully prepared. Nehemiah presents these two concepts as both/and, not either/or. The passage starts with Nehemiah recounting that the Jewish people’s enemies knew “that God had frustrated” their plot to stop the rebuilding project, and “we all returned to the wall, each to our own work” (v. 15).

However, the Jewish people didn’t just return to the work as if everything was fine. No, Nehemiah shows both the importance of trusting in God and doing what was in their power to do. He put a plan in place to protect the people from their enemies as they worked. Half of Nehemiah’s men continued to work on the wall, while the other half armed themselves with “spears, shields, bows and armor” (v. 16). The folks carrying supplies “did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other” (v. 17). Every construction worker “wore his sword at his side while he worked,” and the trumpeter, who would sound the alarm if attacked, stayed with Nehemiah (v. 18). Thankfully, no fighting ensued, but Nehemiah assured them, “Our God will fight for us!” (v. 20). Nehemiah showed what it means to trust God fully while also preparing for adversity.

What does it mean for you to balance trust and preparation? Nehemiah teaches us how to prepare well and move forward in faith, even in the face of opposition!

PRAYER(S):

Lord Jesus, in Matthew 10:16 You told Your disciples, “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” As we strive to honor You, help us to exemplify this shrewd innocence.

QUOTE: *“Readiness is not merely about having the right tools; it’s about the courage to face adversity with confidence and resolve.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 23-24; 2 Corinthians 5

G. P. A. Hymn 407 – Soldier of Christ arise

Sunday, 14th September 2025

DEFENDING THE WEAK

Text(s): Nehemiah 5:1-13

Key Verse: *“What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?”* – **Nehemiah 5:9**

When asked about the most important law in the Old Testament, Jesus famously responded that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength (Matt. 22:37). No one listening to Him would have disagreed, most certainly not the Pharisees who were questioning Him. But then Jesus went on, saying that “the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’” (v. 39). In the midst of the people’s courageous rebuilding of Jerusalem’s walls—an act of loving God, to be sure—the people of Israel had failed to keep the command that “is like it.” Rather than loving their neighbors, the powerful people in Jerusalem were exploiting the poor.

When we see this sort of injustice, it is easy for us to turn the other way and say, “It’s not my business.” We may assume: “They have made bad decisions to become so poor. You reap what you sow!” But that was not Nehemiah’s response. Rather than cast blame on the impoverished, Nehemiah became “very angry” (v. 6) and confronted the “nobles and officials” for their sin and called them to stop charging interest on their loans (v. 7). Not content with the leaders’ word that they would make restitution, Nehemiah made them vow to keep their word. And he even uttered a curse against them should they renege on their promise.

Perhaps most important, he recognized that this was a theological issue. Nehemiah stated that poor leadership is a failure to fear God which will incite “the reproach of our Gentile enemies” (v. 9). Jesus would point out centuries later—we cannot separate loving God from loving our neighbor. If we fail in the latter, it shows we are failing in the former.

What does it look like to truly love God and love your neighbor? Pray and ask God to show you if you have failed to show this type of love to “your neighbor.” Then ask God to help you make it right with that person or a group of people.

PRAYER(S):

While it can be difficult to love You without Your physical presence, it is often even harder to love those who are physically with us. We owe it to You to extend grace to others made in Your image. Help us love our neighbors.

QUOTE: *“The greatest among us are those who use their strength to protect and uplift the vulnerable.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 25-27; 2 Corinthians 6

G. P. A. Hymn 302 – Jesus lover of my soul

Monday, 15th September 2025

LIVE GENEROUSLY

Text(s): Nehemiah 5:14-19

Key Verse: *“Remember me with favor, my God, for all I have done for these people.”* – Nehemiah 5:19

If you’ve watched shows such as *Downton Abbey* or *Upstairs, Downstairs*, you know that in England, the nobility lived in an entirely different world than the serving class. The same wealth gap existed in Nehemiah’s time.

The nobles and officials in Jerusalem were exploiting the poor by charging them exorbitant interest on loans. This was money they needed to cover their basic living expenses. Nehemiah challenged these leaders to live generously. By doing so, they would be showing God’s love.

In addition to not charging interest on his own loans to the poor people in Jerusalem, Nehemiah refused to take what was his by virtue of his position. As the king’s “appointed...governor in the land of Judah” (v. 14), Nehemiah could have demanded that the people provide food for him and his entire court. But unlike the political leaders before him, Nehemiah refused to do this. In addition to refusing to tax the people, he participated in the manual labor required to rebuild the city walls. Nehemiah refused to prey upon those he led, and he was “angry” at those who did so (v. 6). He led by example, giving up the luxury he could have demanded for the good of the people. Even more, in verses 17 and 18 we learn that Nehemiah paid out of his own pocket for “a hundred and fifty Jews and officials...as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations” to eat at his table.

For his generosity, Nehemiah asks God to “remember me with favor” (v. 19). Nehemiah understood that riches in this world will soon pass. Rather than fill his own coffers, he gave generously to the people he led. Rather than demand his rights, Nehemiah served his people.

We tend to look at our bank balance and worldly possessions as “mine.” After all, we earned them! How does this passage challenge that belief? How can you give up your “rights” in order to show God’s love to others?

PRAYER(S):

We often place a high value on our rights. As we examine our hearts, show us, Lord, if we have made an idol of them. Help us count others as more important than ourselves so they can see Your love in action.

QUOTE: *“The more you give, the richer you become in heart and spirit.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 28-29; 2 Corinthians 7

G. P. A. Hymn 431 – O God, my God, my all Thou art

Tuesday, 16th September 2025

REFUSING TO COWER

Text(s): Nehemiah 6:1-14

Key Verse: *"I prayed, 'Now strengthen my hands.'" – Nehemiah 6:9*

In 1895, a young woman named Amy Carmichael came to India where she made it her life's mission to rescue orphaned temple children. Amy founded the Dohnavur Fellowship which included nurseries, cottage homes, hospitals, and schools. But the young missionary encountered fierce opposition. Amy refused to give up, saying, "When I consider the cross of Christ, how can anything that I do be called sacrifice?"

Nehemiah also encountered intense challenges. When Nehemiah's enemies learned the building project was successful, they were angry. Their mockery and collusion had come to nothing; the wall had been rebuilt. Still unwilling to submit to the Lord, they hatched a plot to physically harm Nehemiah. When he saw through their plans and refused to meet them outside Jerusalem's walls, Sanballat (Samaria's governor) sent a letter accusing Nehemiah of subversion. The accusation could have spelled Nehemiah's doom at the hands of the Persian king.

Nehemiah responded to Sanballat's lie with the best possible remedy: the truth: "Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just making it up out of your head" (v. 8). Nehemiah then did his usual best thing—he prayed.

Have you experienced the sort of relentless opposition that Nehemiah faced? I certainly haven't, and I don't imagine that I would be as consistently faithful as Nehemiah has been. His trust in the Lord, refusal to stray from the task at hand, and unwillingness to play the same games as his enemies show us a clear path for navigating opposition, should we ever face it (and Jesus promises we will!). May we, like Nehemiah, remain faithful to the Lord, humbly dependent on Him, and focused on what the Lord calls us to do, come what may!

What are you praying about that requires steadfast prayer, even in the face of direct opposition? Jot down a few concrete steps you can take to cultivate a life of prayer and trust like we have seen in Nehemiah.

PRAYER(S):

All of us are ultimately accountable to You for our actions. Keep us steadfast in obeying You, even when others oppose us. Make Your will clear to us so we can be confident that we are acting on Your authority, not our own.

QUOTE: *"The true measure of strength is not in how we avoid challenges, but in how we confront them with courage and resolve."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Proverbs 30-31; 2 Corinthians 8

G. P. A. Hymn 129 – Go forth and preach all my gospel

Wednesday, 17th September 2025

THE WALL IS FINISHED!

Text(s): Nehemiah 6:15-16

Key Verse: *“They realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.” – Nehemiah 6:16*

Do you remember the last time you successfully finished something you thought could never be accomplished? I remember the moment my wife delivered our oldest son after 48 hours of labor. I held his tiny hand while the doctors attended to him, then stumbled outside to cry with sheer relief that the Lord had brought my son into the world and kept my wife here. (For the record: my wife remembers it all much more happily, but she’s an eternal optimist.)

The rebuilding of Jerusalem’s walls had gone astonishingly fast—it took a mere 52 days to complete the project, which was finished in early October of 445 BC (v. 15). Archaeological excavations have proven what God’s Word indicates; the construction of the wall was very rough and uneven, as one would expect from a quickly completed project. And though the new wall did not traverse the entirety of Jerusalem before the Babylonian invasion and destruction in 586 BC, it still enclosed about six acres.

For six chapters we have read of Nehemiah’s faith in the Lord in the face of enormous obstacles. He and the people faced ridicule, death threats, and opposition at every turn, yet they stayed “prayed up” and put their trust in the Lord. They used wisdom and worked hard, and the Lord made their efforts succeed. What’s more, their work testified of the Lord to the unbelievers around them: “When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God” (v. 16). The rebuilding mattered for God’s people, of course, but it also was a key way for the Lord to show His grace, goodness, and power to the unbelievers who lived near Jerusalem.

What walls have been rebuilt in your life? Share this victory story with someone today, pointing them to God as the One who makes possible what to us seems impossible!

PRAYER(S):

Perfect happiness is unattainable; even the happiest marriage requires immense sacrifice. Yet total despair is also impossible when we know You. There are countless victories we can praise You for, including our own repentance and faith!

QUOTE: *“The wall may be finished, but the true reward lies in the perseverance and effort it took to reach the end.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ecclesiastes 1-3; 2 Corinthians 9

G. P. A. Hymn 499 – Blessed invitation from the King of heaven

Thursday, 18th September 2025

BEWARE OF CORRUPTION

Text(s): Nehemiah 6:17-19

Key Verse: *“A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.”* – Galatians 5:9

We’ve all heard that “Bad company corrupts good morals” or “One rotten apple spoils the whole barrel”. Jesus gave a similar warning, “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and the Sadducees” (Matt. 16:6). And the apostle Paul observed: “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough” (Gal. 5:9).

These sayings all make the same important point: It only takes a little bit of compromise, a little bit of sin, a little bit of going along with evil people to corrupt our whole lives. After all their work resisting their enemies in the first six chapters of Nehemiah, and after the walls are finally completed, we read that some of the “nobles of Judah” were in cahoots with Tobiah, who had staunchly opposed the rebuilding efforts. You may be shocked that such betrayal came so quickly on the heels of their victory. That didn’t take long!

These nobles were “under oath” to Tobiah because he had enmeshed himself and his family with “important” people in Judah through marriage—marriages that would not have happened if the people of Judah had kept their word not to marry non- Israelites (see Ezra 10:10–11).

These nobles wanted to bring peace between Nehemiah and Tobiah and used an all-too-familiar tactic: “He’s not such a bad guy, Nehemiah. You just need to give him a chance. Look at all the good things he’s done!” Nehemiah, though, would not be deceived by the nobles’ positive spin on Tobiah. After all, Tobiah had again revealed his true character when he “sent letters to intimidate” Nehemiah (v. 19). Whether the nobles genuinely believed Tobiah was a good person, we do not know. But we can be certain that his rottenness spread through their ranks.

We always need to be on guard against even the slightest compromise in our life that will lead us away from following God. One small choice, one wrong decision can corrupt everything. Why take that risk?!

PRAYER(S):

Teach us how to avoid compromise while extending grace and compassion toward those who don’t know You: “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you” (Ps. 89:14).

QUOTE: *“Stay alert and uphold honesty to guard against its insidious effects.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ecclesiastes 4-6; 2 Corinthians 10

G. P. A. Hymn 355 – Fight the good fight with all thy might

Friday, 19th September 2025

GENERATION AFTER GENERATION

Text(s): Nehemiah 7:5-73

Key Verse: *“I will sing of the LORD’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.” – Psalm 89:1*

First, genealogies cover a lot of ground in a short time. For example, Jesus’ genealogy in Luke 3 brings readers all the way from creation to the birth of the Messiah. Second, genealogies prove a person’s heritage. That was especially important for the priests and Levites, who had to be from a certain family in order to minister at the Temple, for the returning exiles, and of course for Jesus, because the promised Messiah would be a son of David (Jer. 23:5; 2 Sam. 7:12–16; Isa. 11:1). We know He is a descendant of David because of His genealogy!

Finally, genealogies record God’s faithfulness through the generations. My oldest son’s middle name is Zechariah, which means “the Lord remembers.” My wife and I named him Zechariah because the Lord remembered us (his parents) repeatedly throughout our lives. We wanted to remind our son that God would be faithful to him. So, as we read through the lists of names in Scripture, let us ponder God’s faithfulness to these saints who have gone before us, and let us trust Him to care for us as well.

How has God been faithful to your family? Take some time to share stories with your family of God’s faithfulness and make it a priority to tell of His goodness to your children.

PRAYER(S):

In the words of Isaiah, Your prophet, we pray, “Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago” (Isa. 25:1).

QUOTE: *“The impact of our actions is measured not just by their immediate effects but by how they shape the world for future.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ecclesiastes 7-9; 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

G. P. A. Hymn 136 – Jesus shall reign where’re the sun

Saturday, 20th September 2025

MAKING SCRIPTURE CLEAR

Text(s): Nehemiah 8:1-8

Key Verse: *“They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.” – Nehemiah 8:8*

Do you have a favorite passage of Scripture, one that always brings you comfort, or hope, or joy, or peace? Today’s reading is one of those passages for me. As a teacher of Scripture, my heart soars when I read the long list of names in verses 4 and 8 of those who helped the people understand God’s Word. I may never be an Ezra or a Nehemiah—it’s not what God has called me to. But there’s a whole string of “nobodies” in this passage whom God allowed to teach and serve His people. That’s encouraging!

There are a few other reasons this passage is a favorite of mine. First, the group listening to Scripture included “men and women and all who were able to understand” (v. 2). Scripture is for everyone! It isn’t only for men, and it isn’t only for adults. The assembly gathered to learn Scripture included women and children as well. That seems normal to our 21st century minds, but it was remarkable in Nehemiah’s day and time that women and children would be included along with the men—and it’s a pattern Jesus continues in the New Testament.

Second, those teaching made sure the people understood Scripture. The teachers were “making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read” (v. 8). God wants to communicate with His people—He wants us to understand His Scripture clearly and plainly. And He has given us people to help us understand, so we can apply His Word, knowing and loving Him and others. Third, the people who gathered to learn Scripture worshiped the Lord. Learning Scripture should always provoke us to worship its Author and our Creator.

How does this passage speak to your heart and life? God wants you to understand His Word, to worship Him, and to realize that Scripture is for all people, not just some! The Bible is for everybody. That’s why we at Today in the Word are dedicated to sharing God’s life-changing Word!

PRAYER(S):

It is encouraging to be reminded that You intend us to understand Your Word. Scripture is meant to be accessible to everyone! Help us therefore to be diligent in our study of Your Word, enlighten us by Your Holy Spirit.

QUOTE: *“Bridge the gap between ancient wisdom and contemporary understanding, bringing its timeless truths to life.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ecclesiastes 10-12; 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

G. P. A. Hymn 264 – Holy Bible book divine

Sunday, 21st September 2025

THE JOY OF UNDERSTANDING

Text(s): Nehemiah 8:9-12

Key Verse: *“This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” – Nehemiah 8:10*

Have you ever attended a wedding reception? It’s one of my favorite events. I love the food, the cake, and the smiles plastered on everyone’s faces. Most of all I love that it makes me think of my own marriage and all the joy, life, and hope wrapped up in that relationship. These few verses in Nehemiah recall a similar occasion, where God’s people were filled with overwhelming joy and hope for the future.

Ezra and his associates had just finished helping the people of God understand Scripture. The people, understandably, “had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law” (v. 9). They had likely realized all the ways in which they had failed to obey the Lord, and the Spirit was convicting them of sin. That is a good and right response, and I only wish that we would all more fully recognize our sin that we would respond with weeping at the Spirit’s conviction.

However, Nehemiah quickly tells the people that this was not the day for weeping and mourning. It was more like a wedding reception, a time of “choice food and sweet drinks” (v. 10). What’s more, the people were to “send some [food and drinks] to those who have nothing prepared.” They were not to keep the joy to themselves; instead, they were to live out the command to love their neighbor by providing for those who did not have any with them.

What was the reason for all the rejoicing and feasting? “They now understood the words that had been made known to them” (v.12). There is great joy in understanding Scripture! Just like the feasts after weddings, understanding Scripture is a cause to rejoice and to share that joy with the people around us.

Does God’s Word bring you joy? When we let His truth sink into our heart, it can bring a deep sense of personal conviction and repentance. But it can also bring joy that goes beyond anything the world offers!

PRAYER(S):

We rejoice in understanding Scripture, because to know Your Word is to know You! You are the source of all reason, hope, and justice in this life; because of You we can both endure suffering and embrace joy.

QUOTE: *“Understanding brings a profound joy, as it connects us more deeply with ourselves, others, and the world around us.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Song of Solomon 1-3; 2 Corinthians 12

G. P. A. Hymn 260 – The Bible everlasting book

Monday, 22nd September 2025

RETURNING TO OBEDIENCE

Text(s): Nehemiah 8:13-18

Key Verse: *“From the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God.” – Nehemiah 8:18*

Have you ever been on a camping trip? I’ve been on several such trips, spending the evenings around the campfire and sleeping on the ground in a tent. Well, today’s passage describes something sort of like that, but also significantly different.

After the celebration of their newfound understanding of Scripture, as recorded in Nehemiah 8, most of the people went home. The family leaders, though, stayed behind and continued to study Scripture. They learned about the Festival of Booths, a weeklong celebration of God’s deliverance of Israel from Egypt. They erected temporary houses, “booths,” or what we might think of as “tents” (though much different from our modern tents). These temporary dwellings reminded the people of their journey out of Egypt and God’s miraculous works on their behalf.

After learning about this festival, the heads of each family sent out word to those who had gone home to return and bring materials to build the “booths.” The people obeyed God’s Word, celebrating God’s redemption in a way they hadn’t since “the days of Joshua son of Nun” (v. 17). This reference to Joshua is significant because it connects the people returning from exile in Babylon to the people of Israel whom God brought out of Egypt. These are the people of God! Ezra read Scripture daily, and God’s people experienced enormous joy as they obeyed God’s Word.

Can you imagine what it would look like today to obey Scripture in this way? The people in Jerusalem knew nothing of this festival. But when they learned of it and realized the time for it was right then, they rearranged their lives and schedules to do what God had commanded them to do. It is no wonder they experienced such joy. Satisfaction in life comes when we obey the Lord.

Is there a time in your life when you obeyed the Lord so radically and immediately? Is God calling you to such obedience now? Do not delay!

PRAYER(S):

Sometimes we obey You with reluctance. But even when we drag our feet, we receive Your grace. We ask that You give us joy in obedience, just as the Israelites found joy in celebrating the festival You ordained.

QUOTE: *“Rediscover the peace and direction that comes from aligning our actions with our deepest convictions.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Song of Solomon 4-5; 2 Corinthians 13

G. P. A. Hymn 185 – I am coming to the cross

Tuesday, 23rd September 2025

READ, CONFESS, WORSHIP

Text(s): Nehemiah 9:1-5

Key Verse: *“They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the LORD their God.” – Nehemiah 9:3*

We read that the “Israelites gathered together” with outward signs of inward repentance (v. 1). They did not just say they were sorry—they demonstrated their repentance through wearing sackcloth, “putting dust on their heads,” and fasting (v. 1). What’s more, the people had “separated themselves from all foreigners” and were publicly confessing “their sins and the sins of their ancestors” (v. 2). Put another way, these people’s actions matched their words—they were not simply paying lip service. The next half of the day they spent partially in reading Scripture and partially in worship and even more confession of sin.

I don’t think this passage in Nehemiah is a manual for modern church services. (The services at my former church certainly didn’t go on all day like the one we read of here in Nehemiah!) But I do think they show us the value of turning our hearts toward the Lord regularly and corporately. I can tell you that I left services each week with a renewed heart for the Lord, because I had just spent a few hours confessing sin, reading Scripture, worshiping, and praying with other believers. Knowing I would be doing the same thing the next Sunday had a way of keeping me tethered to the Lord throughout the week.

Consider how you can incorporate these elements of prayer, confession and repentance, Scripture reading, and worship—all with other believers—into the regular pattern of your life. What might that look like for you?

PRAYER(S):

Thank You for the faithful friends and believers You have placed around us. As we cultivate relationships with them, please bless our efforts to honor You and encourage one another in the faith.

QUOTE: *“Engage in reading to seek truth, confess to receive grace, and worship to experience the fullness of divine love.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Song of Solomon 6-8; Galatians 1

G. P. A. Hymn 137 – I am coming to Jesus for rest

Wednesday, 24th September 2025

RIGHTLY REMEMBERING THE PAST

Text(s): Nehemiah 9:5-31

Key Verse: *“But they were disobedient and rebelled against you; they turned their backs on your law.”* – **Nehemiah 9:26**

Have you ever been tempted to remember something a bit differently than it happened? I may be the only one, but I tend to remember my sin as not so bad and to spin what I did (or didn't do) to make myself look better or feel better. The problem is that it's not honest, and if we are going to be in right relationship with God, we must be honest with ourselves, with the Lord, and with the people around us.

Nehemiah 9 shows us what radical honesty looks like in our prayer lives. First, the prayer in verses 5–31 is radically honest about who God is. The prayer draws heavily on Scripture to describe God's attributes and work in the world. Only the Lord is God, and He created everything. He called Abraham out of his country and established a relationship with him. He heard the Israelites' cries in Egypt and rescued them. He fed them spiritually with the Torah—“regulations and laws that are just and right” (v. 13)—and physically with food from heaven and water from a rock, and later He gave them land and great abundance. God is and has always been good.

Second, this prayer is radically honest about who the Israelites are. They rejected God repeatedly. They wanted to return to slavery in Egypt, and they cast an idol while Moses was on Mt. Sinai. They rejected God's word and His prophets, continually turning away from the God who saved them. The contrast between God and His people is stark.

The honesty shown here is key to a restored relationship between God and His people. We must tell the truth about God and about ourselves, and we must remember rightly our sins and His great goodness. Anything less simply will not do.

Take time today to get honest about who God is and who you are. What would it look like if we took this radically honest approach to prayer?

PRAYER(S):

“When they cried out to you again, you heard from heaven, and in your compassion, you delivered them time after time” (Neh. 9:28). Today we frankly confess our doubts, fears, and failures, confident in Your tireless mercy.

QUOTE: *“Cherish the lessons learned and use them to shape a better tomorrow.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 1-3; Galatians 2

G. P. A. Hymn 12 – Since Christ my soul from sin set free

Thursday, 25th September 2025

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Text(s): Nehemiah 9:32-38

Key Verse: *"In all that has happened to us, you have remained righteous; you have acted faithfully, while we acted wickedly."*
– Nehemiah 9:33

Sometimes, the distressing situation we find ourselves in is a result of our own poor choices. Sin has consequences, and we live with the fall because of our disobedience. Nehemiah chapter 9 ends with a plea to God: "We are in great distress" (v. 37). God's people had just prayed a prayer, being radically honest before God. They conclude by asking God to be faithful, just as He always has been. In their state of distress, they need Him!

Verse 32 opens with a quotation from Deuteronomy 10:17. If you're not familiar with the passage, take a few minutes to read verses 12–22. Here, the Lord reminds the people that He is the defender of widows, orphans, and foreigners and tells them to do the same. They are also to worship the Lord and Him alone.

Unfortunately, the Israelites did not do what the Lord required of them, and so they found themselves as "slaves in the land you gave our ancestors" (v. 36). They remind themselves that the Lord is a God who defends the powerless, a great comfort since they have found themselves in dire circumstances. "We are in great distress," they tell the Lord, and ask Him to be who He has already shown Himself to be – "the great God, mighty and awesome, who keeps his covenant of love" (v. 32).

Notice that they don't elevate themselves or remind Him of their accomplishments, or even base their request on their repentance. No, they fall upon God's mercy and base their requests on His character. This, I believe, is the most important thing we can learn from today's passage. Our only hope is in God, not in our own goodness or righteousness or deservedness (Isa. 64:6). When we pray, let us rest on the rock-solid foundation of who God is and never the shifting sands of who we are.

Make today's passage personal by praying that prayer for yourself. No matter what circumstance you may find yourself in, know that God is always faithful!
Pray with Us

PRAYER(S):

Because You are merciful, we approach Your throne; because You are just, we confess our sins; because You are holy, we repent. Because of Your love, we receive Your forgiveness. Through Your faithfulness, we grow in our faith.

QUOTE: *"No matter how uncertain the journey, His promises remain steadfast."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 4-6; Galatians 3

G. P. A. Hymn 322 – The holy must undaunted be

Friday, 26th September 2025

COVENANTING TO OBEY

Text(s): Nehemiah 10:1-39

Key Verse: *"We will not neglect the house of our God."* – Nehemiah 10:39

The first few verses contain a long list of names, something we've become familiar with in Nehemiah. This list records the names of the family heads who sealed the renewed covenant with the Lord after the prayers of confession, repentance, and worship in chapter 9. Recording names provided an important layer of accountability and community solidarity, just like walking down the aisle in my Baptist church. It meant that all the people in my community knew I had made a commitment to follow Jesus, repented for turning away from Him, or surrendered to the ministry.

Also important is verse 28, which states that everyone else, including "their wives and all their sons and daughters who are able to understand" also bound "themselves with a curse and an oath to follow the law of God." As we saw earlier, the inclusion of women and children shows that a relationship with God is open to everyone. Knowing God is not just for the family heads or the "important" people in society—it is for all of us! Praise the Lord for His open invitation for all to come to Him!

Have you given your life to Jesus? Are you a Christian but living in sin? Do you feel God calling you to ministry? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, call your pastor or a friend today and talk to them about it.

PRAYER(S):

We do not want to make a hasty vow to You, God, making promises we will never fulfill. Therefore, give us insight and discernment as we weigh Your calling on us! Move our hearts so that we can in truth say, "I will serve You."

QUOTE: *"Have a pledge to walk in faithfulness, trusting that each step of obedience leads to a greater fulfillment of our purpose."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 7-9; Galatians 4

G. P. A. Hymn 466 – Master speak! Thy servant heareth

Saturday, 27th September 2025

REPOPULATING THE HOLY CITY

Text(s): Nehemiah 11:1-36

Key Verse: *"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps."* – Proverbs 16:9

I really don't blame you if you skip over all the names in today's reading. We've already seen several such lists of names in Nehemiah, and this isn't even the last one! What I think is important in today's passage is that it shows the people's commitment to follow through in reestablishing Jerusalem, even when it meant leaving their home and moving their families to a new city. They had already banded together to rebuild the city's walls, but as anyone who has been on a short-term mission trip knows, staying a short time to help complete a task is much different from moving your entire family to live there.

Short-term missionary work is inconvenient, to be sure, but at the end of your trip you get to return home to your comfortable bed. Long-term missionaries are just that—long-term. They have decided to make their lives in a new and likely much different place. It certainly isn't easy, but missionaries feel so strongly called by God that they give up their "normal" lives to build a life in an unfamiliar place. This passage is not about missionaries, it is about making big changes and taking big risks to obey God.

Seek the Lord and ask if He is calling you to leave your comfortable life and move to a new place to serve Him there. Before you make any plans, ask God to determine your next steps!

PRAYER(S):

You don't call us to live difficult lives for the sake of difficulty. But for the sake of Your glory, You do often call Your servants into difficult circumstances. May we find joy in obedience and security in Your guidance.

QUOTE: *"Rekindle the sacred essence and foster a thriving community of believers."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 10-12; Galatians 5

G. P. A. Hymn 129 – Go forth and preach all my gospel

Sunday, 28th September 2025

THE WALLS DEDICATED

Text(s): Nehemiah 12:27-43

Key Verse: *“And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy.”* – **Nehemiah 12:43**

Think about your favorite book or movie or television show. What was the best part? What do you remember most fondly? Every good story moves up, up, up, with building tension, action, and conflict, until finally you reach the story’s high point, or climax, and then the action falls off and the story ends. We’ll get to the falling off and ending soon in the book of Nehemiah, but chapter 12 is the climax: the dedication of Jerusalem’s walls.

After another long list of names in verses 1–26, verses 27–43 recount the great celebration that accompanied the dedication of the walls—and there are even more names interspersed throughout this section. There are a few things we can take away from Nehemiah’s description of the festivities.

First, there is a reason for this list of names. I think the author wants us to understand that this was celebration not confined to Nehemiah and those closest to him. This was not a top-down effort enforced upon the people. No, this celebration encompassed all of the people. As with the repentance and study of Scripture described earlier in Nehemiah, God’s work was for all people, not just men, the elite, or the super-spiritual. The same remains true today!

Second, this section is overflowing with descriptions of joy. There was great singing, rejoicing, playing of music, and sacrifices offered to the Lord for His goodness to His people. The people are not at all shy about being loud in their praise of God, so much that “the sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away” (v. 43). We serve a great God; may we learn to rejoice in His goodness like the people of Judah in today’s passage!

Why not make today a celebration of God’s goodness? Let your heart be filled with joy as you remember all He has done for you. Maybe take out the special dishes and put on some music. Invite everyone in your house to join in!

PRAYER(S):

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with [You] through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand” (Rom. 5:1–2).

QUOTE: *“The true measure of dedication is not just in the strength of the walls we build, but in the spirit and purpose behind their creation.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 13-15; Galatians 6

G. P. A. Hymn 425 – All to Jesus I surrender

Monday, 29th September 2025

PROVIDING FOR TEMPLE SERVICE

Text(s): Nehemiah 12:44-47

Key Verse: *“Since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love, we have kindled in you— see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” – 2 Corinthians 8:7*

Pastor and author A. W. Tozer once observed, “As base a thing as money often is, yet it can be transmuted into everlasting treasure. It can be converted into food for the hungry and clothing for the poor. It can keep a missionary actively winning lost men to the light of the gospel and thus transmute itself into heavenly values. Any temporal possession can be turned into everlasting wealth. Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality.” Giving is an important topic that appears throughout the Old and New Testaments. But in Nehemiah 12 we are reminded that God’s people are to support spiritual leaders.

The musicians, gatekeepers, Levites, and descendants of Aaron were responsible for the functioning of the Lord’s Temple. In modern terms, we might compare them to the pastors and staff of the church. But there is a significant difference.

Ancient Israel was an agrarian society, so their livelihood was tied to their ability to cultivate land. That means you had to own land to cultivate. That’s where the difficulty lies—the tribe of Levi (the priests and Levites) owned no land, for “the LORD is their inheritance” (Deut. 10:9). With no land to produce their income, they had to rely on the gifts and offerings of the rest of Israel to provide for them and their families. God’s people were instructed to give, so that their need would be fully met.

The New Testament also teaches the importance of giving. We are to provide for “the elders who direct the affairs of the church” (1 Tim. 5:17). If our shepherds are to have time and mental space to care well for their flock, we should give generously to support them.

Do you support the ministry of your local church, pastors, or missionaries? One way we can use our money for good is to invest in God’s work. Consider how you can invest in eternity by supporting those who are committed to vocational ministry.

PRAYER(S):

Lord, as we strive to steward our resources wisely, help us stay open for opportunities to give. Whether we are relatively wealthy or poor, may we be cheerful givers. It is a privilege to be part of Your work in this way!

QUOTE: *“Reflect your commitment to uphold and support the spiritual heart of our community.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 16-18; Ephesians 1

G. P. A. Hymn 421 – My life, my love, I give to Thee

Tuesday, 30th September 2025

A NEED TO REPENT

Text(s): Nehemiah 13:1-9

Key Verse: *"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* – **Luke 5:32**

What does it mean to repent? It is one thing to feel sorry that you did wrong, it is another thing to truly repent. As Martin Luther said, "To do so [to sin] no more is the truest repentance."

The next several days in our study take a markedly darker turn. After all the repentance, the joyful worship, and the hard work that Nehemiah and the rest of God's people had done, it seems they all too quickly returned to business as usual. They turned away from the Lord and compromised their relationship with Him and with one another.

Tobiah is the one of the book's primary antagonists. He had consistently opposed Nehemiah and the efforts to rebuild Jerusalem. We watched as Nehemiah stood up against him and remained faithful to the Lord. However, when Nehemiah left, the people did not remain steadfast.

Eliashib was a priest responsible for caring for the Temple and ensuring proper worship of the Lord. He was also Tobiah's relative, and his loyalty to Tobiah outweighed his loyalty to the Lord. In fact, Eliashib took one of the rooms that should have been used to store the gifts and offerings people brought to the Temple and turned it into a nice living quarters for Tobiah!

We will soon learn the likely reason the room had been empty, but today simply take note that what had been intended for the flourishing of the Temple and its attendants was now being used for one the primary enemies of the restoration. Things had quickly fallen apart! Clearly God's people had not changed their ways with true repentance.

Is there an area of your life that should be reserved for the Lord, but you have been using it for something else? Maybe it is your money? Or perhaps it is your time? Spend some time in confession today asking God to show you His truth and to restore you to the right path before Him.

PRAYER(S):

Usually, we are our own greatest stumbling block in honoring You, Almighty God. Please convict us of areas in our lives that we have not submitted to You. Grant us mercy and joy in true repentance.

QUOTE: *"Have a call to renewal, an opportunity to turn from past mistakes and embrace a path of grace and transformation."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 19-21; Ephesians 2

G. P. A. Hymn 498 – Sinners, turn why will ye die

Wednesday, 1st October 2025

GLORIOUS FAMILY 1

Text(s): 1 Timothy 5:8

Confession: *"Finally be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous."* – **1 Peter 3:8**

G. P. A. Hymn 508 – God give us Christian homes

INTRODUCTION

A Christian home is a training ground where virtues are developed. It is a place of safety and security. It is a center for creativity and the transmission of values such as the importance of people, the idea of love, as well as moral and spiritual values. ensure your family altar is strong. Do something about it.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. By the blood of Jesus, I enter the Ark of Power and Glory, I robe myself with the garment of power and glory, in the name of Jesus.
2. Arrows from the grave fired to capture my glory, I am not your candidate, go back to your sender by fire in the name of Jesus.
3. O Ark of Glory, come into my tabernacle after the order of Obed-Edom, in the name of Jesus.
4. Glory of God, fertilize my destiny for testimonial fruits this year 2025 in the name of Jesus.
5. My Glory! My Glory!! My Glory!!! What are you doing in the prison yard of shame and stagnancy? Arise, break lose, jump out and manifest now by fire in the name of Jesus.
6. Strange powers that swallow glory, my life is not your candidate, therefore, die, in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 22-23; Ephesians 3

QUOTE: *"Families are the compass that guides us. They are the inspiration to reach great heights, and our comfort when we occasionally falter."*

Thursday, 2nd October 2025

YOUR GLORY AND YOUR BATTLE

Text(s): Isaiah 42:8

Confession: *“The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding go out to meet it.”* – **Thucydides**

G. P. A. Hymn 395 – Ho! My comrades, see the signal

INTRODUCTION

The issue of glory cannot be overemphasized, we cannot over talk when it comes to the issue of glory. Glory issue is a very serious issue, most times when people see you or are attracted to you it is not because of your name or clothe, the first thing people see when they see you is your glory, that is, there is something covering you. Every day we have glory killers, glory thieves or robbers looking for ways to steal, kidnap, arrest, cage and dismantle people’s glory. Today, every glory thief assigned against you shall be wasted in the name of Jesus.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Glory of the latter house, my life is available, appear now in the name of Jesus.
2. Any habit in my life warming up to nullify my opportunities, die in the name of Jesus.
3. Glory of God, possess my appearance in the name of Jesus.
4. As the Lord liveth, I will not use my hand to assassinate my glory in the name of Jesus.
5. Glory killers of my father’s house, my case is different, die in the name of Jesus.
6. Weapons fashioned against my glory, catch fire in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 24-26; Ephesians 4

QUOTE: *“Your hardest times often lead to the greatest moments of your life. Keep going. Tough situations build strong people in the end.”*

Friday, 3rd October 2025

GLORIOUS FAMILY 2

Text(s): Matthew 13:24-30

Confession: *“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” – Isaiah 30:21*

G. P. A. Hymn 508 – God give us Christian homes

INTRODUCTION

One way the devil kill people is through sleep – Matthew 13:25. Worthy of note is if you sleep for 8 hours in a day, by the time you are thirty years old you will have slept for 10 years. If you love sleep, just imagine anointing and money getting out of your life. The night hour is when great men and women get insights. The spiritual aspect of the glory is the ultimate. Ensure that you embark on this aggressive prayer to get back your glory.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Any altar stopping firstborn from moving forward in my family, may fire of God come upon that altar in the name of Jesus.
2. Every evil siege placed on my family, that has resulted into stagnancy, limitation of progress, failure, etc. let the anointing of God break every yoke in the name of Jesus.
3. Every spirit that has stolen your glory, in the name of Jesus, let the fire and judgement of God come upon it now.
4. Every family under demonic siege, by the mention of the name of Jesus I declare, be set free now!
5. Wicked spirits causing failure in my family, I decree, lose your powers now, in the name of Jesus.
6. Father, release every family from witchcraft, curse and yoke in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 27-28; Ephesians 5

QUOTE: *“The love of a family is life's greatest blessing.”*

Saturday, 4th October 2025

NEGLECTING THE HOUSE OF GOD

Text(s): Nehemiah 13:10-14

Key Verse: *"Why is the house of God neglected?"* – Nehemiah 13:11

Many churches, especially small congregations with very few full-time staff, will host a workday. On that day, members come together to complete much needed fix-it projects and generally clean up the building and property. They treat their church building with respect and care.

In Nehemiah 13, we read that the people of Judah had neglected the house of God. They had stopped bringing tithes to the Temple. This disobedience had a direct and negative impact on the "Levites and musicians" and the effects cascaded down to all the people of Judah. The Levites and musicians relied on Judah's tithes for their own well-being. Since the tithes were no longer being given, these workers had to leave the Temple and return to their land, so they could make a living and provide for their families (v. 10).

The end result? The Temple could no longer function as it should, and worship had stopped. This might not seem like a big deal to us today, but it was a very, very big deal because the Jerusalem Temple was the only place where sacrifices could be offered to the Lord. Simply put, the worship God commanded had ceased. Dismayed at this behavior, Nehemiah once again sprang into action and set the people straight.

Following the death and resurrection of Jesus, the procedure for and positions related to worship changed. We no longer need priests and Levites to slaughter animals for sacrifice, and our worship services look a lot different (Heb. 7:27). Even so, this episode in Nehemiah reminds us how important it is to support our local churches. When we give generously and obediently, our pastors are freed to make leading the church their main priority.

If you are a member of a local church, your giving is an act of obedience to God! When you give generously, you help make sure your pastors are supported and worship can continue. Consider how you can participate through the act of giving.

PRAYER(S):

As our tithes sustain our pastors physically, we ask You to sustain them spiritually as they teach Your Word and lead Your people. We give in obedience, believing in Your sovereignty.

QUOTE: *"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 29-30; Ephesians 6

G. P. A. Hymn 25 – Oh for a heart to praise my God

Sunday, 5th October 2025

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

Text(s): Prov. 24:3-4, Deut. 6:6-7

Key Verse: *"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."* – Joshua 24:15

The Christian Church cannot flourish without the Christian home. The Christian home is the backbone of the nation, the salt of civilization.

A Christian home is an institution where parents are bound together by Christian love, where children are welcome and scripturally instructed and the Lord Jesus is not only the supposed Head of the home, but the actual Head; where parent and children gather daily for family worship.

A Christian home is a place where members of the family enjoy rest, privacy, a sense of security and learn to work, play, pray and plan together. A Christian home is one in which the members learn to regard one another as having equal rights; where loyalty, honesty and co-operation are practiced and learned by each member of the family team.

A Christian home is the one that radiates Christ, welcomes strangers and dispenses hospitality without measures. A Christian home consist of a God-fearing father, God fearing mother and God fearing children. God has placed the husband as the head of the home. Eph. 5 :23 "for the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the Church". This is the order and the home that reverses it breaks God's plan and destroys the peace of that home.

Parents, be sure that you bring your children to Sunday school and church, teach the children Bible stories at home and give them a part in family prayers, teach them to obey God and the laws of the country. The secret of a successful Christian home is in the family altar where Christ is crowned as Head of the house.

PRAYER(S):

O God, we lift our prayer to you, may our home be blessed with your presence and held securely in your care, even if difficult times come grant us the faith to know that our home is always in your heavenly kingdom.

Father God, I pray for protection around our home and those who live in it. Thank you for the gift of my family and this house, Lord, keep evil far from us and protect us from harm.

QUOTE: *"The light of a Christian home shines brightest when Christ is the foundation."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 31-33; Philippians 1

G. P. A. Hymn 508 – God give us Christian homes

Monday, 6th October 2025

FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE

Text(s): Nehemiah 13:23-29

Key Verse: *“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common?”* – 2 Corinthians 6:14

Contemporary readers may be shocked by Nehemiah’s behavior in today’s passage, especially in this age that celebrates inclusivity and diversity (v. 23). Nehemiah, however, offers two explanations for taking such extreme measures. First, the returned exiles were beginning to lose a common language (v. 25), making it difficult to communicate. Those who did not speak the language of Judah might lose access to the Word of God. Second, the religious views of those joining the community were not in line with the teaching of Scripture. Their faith was in jeopardy (v. 26).

Does God hate “foreigners” then? Far from it. Think of Ruth, Rahab, and the “mixed multitude” (Ex. 12:38 ESV) that left Egypt. These were non-Israelites who became Israelites through their faith in the Lord. They were fully integrated into Israel, with Ruth and Rahab becoming ancestors of Jesus Christ. Christ redeems people “from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Rev. 5:9).

The people of Judah showed willful disobedience, one more way they had turned away from following the Lord. When Nehemiah left, they reverted to old, sinful patterns. They went against commands and married “foreign women,” or non-Jewish women who did not follow Yahweh, the God of Israel. When God’s people chose to marry non-Israelites who did not worship the Lord, they were putting their relationship with God at risk. These women kept their previous devotion to other gods, and that devotion often turned God’s people away from Him and even caused them to commit idolatry.

When you enter a close or contractual relationship with another person, it has a significant influence on you. Examples might include a dating relationship or a business partner. Being commonly “yoked” by our faith in God is mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments. How should this knowledge shape your personal relationships and commitments?

PRAYER(S):

Thank You for the believing and unbelieving friends You have given us. We ask that You help us remain devoted to You, that our commitment to You will be an encouragement to other believers and a testimony to unbelievers.

QUOTE: *“Endure and boundary-define nature of love, even in the face of obstacles and societal restrictions.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 34-36; Philippians 2

G. P. A. Hymn 399 – Christian seek not yet repose

Tuesday, 7th October 2025

REMEMBER ME WITH FAVOUR

Text(s): Nehemiah 13:30-31

Key Verse: *“Remember me with favor, my God.”* – Nehemiah 13:31

What a journey we have taken this month! We traveled with Nehemiah from the Persian capital all the way to Jerusalem. We mourned over the devastation of Jerusalem and rejoiced when God’s favor fell upon His servant. We watched as he faced fierce opposition and displayed an even fiercer faith. Through it all, we learned the importance of trusting God no matter what we face.

In the final chapter of Nehemiah, we saw things fall quickly apart. The repentance of God’s people seemed short lived. They turned from following the Lord and returned to their former wicked ways. This last chapter may not be the happy ending we longed for, but there are some important life lessons.

First, Nehemiah’s ending encourages us to examine our own lives and relationships with God. What has your relationship with God looked like in the past? When God’s people were in times of trouble, they were always encouraged to remember what God had done for them (Ps. 77:11). Remembering God’s provision gives us courage for our future. If God helped us overcome in the past, we need not fear our next steps.

Second, we are reminded to remain faithful to the Lord. It means walking each day in obedience to God’s commands. Obedience shows our allegiance to Him and keeps us on the right path. We are warned not to swerve off the path, but to remain faithful, even in the absence of a strong leader.

This book ends with a striking plea: “Remember me with favor, my God” (v. 31). It reminds us of a similar phrase in the New Testament, words that believers long to hear from God at the end of our earthly journey: “Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Matt. 25:23).

What is one lesson you can take away from this study? Share what you have learned and invite someone to study Today in the Word with you! Next month, author Kelli Worrall helps us understand what the Bible says about being called by God.

PRAYER(S):

Father, the book of Nehemiah reminds us to be committed and vigilant in following You. We have learned to pray to You with honesty, with repentance, and with straightforward requests. We have seen Your mercy and holiness honored.

QUOTE: *“Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, and integrity, they think of you.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 37-38; Philippians 3

G. P. A. Hymn 182 – Pass me not, O gentle Savior

Wednesday, 8th October 2025

LOVE LIKE JESUS

Text(s): John 13:1-35

Key Verse: *"You also ought to wash one another's feet."* – John 13:14

We don't exactly know the details, but the Passover meal was in progress and the disciples' feet were dusty and dirty. Perhaps it was an honest oversight. Or maybe nobody wanted to take on the role of a servant. Regardless, Jesus saw this as a teaching opportunity. With a simple act, He would show His disciples how to love one another. After taking a towel and basin, He began washing every person's feet (including the feet of Judas!). Then Jesus said something that changed history: "A new command I give you: Love one another" (John 13:34).

But what was "new" about this command? The newness can be discovered in the words "as I have loved you." This command can be traced back to Leviticus 19:18, "love your neighbor as yourself." In washing the feet of His disciples, Jesus gives us an example to live by. Love is selfless and sacrificial. When we love like Jesus, we expand our faith from merely looking inwardly to our relationship with God to transforming how we treat those around us.

Loving one another like Jesus loved is the identifying mark of all believers (v. 35). Everything else falls under the umbrella of this command. It was, in fact, the love the disciples had for one another that made them stand out in the pagan societies of the first few centuries. For the early Christians, this command was not simply a mere suggestion, it controlled their lives. Loving one another like Jesus is our command as well. Christians today can make an impact in our godless societies by selflessly and humbly loving one another. Following Jesus' example of service is one of the many ways we can love and transform our communities.

Love often requires sacrifice. Consider what you may need to sacrifice to serve one another well. Is it your pride? Time? Resources? Whatever it may be, you will be fulfilling Jesus' new command.

PRAYER(S):

We love the concept of sacrificial love, but how difficult it is to carry out! Our natural inclinations war against self-sacrifice. But this is how You love us and how You command us to love others. Help us to love like You.

QUOTE: *"Be selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional in our love for others."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 39-40; Philippians 4

G. P. A. Hymn 144 – I want to be like Jesus

Thursday, 9th October 2025

FROM FAMINE TO FAMILY

Text(s): Genesis 45:1-15

Key Verse: *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good."* – **Genesis 50:20**

Claudia Black identifies three trademarks of a dysfunctional family in her book, *It Will Never Happen to Me*: (1) they don't communicate well (2) they don't trust one another (3) they don't allow themselves to be emotional. Let's face it, most families fall somewhere on the dysfunctional spectrum, including Joseph's.

Joseph's family was so dysfunctional that his brothers sold him into slavery. But God protected Joseph, moving him from the prison to the palace. Joseph was given a second chance and became Pharaoh's second in command. But then God gave him the biggest challenge of all. He would come face to face with the ones who had betrayed him the most, his dysfunctional family.

Since there was a famine in the land, Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt to buy grain (Gen. 42:1–8). When they arrived, they did not recognize Joseph; they thought he was dead. After the brothers journeyed back and forth a few times, Joseph revealed his identity: "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!" (45:4). To say they were shocked would be an understatement. They were terrified (v. 3). The brother whom they had tormented now held all the power.

God may give us a second chance for the sole purpose of giving others a second chance too. It would have been understandable if Joseph put his brothers in prison and threw away the key. But he forgave those who hurt him the most and reunited with his family (vv. 5–7). He knew God had a purpose: "It was not you who sent me here, but God" (v. 8). Because of his position, Joseph was able to provide for his family in their time of need. His brothers were given a second chance because Joseph saw things from God's perspective (vv. 9–15).

Are you harboring anger or hate toward someone? Pray that God will give you wisdom to see things from His perspective and offer someone else a second chance too.

PRAYER(S):

Lord Jesus, as we wrestle with conflict and resentment in certain relationships, please give us a true perspective—Your perspective. Show us with equal clarity what is the right thing to do.

QUOTE: *"Find strength in togetherness and hope in love."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 41-42; Colossians 1

G. P. A. Hymn 38 – When all thy mercies O my God

Friday, 10th October 2025

A FUTURE FAMILY

Text(s): Titus 2:1-15

Key Verse: *“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.” – Titus 2:11*

The island dwellers of Crete, otherwise known as Cretans, were notorious for lying, corruption, violence, and sexual sin. Located in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, Crete’s harbors were strategically placed to service cities all over the region. For these reasons, Paul saw the island of Crete as fertile soil for the gospel of Jesus, launching the message of Christ to the corners of the known world. To accomplish this, he sent his travel companion and trusted mentee, Titus, to the island. Titus would show them a better way of living: how to restore order to a number of house churches that were being deceived by the local leaders and how the family could be the first frontier for evangelism.

In our text today, Paul instructs Titus on how the Cretan Christian family ought to live with one another. He touches on every demographic: older men (v. 2), older women (v. 3), younger women (vv. 4–5), younger men (vv. 6–8), and even workers and servants in the household (vv. 9–10). In a culture that paid homage to idols, dishonesty, and regarded Caesar as the deity, having a family live above reproach was key. Paul believed that the gospel’s supremacy must prove its redemptive power in the public square while all eyes were on the Christian family unit.

Like those on the island of Crete, many people today live on islands of sin and brokenness longing for a more hopeful future. If God can transform the lives of the Cretans to be a light for the Mediterranean world, the gospel message has the power to transform people today to be a light for our world. And, when evangelism starts with the family, it can have an impact that will last for generations.

Just like the Cretan Christian families, the world is watching you. How can your family be more evangelistic? Start with looking at the way you treat one another. Compare your family life to what is taught here by the apostle Paul.

PRAYER(S):

Family is one of your most gracious gifts, but it can also be a source of immense pain. Reveal to us the ways our families fail to honor you and heal us so that we can help others discover the fullness of your design for family.

QUOTE: *“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” – Eleanor Roosevelt*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 43-44; Colossians 2

G. P. A. Hymn 141 – Sing the wondrous love of Jesus

Saturday, 11th October 2025

RACHEL, CAUGHT, NOT TAUGHT

Text(s): Genesis 31

Key Verse: *“May the LORD keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other.”* – **Genesis 31:49**

In Genesis 31, Laban’s sons grew resentful of Jacob’s fortune. The tension between the households escalated so much that Jacob contemplated a move. Relational strain was not the only motivation, however. God told Jacob to return to his fathers’ land (v. 3). To Rachel and Leah, Jacob articulated another frustration. Laban had cheated him repeatedly (v. 7). Only through God’s grace had he prospered. Rachel and Leah responded with their own complaints. The bride price Laban should have saved for them was gone. “Do whatever God has told you,” they said (v. 16). So, Rachel stole Laban’s gods, and the family ran. When Laban pursued and caught them, God told him: “Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad” (v. 24). Disregarding God’s warning, Laban leveled a fourfold accusation against Jacob, including a question about stolen gods. When asked, Rachel lied, saying she couldn’t stand up because it was “that” time of the month (v. 35). In turn, Jacob recounted his own poor treatment by Laban.

The men finally made a truce called the Mizpah (v. 49). Although it sounds like a friendly blessing, “May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other” (v. 49), it was originally a warning and a declaration of mistrust.

Isn’t it sobering how deception, mistrust, and manipulation extended throughout this chosen family of God? We pass on to our children both our good traits and our bad—without even trying. Ultimately, our children learn far more from how they see us live than any “lessons” that might pass through our lips.

PRAYER(S):

We all know the painful truth that there is no perfect family. Lord, we cling to your grace, trusting you to heal and restore the hurts we inflict on one another. With each wrong we suffer, may you grant us the strength to forgive.

QUOTE: *“True wisdom is caught through experience and observation, not just through education.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 45-47; Colossians 3

G. P. A. Hymn 149 – When we walk with the Lord

Sunday, 12th October 2025

A PRAYING FAMILY

Text(s): Acts 10:1-48

Key Verse: *"God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor."* – **Acts 10:31**

Puritan preacher Thomas Brookes once said, "A family without prayer is like a house without a roof, open and exposed to all the storms of heaven." Praying as a family can be challenging. But when a family learns to pray together, amazing things can happen. Such was the case for Cornelius and his family as they feared the Jewish God and prayed to Him regularly.

In Acts 10, we meet Cornelius, a Roman centurion. He and his family prayed regularly to God (v. 2). They would have been part of a small minority of Gentiles who worshiped Yahweh. During one of his prayer times, the Lord gave Cornelius a vision to meet Simon Peter (vv. 3–6). The next day, Peter was praying when he too had a vision from the Lord (v. 9). Peter's vision was not about food laws, but rather God's attitude toward the Gentiles. The Lord was signaling a new era for Jesus' followers that would include Jews and non-Jews into one family. Without Peter's vision, it is unlikely the apostle would have ventured to Cornelius's home and met this God-fearing family.

Peter was able to comprehend the Lord's message because he was in a spirit of prayer. He quickly determined to obey God. Similarly, in prayer, Cornelius and his family sought after the Triune God even though they had very little knowledge of everything that happened in Jerusalem. Because Peter, Cornelius, and his family were all in prayer, they were able to build bridges that broke through division. The saving grace of Jesus was now offered to all. The family table had been extended for all to come and have a place.

Do you pray with your family? Spend time together this week asking God to work in your family and to use you for His purpose. Even if you are praying together for the first time when a family prays together, amazing things can happen.

PRAYER(S):

Lord, we come before you as a family and ask you to use us to accomplish your purposes. Unite us and give us opportunities to demonstrate your sacrificial love to those in need.

QUOTE: *"The greatest legacy a family can leave is a foundation of prayer and faith."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 48-49; Colossians 4

G. P. A. Hymn 300 – What various hindrance we meet

Monday, 13th October 2025

FAMILY REUNION

Text(s): Genesis 33:1-20

Key Verse: *“God has been gracious to me and I have all I need.”* – **Genesis 33:11**

Have you ever had a broken relationship you thought could never be mended? Jacob and Esau had a lot of barriers to their reconciliation. Their personalities and interests were polar opposites. Esau was favored by his father, while Jacob was his mother’s favorite. Most significantly, Jacob had stolen Esau’s blessing and place in the family.

Genesis 33 tells the story of the brothers’ unlikely reconciliation. Notice the differences between them. Esau approached Jacob with 400 armed men. Jacob’s entourage was comprised of women and children (vv. 1–3). Jacob carefully arranged his approach to his brother. He ensured that all his children would bow before their uncle (vv. 6–7). Jacob called Esau “my lord” (v. 8). All this seems to be a reversal of Isaac’s blessing over Jacob (Gen. 27:29). Furthermore, Jacob’s actions display a changed heart.

Esau, by contrast, simply “ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him” (v. 4). There is an openness to Esau and a lack of guile. He also seems changed. He no longer carried anger and resentment toward his brother but was ready to forgive and restore the relationship. To Jacob, Esau’s forgiveness was a model of God’s love: “For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably” (v. 10).

Yet, Jacob still did not completely trust his brother. He refused Esau’s help and protection (vv. 14–15). He also claimed he would join his brother in Seir, but instead made his way to Canaan (vv. 14, 17). God had commanded him to go to Canaan, not Seir. But he could have been more upfront about this with Esau.

Have you experienced the mending of a broken relationship or are you praying for that to happen? How does a reconciliation between people remind us of the way God “reconciled us to himself” (2 Cor. 5:18)?

PRAYER(S):

Jesus, today, as we read the story of Esau and Jacob’s reconciliation, show us how to mend broken relationships in our lives, how to be honest in reaching out to others. “Blessed is the one...in whose spirit is no deceit” (Ps. 32:2).

QUOTE: *“Reunited and it feels so good. Family ties are never broken, only stretched and strengthened.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 50-52; 1 Thessalonians 1

G. P. A. Hymn 88 – Jesus is coming with joy in the sky

Tuesday, 14th October 2025

FAMILY REUNION: PART 1

Text(s): Genesis 42:1-17

Key Verse: *"I have made you, you are my servant; Israel, I will not forget you."* – Isaiah 44:21

During World War II, Corrie ten Boom was arrested for hiding Jewish people from the Nazi regime. She was sent to the Ravensbrück concentration camp, where her sister Betsie died. After the war, she was speaking on forgiveness at a church in Munich where she saw a former prison guard. She later described seeing him: "Suddenly it was all there—the roomful of mocking men, the heaps of clothing, Betsie's pain-blanching face." What would she do when seeing this guard face to face?

Joseph finally came face to face with his brothers after twenty long years. Undoubtedly, the memory of how they treated him came to the surface. But Joseph also remembered something else: the dreams that God had given him (v. 9).

Joseph—and the reader—must wonder at this point whether his brothers have changed. This chapter opens with Jacob urging ten of the remaining brothers to go down to Egypt to buy food because of the famine. But Jacob did not want to send Joseph's younger brother, Benjamin, with them because "he was afraid that harm might come to him" (v. 4). Jacob was still heartbroken with grief over the loss of Joseph. He still had a favorite son who received preferential treatment. Did the brothers harbor resentment against Benjamin like they did against Joseph?

Joseph is in an interesting position to test his brothers. He recognized them at once, but they do not recognize him (v. 8). He is dressed like an Egyptian official, and surely, it never occurred to them that their enslaved brother could possibly be an important leader. Joseph devised a test for his brothers' honesty and character: he has all but one put in prison, and they must choose one brother to return with Benjamin to authenticate their story.

PRAYER(S):

May the love and the wisdom of Christ continue to bring healing to the hurting!

QUOTE: *"Reunions are a way to cherish the past, embrace the present, and look forward to the future together."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 53-55; 1 Thessalonians 2

G. P. A. Hymn 88 – Jesus is coming with joy in the sky

Wednesday, 15th October 2025

FAMILY REUNION: PART 2

Text(s): Genesis 42:18-38

Key Verse: *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*
– 1 John 1:9

In Shakespeare's masterpiece Macbeth, the title character murders King Duncan to fulfill his own ambition of becoming king of Scotland. Wracked by guilt and the fear of being found out, he is unable to enjoy his royal position. Ultimately, he falls into madness.

After three days in prison, Joseph presented his brothers with their test. One of them must stay behind in prison while the rest bring food back to their households. Then they are to bring the youngest brother, Benjamin, to Egypt to prove that their story was true (v. 20).

This harsh treatment was not what Joseph's brothers expected. Why were they being singled out? Their minds immediately went back to what they had done to Joseph. Verse 21 makes clear that they all felt responsibility for the crime they had committed: "They said to one another, 'Surely we are being punished because of our brother. . . .'" They vividly recalled Joseph's distress and his pleading with them from the pit. How often had those words and that image come into their minds in the last twenty years? They had been living in their own kind of prison created by the guilt from their sin.

Joseph had been communicating to his brothers through an interpreter, and they did not know he could understand their conversation. Though he was deeply moved by their words, he was still not ready to confront them directly. His test of their character must continue.

Now Joseph's brothers faced another difficult conversation, this time with Jacob, who demonstrated little sympathy for their plight. He was too focused on his own grief and loss: "You have deprived me of my children . . . Everything is against me! . . . My son will not go down there with you" (vv. 36–38).

PRAYER(S):

Lord, grant us Your peace and harmony s we enjoy each other's company and support one another.

QUOTE: *"Have a chance to celebrate the ties that bind us, and to cherish the moments that make us whole."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 56-58; 1 Thessalonians 3

G. P. A. Hymn 88 – Jesus is coming with joy in the sky

Thursday, 16th October 2025

MARY: MOTHERS AND SONS

Text(s): Mark 3:20-35

Key Verse: *“For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”* – **Matthew 12:50**

In today’s passage, we again meet Jesus’ mother Mary. As word about Jesus had spread across the region and His crowd of followers had grown, the response was not entirely favorable (Mark 3:2, 6). Religious authorities sent a delegation to discredit and defame Him. “He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons, he is driving out demons” (v. 22).

Jesus did not shy away from these confrontations. Just as He had answered the Pharisees’ questions in Mark chapter 2, He boldly addressed these accusers by challenging their logic. “How can Satan drive out Satan?” (v. 23). His parable pointed out the absurdity of their claim.

Jesus’ mother and brothers heard of His growing influence and the escalating opposition. They were afraid and went to find Him and bring Him home. We don’t know the state of Mary’s heart. At least some of His family members thought Jesus was “out of His mind” (v. 21). Mary may have gone along because she was worried about her son. The brothers may have wanted to protect Jesus from danger, but they also may have feared that the controversy would affect their family.

When they arrived at the scene, the crowd prevented them from reaching Jesus. They had to send their message like a game of telephone. But when Jesus learned of their presence, His response was shockingly countercultural. “Who are my mother and my brothers?” In a society where the family was the basis of social and economic life, Jesus asserted that the greater connection was a common dedication to God.

Our earthly families are certainly a gift to us, but Jesus’ response encourages us to deepen our bonds within the family of God. What steps might you take to strengthen your connection with fellow believers?

PRAYER(S):

Lord, help us build strong ties with the church. Help us love one another as You love us—accepting one another, holding each other accountable, and encouraging one another to grow in You and in Your Word.

QUOTE: *“A son may outgrow a mother’s lap, but he will never outgrow her heart.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 59-61; 1 Thessalonians 4

G. P. A. Hymn 193 – I have a precious Savior

Friday, 17th October 2025

THE FAMILY UNDER CHRIST: PART 1

Text(s): Colossians 3:18-21

Key Verse: *'Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.'* – Ephesians 5:21

Most fairytales end with the prince marrying the princess and living “happily ever after.” What happens after the wedding is of no real interest to the story. We know that the real challenges, joys, sorrows, and adventures of a couple’s life together only begin on the wedding day.

Previously in chapter 3, Paul has reflected on the transformation that the gospel brings to human relationships. He teaches that in Christ, “there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised” (3:11). In today and tomorrow’s readings, he applies this new perspective to the most intimate relationships of any household. He instructs wives, husbands, children, parents, slaves and masters: “whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (3:17).

Paul called wives and husbands to live in ways that are both in line with and counter to their culture. Wives were to submit to their husbands—in line with contemporary Greek and Roman thinking of that time. However, Paul’s admonition specifies voluntary submission in the context of our relationship with the Lord Jesus (v. 18). Husbands were called to “love your wives and do not be harsh with them” (v. 19). While there were many household codes in Greco-Roman culture, there was no parallel for the command for husbands to love their wives. This command goes beyond the culture norm. Husbands are to model the kind of self-sacrificial love Christ has for the church (see Eph. 5:25-33).

Paul also includes a charge for children and parents. He considers children to be full, responsible members of the church and commands them to obey their parents with an eye to pleasing the Lord (v. 19). Parents are not to domineer their children, but encourage them (v. 21).

PRAYER(S):

Father, we thank You for the gift of family and for the unity we find in Christ.

QUOTE: *“Christ is the center of our family, and His love binds us together in unity and peace.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 62-64; 1 Thessalonians 5

G. P. A. Hymn 361 – There is a name I love to hear

Saturday, 18th October 2025

THE FAMILY UNDER CHRIST: PART 2

Text(s): Colossians 3:22 – 4:1

Key Verse: *“The Son of Man . . . will reward each person according to what they have done.”* – **Matthew 16:27**

During the last couple of decades, many companies have switched from offices filled with cubicles to an open office concept. The idea behind the open office is that employees can collaborate more effectively and not feel isolated. Employers appreciate the accountability an open office brings. The design of the office is supposed to influence what happens in the workspace.

In today’s reading, Paul continues to describe how knowing Christ should transform the relationships in the household. Here he focuses specifically on the relationship between slaves and masters. Ancient households included more than just the nuclear family. They often included grandparents, unmarried aunts, and slaves. Although slaves were technically considered the property of their owners in Roman society, Paul chooses to address them directly (v. 22), treating them as responsible and valued members of the church.

Paul encourages slaves to “obey your earthly masters in everything” (v. 22). Two points stand out with this verse. Paul calls their owners “earthly masters,” with the implication that they have another master in heaven. Secondly, Paul urges their sincere obedience because they are really working for the Lord Jesus who sees them and will reward them (vv. 23–24). Jesus cares about the work they are doing and is honored by quality work done for Him.

Paul also addresses slave owners. He encourages them to treat slaves not as property but as fellow persons deserving just and fair treatment. Paul gives a stern warning, “Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs” (v. 25). Paul’s words in this passage apply to all workers who answer to an earthly authority. He reminds us to see ourselves as “working for the Lord” (v. 23). Each of us will give an account to the real “Master” in heaven (4:1).

PRAYER(S):

Lord, help us to support and encourage one another, reflecting the grace and compassion of Jesus in all our interactions.

QUOTE: *“A home where Christ is honored is a place where love, grace, and joy abound.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Isaiah 65-66; 2 Thessalonians 1

G. P. A. Hymn 361 – There is a name I love to hear

Sunday, 19th October 2025

FAITHFULNESS IN MARRIAGE

Text(s): Leviticus 18:1-30

Key Verse: *“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”* – **Hebrews 13:4**

Larry Nassar held an important role as team doctor for USA Gymnastics. But in 2017, Nassar fell from grace when he was convicted of abusing hundreds of children and young women under his care. He is currently serving a 175-year prison sentence. One of the elements that make his actions so reprehensible is that he was in a trusted position of authority.

In ancient Israel, male heads of households were in a position of authority and power. Back then, households were structured differently than they are today. It was not uncommon for four or more generations to live together in close proximity with members of one’s extended family. In a world before police officers or social workers, the head of house was responsible for the well-being of everyone in his family.

With such big responsibility comes the potential for abuse. And today’s reading provides a series of prohibitions directed at a male head of household. Most of the commands clarify for the head of house who in his family is sexually off-limits—everyone but his wife. Family members needed to feel safe from abuse while living and working together.

These commands are given twice in the chapter for emphasis; Israel was to be different from other nations (vv. 1–2, 30). God judged Canaan because of the abusive sexual practices and custom of child sacrifice (v. 21). God held the nations accountable for these practices, which included adultery and homosexuality (vv. 20–22).

God created sexuality to be enjoyed in the right context: a committed marriage relationship. Outside of this context, it can be abusive and destructive. Part of what it means to be holy is to follow God’s direction in this area (Col. 3:5).

God’s directions about sexuality were countercultural for Israel, as well as for us today. The book of Leviticus reminds us that God wants the best for us in every aspect of our lives. He has provided specific guidelines for sexuality and cares deeply about the abused and vulnerable.

PRAYER(S):

There are so many ways to abuse or misuse our sexuality. However, You created it for good! Single or married, regardless of our past, help us move forward by honoring You with our bodies.

QUOTE: *“True commitment in marriage means choosing to love and honor each other every day, through every season.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2

G. P. A. Hymn 379 – Let Him to whom we now belong

Monday, 20th October 2025

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

Text(s): Psalm 104

Key Verse: *"How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures."* –
Psalm 104:24

My family enjoys watching nature shows together. It is stunning to see the diversity of animals and habitats that exist in the world. While most science shows do not give God the credit for creation, watching them often leads my family to have conversations about how creative and powerful our God is.

The author of Psalm 104 would have made a good scientist. He carefully observes many aspects of the created world in order to praise God. He observes the water cycle. He recognizes that rain sustains the life of animals and makes crops grow (vv. 10–14). The water cycle is not an impersonal process, but rather evidence of God's faithfulness and kindness.

The author notices that some animals come out and hunt in the night and sleep during the day, while people work during the day and sleep at night (vv. 19–23). Everything has its proper time and place. The ocean is still unexplored in many places. And, on occasion, the news will report of a new species that's been discovered. It is a reminder to us that God cares about the animal world. He did not simply create them for humans. Rather, this psalm reminds us that God created them for His own delight (vv. 24–26). Indeed, the Psalmist proclaims, "May the Lord rejoice in his works" (v. 31).

The sheer diversity and wonder of the created world should inspire us to join with the Psalmist in praise to God. Surely, "[h]ow many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures" (v. 24). Today's reading is a good reminder to open our eyes and allow the wonder of creation to inspire us to praise God.

Take time today to observe and celebrate God's magnificent creation. While today human sin has corrupted God's creation (v. 35), we can look forward to its redemption and restoration when Christ returns (Rom. 8:22–25).

PRAYER(S):

God the Creator, may we rejoice in science for what it teaches us about You. May each new discovery humble us, reminding us that we are merely discovering the work of Your hands.

QUOTE: *"Every great man's world begins with the love and wisdom of his father."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 3-4; 2 Thessalonians 3

G. P. A. Hymn 55 – Our God who art in heav'n

Tuesday, 21st October 2025

FIRST LOVE

Text(s): Hosea 2:6-15

Key Verse: *"This is what the LORD says: 'I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me.'"* – Jeremiah 2:2

In today's passage, we see God's plan to win back His wayward people. God uses a more aggressive approach. Three "therefore" clauses describe His specific strategy. First, God would "block her path with thornbushes" (v. 6). He would hedge in His wife, or His people, to prevent her from straying further. This comparison may trouble us, but God uses this as an act of grace, rather than anger. It is for her good, to direct her back to Himself. And verses 7–8 seem to indicate that restoration is possible when they describe the errant wife's potential change of heart.

Second, God would "take away [His] grain when it ripens" (v. 9) and "ruin her vines and her fig trees" (v. 12). This is a demonstration of His true sovereignty over the land and its fertility, and it would reveal the impotence of Baal. Third, God would "allure" Israel by taking her away to the desert and speaking tender words of love. He would restore her vineyards, and the Valley of Achor would become "a door of hope" (v. 15).

Here, the redemptive character of God is on full display. He still uses these same techniques to bring us back to Himself. He erects roadblocks so we will turn around. He withholds His favor to evoke in us a longing for Himself. And He reveals Himself in acts of love.

Do you have a wayward heart? It is easy to turn our desires toward things that are not pleasing to God. Pray for the wayward heart of your community and country, that we would turn back to Him.

PRAYER(S):

Righteous Father, sin thrives when unacknowledged. Give us the wisdom not only to recognize the Holy Spirit's conviction, but to confess our sins and intentionally seek accountability with other believers.

QUOTE: *"The beauty of God's love is that it opens our hearts to the possibility of endless love and happiness."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 5-6; 1 Timothy 1

G. P. A. Hymn 357 – Hark! My soul! It is the Lord

Wednesday, 22nd October 2025

SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER

Text(s): Ephesians 5:21-32

Key Verse: *“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” – Ephesians 5:21*

Some may think that submission means defeat and loss of control. For example, in a match, the losing wrestler is forced into submission. It is no wonder that when we read the word submit in the Bible our defensive walls go up. We don't like the idea of submitting to anyone or anything.

Paul's teaching on submission in Ephesians 5 follows his urging that we “live as children of light” (v. 8) and in ways that please the Lord (v. 10). He begins with a general statement. As Christ followers, we are to “submit to one another” (v. 21).

The word submit is typically used within a military context. For example, a private is under the rank of a general and therefore submits to the ranking member. The private shows the utmost respect, dignity, and honor to the general, but the general also bears responsibility to care for each person under his charge. Paul wants believers in a marriage to show a similar attitude of honor, respect, love, and care toward one another. Instead of wanting to be the person in control, a husband and wife are to consider the other person first. Because of their relationship under God, they both submit their personal desires and consider the needs of the other.

This type of a marriage was counter-cultural to the Ephesians, and today is still out of the ordinary. Why would a person put their spouse's needs above their own? Isn't it important that we are always happy? Paul says we do so out of “reverence for Christ” (v. 21). Where some cultures coerce spouses to be submissive, Paul says the reason believers willingly submit is an extension of Jesus' new command to love one another.

If you are married, how can you choose to put the needs and desires of your spouse ahead of yourself? How would your childhood have been different if your parents' marriage was one where they submitted to one another out of reverence for the Lord?

PRAYER(S):

Oh God, how we need You! For the righteousness we desire, for the selflessness for which we strive, for the submissive spirit that contradicts our nature. Change us, Lord, to be like You.

QUOTE: *“Build a foundation of mutual support and understanding that reflects the heart of Christ.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 7-8; 1 Timothy 2

G. P. A. Hymn 448 – Love others as thyself

Thursday, 23rd October 2025

LOVE YOUR SPOUSE

Text(s): Proverbs 5:1-23

Key Verse: *“May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.” – Proverbs 5:18*

We often say that we love all sorts of things. We love books, songs, shirts, movies, coffee, pizza, dogs, a sports team, or our spouses. It can be confusing when we use the same word to talk about two radically different things. After all, we don’t love the show Matlock the same way we love our spouse. But the overuse of the word “love” points to a larger issue that Solomon addresses in Proverbs 5.

Solomon explains that love is not primarily an emotion we feel or a preference for one person or thing over another. Instead, as Solomon shows us, love is a verb; it’s a way of acting toward another person with whom we have a relationship. Solomon tells his son how to love his wife with his actions. First, he should protect his relationship with her by avoiding the adulterous woman (v. 3) at all costs (v. 8). Note that while Solomon is writing specifically to his son; the “adulterous woman” could equally apply to adulterous men.

Second, he tells his son to cultivate a relationship with her to the point that he is “ever . . . intoxicated with her love” (v. 19). While the context of this passage is sexual, we shouldn’t think Solomon’s advice refers only to sex—he is talking about the entire marriage relationship.

Solomon paints a picture of love based on more than emotion (though love is emotion) and more than affection or preference (though both are meant too). Solomon’s depiction of love is oriented toward specific actions, namely protection and cultivation. Most marriages have rough spots because humans marry other humans, and that’s why it’s so important to realize that loving our spouse isn’t primarily a feeling we have about them.

Compare Solomon’s depiction of love as action to our modern understanding of love and marriage. Is it the same or different from how we view love and fidelity today?

PRAYER(S):

You are the author of truth and love. Therefore, we trust Your Word about what love is and isn’t. Show us any worldly lies we believe about the protection and cultivation of love—in friendship, in family, or in marriage.

QUOTE: *“Have a beautiful expression of commitment, where both partners uplift and support each other in harmony.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 9-10; 1 Timothy 3

G. P. A. Hymn 448 – Love others as thyself

Friday, 24th October 2025

LOVE STORY

Text(s): Genesis 29:1-35

Key Verse: *"The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."* – Psalm 33:11

Couples want everything to go perfectly on their wedding day. Yet, mishaps often make for the best stories and most entertaining videos. Perhaps your flower girl refused to walk down the aisle or the minister mixed up your vows.

In Genesis 29, Jacob experiences an unforgettable mix-up. Following his parents' advice, he made the long journey to his mother's family. In those days before mailing addresses, Jacob had to figure out exactly where they lived. At the local well, he asked if anyone knew his Uncle Laban. Not only did the shepherds know Laban but they also pointed out his daughter Rachel. Jacob was immediately smitten and offered to work for Laban for seven years for Rachel (v. 18). In the ancient world, these types of economic commitments were often made between families when a marriage was arranged. Even so, seven years was a long time.

When the wedding day came, Laban substituted his older daughter Leah for Rachel. When Jacob discovered the trick, he confronted Laban, "Why have you deceived me?" (v. 25). Laban explained, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one" (v. 26). This may remind you of the time when Jacob stole his older brother's birthright (Genesis 27). Now on the receiving end of deception, Jacob would work another seven years to marry Rachel.

It was through Jacob, Rachel, and Leah that the founders of the twelve tribes of Israel were born. God used this "mishap" to fulfill His promises to Abraham. It is reassuring to know that even deception and family dysfunction cannot thwart God's plan. God can overrule evil actions to accomplish His will.

Considering Jacob's past, what was your reaction to his wedding "mishap"? How does God use this deception? Have you ever seen God work through something you once viewed as a mistake?

PRAYER(S):

Merciful Father, in Christ You forgive all who repent and turn to You. We humbly confess our sins and ask Your forgiveness. In Your love, You don't hold them against us. Our hearts are full of gratitude! Praise to Your holy name!

QUOTE: *"A commitment to cherish and respect one another with purity and grace."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 11-13; 1 Timothy 4

G. P. A. Hymn 145 – One there is above all other

Saturday, 25th October 2025

LOVE, PURITY, CONTENTMENT

Text(s): Hebrews 13:1-6

Key Verse: *“Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.”* – **Hebrews 13:1**

A recent poll asked people about their perceptions of Christianity. The leading negative impression cited was hypocrisy, the perception that Christians say one thing but live another way.

The danger of hypocrisy is not new, and the final chapter in the book of Hebrews offers a series of exhortations to encourage consistency between belief and practice. First, we are called to genuine and practical love. We must love our fellow Christians “as brothers and sisters” (v. 1), but we must also love those we do not know: “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers” (v. 2). Opening our homes to those in need is a way to live out our identity as followers of Jesus. Finally, love must be demonstrated toward the vulnerable, those who are mistreated and imprisoned. Scripture likely has in mind fellow believers, and calls us to love them “as if you were together with them in prison” (v. 3).

Second, we are called to lives of sexual purity. In our day when the divorce rate is extremely high, even among Christians, Scripture’s exhortation is timely: “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure” (v. 4). Christians should not only value marriage but work hard to preserve it and encourage couples who are struggling. Strong Christian marriages can become a powerful witness to a world full of adultery, promiscuity, and sexual immorality.

Third, we are called to contentment: “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have” (v. 5). A love of material possessions will only erode contentment. Scripture reminds us that God’s providential care will provide for our needs; we can rest assured of His presence and help, and we need not run after materialistic goods.

PRAYER(S):

Lord, we come to You seeking Your guidance in cultivating love, purity and contentment in our lives. Fill our hearts with genuine love for others, purify our thoughts and actions and grant us contentment with the blessings You have provided.

QUOTE: *“Contentment is found in the embrace of a love that is pure and selfless.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 14-16; 1 Timothy 5

G. P. A. Hymn 325 – Though the world allure with its gilded charm

Sunday, 26th October 2025

GOD'S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE

Text(s): 1 Peter 3:1-7

Key Verse: *"The unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."* – **1 Peter 3:4**

The National Marriage Project found several secrets to a successful marriage. Researchers discovered that husbands and wives who practice caring for and forgiving one another had higher levels of marital satisfaction (not too surprising!). In addition, these couples experienced more stability, less conflict, and even more sexual fulfillment.

In today's reading, Peter describes how Christian husbands and wives should treat one another. He begins with wives and the purpose of submission (vv. 1–6; Eph. 5:22–24). As with citizens submitting to an unjust emperor, or slaves submitting to harsh masters, Peter had in mind a difficult scenario—believing wives submitting to unbelieving husbands. We should note this is not unconditional, for example, in cases of abuse. We should also note that this does not apply to unmarried couples, since Christians should not be unequally yoked (2 Cor. 6:14). Peter was addressing couples who were already married when the wife converted to Christianity.

The purpose of submission, as we've already seen, is witness. The goal is to attract the unbelieving husband to faith in Christ (v. 1), a radical goal. It was unheard of in those days for a wife to follow a different religion from her husband. To hope to win him over was bold indeed! How could she do that? Through purity, reverence, and inner beauty (vv. 2–4). She should follow the example of Sarah and other "holy women of the past" whose submission to their husbands was part of their faith, as opposed to fear (vv. 5–6).

Peter does not forget husbands. They are commanded to treat their wives with consideration and respect (v. 7; Eph. 5:25–33). Husbands and their wives are both heirs of salvation and equal in God's love (Gal. 3:28).

Looking for a good book on marriage? We recommend *Marriage: 6 Gospel Commitments Every Couple Needs to Make* by Paul David Tripp and *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God* by Timothy Keller with Kathy Keller.

PRAYER(S)

Today we pray for women with unsaved husbands, asking You to give these women supernatural love and patience. Soften their husbands' hearts and make their wives' godly behavior a powerful witness to them.

QUOTE: *"Reflect of His love and a partnership that grows stronger through faith and commitment."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 17-19; 1 Timothy 6

G. P. A. Hymn 468 – The voice that breathe o'er Eden

Monday, 27th October 2025

FAMILY BUSINESS

Text(s): Genesis 30:25-43

Key Verse: *"The greedy stir up conflict, but those who trust in the LORD will prosper."* – Proverbs 28:25

A close friend of mine works for a large, family-owned business. When the father who started the business died, the three siblings argued over who was in charge and how much each one owned. Currently, the siblings are embroiled in lawsuits against one another. When you mix in financial and leadership decisions that come with a business, the results can be devastating.

After the birth of Joseph, Jacob longed to return to the land of Canaan (v. 25). Jacob believed God's promise that he and his descendants would inherit Canaan. He knew he belonged there. However, he now had a large family to provide for. The problem was that he did not own anything. He had worked for fourteen years to pay the bride-price for Rachel and Leah. Under his care, Laban's flocks had flourished (vv. 29–30). Laban had grown wealthy because of God's hand of blessing on Jacob (v. 27). But none of this wealth belonged to Jacob.

So, Jacob proposed a plan under which he would be compensated for his work. All the speckled and spotted sheep and goats from the flocks he tended would be removed (v. 32). Then, any speckled or spotted sheep or goats that were born would belong to him as a wage. Since most sheep are white and most goats are black, this sounded like a good plan to Laban. Both Jacob and Laban tried to get the better of the other. Laban had tricked Jacob into marrying Leah. This time, Jacob had the upper hand. Through some rather odd mating practices, he was able to breed numerous strong animals for himself leaving Laban with the weaker flocks (v. 42). Here we continue to see God at work, blessing Jacob and showing Himself faithful to His promises despite challenging family circumstances.

Why did Jacob want to leave Laban? Was Laban's reaction justified? Why or why not? How did God preserve His promise through these two imperfect men?

PRAYER(S):

Lord, thank You for Your encouragement in today's reading. We all, like Jacob, encounter challenging family circumstances, but through it all, Your promises will be fulfilled and Your purpose for our lives accomplished.

QUOTE: *"Success is measured not just by profit, but by the strength of the relationships and the legacy left behind."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 20-22; 2 Timothy 1

G. P. A. Hymn 508 – God give us Christian homes

Tuesday, 28th October 2025

A NEW FAMILY

Text(s): I John 3:1-3

Key Verse: *“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!” – 1 John 3:1*

Not too long ago, I had a conversation with a friend about God and Heaven. In the midst of our conversation, he told me he believed that everyone is a “child of God.” I explained that while it is true that we are all created by God and made in His image (Gen. 1:26–27), being part of God’s family is different.

In John’s account of Jesus’ life, he states that the world did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah, nor did they receive Him as their Rescuer (John 1:10–11). However, to those who do believe in Jesus and His resurrection, “he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12). When God the Father looked at a depraved humanity, it would have been astounding if He only had pity or charitable compassion for the lost souls. It would have been extremely generous if He merely set forth a plan to save them from eternal punishment. But God went well beyond that. He called them His children.

Our text highlights that it is only because of God’s love that believers can be called His children (v. 1). The word for “love” John used here is agape, a never-ending, unconditional love. He states that God “lavished” or “bestowed as a gift” this love on us (v. 1) and therefore we are included as part of His family. When you and I believe in Jesus, we become part of a new family, the family of God. As His children, we bear His name and His reputation. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we carry the name of Christ. Being in Him makes us part of a new family.

Do people know you are part of God’s family? The early believers did not keep it a secret they were part of the household of God. Their lives were testimonies of who they belonged to and the same should be known about us.

PRAYER(S):

We rejoice in our status as children of God! Father, let the joy we have in our identity be evident to all around us, drawing them into your family of faith.

QUOTE: *“You can have a fresh beginning, a chance to build a lifetime of love and memories from the ground up.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 23-24; 2 Timothy 2

G. P. A. Hymn 485 – I am so glad that our Father in heaven

Wednesday, 29th October 2025

GOD'S FAMILY

Text(s): Genesis 12:1-9

Key Verse: “. . . *announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”* – **Galatians 3:8**

In old chorus says, “I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God.” According to Gloria Gaither, she and her husband, Bill, wrote the song after seeing how their church showed tremendous love to a member who had been badly burned in an explosion.

God’s vision for a community began with the first family of Adam and Eve. In today’s passage we see how that vision grew through the calling of Abraham. God’s plan was to expand Abraham’s family into a great nation and to bless all nations through him. Abraham played a critical role in setting the stage for the arrival of the church. He did this in two ways. First, he became the prototypical believer. Abraham was declared righteous and was called God’s friend because he believed God’s promise (Gen. 15:6). In this way, Abraham became our spiritual forefather (Rom. 4:1). His example set the pattern for all those who would believe God’s promise and receive the gift of righteousness by faith.

The second way that Abraham served as the prototypical believer was by functioning as a kind of missionary. Abraham left his home and set out for the place that God showed him. God’s plan was not only to bless Abraham but to bless all nations through him. By his life Abraham bore witness to the grace of God. It was through the line of Abraham’s descendants that the nation of Israel and Jesus the Messiah came. Abraham’s descendants were the first to receive the written word of God. It was through the example of Abraham’s faith that all those who were not descendants learned that they could obtain righteousness from God as a gift of grace. This makes Abraham the spiritual father of all those who walk in the same footsteps of faith no matter what their background is (Rom. 4:9–12).

PRAYER(S):

Lord, make me a true descendant of Abraham by faith; one that believes on Your promises and have faith.

QUOTE: *“Every member is cherished, every story matters, and every heart is embraced.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 25-26; 2 Timothy 3

G. P. A. Hymn 485 – I am so glad that our Father in heaven

Thursday, 30th October 2025

JOSEPH AND HIS FAMILY

Text(s): Genesis 46:8-34

Key Verse: *"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" – 1 John 3:2*

"I like Jesus, I'm just not a fan of the church." "I'm very spiritual but I'm not religious." "I'd rather worship God by myself in nature rather than go to church." All these statements reflect a misunderstanding of what it means to be one of the children of God. Our salvation is not intended for us to be Lone Ranger Christian; rather, we are part of Christ's body, the church. We are formed into the community of believers.

Our study has focused on Joseph, but our passage today reminds us that the Joseph story is about more than simply the experience of one individual. This is the story of a family, a community in relationship with God. God had made a covenant with Abraham that necessitated the creation of a family. Several generations later, we can see how God's promise is being fulfilled.

The Israelites take up Pharaoh on his offer to resettle them in Egypt, with God's assurance that He would continue to be with them. The extended family includes Jacob, his sons, their wives, and their children—dozens of people who will now move from the Promised Land to Egypt to ensure their survival. The fact that they all moved together no doubt helped them retain their identity as Israelites in the land of Egypt.

After twenty-two years of assuming Joseph was dead, Jacob was finally reunited with his beloved son. Jacob had often stated that because of the loss of Joseph, and potential loss of Benjamin, he would go to the grave because of sorrow (37:35; 44:29). Now he declared that he could die in peace. His eyes have seen the salvation from famine God provided through Joseph and God's faithfulness to preserve his family.

PRAYER(S):

Father, we ask for Your blessing on our family, seeking Your peace to fill our hearts and home.

QUOTE: *"Faithfulness and forgiveness can transform the darkest trials into blessings."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 27-28; 2 Timothy 4

G. P. A. Hymn 411 – There is no friend like Jesus in this world

Friday, 31st October 2025

A SYMBOLIC MARRIAGE

Text(s): Hosea 1:1-3

Key Verse: *“Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the LORD.” – Hosea 1:2*

Is there any concept as misunderstood as “love”? In romantic movies, love is shown as that euphoric feeling when someone catches our eye. In the news, we hear how love drives both heroic feats and horrific acts of revenge. On social media, the click of a heart demonstrates momentary appreciation.

We all long for love and pursue it. Yet—when love goes wrong—few things cause us more pain. Each of us brings our own complex understanding of love to our reading of God’s Word. So, when we read that God loves us and that His greatest commandment is for us to love Him and others, it’s no wonder we’re confused. What does God’s love look like? And how do we foster anything similar in our frail human hearts? The book of Hosea cuts through this confusion with a powerful and provocative portrayal. When we meet Hosea, we immediately discover that the prophet’s first assignment was not to preach a message, but to provide a living metaphor. God told him to marry a prostitute.

Interpreters have offered a variety of explanations for this shocking directive, perhaps trying to make it more palatable to modern readers. Some suggest it was just a vision or that Gomer’s “prostitution” was only spiritual. Others assert that her infidelity happened after they wed. However, a literal interpretation, taking into consideration the record, makes the most sense. When Hosea and Gomer first married, Jeroboam II was king in Israel. He had expanded the nation’s borders. His army was strong. Wealthy Israelites were prospering. But spiritually, God’s people had strayed from their first love. They had committed adultery by their involvement with the fertility worship of Baal, and their destruction was coming. It was in this setting that Hosea and Gomer’s story begins.

As we begin this book study, ask God to reveal the condition of your own heart. May He show us any ways in which our love is divided.

PRAYER(S):

May You be Lord of our hearts, O God. Strengthen us when we are tempted to chase lesser things and draw us back when we turn our eyes from You. We do not want to grieve You.

QUOTE: *“Every bond is a reflection of the heart’s capacity to love and embrace others beyond mere appearances.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 29-30; Titus 1

G. P. A. Hymn 467 – O perfect love, all human thought transcending

Saturday, 1st November 2025

PEOPLE WILL RISE AND SHINE IN THEIR TIME

Text(s): Isaiah 60:1-3

Confession: *"Finally be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous."* – 1 Peter 3:8

G. P. A. Hymn 344 – God moves in a mysterious way

INTRODUCTION

It is a serious tragedy to heaven for you to be I church for one, two three, five years and cannot present to heaven a group of people you are discipling. You have become a critic; you criticize the activities in the house of God. If you have been coming here, and there is no impact in your character, instead of people to see you and they are desiring to be closer to God but seeing you and they want to live a dirty lifestyle, you are a disgrace to heaven.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Any problem assigned to push me to the wrong people, go back to your sender, in the name of Jesus.
2. Power of inherited frustration, you are a liar, die in the name of Jesus.
3. Every mocking problem, I am not your candidate, die, in the name of Jesus.
4. Any battle or with me, your time is up, scatter in the name of Jesus.
5. Every hand, programmed to put heavy load on my head, your time is up, catch fire, in the name of Jesus.
6. Powers, attacking the glory of my career, business, family, die by fire, in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 31-32; Titus 2

QUOTE: *"Embrace one's potential, spread positivity, and make a meaningful impact in the world."*

Sunday, 2nd November 2025

ARISE AND SHINE GPA

Text(s): Isaiah 60:1-3

Confession: *“Arise and shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.” – Isaiah 60:1*

G. P. A. Hymn 399 – Christian seeks not yet repose

INTRODUCTION

You are a global solution and you were made to have a dominion with Christ over sin and death; you were created to shine as light. Your light must not be locked up on your inside. Light symbolizes authority and dominion. The greater your light finds expression, the higher the ability you have to walk in authority and dominion. Matthew 5:16 – “let your light so shine that they glorify your Father in heaven.”

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. In the name of Jesus, I come against every authority that tries to extinguish my fire and dim my light.
2. Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, let your glory shine in my life.
3. Father, in the mighty name of Jesus, I ask that my light shine brightly in the name of Jesus.
4. Lord, I confess and forsake every sin that dims my light in the name of Jesus.
5. O Lord, light my lamp and enlighten my darkness, in the name of Jesus.
6. Father, shine your light on me and grant me the grace to stand as light in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 33-35; Titus 3

QUOTE: *“Let your light shine brightly, for it is through your radiance that others will find inspiration and hope.”*

Monday, 3rd November 2025

ARISE AND SHINE

Text(s): Isaiah 60:1-3

Confession: *“Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it, for I will give it unto thee” – Genesis 13:17*

G. P. A. Hymn 337 – My hope is built on nothing less

INTRODUCTION

Arise, shine for your light has come. The glory of the Lord is rise upon you. Instead of shame you will receive a double portion and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. The enemies who stole from you will pay back seven times today. The Lord shall restore to you the years which the locusts have eaten.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Father, please in your mercy, mark me and my family for greatness in the name of Jesus.
2. Let the praying anointing rest upon me now, I receive anointing to stay in the place of prayer in the name of Jesus.
3. I am the light of the world, therefore every darkness presenting negativities in my life gives way right now in the name of Jesus.
4. I declare henceforth, light breaks forth. No longer will I be hidden. I arise and shine in the name of Jesus.
5. Lion of the tribe Judah arise for me and let my enemies be scattered in the mighty name of Jesus.
6. In the name of Jesus, enough is enough for every stagnation. I activate my next level tonight in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 36-37; Philemon

QUOTE: *“Let your inner light inspire and uplift those around you.”*

Tuesday, 4th November 2025

THE LAST WORD

Text(s): Hebrews 1:1-4

Key Verse: *“In these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.”* – Hebrews 1:2

People sometimes wish that God would say something to them. They have a question to ask or perhaps even a complaint to air. But if the Old Testament teaches us anything, it indicates that God has already spoken to us. The writer of the book of Hebrews, whose name we do not know, begins with a reminder that God spoke “at many times and in various ways” in the past (Heb. 1:1).

The author says this to draw a contrast that will shape everything else we read in this book. God has spoken in the past. But the climax of all that He has said is found in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This is because everything God has said is ultimately meant to reveal Himself. According to verse 3, only Jesus is “the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being.” Jesus puts a human face on God. But He does more than translate the unseen nature of God into a human form.

Verse 3 points out that Jesus shows us what God is like because He is God. He sustains all things “by his powerful word.” Jesus is the revelation of God that all previous revelation was building toward. Yet He came to do more than show us what God is like. Jesus also provided “purification for sins” by offering Himself as a sacrifice (v. 3). The message at the heart of the book of Hebrews is the incomparability of Christ. Jesus is superior to all things, even the angels, because He is their creator (v. 4). He is the sacrifice that surpasses any other sacrifice that may be offered for sin, even those that God Himself prescribed in the Law of Moses. Jesus is the only way to God.

What do we learn about Jesus in these first four verses? Why is Jesus the better way? What did He provide that people did not have before?

PRAYER(S):

Almighty Father, you’ve been speaking to Your people from eternity past. And You continue to reach out to us with Your eternal Word—Jesus Christ. Thank You for Your all-encompassing love in human form, Your Son.

QUOTE: *“Leave a lasting impression through your actions and character.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 38-39; Hebrews 1

G. P. A. Hymn 129 – Go forth and preach all my gospel

Wednesday, 5th November 2025

BETTER THAN ANGELS

Text(s): Hebrews 1:5-14

Key Verse: *“Let all God’s angels worship him.”* – Hebrews 1:6

Angels are everywhere. You see them on charm bracelets, in pictures, and shaped in sculpture. You can find them in cemeteries, mounted on park fountains, and even on a certain brand of toilet paper. Humans in every age have had a fascination with these heavenly beings. Unfortunately, this interest has sometimes crossed the line and fallen into angel worship.

Those who received this letter appear to have developed an excessive interest in angels. The writings of the Jewish community of Qumran, known as the Dead Sea Scrolls, include speculations about angels. There may even be an indication that they were venerated to the point of worship. Similarly, Colossians 2:18 warns, “Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.”

Today’s passage puts angels in the proper perspective by pointing out that Jesus is superior to the angels. Angels are God’s servants and messengers, but Jesus is the divine Son of God and is worshiped by angels (vv. 5–6). The angels surround the throne and are God’s servants (v. 7, compare with Rev. 5:11). But Jesus is enthroned at God’s right hand (vv. 8, 13). Although Jesus was made “lower than the angels” when He took to Himself a human nature (2:9), He is now enthroned at the Father’s right hand, waiting for all His enemies to be subdued (v. 13).

Jesus is not an ordinary human who has been elevated to divine status. Nor is He an angel on steroids. He is the eternal God and our Creator who became flesh (vv. 10–12). He is worthy of our worship. No angel can make such a claim (Rev. 19:10; 22:8–9).

How do people think about angels today? What corrections does this passage make to the way we view angels?

PRAYER(S):

Lord, we hear Hebrew’s warning about revering false “gods” and worshiping angels. Keep us from taking our eyes off You to follow the appeals of the world. Only You are worthy “to receive glory and honor and power” (Rev. 4:11).

QUOTE: *“We are called to live with a love and grace that surpasses even the celestial beings, reflecting the highest ideals of humanity.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 40-42; Hebrews 2

G. P. A. Hymn 408 – ‘Thou art the Way, to Thee alone

Thursday, 6th November 2025

DON'T DRIFT AWAY

Text(s): Hebrews 2:1-8

Key Verse: *"We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away."* – Hebrews 2:1

Something similar had happened in the spiritual lives of those to whom the letter of Hebrews was written. In verse 1, the author warns of their need to "pay the most careful attention." Their immediate problem was not one of ignorance so much as it was a kind of spiritual amnesia. They had been taught correctly but had begun to drift away from the things they had first heard.

In particular, they had begun to move away from the message of salvation through Jesus Christ (v. 3). The emphasis on Christ's superiority to the angels offers a clue about how this happened. They had not rejected the message outright but seemed to have become distracted from it by an inordinate interest in angels (v. 5). As their interest in angels increased, their focus on the significance of Christ and His sacrifice decreased.

They forgot how the gospel had first been announced to them by those who heard Christ's teaching and the way God had attested to the validity of their message by the working of the Holy Spirit. Eventually, their interest in secondary spiritual matters overshadowed the fundamental truths they had once embraced. Jesus and His work took a back seat and was in danger of being replaced entirely by their fascination with angels. The remedy for this? Pay careful attention to what you have already heard. Do not drift away from it or let it slip from your thinking. Ignoring the truth can cause us to reject the truth.

Have you ever drifted away from the truth of salvation and God's Word? How did this happen? How do we prevent it?

PRAYER(S):

Our hearts ache for those who have drifted away from You, God! Bring the prodigals back, we ask. Help us to pay careful attention to Your words, lean on Jesus, and never forget our first love (Rev. 2:4).

QUOTE: *"Stay anchored to your dreams and values; do not lose sight of what truly matters."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 43-45; Hebrews 3

G. P. A. Hymn 407 – Soldier of Christ arise

Friday, 7th November 2025

SEEING JESUS

Text(s): Hebrews 2:9-13

Key Verse: *“But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while.”* – **Hebrews 2:9**

In a later chapter, the author of Hebrews defines faith as “assurance about what we do not see” (Heb. 11:1). And 2 Corinthians 5:7 makes a similar point when it says that we “live by faith, not by sight.” Yet faith is itself a way of seeing. The faith that shapes our vision for living is not blind faith. When we live by faith, we train our vision to see the world as Scripture describes it.

In today’s text, the writer contrasts how things appear and how things truly are. Verses 5–8 quote Psalm 8, comparing what we can see with what we do not yet see. We do not yet see all things subdued under Christ’s control (v. 8). Instead, we see Jesus “who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone” (v. 9).

This is the language of faith. While we may not see these things with the naked eye, we can apprehend them through the testimony of God’s Word. The gospel message portrays a crucified, risen, and exalted Christ who became the “pioneer” of our salvation by suffering on our behalf (v. 11). He has gone before us to open the way to God. Those who trust Christ receive His righteousness as a gift and are adopted into God’s family (v. 12).

How, then, do we come to see things as the writer of Hebrews describes them in these verses? The only way is to view them through the eyes of faith and put our trust in Christ (v. 13). The work of God that is unfolding in our lives today is a work that is already finished (see also John 19:30).

Reread that last sentence. How does thinking about this (that the work is already finished), change the way you will live today? If you do not know Christ, we encourage you to choose this “better way” today!

PRAYER(S):

Jesus, show us things not as they appear but how they truly are. We want to see truth, and today’s reading says it’s possible—through the eyes of faith and trust in You! “Our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth” (Ps. 8:1)!

QUOTE: *“In every act of kindness and every moment of grace, we can catch glimpses of Jesus and His love shining through our lives.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 46-48; Hebrews 4

G. P. A. Hymn 333 – Save in the arms of Jesus

Saturday, 8th November 2025

MADE LIKE US

Text(s): Hebrews 2:14-18

Key Verse: *“He had to be made like them, fully human in every way.”* – **Hebrews 2:17**

How human was Jesus? In his book *Jesus Wars*, author Philip Jenkins observes, “In the early centuries of Christianity, very strong forces were pulling Christ Godward and heavenward.” Many early Christians emphasized the divine nature of Christ, sometimes at the expense of His humanity. But Jenkins goes on to point out that this tendency was checked by the New Testament itself, which clearly portrays the divine Christ as human.

The book of Hebrews is outspoken on this point. This same Jesus who is “the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being” also “shared” our humanity (Heb. 1:3; 2:14). Jesus did not merely appear to be human, He was “fully human in every way” (v. 17). In the person of Jesus Christ, we find someone who is both truly God and truly human.

Verses 14 and 17 go on to explain the reason this was necessary. Jesus shared our humanity so that He could die for us. He was also made like us so that He could live for us. Humanity was essential to Christ’s role as our High Priest. Without a human nature, Christ would not have been able to die on our behalf. Because He was truly human, Jesus not only died but “suffered when he was tempted.” As a result, he is “able to help those who are being tempted” (v. 18).

Jesus’ humanity was not a publicity stunt intended to get our attention. Hebrews 2:17 points out that it was a necessity. Jesus had to be made like us to be our sacrifice and High Priest. Because He was made like us and has suffered for us, He is able to “free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death” (v. 15). Jesus is the one and only God–Man!

Why was it necessary that Jesus, fully God, would become fully human? What did this accomplish for us?

PRAYER(S):

Lord Jesus, we are humbled and overwhelmed that You, “the radiance of God’s glory,” shared our humanity. You lived with us, You know us, You died for us, and You are risen to live for us. We praise You today!

QUOTE: *“When we realize that we are made like Christ, we understand that our potential is limitless and our worth is immeasurable.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 49-50; Hebrews 5

G. P. A. Hymn 455 – There’s a friend for little children

Sunday, 9th November 2025

IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE

Text(s): Hebrews 3:1-11

Key Verse: *"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."* – **Hebrews 3:8**

Next to the Old Testament patriarch Abraham, perhaps no human figure was as highly regarded by the recipients of this letter as Moses. Philo of Alexandria, a Jewish philosopher who lived in the time of Christ, wrote that Moses functioned as a prophet, priest, king, and legislator.

The author of Hebrews turns next to Moses to show that Jesus is better. In Hebrews 3:1 the writer calls Jesus an apostle. It is the only place in the New Testament where this term is used of Jesus. The title is not intended to lower Jesus' status but to show that, like Moses, Jesus was an authorized messenger of God.

Moses and Jesus alike served as God's representatives to His people. But there is a distinct difference. Verse 3 points out what makes Jesus worthy of even greater honor. Moses was a servant, but Jesus was the "builder." Moses is God's messenger, but Jesus is God's Son and the Creator (v. 6). If the readers of this letter respected the message that came to them through Moses, they had even more reason to regard the message that came through Christ.

But the writer goes a step further by pointing out that Moses bore witness to Jesus (v. 5). In this way, Moses was not only God's servant but also a servant of Christ. This assertion echoes Jesus' claim in John 5:39 that the words of the Old Testament "are the very Scriptures that testify about me." Consequently, those who ignore Christ's message make the same mistake as the disobedient generation that perished in the wilderness after the Exodus (vv. 7–11). Those who reject Christ reject God and miss the rest He has promised to all who come to Him in faith (Matt. 11:28–30). If you have heard His call, do not ignore it!

Why was Moses so esteemed by the recipients of this letter? What distinction does Jesus have that Moses does not?

PRAYER(S):

May we never forget Your voice. In hardships and temptations, may we remember the words of Job, echoed in the famous hymn by Samuel Medley: "I know that my Redeemer lives! All Glory to his name!...He lives, my Savior, still the same."

QUOTE: *"You are never alone; God is guiding you through every moment."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jeremiah 51-52; Hebrews 6

G. P. A. Hymn 427 – I am Thine O Lord, I have heard Thy voice

Monday, 10th November 2025

ENDURING FAITH

Text(s): Hebrews 3:12-19

Key Verse: *“Encourage one another daily.”* – Hebrews 3:13

At the beginning of my Christian experience, I counted the days, weeks, and months that I had been following Jesus. I thought it would be a real achievement if I could make it to the four-year mark! After forty years, I now know that it is not an achievement but a matter of grace.

In today’s passage, the author urges readers to persist in faith. “See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God” (v. 12). It is one thing to struggle with sin and wrestle with our doubts. All believers face such trials. It is something else to “turn away” from God. While some turn from God by blatantly choosing sin, the author warns that some were in danger of taking a different path. They were tempted to replace Jesus with a righteousness of their own making. Anyone who would turn away from Christ’s gift of righteousness to rely on the Law of Moses rejected the very righteousness they hoped to find. Instead of honoring God, but revering the Law more than Christ, they committed the same sin as those who first received the Law (vv. 16–19). Unbelief kept them from experiencing God’s rest (v. 19).

To guard against this, the author calls for vigilance and encouragement. Individually, they were to examine their hearts and root out unbelief. Collectively, they were to encourage each other in the faith (vv. 12–13). The kind of faith God desires from those who follow Jesus is as enduring as it is responsive (vv. 14–15). It is not a momentary decision that is easily set aside but a conviction that we hold “firmly to the very end” (v. 14). It does not harden our hearts when we hear God’s voice.

What keeps us on the path of following God? What things threaten to distract us and even cause us to turn away? How can we avoid those pitfalls and hold “firmly to the very end”?

PRAYER(S):

The book of Hebrews calls us to encourage one another in the faith and to rely on Christ, not the Law of Moses. Our prayer today is for the people who follow the Law, rejecting Christ—the very righteousness they strive to find.

QUOTE: *“Hold on to the hope and promise of a brighter tomorrow.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Lamentations 1-2; Hebrews 7

G. P. A. Hymn 352 – Give the faith, which can remove

Tuesday, 11th November 2025

A BETTER REST

Text(s): Hebrews 4:1-11

Key Verse: *“Anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.” – Hebrews 4:10*

A famous saying goes, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Hebrews 4 makes a similar observation, pointing to Israel’s history as a warning not to miss God’s promise.

The example of those Israelites who failed to enter the Land of Promise serves as a cautionary tale for subsequent generations. Their lack of faith kept them from experiencing what God had promised them. The author quotes Psalm 95:11 in verse 3 to show that God’s rest comes only through faith and that a refusal to believe is disobedience. The fact that the Exodus generation did not find rest in the land indicates that “the promise of entering his rest still stands” (v. 1). Those who contemplated rejecting Christ and returning to the Law of Moses seemed as if they might fall short of obtaining Christ’s promise of rest (Matt. 11:28–30).

When we come to Jesus in faith, we acknowledge that we cannot make ourselves right with God by our own effort. Instead, we rely on the finished work of Christ and enter into His rest. As verse 10 says, “anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works.” The writer will go on in the book of Hebrews to explain how this is possible, emphasizing the finished nature of Christ’s sacrifice (Heb. 7:27; 9:12; 10:10). This does not mean that we are inactive. We love and serve God. But we don’t accomplish this in our own strength or as an attempt to earn a righteous standing. The failure of Israel to believe God’s promise is a warning to those who refuse the grace God offers through Christ. In a play on words in verse 11, the author urges his readers to “make every effort to enter that rest.”

What does it mean to “enter” God’s rest? How do we follow our desire to please God by serving Him and still refrain from putting too much emphasis on our own self and our own ability?

PRAYER(S):

How do we find the perfect rest? Hebrews gives an answer: in Christ, in His work He’s already done for us. God, lead us on this road of giving up our ambitions, achievements, and goals that are not from You and entering Your rest.

QUOTE: *“Honor yourself by allowing time for reflection and relaxation to foster creativity and resilience.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Lamentations 3-5; Hebrews 8

G. P. A. Hymn 137 – I am coming to Jesus for rest

Wednesday, 12th November 2025

DRAW NEARER

Text(s): Hebrews 4:12-16

Key Verse: *“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence.”* – **Hebrews 4:16**

Most people’s idea of confidence is rooted in themselves. It is self- confidence. It is a can-do attitude, or at least a will-do mentality. The Christian’s confidence originates from a different place. We can confidently approach God’s throne of grace not because of anything we have done but because of what Christ has done for us (v. 16).

How do we know that our confidence is warranted? What right do we have to think that God will accept us? Scripture cuts through any self-deception to show us what we are really like. It “judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” and reveals what we have hidden from ourselves or are trying to hide from God (v. 12). When God’s Word has finished its work, it is clear that the grounds for our assurance do not lie in us.

We may confidently approach God’s throne because Jesus Christ is acting as our High Priest. Our passport into His presence is our faith in Him (v. 14). We do not have to fear that Christ will refuse us. We are coming to a High Priest who is able to “empathize with our weaknesses” (v. 15). To empathize (some versions translate the Greek word in this verse as sympathize) is to “feel with” someone. But the greatness of Christ is that He offers more than a shared feeling. Because Jesus was tempted in all points like us, yet has overcome, He can provide “mercy” and “grace to help” in our time of need (v. 16).

The secret to assurance in the Christian life is not self-confidence but Christ-confidence. Look outside yourself to the throne of God’s grace and put your trust in Jesus Christ. Dare to draw near, and you will find mercy, grace, and help. Jesus will receive you.

What or who makes you confident? How do you feel when approaching God? What does this Scripture teach us about why we can draw near Him with confidence?

PRAYER(S):

Who do we turn to in times of trials? Merciful God, You are our hiding place and comfort. Thank You for an assurance in Hebrews 4 that we can come to Your throne with confidence, and our “passport” into Your presence is our faith in You.

QUOTE: *“You find peace and guidance that transcends the challenges of everyday life when you are close to God.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 1-3; Hebrews 9

G. P. A. Hymn 410 – And now the wants are told that brought

Thursday, 13th November 2025

A BETTER HIGH PRIEST

Text(s): Hebrews 5:1-10

Key Verse: *“He learned obedience from what he suffered.”* – Hebrews 5:8

Job postings usually include a section describing the qualifications for that position. They ask for a certain level of experience. Hebrews 5:1–3 describes one of the most essential qualifications for the position of high priest. High priests were “selected from among the people” (v. 1). The priest’s unique role was the reason. A priest was more than a religious functionary. A priest was appointed to “represent” the people by offering sacrifices. The Greek text literally says they were “chosen on behalf of men.”

The writer points out that to be effective in this calling, priests must be like those they represent. Shared weakness enables the priest to “deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray” (v. 2). Because earthly priests shared the same sin nature as the congregation, they had to offer sacrifices for themselves as well as for anyone else (v. 3). Being a priest was a calling, not a career choice. Nobody volunteered for this kind of work. They were appointed by God (v. 4).

This review of the high priest’s essential qualifications sets the stage for one of the author’s main points in this letter. Not only is Jesus qualified to be a high priest for God’s people, He is a better high priest than any of the priests of the law. They were fellow sinners who served God’s people. Jesus shares our human nature’s weakness but not sin’s imperfection.

When Jesus was tempted, His obedience revealed the uniqueness of the Savior’s human nature. When it comes to His humanity, Jesus was like us in every point except one. He never sinned (vv. 7–8). This obedience reached its apex in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus prayed “not my will, but yours be done” (Luke 22:42).

What are the qualifications for a priest? Why did Jesus perfectly fill this role? Why is having Jesus as your high priest far better than any human priest?

PRAYER(S):

Lord Jesus, our wonderful High Priest, draw us closer to You through the study of Your Word. Thank You for interceding for us before the throne of grace.

QUOTE: *“Get a deeper relationship with God, where we experience true healing, redemption, and love.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 4-6; Hebrews 10:1-23

G. P. A. Hymn 428 – How sweet the voice of Jesus sound

Friday, 14th November 2025

GROWING UP

Text(s): Hebrews 5:11-14

Key Verse: *“Solid food is for the mature.”* – Hebrews 5:14

Many parents rejoice when their child begins to eat solid food. It may only be a bit of cracker or a cookie, but it is cause for celebration because it is a sign of growth. Hebrews 5:11–14 points to this common experience to make an uncomfortable point for the recipients of this letter. “You need milk, not solid food!” the author says (v. 12). Spiritual immaturity made it difficult for them to grasp the comparison between the Old Testament figure of Melchizedek and Jesus. Melchizedek was the mysterious figure who came out to greet Abraham with bread and wine after the battle of the kings (read Genesis 14:1–24).

The key teaching here is Jesus’ role as a high priest over God’s people. Like Aaron, Jesus was “appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins” (compare with Heb. 5:1). Christ’s appointment as high priest, described in Psalms 2:7 and 110:4, is quoted in verses 5–6. Like the priests of the Mosaic Law, Jesus shares the humanity of those He serves. But these readers needed to grasp a distinct difference. Because Jesus obeyed when He was tempted and suffered death on their behalf, He “became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him” (v. 9). Notice the emphasis on the “eternal” nature of the salvation Jesus provides, the “once for all” nature of His sacrifice. It is non-repeatable, and its effects are permanent.

The writer had more to write, but it was impossible to say it all because his readers were not able to grasp it (vv. 11–12). By this time, they should have been teachers, but they needed to return to spiritual kindergarten, to learn the “elementary truths of God’s word all over again” (v. 12).

Where are you on the sliding scale of “kindergarten” to maturity in terms of your growth in Christ? What do you need to do to grow?

PRAYER(S):

What a comfort it is to know, Lord, that your salvation is eternal, that those who obey You receive the grace of Your one-for-all sacrifice. Give us insight and spiritual maturity to live in the light of these truths.

QUOTE: *“Embrace change and find strength in the journey of becoming who you are meant to be.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 7-9; Hebrews 10:24-39

G. P. A. Hymn 387 – I’m pressing on the upward way

Saturday, 15th November 2025

MOVING ON IN FAITH

Text(s): Hebrews 6:1-12

Key Verse: *“Let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ.”* – **Hebrews 6:1**

My wife taught at the elementary school level for most of her teaching career. She often told me that she enjoyed teaching beginning skills to her students. Yet even at that level, what she was able to teach depended upon what the students had learned previously.

The author of Hebrews found himself in the same position. But the stakes were much higher. Anyone who hopes to move forward to maturity in faith must first take hold of “the elementary teachings about Christ” (v. 1). If we fail to grasp the basics, we risk ignoring them altogether. The basics listed in verse 2 emphasize Christ’s role as the promised Messiah and the ultimate fulfillment of all the rituals commanded by the Law of Moses.

The people described in the hypothetical scenario of verses 4–8 are not those who had lost their faith but hearers who never fully possessed it in the first place. Despite a powerful spiritual experience, which includes hearing the gospel preached and perhaps even confirmed with miraculous signs, they ultimately reject Christ and so prove that they are unbelievers at heart. This letter is proof that the author did not believe its recipients fell into this category. Indeed, if they had, there would have been no point in writing to them (v. 4).

According to verse 11, the key to maturity is persistence in faith, which bears fruit in loving obedience. It is not a temporary experience that fades away but a settled conviction over the long haul. The kind of genuine faith the author describes in verses 9–12 is one that is lived out in the community of other believers. It is also a faith that learns through imitation, taking note of “those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised” (v. 12).

How do we know that our faith is genuine? How do we grow that faith into maturity (vv. 9–12)?

PRAYER(S):

Holy Father, search our hearts and reveal to us if there is any hypocrisy or immaturity in our faith. Teach us how to live out our faith in the community of believers. Bless our relationships in our local churches.

QUOTE: *“Trust in God’s plan even when the path ahead is unclear.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 10-12; Hebrews 11:1-19

G. P. A. Hymn 322 – The holy must undaunted be

Sunday, 16th November 2025

AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL

Text(s): Hebrews 6:13-20

Key Verse: *"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."* – **Hebrews 6:19**

When the S. S. Badger sails into the harbor in Ludington, Michigan, it drops anchor as it sails into port. The anchor secures the ship, which is 410 feet long and seven stories tall, as it pivots in the channel and backs into place. That piece of heavy forged steel plays a significant role.

Immediately following a passage that makes some people feel unsure about how secure they can be in their faith, the author emphasizes the assurance believers can have about their future. Verse 19 says the believer's hope in Christ is "an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (v. 19). Our hope is secure because it depends upon the certainty of God's promise.

The author singles out Abraham as evidence of this, not only because the Hebrew Christians to whom he writes would have traced their ancestry from him but mainly because Abraham is a prototype of all who believe (compare with Rom. 4:11, 16–17). Abraham's example was especially relevant to the Hebrew Christians because he had to wait patiently in faith before obtaining the promise (v. 15). God confirmed His promise to Abraham with an unbreakable oath, swearing by Himself because "there was no one greater for him to swear by" (v. 13). The fact that God had said it guaranteed the outcome.

The point made in these verses is more than a simple assertion that God keeps His word. This is undoubtedly an aspect of what is being said. But the mention of the promises made to Abraham also shows the readers that those who trust in Christ are heirs of the promises made to Abraham. God said these things to Abraham so that "we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged" (v. 18). The guarantee granted to Abraham was also given to us.

How can we "take hold" of the hope we have in Jesus? How does faith "anchor" our lives?

PRAYER(S):

Jesus, thank You for this hope, "firm and secure" (Heb. 6:19).

QUOTE: *"In the turbulence of life, faith serves as the anchor for the soul, providing stability and hope."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 13-15; Hebrews 11:20-40

G. P. A. Hymn 337 – My hope is built on nothing less

Monday, 17th November 2025

THE KING OF PEACE

Text(s): Hebrews 7:1-17

Key Verse: *"You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."* – **Hebrews 7:17**

Monarchs often have many titles. For example, King Charles III of England is officially His Majesty Charles the Third, by the Grace of God, King of Antigua and Barbuda and His other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

In Hebrews 7:1–17, we learn of several titles that Scripture assigns to Melchizedek, the king and priest who greeted Abraham after the battle of the kings described in Genesis 14. His name meant "King of Righteousness," and according to Genesis 14:18, he was king of Salem (probably Jerusalem). Salem is the word for shalom or peace. He was also called "priest of God Most High." Psalm 110:4 (quoted in v. 17), which is considered a Messianic prediction, says the Messiah will be "a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." The author of Hebrews points to Psalm 110:4 as proof that Jesus is superior to the Levitical priests of the Mosaic Law.

If you read the description of Melchizedek in Genesis 14, you will notice that he appears suddenly, without giving any record of his origin, family descent, or successors. Verse 3 explains that in this way, he resembles the Son of God. Because there is no record of his genealogy, it appears as if Melchizedek, like Jesus, "remains a priest forever." There is another distinction that sets Melchizedek apart from the Levitical priests. He received a tenth of the plunder from Abraham, whereas the Levitical priests descended from Abraham and received tithes from the Israelites. It seems to symbolize that the Levitical priesthood served Melchizedek (vv. 9–10).

The writer highlights a limitation in the Mosaic Law. The sacrifices made by priests could never make someone perfect (v. 11). Psalm 110:4 promises a new way. Jesus, our High Priest, does for us what the Law could never do. He is our peace (Eph. 2:14).

Describe the key differences between Jesus and priests. Why does this distinction provide great assurance for us?

PRAYER(S):

With wars and rumors of wars, peace seems elusive today. And yet, You, our Lord are the Prince of Peace. Give Your people that divine shalom no matter the circumstances. We place our hope in You and find peace in Your holy name.

QUOTE: *"Allow His grace to transform our chaos into calm and our fears into faith."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 16; Hebrews 12

G. P. A. Hymn 409 – Jesus King the joy of the weak soul

Tuesday, 18th November 2025

A BETTER HOPE

Text(s): Hebrews 7:18-28

Key Verse: *“Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.”* – **Hebrews 7:22**

The first recipients of the letter to the Hebrews would have been very familiar with Psalm 19:7, which says: “The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.” Perhaps they had even memorized it. Then, the blunt assessment of Hebrews 7:18 must have come as a shock. If the Law of the Lord is perfect, how could the writer of Hebrews say that it was “weak and useless”? And, since a priesthood after the order of Abraham’s descendant Levi had been established, why would the Messiah come from a different lineage (vv. 13–14)?

These questions are answered in today’s reading. The Law’s weakness resulted from what it could not do. The Law of the Lord was indeed perfect, but it “made nothing perfect” because those under the Law were themselves imperfect. God did not give the Law as a permanent solution to the problem of sin. The Law was always meant to give way to Jesus Christ. The author was not belittling the sacrifices prescribed by the Law of Moses but instead showing how Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection made them no longer necessary!

Jesus is a better priest because His is a “permanent priesthood” (v. 24). He is able to “save completely” (v. 25). As our priest, Jesus shares our humanity, yet He is “holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens” (v. 26). Unlike the priests of the Law, who died and would be replaced with each generation, Jesus was eternal. He did not need to offer sacrifices for His own sins as well as those of the people (v. 27). Instead, Jesus “always lives to intercede for them” (v. 25). Jesus is both our great priest and God’s perfect sacrifice.

Why did the Law fail to make people perfect? How does this align with the beliefs of many today who think they can be “good enough” to get into heaven?

PRAYER(S):

Thank You, Christ, that the hope of heaven is real. We rejoice today that we can live with that assurance, knowing that You are faithful, and all Your promises will come to pass.

QUOTE: *“Trust in the possibility of renewal and the power of resilience, no matter how bleak the present may seem.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 17-19; Hebrews 13

G. P. A. Hymn 329 – Trust on, trust on, believer

Wednesday, 19th November 2025

A NEW COVENANT

Text(s): Hebrews 8:1-7

Key Verse: *“For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another.” – Hebrews 8:7*

Sometimes, it is hard to part with a well-loved item, even if the new version is better. For example, a baseball player might be reluctant to replace his favorite mitt. A guitarist may cherish one guitar for a lifetime, rejecting a shiny substitute.

In the parable of the wineskins, Jesus observed that “no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, ‘The old is better’” (Luke 5:39). Today’s passage helps us understand why a new covenant was necessary. Jesus came to enact a new covenant because of what was “wrong” with the first (v. 7). We learned that the Law was never designed to be a permanent solution to humanity’s sin problem. Instead, it pointed to something greater.

The difference between the Law of Moses and the ministry of Jesus is the difference between an original and its copy. The features of the Aaronic priesthood with its sanctuary and sacrifices were copies of “the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being” (v. 2). God ordained these elements of worship under the Law of Moses but they were merely a “copy and shadow of what is in heaven” (v. 5).

God intended the Law to give way to the grace that comes through Christ. Jesus’ priesthood is superior to the Aaronic priesthood. His sacrifice had a more enduring result. The covenant Jesus put into effect by His ministry is “superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises” (v. 6).

Some people were finding it difficult to accept that the old ministry of the Law was meant to give way to the new ministry of grace through the high priesthood of Christ. They were tempted to say, “The old is better.” But the law was meant as a signpost, not a solution. Why do you think New Testament believers struggled to part with old ways? Why was the Law of Moses unable to be a permanent solution to our sin problem?

We celebrate Your promise to us, “I am making everything new!” (Rev. 21:5). You enacted a new covenant and gave us freedom to live under grace, not under Law. We ask for Your guidance on this narrow road.

PRAYER(S):

Lord, strengthen our faith in this covenant and empower us to share Your message of hope and salvation with others in Jesus’ name.

QUOTE: *“A journey from judgment to grace, offering us a path to reconciliation and eternal hope.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 20-21; James 1

G. P. A. Hymn 192 – They sing praises to glorious Lamb

Thursday, 20th November 2025

THE FLAW IN THE LAW

Text(s): Hebrews 8:8-13

Key Verse: *“God found fault with the people.”* – Hebrews 8:8

Hebrews 8 continues its comparison of the ministry of Christ with the Law and draws a similar conclusion. The author observed there was something “wrong” with the first covenant God made with Israel through Moses (v. 7). But what is the flaw in the Law? It turns out that it is us. The law was given to Israel as a revelation from God, but it cannot be in us apart from Jesus Christ.

This internal dimension was the essence of the new covenant predicted in Jeremiah 31:31–34 and made a reality by Jesus Christ (vv. 8–12). Jeremiah said the new covenant would differ from the one given to Israel after the Exodus (vv. 8–9). It would have the power to work from the inside out. Instead of imposing His will in the form of external laws and commands, God promises “to put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts” (v. 10). This involves more than remembering what God commanded. It is an internal knowledge of God rooted in forgiveness (vv. 11–12).

The old covenant set the standard and made demands. The new provides the means to comply by offering forgiveness and the righteousness of Christ as a gift to those who believe. The old covenant tells us we have sinned. The new covenant turns sinners into saints and assures us that our wickedness and sins have been wiped away. The new covenant came to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. He “made the first one obsolete” (v. 13).

Describe the difference between the old covenant and the new covenant. Why was the new covenant necessary?

PRAYER(S):

Dear God, we confess we are sinners, and yet, Your new covenant turns sinners into saints. What a privilege and responsibility to live in the light of Christ’s forgiveness! Holy Spirit, deepen our understanding of this profound truth.

QUOTE: *“While the law may have its imperfections, it is our responsibility to address and rectify these flaws with integrity and dedication.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 22-23; James 2

G. P. A. Hymn 121 – Rock of ages cleft for me

Friday, 21st November 2025

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD

Text(s): Hebrews 9:1-14

Key Verse: *“He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.”* – Hebrews 9:12

An old hymn asks, “What can wash away my sins?” The answer? “Nothing but the blood of Jesus.” In chapter 9, the author of Hebrews explains how Jesus changed, once for all, the way our sins are forgiven. Readers of Hebrews would have been familiar with what the Law prescribed regarding “regulations for worship” and “an earthly sanctuary” in the form of a tent or tabernacle (v. 1). These were the laws given to Moses, designed and ordained by God (Ex. 25:9, 40).

Up until this point, the tabernacle had represented God’s presence with His people. The tabernacle was divided into two rooms: an outer room called the holy place and another room behind a curtain called the most holy place (vv. 2–3). In the holy place, the priests tended the lampstand and a table with twelve loaves of consecrated bread (Ex. 25:23–40). The most holy place was closed to everyone except the high priest, who could enter only once a year (v. 7). No ordinary person was allowed in that sacred place.

This helps us better understand why the Law’s sacrifice could not solve our sin problem. These regulations emphasized humanity’s separation from God. They were also “not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper” (v. 9).

Jesus “came as high priest of the good things that are now already here” (v. 11). He carried out His ministry in “the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands.” Jesus did not come into God’s presence with a sacrifice of bulls or goats. Instead, He “offered himself unblemished to God” (v. 14). Jesus is God’s ultimate answer to the question of our sin. How can we come into God’s presence with a clear conscience? What enables us to freely serve the living God? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

What limits did the worship regulations and design of the tabernacle place on an ordinary person’s approach to God? How did Jesus change that for us?

PRAYER(S):

Lord Jesus, as we read in today’s passage about our redemption by Your blood, we bow down before Your sacrifice and pray the words of the hymn writer, “This is all my hope and peace: nothing but the blood of Jesus” (Robert Lowry, 1876).

QUOTE: *“We have a grace that covers all imperfections and a love that redeems us completely.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 24-26; James 3

G. P. A. Hymn 440 – What can wash my sins away?

Saturday, 22nd November 2025

A BETTER SACRIFICE

Text(s): Hebrews 9:15-28

Key Verse: *“Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many.”* – **Hebrews 9:28**

We don't talk about sacrifices very much today, but they were a common practice in many religions. Sacrifices were offered for various reasons. Sometimes, it was merely an expression of religious feeling, a way to feel connected or to say “thank you” to their god. In other religions, a sacrifice was almost like a bribe, intended to purchase favor.

The sacrifice of Christ was different. In Hebrews 9, the author compares Jesus' offering of Himself to a covenant, a ransom, and a will. A covenant is a kind of divine promise. In a covenant, God commits to do something. In the case of Christ, it was to provide “those who are called” with a “promised eternal inheritance” (v. 15). To accomplish this, Jesus had to die as a “ransom,” a payment made in exchange for someone's life (v. 15). Because the payment was Christ's death, the writer also compares Christ's sacrifice to a will or testament, “because a will is in force only when somebody has died” (v. 17). But Christ's death was more than a payment, it was an act of substitution. Christ died for us.

These ideas were also present in the sacrificial system described in the Law of Moses (vv. 18–22). But the author notes three things that make Christ's offering “better” than those. First, Christ's offering did not take place in a copy, but Jesus “entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence” (v. 24). Second, while the offerings of the Old Testament Law had to be repeated, Jesus “appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself” (v. 26). Third, we are saved by Jesus' sacrifice. It is God's permanent solution for sin (v. 28).

First Corinthians 6:20 says, “You are not your own; you were bought with a price.” How does reflecting on the sacrifice Jesus made on your behalf change the way you live?

PRAYER(S):

Loving Father, thank You for Your sacrifice that gave us eternal life. Guide our steps every day so that we may live as true and worthy citizens of Your heavenly kingdom. Amen!

QUOTE: *“We discover the true value of our offerings and the depth of our commitment to something greater than ourselves.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 27-28; James 4

G. P. A. Hymn 200 – Glory be to Jesus

Sunday, 23rd November 2025

LIVING IN THE LAW'S SHADOW

Text(s): Hebrews 10:1-10

Key Verse: *"The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming."* – Hebrews 10:1

The book of Hebrews contrasts the "reality" of Christ's once-for-all offering of Himself with the "shadow" of the sacrifices of the Law, which were "repeated endlessly year after year" (v. 1). If the sacrifices of the Law could have accomplished what Christ's sacrifice does, they would have "stopped being offered" and those who offered them "would no longer have felt guilty for their sins" (v. 2). But if the sacrifice of Christ is so much better, why bother with those of the Law at all? According to verse 3, their purpose was to serve as "an annual reminder of sins."

In this way, the law paved the way for the coming of Christ. It was not meant to be an alternative or a substitute for Christ, but it was an anticipation of what Jesus would do for us. The Law showed the need for Christ's offering.

The Old Testament testified to this need by anticipating Christ. Messianic Psalms, like the one quoted in verses 5–7, predicted aspects of His ministry. Specifically, these verses quote the Greek translation of Psalm 40:6–8 to emphasize the incarnation. Jesus took on a human nature so that we could be "made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (v. 10).

The reality of something is always better than a mere image. Now that Christ has come, we no longer need to live in the shadow of the Law. All the good things it foreshadowed are found in Him.

Sometimes we try to gain victory over sin on our own. How does the reality of what Jesus has accomplished change our perspective?

PRAYER(S):

What is the purpose of the Law? The Law of Moses speaks about You, Lord, foreshadowing the things to come. Thank You for the reality of Your grace and forgiveness! Save those, we pray, who still labor in vain under the rules of the Law.

QUOTE: *"Recognize the limits of rule-based righteousness and seek the deeper light of grace and compassion."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 29-31; James 5

G. P. A. Hymn 519 – Once like a bird in prison I dwell

Monday, 24th November 2025

ONCE FOR ALL

Text(s): Hebrews 10:11-18

Key Verse: *“For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”* – **Hebrews 10:14**

The instructions on most shampoo bottles tell users to “wash, rinse, repeat.” Sometimes called the shampoo algorithm, these words (especially the third) have probably earned more money for the makers of hair products than anything else their marketing departments have written!

The author of Hebrews may seem to harp on the fact that sacrifices of the Law were repeated. But this is an essential point in the author’s argument for the superiority of Christ. The offerings of the Levitical priesthood were (by necessity!) a daily occurrence. The fact that they had to be made “again and again” was proof that those sacrifices could “never take away sins” (v. 11).

But Jesus’ priesthood is different. Instead of being sacrificed repeatedly, He “offered for all time one sacrifice for sins” and then “sat down at the right hand of God” (v. 12). Jesus’ work is final. Two facts signal the permanence of Jesus’ offering. One is that Jesus is now at rest, waiting for His enemies to be made His footstool (v. 13). The other is the effect of His sacrifice upon those who believe. By one sacrifice, Jesus “has made perfect forever those who are being made holy” (v. 14). Although we continue to grow in holiness, our obedience adds nothing to what Christ has already done. He has provided a perfect righteousness that cannot be improved upon.

Those who have been given Christ’s righteousness learn to practice this righteousness. This work of the Holy Spirit, also known as sanctification, brings the perfection Jesus has given to us as a gift into our daily experience. God puts His Law in our hearts and writes it on our minds (v. 16). But sanctification always begins with forgiveness and justification through Christ. Where there has been forgiveness, there is no longer any need for sacrifice (vv. 17–18).

What is sanctification? How does it begin? How have you experienced sanctification in your life?

PRAYER(S):

Perfect and holy? That’s not us, Lord! But Hebrews says Your sacrifice has made us “perfect forever” and we “are being made holy.” Help us believe the reality of Your salvation and live in the power of Your Spirit.

QUOTE: *“To do something once for all is to make a decisive impact, establishing a benchmark that influences and motivates beyond the immediate moment.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 32-33; 1 Peter 1

G. P. A. Hymn 124 – I hear the Savior say

Tuesday, 25th November 2025

DRAW NEAR

Text(s): Hebrews 10:19-39

Key Verse: *“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart.”* – **Hebrews 10:22**

People who travel often carry a passport. A passport is a kind of permission slip that grants its bearer access they otherwise would not have had. The message of the book of Hebrews is that the blood of Jesus is our passport into God’s presence.

The Law of Moses showed how sin closes the way into God’s presence. The Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle was off-limits to ordinary Israelites. The High Priest could enter but only once a year and not without an offering. But Jesus changed everything by offering Himself on our behalf. He gave us access to God “by a new and living way” and also acts as “a great priest over the house of God.” Therefore, the writer urges all believers to “draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings” (vv. 19–22).

Today’s reading calls any who are tempted to waver to persist in faith and continue in fellowship with other believers (vv. 23–25). The warning in verses 26–31 has troubled some believers, causing them to wonder if it is possible to lose one’s salvation. But the author is making a simple point. Anyone who rejects Jesus as their offering chooses to hold on to sin. Instead of access to God, the only alternative to Jesus Christ is “a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God” (v. 27). Jesus is the only way to be forgiven and accepted by God.

The author of Hebrews was confident that the original recipients of this letter would continue in the faith they had previously demonstrated (vv. 32–35). This is the mark of true faith. It draws near to God through Christ and does not shrink back (v. 39).

Why was Christ’s sacrifice so permanent and distinct? What does this provide for you? What is the defining mark of true faith?

PRAYER(S):

Draw us near to You, all-powerful and all-knowing God! We know that You are able not only to save us but also to keep us on the road of true faith. Strengthen our resolve, we pray, to follow You with courage and determination.

QUOTE: *“Take small steps each day with faith and determination.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 34-35; 1 Peter 2

G. P. A. Hymn 410 – And now the wants are told that brought

Wednesday, 26th November 2025

FAITH AND HOPE

Text(s): Hebrews 11:1-6

Key Verse: *“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” – Hebrews 11:1*

C. S. Lewis defined faith as “the art of holding on to things your reason has once accepted, in spite of your changing moods.” Faith is not a spiritual mood or an emotional state. It may influence our emotions, but faith is ultimately a conviction.

Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as “confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Faith and hope are inseparably bound to one another because the Christian faith is a conviction about what is unseen. This chapter reminds us that we are not alone in this. It has been true of every believer since the beginning (v. 3).

Faith is confidence in God. Faith’s companion, hope, is the expectation that motivates us to act upon it. Abel demonstrated this kind of faith when he came to God with “a better offering than Cain did” (v. 4). The parallel to the Hebrew believers is clear. Their better offering is the sacrifice of Christ, and like Abel, they are suffering for their faith. Faith, in turn, made Enoch worthy of being spared death itself (v. 5). He was caught up into God’s presence. The observation that Enoch “was commended as one who pleased God” comes from the Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint. But just how did Enoch please God? The writer of Hebrews makes it clear that it was Enoch’s faith. Enoch’s “walk” with God was a walk of faith (Gen. 5:24).

Verse 6 summarizes the lesson of all the examples of faith that will be presented in this chapter. Indeed, it is the primary lesson of the entire book: Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Those who have faith do not draw back because they are convinced that “he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (v. 6).

Try to write your own definition of faith. What does the author of Hebrews say faith is? Why is faith so important? How have you experienced it?

PRAYER(S):

What a beautiful example of faith today’s reading presents! Jesus, thank you for Your Word that preserved for us these testimonies. Instill in us the desire to be worthy of this “cloud of witnesses.”

QUOTE: *“Find strength in God’s love and remain steadfast through every storm and challenge.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 36-37; 1 Peter 3

G. P. A. Hymn 347 – My faith looks up to Thee

Thursday, 27th November 2025

FAITH IN WHAT IS UNSEEN

Text(s): Hebrews 11:7-16

Key Verse: *“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.”* – **Hebrews 11:8**

Faith is a kind of vision. But unlike ordinary sight, faith concentrates our attention on things we cannot see. Noah and Abraham are good examples. God commanded Noah to prepare for a disaster unlike anything humanity had ever seen before (Gen. 6:13–22). Jesus tells us what things were like when Noah was building the ark. People were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. They carried out their lives oblivious to what was about to befall them. All the while, Noah kept building a refuge that would have saved their lives had they believed his warning (2 Peter 2:5). Peter calls Noah “a preacher of righteousness” whose faith was in such sharp contrast to the unbelief of his generation that he served as a condemnation against them. “[Noah] condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith” (Heb. 11:7).

When Abraham was called to leave his family and home, he did not have a travel brochure, itinerary, or description. There was only God’s promise to show him the location that he would later receive as an inheritance (v. 8, Gen. 12:1). Abraham and his family lived like those who are homeless, even when they arrived at the place God had promised to give him (vv. 9–10). He believed God would enable Sarah to have children, even when the physical evidence indicated such a thing was impossible (vv. 11–12).

The kind of faith that pleases God welcomes His promises “from a distance” (v. 13). It is the faith of those who love Jesus, even though they have not seen Him. Those who possess such a faith receive as its result the salvation of their souls (1 Peter 1:8–9).

Has God ever called you to take a bold step into the unknown? How did you react? What can we learn from the examples of Noah and Abraham?

PRAYER(S):

Lord, thank you for all who have gone before us, especially those recorded in this “Hall of Faith” (Hebrews 11). Help us to learn from their example, looking not at our circumstances, but only to You and Your promise.

QUOTE: *“You carry the assurance that God’s love and support are unwavering, no matter where the journey leads.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 38-39; 1 Peter 4

G. P. A. Hymn 344 – God moves in a mysterious way

Friday, 28th November 2025

PERSISTENCE OF VISION

Text(s): Hebrews 11:17-31

Key Verse: *“He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.”* – **Hebrews 11:26**

Persistence of vision is the effect you see when you wave a sparkler in the air. The light appears to remain in place after the sparkler has moved. This effect is also what makes animation possible.

The Old Testament heroes of faith mentioned in today’s passage experienced a kind of persistence of vision. Faith enabled them to hold God’s promises in view after they had been given. Through their persistence in faith, they looked beyond the present and anticipated what God would do in the future.

Even though Abraham had “embraced the promises” that God would raise up descendants through Isaac, he placed Isaac on the altar when tested (vv. 17–18). God provided a lamb to take Isaac’s place, foreshadowing the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Gen. 22:8, 13). Abraham was certain that God would fulfill His promise, even if it meant raising Isaac from the dead (v. 19). Isaac pronounced a blessing over his sons Jacob and Esau and predicted their future (v. 20; Gen. 27:27–29, 39–40). Jacob similarly blessed Joseph’s sons and spoke of their future as he was about to die (v. 22; Gen. 48:1–22).

Moses’ parents refused to obey Pharaoh’s edict to kill their firstborn son because “they saw he was no ordinary child” (v. 23). Moses, in turn, had a sense of this calling (Acts 7:25). Verse 26 observes, “He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.” The Israelites passed through the Red Sea on dry land and watched Jericho’s walls fall (vv. 29–30). The prostitute Rahab of Jericho welcomed the spies and saw her family saved (v. 31). Faith enables us to persist in obedience and helps us see “him who is invisible” (v. 27).

Have you ever looked beyond the present and anticipated what God would do in the future? In what way would “persistence of vision” change your life?

PRAYER(S):

Lord Jesus, Your victory and Your eternal kingdom help us not to be afraid of the future. We rejoice in the coming peace in Your kingdom. Thank You for giving us hope and vision for our lives.

QUOTE: *“Every challenge becomes a stepping stone, and every setback is a lesson that brings you closer to your goal.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 40; 1 Peter 5

G. P. A. Hymn 343 – Storms do not alarm me

Saturday, 29th November 2025

SOMETHING BETTER FOR US

Text(s): Hebrews 11:32-40

Key Verse: *“God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.”* – Hebrews 11:40

One of the lyrics in the first stanza of the hymn “How Firm a Foundation” asks, “What more can He say than to you He hath said, who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?” It is a question drawn from verse 32 of today’s reading. There are so many biblical examples of those who were victorious through faith that the author does not have the time or the space to mention them all.

The names listed in verse 32 would have been familiar to the original recipients of this letter. Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Jephthah won victories against overwhelming odds. In addition to being used by God to deliver His people during periods of oppression, they all share another trait in common. By themselves, they all would have been unlikely candidates for Faith’s Hall of Fame. Gideon and Barak were reluctant heroes who asked for reassurance (Judg. 4:8–9; 6:12–15). The Holy Spirit gave Samson great physical strength, but he was a person of weak personal character and impatient disposition (Judg. 14:1–3; 15:1–7).

Jephthah was the son of a prostitute and an impulsive person (Judg. 11:1, 30–35). David was overlooked by his father when Samuel came to anoint Saul’s successor (1 Sam. 16:11). Samuel was just a boy who needed to learn to recognize God’s voice when God called him (1 Sam. 3:1–7). If these examples were not enough, the writer mentions a host of unnamed heroes who went through great suffering despite their faith (vv. 35–37). Why? Because “the world was not worthy of them” (v. 38). Although God helped them to exercise a powerful faith, none received the promise because they were part of a bigger story. Their story is also our story (v. 40).

Take some time to look up one or two of the people mentioned in this chapter and read their full biblical account. How does their faith story inspire your own? What can you learn from these examples?

PRAYER(S):

Dear God, Hebrews 11 reminds us again and again that You have something more and better for us, beyond what we can see. May these powerful stories of those who went before us teach us persistence of faith and vision.

QUOTE: *“Find strength in knowing that each struggle is shaping us for a future filled with potential and promise.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 41-42; 2 Peter 1

G. P. A. Hymn 323 – They that trust in the Lord are secure

Sunday, 30th November 2025

THE DISCIPLINE OF HARDSHIP

Text(s): Hebrews 12:1-13

Key Verse: *“Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” – Hebrews 12:3*

After going through hardship, one woman widely known for her spirituality complained to God. “If this is the way you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them,” she grumbled. It can be hard to understand why God allows us to go through difficulties.

However, the examples of the men and women described in Hebrews 11, “of whom the world was not worthy,” proves that strong faith does not make us immune to hardship (see Heb. 11:38). But the ultimate proof that those God loves may still suffer is found in Jesus Christ. “Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart” (v. 3). Verse 4 provides a reality check for the Hebrew Christians who first received this letter. They had suffered the confiscation of their property (Heb. 10:34). Still, none of them had lost their lives.

But the author of this book has a more encouraging message than simply saying, “Things could be worse.” God has a plan in our suffering. Verse 7 urges us to “endure hardship” because “God is treating you as his children.” We may think that this suffering is a penalty. But it is not punitive; rather, a matter of parental training. We have experienced discipline from our human fathers and managed to respect them (v. 9). How much more should this be the case when the One disciplining us is our perfect heavenly Father!

Any athlete will tell you that training by its very nature is uncomfortable and even exhausting. Why do we submit to it? Because we know what it will produce results. Faith does not eliminate hardship from our lives. It may even lead to it. But through it all, know that you can trust the guiding hand of your Father.

What hardship are you (or someone you know) struggling with right now? How does Hebrews 12 change our perspective on suffering?

PRAYER(S):

Father, we want to open our whole lives to You—in moments of joy and in times of hardship and grief. You never promised easy lives to Your children, but we know we can trust your guiding, protecting hand. Thank You!

QUOTE: *“We learn that our greatest growth often emerges from the most challenging circumstances.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 43-44; 2 Peter 2

G. P. A. Hymn 338 – Jesus I my cross have taken

Monday, 1st December 2025

JOY AND CELEBRATION

Text(s): Psalm 126:1-6

Confession: *"When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream"* – **Psalms 126:1**

G. P. A. Hymn 23 – Now thank we all our God

INTRODUCTION

The Psalmist shares Israel history and shares a hope for a glorious and joyful future. It's a message about joy, it's a message about God's power to save Israel and to save us. Verse 1 says when the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, the Holy City, the City of God they were joyous because God restored their fortunes. You can imagine the joy of the exiles while approaching Jerusalem. Today, your own joy shall be restored in the name of Jesus.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Father in any way I have fallen short of your glory, please have mercy and forgive me, in the name of Jesus.
2. Father, restore unto me the joy of salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit, in Jesus' name.
3. Father, let me begin to experience all round peace, and joy that flows like a river, in my life, in the name of Jesus.
4. O Lord, my Father, no matter the challenges of life that I may face, let your joy never depart from me, in the name of Jesus.
5. Almighty God, let your joy that passes all human understanding be my portion, for the remaining days of my life in the name of Jesus.
6. Father, let your joy be my strength, and, let it propel me to preach to sinners, help the poor, and spread the good news of the kingdom in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 45-46; 2 Peter 3

QUOTE: *"Recognize and embrace the wonder in every day, turning the ordinary into moments of bliss and togetherness."*

Tuesday, 2nd December 2025

WORTH CELEBRATING

Text(s): Luke 10:17-20

Confession: *“Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subjects unto you: but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven” – Luke 10:20*

G. P. A. Hymn 130 – Blow ye trumpet blow

INTRODUCTION

If you are sure of your salvation from sin, you need to be grateful to God. The reason is that there is nothing else in this world that can transform a sinner into a saint other than the name of Jesus and the power of His blood – Acts 4:12. No hero from any country can save you neither can any prophet from any age or dispensation can deliver you. No good level of good works or moral uprightness can redeem you either. Therefore, you ought to daily thank Him.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. Thank God for fully paying for my redemption from sin and hell, with your precious blood.
2. Thank you, God, for giving me power to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and upon all the powers of the enemies.
3. Thank you, Father, for the salvation of my soul, and, for the precious blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross, for my redemption.
4. Father, in any way I have fall short of Your glory, please have mercy ad forgive me in the name of Jesus.
5. Father, give me the grace, to show my appreciation to you daily, by preaching the gospel of salvation to others in the name of Jesus.
6. Father, uphold me till the end, don't let me fail or go back to the world.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Ezekiel 47-48; 1 John 1

QUOTE: *“Embrace life's beauty and sharing that happiness with others.”*

Wednesday, 3rd December 2025

I MUST BE CELEBRATED THIS YEAR

Text(s): Luke 15:9

Confession: *"This is the day the Lord has made I will rejoice and be glad in it"* – **Psalms 118:24**

G. P. A. Hymn 34 – How sweet the name of Jesus sound

INTRODUCTION

Praise and dancing are related. When you praise God with your whole heart, you dance when no one is beating musical instrument. When this happens, you are already preparing for your celebration, physically and spiritually though you may not know it. By the grace of God, the one whom nothing is impossible, in this second half of the year, you will dance in the mighty name of Jesus. Today, while praying, praising and dancing, we must be hopeful. Indeed, dancing is an exercise of faith.

PRAYER GUIDE:

1. I bless you O Lord for putting songs of praise in my mouth in the name of Jesus.
2. Whether the enemy likes it or not, I must be celebrated this year in the name of Jesus.
3. Evil arrows assigned to draw me back in the calendar of prosperity, backfire now in the name of Jesus.
4. Blood of Jesus, restore all my wasted years in the name of Jesus.
5. Anointing to do exploits in life, my life is available, manifest now in the name of Jesus.
6. Anything in me that hate celebration, lose your hold now and die in the name of Jesus.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Daniel 1-2; 1 John 2

QUOTE: *"Find the joy that lies beneath, for it is in these moments that we truly experience the richness of life."*

Thursday, 4th December 2025

A BETTER WORD

Text(s): Hebrews 12:14-24

Key Verse: *"You have come to God, the Judge of all."* – **Hebrews 12:23**

In today's world, some say that Christians and non-Christians are in a "culture war." How should we live in a society that views us with suspicion and hostility? Hebrews 12:14 outlines a strategy. Christians must live carefully, making "every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy." The secret to such a lifestyle is the grace of God. The author of Hebrews sees living Christianly as both evidence and an outgrowth of God's grace in the believer's life (vv. 15–17).

Verses 18–24 continue to make the case for the preeminence of Christ by contrasting the experience of those who first received the Law with those who come to God by faith in Christ. In verses 18–19, the author reiterates and expands a contrast drawn in Hebrews 2:2–4 to highlight the difference. Sinai, where the Law was given, was a place of fire, darkness, gloom, and storm. Even more terrifying than the sight of fire and sounds of trumpet and thunder were the words that God spoke. The people "could not bear what was commanded" (v. 20). The sight was so terrifying that even Moses said, "I am trembling with fear" (v. 21).

Mount Zion is another name for Jerusalem in the Old Testament. It was the place where God showed His presence and Israel worshiped. But verses 22–24 describe it as a spiritual location and a new relationship. It is "the city of the living God," "the heavenly Jerusalem," and "the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven." Those who come to Mount Zion through faith, also come to God, "to the spirits of the righteous made perfect," and "to Jesus." He is "the mediator of a new covenant" that "speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."

As Christians, how do we live among non-Christians who judge us or view us with suspicion or scorn? What advice do we find in today's reading?

PRAYER(S):

Pray with Us: Lord, show us how to speak Your Word, "a better word than the blood of Abel," to non-Christians in our lives. Take away fear and help us to speak about You boldly, even in the face of opposition.

QUOTE: *"Reflect on your intention to bring light and positivity into the world."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Daniel 3-4; 1 John 3

G. P. A. Hymn 268 – Lord Thy word abideth

Friday, 5th December 2025

THE UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM

Text(s): Hebrews 12:25-29

Key Verse: *"We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken."* – **Hebrews 12:28**

We have a lot of wrong ideas about God. Contrary to what some believe, God is not our buddy. He is not an overindulgent grandfather who lives in the sky. He is not a spiritual genie who will grant our every wish. Hebrews 12:29 directs us to think of God with "reverence and awe." The thunder that accompanied the giving of the Law on Sinai was a signal that "God is a consuming fire" (see Deut. 4:24).

The Law taught that all who sin are in danger of divine wrath. The gospel does not douse the fire of God's holiness. Nor does it cancel the day of judgment. Instead, the gospel provides forgiveness, righteousness, and a secure place to stand when that day comes. Those who place their faith in Jesus Christ receive "a kingdom that cannot be shaken" (v. 28).

The voice that shook Sinai at the giving of the Law foreshadowed an even greater shaking that will occur at the end of time. The voice that spoke on Sinai "shook the earth" along with all who heard it (v. 26). In the final judgment, God will "shake not only the earth but also the heavens." This quotation from Haggai 2:6 speaks of a judgment to come that will transform both heavens and earth and create a new order. The old earth will pass away and be replaced by "a new heaven and a new earth" (Rev. 21:1; see also Isa. 65:17), "where righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13).

New Testament scholar F. F. Bruce explains that this is a picture "of the end of the present world-order...where earth and heaven flee away from the face of the judge on the great white throne." Jesus is the judge. He will receive all who come to Him in faith. Those who refuse Him reject life itself. They have no place in His unshakable kingdom.

What important points does this passage make about God's character? How does this shape our relationship with God?

PRAYER(S):

Father in Heaven, what a consolation it is that in this changing world there is something unshakable—Your kingdom "where righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13). Even more, today's reading says we are receiving this kingdom!

QUOTE: *"Every challenge is an opportunity to reaffirm our trust in a higher power and a steadfast purpose."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Daniel 5-6; 1 John 4

G. P. A. Hymn 232 – In the land of fadeless day

Saturday, 6th December 2025

LIVING FORWARD

Text(s): Hebrews 13:1-7

Key Verse: *“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”* – Hebrews 13:6

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard observed, “Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.” The author of Hebrews might agree with this. The writer looks back to the Law of Moses to help us understand the uniqueness of Christ’s offering and urges us to set our hope on the coming of His kingdom. We live into the future, keeping in mind what God has done for us in the past.

The commands in today’s reading deal with life in the here and now, but a kingdom orientation shapes the lifestyle they describe. Showing hospitality, remembering those in prison, and keeping the marriage bed pure (vv. 2–4) may seem somewhat disconnected, but these commands reflect the more general call to love one another (v. 1). Like many believers today, the Hebrew Christians lived in a culture that was hostile to their faith. Some had been arrested and their property taken (see Heb. 10:34).

The perspective outlined in these verses is marked by reverence and trust. Verse 4 warns, “God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.” God has placed limits on sexuality so that its only legitimate expression is within the confines of a covenant of marriage between a man and a woman. These limits also reflect the Bible’s view of gender, which was established at creation. According to the creation account, God created humanity to be male and female (Gen. 1:27). Jesus also affirmed this (Matt. 19:4).

Those who trust God keep their lives “free from the love of money” by learning to be content with what He provides. God’s presence is their greatest possession (v. 5; Deut. 31:6). Those who have God as their helper need not fear any human enemy.

How does the advice given here contradict what is happening in our world? Why do you think the writer closes with these things? Finally, how do we “live forward” with our focus on eternity?

PRAYER(S):

Loving God, indeed, with You in our lives we can “live forward.” With You as our helper we can face the future. We praise You for your presence in our lives, for the love and compassion You give to Your people.

QUOTE: *“Embrace each new day with hope, learning from the past but focusing on the possibilities of the future.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Daniel 7-8; 1 John 5

G. P. A. Hymn 327 – There is victory within my soul

Sunday, 7th December 2025

STRENGTHENED BY GRACE

Text(s): Hebrews 13:8-25

Key Verse: *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”* – **Hebrews 13:8**

Even so, Jesus is at the center of it all. Readers are to imitate their leaders by trusting in Jesus, Who does not change? (v. 8). They are to beware any teaching that devalues Christ. This may be teaching about eating ceremonial foods, “which is of no benefit to those who do so” (v. 9). Or any instruction that fails to acknowledge Jesus as the only sacrifice God accepts for sin. He “suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood” (v. 12). Because of this, Jesus’ followers should not be ashamed of their outsider status in society (v. 13). We may live in this present world, but “we are looking for the city that is to come” (v. 14).

How do we come to God? It is only “through Jesus” (v. 15). He has provided a better way “through the blood of the eternal covenant” (v. 20). Through Jesus, the Father equips us “with everything good for doing his will” and enables us to do “what is pleasing to him” (v. 21). Because of what Jesus has done, our work is a form of thanksgiving, and our dwelling place is with God. As the old hymn says, “There would I find a settled rest | While others go and come; | No more a stranger, nor a guest | But like a child at home.”

How can you keep Jesus at the center of your life? What changes would that require? Write down your main takeaways from the book of Hebrews.

PRAYER(S):

Dear God, thank You for everything we learned from the book of Hebrews this month! Thank You for Your grace that strengthens us. And thank You that we have access to a better way because of what Your Son has done. Amen!

QUOTE: *“We find the strength to rise above our challenges and the courage to face each day with renewed hope and determination.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Daniel 9-10; 2 John

G. P. A. Hymn 487 – Grace tis a charming sound

Monday, 8th December 2025

TEMPTED, YET WITHOUT SIN

Text(s): Luke 4:1-30

Key Verse: *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses.”* – **Hebrews 4:15**

While temptation comes in many forms, it always has one thing in common. Temptation appeals to our fallen desires—for comfort, pleasure, power, love. And Satan (the “roaring lion” mentioned in 1 Peter 5:8) knows exactly when to pounce.

Before Jesus began His public ministry, the Holy Spirit led Him into the desert for a time of solitude, fasting, and prayer. When Satan appeared, Jesus was physically weak and hungry, but He was spiritually full. With his first temptation, Satan questioned Jesus’ identity as God’s Son and the Father’s willingness to provide basic care. Satan appealed to Jesus’ hunger and challenged Him to take matters into His own hands. Jesus responded by reciting Deuteronomy 8:3, which prioritizes obedience to God over physical needs.

With the second temptation, the devil tried a different tactic—an appeal to power, an invitation to worship him, and a direct assault on the first commandment. Ironically, in offering to grant Jesus the authority over all kingdoms on earth, Satan was promising something he couldn’t deliver. Jesus replied with Deuteronomy 6:13, declaring the Lord is the only one worthy of worship.

For the third temptation, Satan took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem—perhaps in a vision. The “highest point of the temple” was the Royal Porch, towering over the Kidron Valley with a drop of 450 feet (v. 9). Satan challenged Jesus to prove His identity by casting Himself down and calling angels to save Him. Satan even quoted the Old Testament himself (Ps. 91:11–12) to enhance his argument. Jesus recognized this as a presumptuous test of God that showed an insolent lack of faith. He recited Deuteronomy 6:16, and Satan left Him alone. But Luke finished the account on an ominous note. Satan wasn’t done. He was just waiting until a more opportune time.

How has Satan used similar tactics to tempt you? What do you learn from Jesus’ response that will help you face the fiery darts?

PRAYER(S):

Heavenly Father, we are afraid lest we mistake our own voice or the devil’s for Yours. As we study Your Word and fellowship with You in prayer, teach us to recognize Your voice so that we cannot be fooled by others.

QUOTE: *“Walk a path of integrity, showing that true strength lies in resisting the pull of wrongdoing.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Daniel 11-12; 3 John

G. P. A. Hymn 486 – Yield not to temptation, For yielding is sin

Tuesday, 9th December 2025

WITH AUTHORITY AND POWER

Text(s): Luke 4:31-44

Key Verse: *“He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.” – Isaiah 61:1*

In today’s social media obsessed world, “viral” videos attract millions of viewers in a short time. If smart phones were available during Jesus’ time, videos of His miracles would have certainly gone viral. After the temptation in the wilderness (Luke 4:1–13), Jesus began his public ministry in Galilee. He traveled to Capernaum, which became a ministry base. The city, on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, was a major Jewish trade center of fishing, as well as agriculture.

One Sabbath day, Jesus went to the synagogue and taught the people with authority until a demon- possessed man disrupted the gathering. Luke mentions demons over 20 times as a major opponent to Jesus’ ministry. In this instance, Jesus’ presence made the demons nervous. Screaming loudly, they challenged Him, while also confessing His identity—at least in part. They called Him “the Holy One of God” (v. 34). Jesus rebuked the demons, and immediately they left the man.

The next healing was less dramatic, but more personal. At Simon Peter’s home, his mother-in- law was sick with fever. There Jesus showed His authority not only over demons but also over disease. He rebuked the fever, and it left the woman immediately. She rose and served them, showing her restoration and gratitude (v. 39). Luke tells us that Jesus healed even more sickness and cast out more demons. The authority of Jesus was unparalleled and could not be stopped.

At daybreak, Jesus withdrew to pray privately, but still the people followed Him. His miraculous works were drawing increasing attention. When they begged Him to stay in Capernaum, He restated His mission, “to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God” to the people of other towns.

Reading about the miracles performed by Jesus is a much-needed reminder that no problem you face is too big for Him. Bring your worries to Jesus today.

PRAYER(S):

You have power over all. Material and immaterial, humankind and demons. We ask for Your spiritual and physical protection from Satan and his servants. Preserve us mind, body, and soul.

QUOTE: *“True leadership is not just about position, but the strength to inspire and guide with confidence and conviction.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Hosea 1-4; Jude

G. P. A. Hymn 129 – Go forth and preach all my gospel

Wednesday, 10th December 2025

FOLLOW ME

Text(s): Luke 5:1-28

Key Verse: *“Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid, from now on you will fish for people.” – Luke 5:10*

Jesus gathered around Him unlikely disciples from various vocations: fishermen, tax collectors, and even political zealots. The first of these, recorded by Luke, was Simon Peter. We know that Jesus already knew Peter since He had healed his mother-in-law not long before. One day, Jesus stood on the shore of the Lake of Gennesaret (Sea of Galilee). Because His teaching had become so popular, a crowd of people had gathered.

Jesus singled out Peter and his companions for a particular encounter. Climbing into Peter’s boat to avoid the crowd, He asked Peter to push out into the lake. Peter was probably exhausted from a long night of fishing, but he did what Jesus said. He only resisted when Jesus, the carpenter’s son, told him to lower his nets. The seasoned fisherman explained, “We’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything” (v. 5). At midday, it seemed foolish to try again.

Nevertheless, Peter did what Jesus said. He probably was thinking of the miracles he had already witnessed—even one in his own family. Miraculously, the nets overflowed with fish, so much so that the boat began to sink and Peter had to call for help.

Peter recognized this was a miracle and Jesus was an agent of God. His immediate response was not gratitude, but repentance. Confronted by the deity of Jesus, Peter recognized his sin. In response, Jesus called Peter into discipleship—for his own sake and the sake of others. We are told that Peter immediately left everything to follow Jesus.

Jesus’ ministry of teaching and healing continued. Luke records how Jesus healed a leper and a paralyzed man. The disciples who answered His call and followed Jesus would continue to be amazed and challenged. Their time with Jesus would change their lives.

Reflect on your own call to follow Jesus. Share that moment with someone else today. And, if you haven’t yet answered Jesus’ call, repent, and turn to Him. He is waiting!

PRAYER(S):

Dear Jesus, I want You to take control of my life. I confess that I am a sinner and only Your blood can make me pure. I repent of my sins. Please forgive me for rebelling against You. Accept me as Your servant and fill me with Your Holy Spirit.

QUOTE: *“Make sure you lead by example, inspiring others to walk the path of integrity, compassion, and purpose.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Hosea 5-8; Revelation 1

G. P. A. Hymn 134 – Jesus calls us, o’er the tumult

Thursday, 11th December 2025

LORD OF THE SABBATH

Text(s): Luke 5:29-6:16

Key Verse: *“The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”* – **Mark 2:28**

Opposition to the gospel can come in many forms—from the obviously evil to the self-righteously proud. While the main antagonists to Jesus’ early ministry were Satan and his demons, Luke records another force of opposition: the religious leaders.

When Jesus called Levi the tax collector to be a disciple, the Jewish religious leaders were upset. Why was Jesus spending time with sinners? But their critique didn’t stop there. They criticized His disciples for not fasting. In Judaism, many Pharisees fasted twice a week (Luke 18:12). They considered the failure of Jesus’ disciples to fast as a dishonor to God.

Jesus responded to their criticism with a metaphor. He illustrated God’s relationship with His people, using the image of a bridegroom and his wedding guests. His disciples did not fast because He, as the bridegroom, was present. In saying this—for the first time in Luke Jesus was predicting his own death. When the bridegroom would be taken, Jesus said, then His disciples would fast.

To reinforce His point, Jesus told a parable, using two additional pictures (a new patch sewn on an old garment and new wine poured into old wine skins). Jesus’ work was transformative. He didn’t come to patch up the old form of Judaism; He came to bring new life entirely.

In another confrontation between Jesus and the Pharisees, they disagreed about the Sabbath. Jewish tradition stipulated strict Sabbath rules. By picking grain, rubbing it, and eating it, Jesus’ disciples were breaking those rules. Jesus again responded with Scripture, citing the account of David (vv. 4–5; 1 Samuel 21 and 22). If the Pharisees condemned Jesus, they were criticizing David as well. Ultimately, Jesus explained, this was an issue of authority. Jesus alone had the right to regulate the Sabbath since He was Lord over it.

Check your own heart for self-righteousness. It’s easy to add to God’s law with additional requirements of our own. How do we judge others based on these “extra” rules?

PRAYER(S):

Help us examine our hearts, Father, and reveal any hypocrisy or self-righteousness in us. Teach us to better discern what honors or dishonors You. Forgive us for overstepping our authority by condemning others.

QUOTE: *“Find rest in His presence, offering renewal and peace amidst the busyness of life.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Hosea 9-11; Revelation 2

G. P. A. Hymn 55 – Our God who art in heav’n

Friday, 12th December 2025

AN EXCEPTIONAL LOVE

Text(s): 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Key Verse: *"Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you."* – Luke 6:37–38

People were talking! Jesus was teaching with authority, healing the sick and casting out demons. People were traveling greater distances to hear His message and experience His power.

In Luke 6, we read the Sermon on the Plain, a parallel message to Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus begins with a series of blessings and woes. He promised God's favor on those who identified with Him. The descriptions of the righteous do not indicate four different groups. Rather, they combine to provide one complete picture of people who are blessed by God.

The poor are blessed because their eternal security is not in this world, but in the kingdom of God (v. 20). The hungry are promised a future far more satisfying than any current longing (v. 21). The destitute were sorrowful because of the strains of their earthly existence, but they are promised laughter (v. 21). The faithful are warned that they will face hatred, exclusion, insults, and rejection. Their suffering will not just be physical but also spiritual.

The four woes are the opposite side of these blessings. They also represent one type of person, someone who finds satisfaction in the things of this world, rather than in God. Jesus warned the rich that their comfort in earthly wealth will be fleeting (v. 24). Those who gorge themselves on food will be left wanting on Judgment Day (v. 25). Those who live frivolously in this life will ultimately weep and mourn (v. 25). Those who crave the praise of men will be condemned (v. 26).

Having encouraged the faithful and warned the self-centered, Jesus explained how to love. We are to love even those who intentionally harm us. Our love should reflect the love of Jesus.

There are some tough lessons in today's passage. Choose one or two and write them down or underline them in your Bible. How can you walk them out in your life, prioritizing God over earthly wants?

PRAYER(S):

May our earthly wealth deplete if it distracts us from You. May our health fail if we think we do not need You. May our joy in this life fade if it does not derive from You. Lord, You are the source of all we need. Help us trust You alone.

QUOTE: *"See beyond imperfections and to offer grace, understanding, and support with unwavering dedication."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Hosea 12-14; Revelation 3

G. P. A. Hymn 145 – One there is above all other

Saturday, 13th December 2025

GO IN PEACE

Text(s): Luke 7:36-50

Key Verse: *"Your faith has saved you; go in peace."* – Luke 7:50

How would you respond if you received a notice from your bank that your mortgage had been forgiven, the loan marked paid? You would likely experience a wave of gratitude, followed by a sense of peace because a significant load had been lifted.

In today's passage, Jesus was invited to a dinner party by a Pharisee named Simon. Simon's motive is not stated, but it was likely not entirely charitable. Because Jesus was a public figure, the door of the house would have remained open, so interested people could enter and observe the conversation from the fringes. The crowd was undoubtedly large.

Suddenly, a known sinful woman—possibly a prostitute—arrived, but she didn't stay on the sidelines. Instead, she boldly approached Jesus—washing His feet with her tears, wiping His feet with her hair, and kissing them. Then she poured costly perfume over His feet. She didn't say anything, nor did she need to. Her humility, remorse, and devotion to Jesus were obvious.

Simon, the host, was shocked. He questioned Jesus' association with sinners and His very identity. But he didn't say this aloud nor did he need to. Jesus knew his thoughts. In response, Jesus told a parable. Two men owed a lender some money—one man five hundred denarii and the other fifty. If the lender canceled both debts, Jesus asked Simon, who would love him more? Simon rightly responded, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven" (v. 43).

Jesus compared Simon and the woman. Simon had given Jesus a minimal welcome, but the woman had lavished Him with love—a love that showed the magnitude of the forgiveness she had received. When the other guests questioned Jesus' authority to forgive sins, He turned to the woman and said, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace" (v. 50).

Jesus offers forgiveness and peace to those who come in faith. Of what have you been forgiven? What act of love can flow from your grateful heart?

PRAYER(S):

How quickly we rush to condemn, even shaking our heads at the Pharisee who hosted Jesus. Father, when we are tempted to judge others, remind us that we have been pardoned. Thank you for your forgiveness!

QUOTE: *"Leave behind a legacy of harmony and grace, enriching the world with the serenity that begins within your heart."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Joel; Revelation 4

G. P. A. Hymn 139 – As I journey thro' the land, singing as I go

Sunday, 14th December 2025

NOURISHING FRUIT

Text(s): Luke 8:4-21

Key Verse: *“Though seeing, they may not see; though hearing they may not understand.”* – **Luke 8:10**

In 1991, the Barna Group asked American adults if they believed that “the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches,” and 46 percent of respondents strongly agreed. By 2016 that number dropped to 33 percent. Barna president David Kinnaman said, “With each passing year, the percent of Americans who believe that the Bible is ‘just another book written by men’ increases.”

In Luke 8, as Jesus’ ministry and the opposition against Him grew, a clear definition of true discipleship became increasingly necessary. Jesus told the parable of the soils to a large crowd who had gathered from several towns. This teaching was intended for the broader audience, and the farming imagery would have been familiar.

In the parable, some seed fell on the road, where it was trampled and eaten by birds. Other seed fell on rocky ground, which could be hard to spot in Palestine since a thin topsoil often covered a limestone rock base. These seeds sprouted and then immediately dried up for lack of roots and water. A third set of seed fell among the weeds, which were plentiful and large in Palestine and easily choked out the seedlings. The rest of the seeds fell on good soil and yielded a hundredfold, a very fruitful crop in a land that expected only tenfold. When the disciples questioned the parable, Jesus explained that the seed was the Word of God, and people responded in various ways to the message—depending on the condition of their heart. Verses 19–21 reinforce the importance of responding to God’s Word. When Jesus was told that His mother and siblings were trying to see Him, He responded with a proverbial statement that He was closest to those who received the Word of God and lived by it.

If you did a soil test on your heart, which kind would it be? Bearing fruit does not happen in a moment but over time. We can cultivate good soil by spending time daily in God’s Word.

PRAYER(S):

We want to be those who hear the word and retain it. We want to be those who persevere and produce a large crop. But we rely on You for this kind of growth. Lord God, give us rich soil and cultivate faith in us.

QUOTE: *“The sweetness and sustenance that come from cultivating a life rich in purpose, care, and growth.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Amos 1-3; Revelation 5

G. P. A. Hymn 268 – Lord Thy word abideth

Monday, 15th December 2025

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Text(s): Luke 9:18-22

Key Verse: *"Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "God's Messiah."* – **Luke 9:20**

In his book *The Knowledge of the Holy*, A. W. Tozer wrote, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." We might say the same about our answer to the question: "Who is Jesus?"

So far in the book of Luke, we have seen a lot of people questioning the identity of Jesus: the crowds, the Pharisees, and even Satan himself. Today's passage records an important turning point as Jesus poses the question directly to His disciples. Certainly, these men who had spent day after day with Him would have the correct answer.

This intimate exchange happened just following the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 (vv. 10–17), when Jesus was praying in private with His closest followers. First, Jesus asked them who people said he was. The disciples replied with a varied list of ideas: John the Baptist, Elijah, a prophet come back to life.

Then Jesus asked them the same question: "Who do you say I am?" Peter—always quick to speak and act—answered immediately: "God's Messiah." He recognized Jesus as the promised deliverer sent by God. Some commentators point out that Peter's response falls short of proclaiming the deity of Christ. Peter would need more time and experience with Jesus to come to that fuller belief. But the understanding Peter already demonstrated opened the door for a deeper discussion of discipleship.

Jesus began that instruction immediately, readjusting their expectations. They were looking for a triumphant and conquering savior, but Jesus foretold His suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection. These things "must" happen. The Greek word *dei*, translated as "must," implied that this would all happen by God's design. Jesus was not resigned to "fate." He was committed to obedience.

Consider what our culture says about Jesus. Who do they say He is? Then, ask yourself, "Who do I say Jesus is?" Take sometime today to meditate on your answer.

PRAYER(S):

Lord Jesus, You are the Son of God, deity in the flesh, and the perfect sacrifice whose death secured our salvation. Our identity is in You, and from You we receive holiness.

QUOTE: *"Reflect on the deeper essence of each person and to recognize the divine within everyone we encounter."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Amos 4-6; Revelation 6

G. P. A. Hymn 366 – Jesus the Life, the Truth the Way

Tuesday, 16th December 2025

PEACE TO THIS HOUSE

Text(s): Luke 10:1-24

Key Verse: *“Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me.”* – **Luke 10:16**

In Luke 9, Jesus set His sights on Jerusalem, expanding His efforts to reach more people with His good news (v. 51). He sent out an additional seventy-two messengers of the gospel, instructing them to go in pairs and to pray for even more workers to join them (10:1). This call to prayer highlights the fact that it is God who sends missionaries (not us!). Using agricultural imagery, Jesus described the mission field as a plentiful harvest. He warned them that this assignment would not be easy; they would be like lambs among the wolves.

Then Jesus gave clear and practical missionary training. They were to travel light and be focused. When they entered a home, they were to tell its inhabitants: “Peace to this house.” If that declaration was received with peace, they should stay, communing, healing, and proclaiming the kingdom of God (vv. 5–7).

But if they were rejected, they were to shake the dust of that city from their feet, as a public acknowledgment of the people’s choice to ignore the message of repentance. Even Tyre and Sidon, evil cities, infamous in the Old Testament, would fare better in the judgment than those who rejected their message.

This mission was a great success, and the seventy-two returned with joy over the power they saw. Jesus reminded them of their real source of joy: their own salvation and the promise of eternal life with God. Then Jesus, also full of joy and the Holy Spirit, prayed with gratitude to the Father for the work He had done through His messengers.

Does your church send and support missionaries? Find out the names of those missionaries and commit to support all or some of them in prayer. Your ministry of prayerful support is an important part of kingdom work!

PRAYER(S):

Today we intercede for those whose hearts are hardened against You. You have the power to soften them. Break down their resistance and move them to submit and repent to You. Save them from their sin, as You have saved us.

QUOTE: *“A daily practice of love, understanding, and forgiveness among all who live here.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Amos 7-9; Revelation 7

G. P. A. Hymn 12 – Since Christ my soul from sin set free

Wednesday, 17th December 2025

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

Text(s): Luke 10:25-37

Key Verse: *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”* – **Luke 10:27**

A true disciple of Jesus won't simply understand biblical truth; we must put what we are taught into action. One day, a lawyer, an expert in Jewish tradition, posed a question to Jesus: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” His question was meant as a test.

Jesus asked the man, who was very familiar with Jewish law, to answer his own question. The scribe responded by quoting part of the Shema (Deuteronomy 6). The Jews daily recited this call to love God fully. He also quoted Leviticus 19:18, a call to love one's neighbor as oneself.

Jesus commended this answer, but the lawyer wanted more. He wanted to justify his actions. He asked who Jesus considered to be a neighbor. The Sirach, a Jewish book of wisdom, told readers not to help sinners, so the lawyer wanted distinction between “neighbors” and “non-neighbors.”

In response, Jesus told a story. A man was traveling on the treacherous road from Jericho to Jerusalem. This 17-mile journey was well known for danger. Thieves hid in caves, attacked the man, and left him for dead. A priest and a Levite came down the road. The lawyer would have expected them to be the heroes. But they both passed by on the other side. Perhaps they were afraid of becoming unclean by touching a corpse. Their motive is not mentioned.

Then came the Samaritan—a “non-neighbor” in the lawyer's eyes. Jesus' description of the Samaritan's care consists of a long string of action upon action. His was a lavish act of love. Jesus then asked a simple question: Which one was a neighbor? The scribe couldn't even say, “The Samaritan.” He only answered, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told the man, “Go and do likewise” (v. 37).

Most of us struggle to put love into action. It is easy with the “neighbors” we like. It is much more difficult with those who challenge us. Ask God to soften your heart so you can love your neighbor today.

PRAYER(S):

Toward those in our lives who seem unworthy of respect, compassion, or consideration, give us Your supernatural love. Humble us to extend to them the same grace and forgiveness You have lavished on us.

QUOTE: *“See the world through the eyes of empathy and recognize that we are all connected by our shared experiences.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Obadiah; Revelation 8

G. P. A. Hymn 448 – Love others as thyself

Thursday, 18th December 2025

A CROSSROAD

Text(s): Luke 11:14-23

Key Verse: *“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.”* – **Luke 11:23**

A crossroad is the intersection of two roads. But it can also refer to a time in life where you need to make an important decision. Which way will you go? You can only choose one way. Today’s passage begins with another miracle. Jesus drove out a demon that had rendered a man mute, but Luke recounts this miracle with very few details. Instead, he gives considerable attention to the public discussion that followed as the debate surrounding Jesus’ identity continued to build.

People had three different opinions. Some in the crowd were amazed. Another group argued that His power was from Satan. Still others were reserving judgment until they had seen more miracles. Once again, Jesus knew their opinions even though they did not voice them. He addressed them directly, using simple logic to refute the claim of His connection to Satan. If Satan’s goal was destruction and Jesus was restoring health, how could they be aligned? They had completely different aims. Jesus also offered His commissioned Jewish followers—who were also driving out demons—as witnesses to the source of His authority.

Then, Jesus made this bold declaration: “If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you” (v. 20). There were only two possibilities. No middle ground. Either Jesus was performing miracles by Satan’s power, or He was ushering in the kingdom of God. Essentially, He was calling people to a crossroad decision.

Jesus finished with another parable in which Satan was the strong man who could initially guard his home, until Jesus—the stronger one— attacked and dismantled his defense. Jesus’ miracles demonstrated—not a dependence on Satan—but a superior power over him. Finally, Jesus gave an ultimatum. “Whoever is not with me is against me” (v. 23). It was time to choose.

What was your “crossroad moment” with Jesus? Pray for anyone you know who is at that point right now—that they would choose Him.

PRAYER(S):

For those at a “crossroads moment,” please give them the nudge that will put them to their knees before You. Please show them the truth: that You alone make life worth living, that You alone are life.

QUOTE: *“Trust that every direction holds its own potential for growth and transformation.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Jonah; Revelation 9

G. P. A. Hymn 338 – Jesus I my cross have taken

Friday, 19th December 2025

DO NOT WORRY

Text(s): Luke 12:22-34

Key Verse: *“Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?”* – **Luke 12:25**

Do you tend to worry? Most of us do! In Luke chapter 12, Jesus spoke on this topic. He urged His followers to fear God more than people (vv. 1–12). They should build treasure in heaven—and not on earth (vv. 13–21). They were to keep an eternal perspective (vv. 35–48). And, finally, they should not worry about this life.

The verb tense here implies a condition of being continually free from anxiety, an instruction repeated by Paul in Philippians 4. The specific focus in these verses is worry over the basics of life, like clothing and food. Jesus’ disciples did not need to be distracted by temporal things. They had more important matters on which to focus. Besides, Jesus explained, worry is ineffectual (vv. 25–26).

To support His “do not worry” directive, Jesus used examples from nature. God’s sustaining power and provision was the basis for His command. First, He pointed to the ravens—an unclean creature that does not plant its food or store a harvest. Yet they are continually fed. Jesus reasoned that God’s people are much more valuable to Him than these birds.

Second, He reminded them of the lilies—a stunning, resourceful flower that thrives and multiplies without human intervention. The lilies do not work or make plans. Yet they radiate a beauty even more spectacular than the wealthiest king’s robes. Finally, He points to the grass—a common and ephemeral plant. God even cares about the grass. If God clothes the grass, Jesus explained, “how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!” (v. 28). When we worry, we cast doubt on God’s care, so Jesus challenged His disciples’ faith. He called them to trust that their Father—a personal and protective dad—knew their needs and would provide (v. 30).

It is easy to get caught up in common, everyday worries. As you consider your own anxieties, we hope Jesus’ words will encourage your faith in God’s care and provision.

PRAYER(S):

Lord, we lay out our needs before You. Some of us are choked with worry about the future. Please calm us and reassure us. We remember that You are our loving Father. Help us let go of fear and cling to You instead.

QUOTE: *“Worrying does not change the outcome but robs us of the joy of living in the present. Trust in the journey and embrace peace.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Micah 1-3; Revelation 10

G. P. A. Hymn 308 – I always go to Jesus

Saturday, 20th December 2025

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Text(s): Luke 13:18-30

Key Verse: *“Make every effort to enter through the narrow door.”* – Luke 13:24

The Jewish people expected God’s kingdom to come suddenly, powerfully, and completely. In today’s passage, Jesus corrected this misperception. First, He used the parable of the mustard seed. A man took the tiny seed and planted it in his garden, where it became a great tree and birds filled its branches. Jesus was envisioning a large cedarlike tree, which grew to be twenty-five feet tall. Such growth from a minuscule beginning was unexpected—even supernatural.

This tree referenced similar imagery in Ezekiel 17:22–24. Prophesying the restoration of Davidic rule, the Lord took a shoot from a cedar and planted it on a mountain. It produced branches and fruit, where birds of every kind (people of all nations) found shelter and peace. The mustard seed parable communicated the surprising way the kingdom of God would grow from an unassuming beginning to eventually cover the earth, providing refuge for many.

With the parable of the leaven, Jesus was making a similar point. A woman took a pinch of yeast and mixed it into a huge amount of flour (three seal equals almost fifty pounds). Over time, that bit of yeast permeated the entire loaf. Though Jesus’ ministry started small, God’s plan was unfolding. His kingdom would grow and penetrate the world. Nothing on earth could stop it.

As Jesus continued toward Jerusalem, someone asked, “Are only a few people going to be saved?” Jesus’ teaching had raised concern that salvation for Israel was not as certain as they assumed. Jesus’ reply “make every effort to enter through the narrow door” (v. 24) confirmed this suspicion. Jesus provided a single and specific gateway to the kingdom. Any who failed to enter by that door, would miss the opportunity to attend the kingdom feast (vv. 29–30).

No matter how sincere your belief, there is only one way to heaven. Many believe there are multiple truths and multiple ways to God. This passage speaks in direct contradiction to that philosophy.

PRAYER(S):

“In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song... What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease! My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.”

QUOTE: *“Embrace a life of purpose, aligning our actions with divine values and spreading grace and compassion.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Micah 4-5; Revelation 11

G. P. A. Hymn 215 – Forever with the Lord

Sunday, 21st December 2025

THE FORGIVING FATHER

Text(s): Luke 15:11-32

Key Verse: *"This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."* – **Luke 15:24**

We usually refer to the story of the wayward son in Luke 15 as "The Parable of the Prodigal Son." But some suggest it should be called "The Parable of the Forgiving Father."

At the beginning of Luke 15, tax collectors and sinners had flocked to Jesus to hear Him teach. Not surprisingly, the Pharisees disapproved of His socializing with "sinners." In response, Jesus told three parables describing His love for the lost. The Prodigal Son story is the third and most detailed. It is also unique to the book of Luke.

In the parable, a young brother, like the greedy tax collectors, asked his father for his share of the estate. According to the law, he would have received one-third of everything (Deut. 21:17). Granting this request put the father in financial jeopardy, yet he complied and let the sinner go his way.

The prodigal squandered his inheritance on wild living. Then, a famine struck the land. In a desperate state, the young man took the only job he could find, feeding swine—a dishonorable act for a Jew. As he eyed the pigs' food with envy, he recognized his wrongdoing and decided to return home and repent.

The father's run to the son would have shocked Jesus' audience. Culturally, a disrespected father would have waited for some indication of remorse. But this father's forgiveness was exceptional. He kissed his son. Then he called for robes, rings, and a fatted calf for a feast. We can understand the over-the-top love of this father as a picture of God.

The older son represented the Pharisees who complained about justice and equality, showing no mercy to those in need. Incredibly, the father responded to him with even more grace. "You are always with me, and everything I have is yours."

Who are we in this story? Are we the younger son, running away from the father? Or are we the older son, resentful and unforgiving? Pray that God will use this story to speak to your own heart.

PRAYER(S):

Your forgiveness is incredible, Lord. We know the sins we have committed; we know that we fall short of Your glory. Yet You have welcomed us—the prodigal, the resentful, and the unforgiving—into Your family!

QUOTE: *"Find the power of redemption and the promise of new beginnings, regardless of past mistakes."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Micah 6-7; Revelation 12

G. P. A. Hymn 183 – Loving Savior, hear my cry

Monday, 22nd December 2025

THE GREAT CHASM

Text(s): Luke 16:19-31

Key Verse: *"You cannot serve both God and money."* – Luke 16:13

It is easy during the holidays to feel the financial pinch. With so many extra expenses, from buying presents to decorating to family activities and travel, we may be tempted to believe that more money would mean more Christmas cheer. But money is not the answer to happiness.

Luke 16 begins a lengthy section of Jesus' teachings on the use of resources. Today's parable is unique to Luke and is the only one to include a named character. Fittingly, the name Lazarus is from Eleazar ("God helps"). In contrast, the "rich man" is not named. He represents all those who idolize wealth.

The rich man wore purple (the color of wealth) and fine linen; he lived luxuriously. Lazarus—a beggar—laid at his gate, likely crippled. Lazarus was covered with sores and was starving. He was so helpless that the dogs licked his wounds, which made him unclean.

Then, in an instant, the tables turned. The beggar died and was escorted by angels, like royalty, to Abraham's side. The rich man was banished to hell and torment. It may amaze you that the rich man still saw Lazarus as inferior. He believed he could manipulate the situation and begged Abraham to send Lazarus to serve him. But Abraham refused. The good things that the rich man had enjoyed were now given to Lazarus to enjoy eternally. And the pain Lazarus endured was now inflicted on the rich man for eternity.

The rich man begged Abraham to warn his five brothers, who were also materialistic, of what was to come. But Abraham reminded the rich man that his brothers had the Word of God. They should listen to it and live by it.

What are simple, no-cost ways you can celebrate this Christmas? Maybe it is reading a favorite Christmas story aloud by candlelight. Or putting on an at-home Christmas pageant with your children or grandchildren. Consider special ways you can honor God with your celebration of this holiday.

PRAYER(S):

Your Word is powerful. We pray for those among the Jewish people who treasure the Torah but have not accepted Jesus as Messiah. Open their eyes, Lord God; show them how Moses and the Prophets point to the One who has risen!

QUOTE: *"Find the strength within you to leap across and achieve the extraordinary."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Nahum; Revelation 13

G. P. A. Hymn 283 – In pity, look on me my God

Tuesday, 23rd December 2025

THE HOPE OF IMMANUEL

Text(s): Matthew 1:18-25

Key Verse: *“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” – John 1:14*

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” is a beloved Christmas carol, saturated with longing for God’s promised Messiah. We celebrate not only His coming as a baby at Christmas, which lies in the past, but also His Second Coming in glory, which lies in our future. Dating back to the eighth or ninth century, it’s one of the oldest carols we still sing today. Think of it— we’re singing about the same Savior as believers did 1,200 years ago!

We celebrate the hope brought by Immanuel, meaning “God with us.” While Gabriel announced this good news to Mary, an angel of the Lord shared the news with her betrothed husband-to-be, Joseph. Mary had of course told him her story, but it was just too unbelievable (v. 18). A virgin birth? Seriously? So, he’d decided to divorce her quietly rather than proceed with marriage to an apparently immoral and dishonest woman (v. 19).

Then the angel appeared to him in a dream and confirmed Mary’s truthfulness. The child was conceived by the Holy Spirit and would “save his people from their sins” (vv. 20–21). This was another way of saying Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God, as had been prophesied long ago by Isaiah (vv. 22–23). The name “Jesus” means “the Lord saves.”

Joseph’s response was impressive (vv. 24–25). Consider the stakes: If he believed the dream and married Mary, but it was false, then his life was ruined and society would view him as a prize idiot. Nonetheless, he trusted God, married her, and named the child Jesus. For them as a couple, then, the hope of Christmas had both personal and cosmic implications. God’s redemption is always both— the fact that He is with us affects us as individuals as well as the whole world.

During your personal time of worship and reflection today, listen to the carol, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” or even sing aloud. You can look up all the verses in a hymnal or online!

PRAYER(S):

Lord Jesus, you came to earth as a baby, and you have promised to return and take us with you to our Father’s house. Even as we celebrate the peace of this season, we look forward to your Second Coming. Come, Emmanuel!

QUOTE: *“Immanuel, God with us, brings hope to the hopeless and light to the darkest of nights.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Habakkuk; Revelation 14

G. P. A. Hymn 106 – Hark! The herald angels sing

Wednesday, 24th December 2025

THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR

Text(s): Luke 2:1-7

Key Verse: *“She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger.”* – Luke 2:7

On Christmas Eve, 2019, a special baby arrived at the Potter Park Zoo in Michigan. A male black rhino calf was delivered safely, which is significant because only 5,000 of these critically endangered animals remain in the wild in Africa. While everyone may get excited about the birth of a rare black rhino, how much better should we feel about the birth of Jesus, the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Trinity! One is exciting, but the other is life-changing.

So much of God’s plan for history came together on Christmas Eve. At the macro-level of the Roman Empire, Caesar took a census at precisely the right time, likely for reasons of strengthening political control and generating more tax revenue (vv. 1–3). Caesar Augustus, also called Octavian, was the great-nephew of Julius Caesar and governed for 41 years. One result of his imperial edict was that Jesus was born in Bethlehem (not Nazareth), as had been prophesied (Mic. 5:2).

God’s sovereign care was also evident at the micro-level of Mary and Joseph’s young family (Luke 2:4–7). They’d gone to Bethlehem for the census because Joseph was of the line of David. They were probably planning to stay with relatives, but no guestroom was available so they ended up staying where animals were kept. We only know this detail from the single mention of the “manger” or animal feeding trough in which baby Jesus was laid.

Despite all the fulfilled prophecies, the circumstances of Jesus’ birth were surprising and full of incongruities. We need to hear this story with fresh ears. The Messiah had been born...in a barn? The King had come...as the child of a poor couple? “God with us” had arrived in the flesh...and the first witnesses were animals?

Are you attending the Christmas Eve service at your church tonight? If Advent candles are part of your worship tradition, it’s finally time for the “Christ candle” to be lit!

PRAYER(S):

Dear Jesus, you are the Light of the World. We are awed by your love and humility, as you came to us in the flesh, so that we could become one with you. May you be foremost in our hearts and minds this Christmas Eve.

QUOTE: *“In the manger, we see the ultimate gift of love and the promise of eternal life.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Zephaniah; Revelation 15

G. P. A. Hymn 105 – Joy to the world the Lord is come

Thursday, 25th December 2025

A DAY OF REJOICING

Text(s): Luke 2:1-21

Key Verse: *“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”*
– Luke 2:10

Today we are celebrating the very best news! The birth of Jesus demonstrates God’s love for us in a profound way. While Jesus was born into humble circumstances, He did have some fanfare at His arrival. An angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds working the night shift and declared, “I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord” (vv. 10–11). Israel had been longing for the coming of the Messiah for generations. Had the time finally come?

The declaration of the angel was followed by a great host of angels praising God to mark the momentous occasion (vv. 13–14). The shepherds “hurried off” to find Mary, Joseph, and the baby (v. 16). Upon seeing Him they had two responses. The first was to worship God (v. 20). They celebrated the fact that God had kept His promise of sending a Savior. They celebrated the hope that Jesus embodied. Their second response was to tell others the good news. Luke tells us, “When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child” (v. 18). They had a new purpose to fulfill.

Merry Christmas From Gospel Pentecostal Assembly! We join you in celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior: “Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King!” As we rejoice in this momentous day, we look forward to Christ’s return!

PRAYER(S):

Heavenly Father, On this Christmas Day, we celebrate the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us keep You at the very center of our celebration. Our hearts are overflowing with joy and thankfulness for the indescribable gift of Your Son.

QUOTE: *“Christmas reminds us that true joy comes from giving and sharing God’s love with others.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Haggai; Revelation 16

G. P. A. Hymn 107 – Hear the chorus of the angels

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Friday, 26th December 2025

THE KING HAS COME!

Text(s): Matthew 2:1-12

Key Verse: *“Out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people, Israel.”* – Matthew 2:6

What about this star that made it so special? The star of Bethlehem was special because it led the magi to Mary and Joseph and Jesus. Bible scholar Colin R. Nicholl researched astronomy to make his case that this star was actually a comet. His book *The Great Christ Comet* argues that this interpretation further supports the historicity of the Gospels.

The magi mentioned in this second chapter of Matthew were likely Persian astronomers and astrologers who were well-trained to observe and track these types of celestial phenomena. Months after Jesus’ birth, they followed the star to the right house (v. 9). They may have known Messianic prophecies via Jewish exiles in Babylon (such as Daniel), or even from the days of Balaam (see Num. 24:17). How many of them were there? We don’t know, although three is the traditional answer due to the specific mention of gifts (Matt. 2:11). What motivated them? Their stated desire was to worship the newborn King (v. 2).

Their arrival would certainly have captured the attention of everyone in Jerusalem! Imagine a caravan of distinguished foreign visitors arriving unannounced and telling everyone they’re in search of a new king. No wonder Herod was fearful. This event substantiated at least five features of the Christmas story. First, it confirmed Bethlehem as the prophesied birthplace of the Messiah (vv. 5–6). Second, it proved again that God would control events (v. 12). Third, it revealed that human authorities would lie and oppose Jesus (v. 8). Fourth, the star provided another miraculous sign of the Incarnation. Fifth and finally, the magi’s visit demonstrated that Christmas is for all, the Gentiles as well as the Jewish people. Jesus is King of all nations.

Tonight, step out in the darkness of the evening (even if it is chilly) and look to the sky. Observe the stars and marvel at the handiwork of God’s creation, which remains completely under His control today.

PRAYER(S):

God of all miracles, you love us and know each of us intimately. Thank you for sending your Son, so each of us can know you personally.

QUOTE: *“The King has come, bringing hope, joy, and salvation to all who believe.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Zechariah 1-3; Revelation 17

G. P. A. Hymn 104 – While Shepherds watch’d their flocks

Saturday, 27th December 2025

HOPE FULFILLED

Text(s): Luke 2:22-35

Key Verse: *"My eyes have seen your salvation."* – Luke 2:30

Our hope is in the Lord! That truth is so important, we should shout it from the rooftops. Pastor and author David Platt explained why we're compelled to spread the gospel of Christ: "[If] Jesus did rise from the dead if Jesus alone paid the price for man's sin, and if Jesus alone conquered sin, death, and the grave, then going around the world and telling people about Jesus is the only thing that makes sense."

This is the true spirit of Christmas, as we see in Simeon's pronouncements. Forty days after the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph took her purification offering to the temple (v. 22). They also planned to dedicate their firstborn son to the Lord (v. 23), as the Law prescribed (Ex. 13:2). There they encountered Simeon, a devout worshiper who was "waiting for the consolation of Israel" (v. 25), that is, the Messiah. The Holy Spirit had promised he'd see the Messiah with his own eyes, during his lifetime (v. 26). Mary and Joseph might have been a bit shocked by the old man who took their baby in his arms, but they could sense God at work.

Simeon's first pronouncement focused on rejoicing in hope fulfilled (vv. 29–32). "My eyes have seen your salvation"—the Messiah had finally come! God had kept His promise to Simeon and to generation upon generation of Israelites. And not only them, for the Messiah is for "all nations," including Gentiles. The Redeemer had arrived in the person of Jesus Christ!

Simeon's second pronouncement was to Mary (vv. 34–35). These words are a bit more cryptic and indicate that the Messiah will be opposed and hearts will be revealed in how people respond to Him. Mary herself would experience deep sorrow.

Spend some extra time today praying for your unsaved friends and family members. Ask God to give you open doors for faith conversations and enable you to live the truth of the gospel before them.

PRAYER(S):

Father, we all have friends or loved ones who do not yet know you. We ask you to pursue and win them as you have pursued and won us. Show us how to be your hands and feet in this work.

QUOTE: *"When hope is fulfilled, it reminds us that the waiting season has a purpose."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Zechariah 4-6; Revelation 18

G. P. A. Hymn 127 – Sinners Jesus will receive

Sunday, 28th December 2025

THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

Text(s): Colossians 1:15-20

Key Verse: *“He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”* – Colossians 1:17

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul affirmed that Christ is “firstborn” or supreme over creation (vv. 15–17). All things were created through Him, including the natural world, human beings, and the supernatural realm (angels and demons). All things were also created for Him, meaning that they serve His purposes and bring Him glory. Finally, all things continue to be dependent on Him, that is, they exist or “hold together” because of Him (v. 17).

Christ is supreme in redemption (vv. 18–20). He is the “head of the body, the church,” the company of the redeemed (v. 18). He was the first to be raised from the dead with a glorified body—in time, we will follow. His shed blood paid the price for our sin and made our peace with God. By His Son’s substitutionary atonement, God reconciled all things to Himself. The only way God’s perfectly just requirements could be met was through His own perfect love in the Person of His Son.

The first line of the Lord’s Prayer is for God’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Similarly, we can pray for Christ to have the first place in our own lives and on earth, just as He already does in heaven (Matt. 6:9; Phil. 2:9–11).

PRAYER(S):

Lord Jesus, following your instruction on how to pray, we ask that your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, specifically in our lives and hearts. Align our will to yours so that we may desire what you desire.

QUOTE: *“Christ’s supremacy assures us that all things are held together by His power and authority.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Zechariah 7-9; Revelation 19

G. P. A. Hymn 293 – Jesus my Lord, to Thee I cry

Monday, 29th December 2025

CALLED TO COMPASSION

Text(s): 1 John 3:16-18

Key Verse: *“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress.” – James 1:27*

If you can run a marathon, you can run a 5k. If you have served as a chef in a five-star restaurant, you can make mac and cheese. If you have mastered the works of Tchaikovsky on the piano, you can play “Chopsticks”. The logic behind these statements is so clear that it seems a bit silly to articulate it. Yet, it is similar to the reasoning that John uses in today’s reading.

Jesus provides us with the perfect example of love (v. 16). He willingly and selflessly died for us. As followers of Jesus, “we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters” (v. 16). This is a high and holy calling and one that requires a heroic level of commitment to Christ. Yet, John understood that while we are called to willingly give our lives for others, we rarely will be called upon to do so. So, John argues from the greater to the lesser. If we are willing to lay down our lives for one another, surely it means that if we see a fellow believer in need, we will give to meet that need (v. 17).

Today, we are examining the gift of purpose we have received in Christ. One of the responsibilities Jesus gave us is caring for the poor. Meeting the material needs of the poor and needy runs all through Scripture (Deut. 15:7, 11; Ps. 37:21; Prov. 14:21; James 2:14–17). By caring for the poor, we demonstrate the love of God to a watching world. While the gospel message needs to be spoken in words, those words should also line up with our actions (v. 18).

How can you care for the poor or needy today? As a follow-up to Christmas with all of its plenty, consider a way you can meet the needs of someone else today. The call to help the poor is not simply a command we need to grudgingly follow, but a gift of responsibility.

PRAYER(S):

It is difficult to wrap our mind around the sacrifice You made on our behalf, Lord Jesus. Your sacrifice set an example that is difficult for us to follow. Help us live today with Your spirit of humility and compassion.

QUOTE: *“Compassion is the language of the heart, spoken by those who reflect the love of Christ.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Zechariah 10-12; Revelation 20

G. P. A. Hymn 517 – Is your life a channel of blessing?

Tuesday, 30th December 2025

OUR BLESSED HOPE

Text(s): Titus 2:11-14

Key Verse: *"We wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."* – **Titus 2:13**

K. Chesterton, English literary critic, mystery writer, and Christian apologist wrote a poem entitled "The House of Christmas." It centers on the theme of home, the idea that Christmas contains the truth and purpose and meaning for which all human beings long. Chesterton believed that our searching brings us "home" to the stable where Christ was born: "To the end of the way of the wandering star, / To the things that cannot be and that are, / To the place where God was homeless / And all men are at home."

We have looked at the four themes of Advent seen in the Bible: hope, love, joy, and peace. Each of these is found in Christ. They're certainly found in the Christ of the Christmas story (v. 11). He came as the living embodiment of God's grace to offer salvation to all. Without God's love in Christ, none of us has any hope of peace with God.

These themes should be found in our lives as followers of Christ (vv. 12, 14). "Grace teaches us"—the sense here is of training a child toward mature adulthood—to live righteously. We're to say "no" to sin and worldliness, and "yes" to godliness and the fruit of the Spirit. The hope of salvation spurs us to love one another and to rejoice in the Lord always.

In addition, the four Advent themes will be found in the Christ who is coming again (vv. 13–14). This is where we as His people find ourselves today—between Advents. Waiting, in this case, is not a boring duty, but a joy-filled privilege or "blessed hope." His return will bring sinful human history to a close and usher in the Millennial Kingdom—human life and the rule of God as it was meant to be experienced!

As your thoughts turn to the coming new year, we invite you to spend some time pondering the opportunities to which you will say "yes" or "no." Do your choices fit well into verse 12?

PRAYER(S):

As we look back on the season of Advent, what have we learned? Almighty God, lead us through the coming months with your hope, love, joy, and peace. Show us how to reach unbelievers with your eternal, glorious truth.

QUOTE: *"In the blessed hope of Christ's return, we find peace and purpose for today and every day."*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Zechariah 13-14; Revelation 21

G. P. A. Hymn 110 – O God our help in ages past

Wednesday, 31st December 2025

THE KINGDOM COMING AND THE KINGDOM GOING

Text(s): Matthew 28:16-20

Key Verse: *“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* – Matthew 28:20

By the time they encountered the resurrected Jesus atop the mountain in Galilee, His disciples had already hiked a rigorous path. They had left homes, families, and jobs to follow Him. They had traveled throughout Israel proclaiming the coming of God’s kingdom. And they had faced the danger of Jewish leaders and Roman imperial authorities. Upon reaching that peak, however, they were commanded onward. Jesus directed them to “go and make disciples of all nations” (v. 19).

For ancient Jews, “the nations” referred to all peoples beyond Israel. Jesus’ instructions are thus a command to go throughout the world. One could forgive the disciples if they felt a bit weary or daunted by the task ahead. How could this assortment of men—who had just failed spectacularly to support Him before His crucifixion—travel the globe and command foreign people to obey the teachings of a Jewish carpenter?

But Jesus offered something to propel them on their way—His presence. “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (v. 20). The presence of Jesus Christ will always be with His followers, inspiring and empowering them to carry out His mission. The kingdom has come near. Let us carry forth His truth to the world, “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything” He commanded (v. 20).

PRAYER(S):

Coming to the end of 2025, we want to thank God for Gospel Pentecostal Assembly, The Glorious Family for His faithfulness this year. We thank everyone for this journey in the pursuit of God and His wisdom, studying the Bible and praying together.

QUOTE: *“The kingdom coming is a promise of God’s reign of justice and peace on earth while the kingdom going is a call to carry God’s love and message to the ends of the earth.”*

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Malachi; Revelation 22

G. P. A. Hymn 239 – Jerusalem on high