

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of August 18, 2024

THEME: "Missions"

GOD'S CALL

Sunday..... Read Mark 16:14-16

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Jesus remained on earth after His resurrection for a little while before returning to heaven. He had important unfinished business. He had completed His basic purpose for coming to earth as He stated on the cross with the words, "It is finished." With His crucifixion, He satisfied God's law for forgiveness with the shedding of His blood. It would appear that Jesus had at least a two-fold purpose in those days after the resurrection. One was to counteract the claims of doubters that He did arise from the dead. A second was to give a great commission to His followers; that being to spread the good news of His victory over death to provide hope for humanity to have eternal life after completing our lives on earth.

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

Monday Read Acts 1:1-8

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." The final words of Jesus before leaving earth was the commission for His people to be His witnesses. That was the closing thought in each of the gospels. In reality, it was to introduce the new age on God's calendar: the Church Age. He had revealed that plan in His earthly ministry in Matthew 16:18: *"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* The church would be made up of both Jews and Gentiles. Those who respond to the good news of salvation and receive Jesus personally, would be the universal Church!

AMBASSADORS

Tuesday.....Read: II Corinthians 5:17-20

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." The Divine assignment for all Christians is to be ambassadors for Christ. By receiving Jesus as their personal Savior, all believers are the light of their world, as Jesus proclaimed in Matthew 5:14: *"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."* God-honoring lifestyle, Christians are witnesses in their neighborhoods and work places. When opportunities are there, believers are compelled to share God's truth so others can receive Jesus. He mentioned in I Corinthians 3:9, *that "we are laborers together with God."* We believers are on

God's earth to help build the church, the work Jesus announced in Matthew 16:18. Our lives should be a testimony that may result in those who see us will want to have what we have!

LOST SOULS

Wednesday Read Luke 19:1-10

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." In this verse of Scripture, Jesus states a basic purpose for His coming and that which would be the responsibility of His followers. Who are the lost people and how are they considered lost? A person who cannot find his way is a lost person. By way the Bible is talking about the way to heaven. Jesus spoke of that in John 14:6: *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* He is the only way to heaven. The devil has many, if not most people believing there are many roads to heaven through false teaching and manmade religions. Not true, Jesus is the only way to heaven!

SPIRIT'S LEADING

Thursday Read Acts 8:26-35

"Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot." This passage in Acts 8 is one of the interesting accounts of personal soul winning. Philip was a solid Christian intent on reaching the lost and is a great example of our laboring together with God. God in His foreknowledge knows what people will respond to the message of salvation. God knew the African eunuch was searching. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship. While there, he picked up a piece of Gospel literature but was confused. The Holy Spirit compelled Philip to go to the place where he would meet the eunuch and make the gospel message clear.

HOME VISIT

Friday Read Acts 9:10-18

"And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth." Another example of God using a believer to reach a lost soul is Ananias. God put great trust in Ananias because Saul was actually known to be a persecutor of Christians. That reputation caused Ananias to be hesitant about approaching Saul. After God made it clear that it was safe to witness to Saul, Ananias went and was used of the Holy Spirit to reach this persecutor of Christians to become ultimately a missionary to the lost.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Saturday Read Colossians 4:3-6

"Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds." We see here that intercessory prayer is vital to the work of missions. Every missionary has that same deep desire that Paul expressed to the believers in the church at Colosse: Pray for us! I am certain that all missionaries today have that same urgent request: "Pray for us!" That is why we include our missionaries in our weekly prayer meetings, and when each of us engage in our times of private prayer. It is vital that we include praying for missionaries to have God's blessing and open doors of witness!