

Good News Daily

October 30-November 5,
2016

Sunday, October 30

1 Corinthians 12:27—13:13 *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.* (vv.4-7 NIV)

The entire chapter of 1 Corinthians was written to encourage others how to live a Christ-centered life. We hear this particular passage at many marriage ceremonies as two exchange lifelong vows within the covenant of marriage. It is a beautiful passage, yet to actually walk it out! Early in our marriage, with two very young children 16 months apart, financial stresses, and other challenging life struggles, I saw a bumper sticker that said, "Marriage Ain't for Sissies." Being a redneck from Tennessee, it resonated quickly.

The attributes of love listed above do not come naturally to us, and they are not just for married people, obviously. But, we must cling to the One who manifests them perfectly if we have any hope of carrying them out with those we are in relationships with.

Thank You, God, for Your patience and the guidance found in Your word.

Ezekiel 20:18-26; Psalms 24, 29; Matthew 18:21-35

Birthdays: Aiden Barwise-Cannicle, Sandra Harris and Eddie Perez

Anniversaries: None

Monday, October 31

Psalm 57 *Rouse yourself, my soul! Arise, O harp and lyre! Let us greet dawn with song!* (v.8 TLB)

There was a turbulent time in my life where I arose everyday to "Here we go again." A pretty fatalistic approach to life was my daily strategy. There was the athletic mantra, "Suit up, take the field, gut it out, be strong." The focus was self-willed, kind of like "God is my co-pilot, not my pilot" or "I will go to God if, after all I do, I still need him."

Soon enough, I found that the days are the Lord's—they are His creation and they are fashioned by Him alone. He is the author and finisher of every day and, regardless of what happens, He is fully desirous of the best outcome for all of us.

Now, to start the day I am thankful for Him and His guidance. The more I yield to His day, the greater experience each day brings.

Ezekiel 20:27-44; Psalms 56, 58; Revelation 14:1-13;
Luke 12:49-59

Birthdays: Andre Cannicle and Paul Carey

Anniversaries: Carl & Laurel Belnavis

Tuesday, November 1

Psalm 62 *Trust in him at all times you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.* (v.8 NIV)

He is the one and only place to take all that I have. David uses the word "pour" to convey getting things out of our own flimsy frames and into the sacred vessel of our Redeemer. Think about the word pour. I can pour out my fears, my anger, my tears of frustration, and my daily self-pity. There is no other refuge that is safer. None! I can also pour out my joy, my grateful heart, and my sense of awe, my hope, my love, and my sheer dependence on Him. This psalm is one of confidence and it tells us, in the prior verses, that God is our rock and our salvation and our fortress.

Don't waste your time, daily looking for some other refuge. Go right to God.

Ezekiel 24:1-14 Psalm 61; Revelation 14:14—15:8; Luke 13:1-9

Birthdays: Gloria Hanson and Patrick Officer

Anniversaries: Martin & Karlend Williams

Wednesday, November 2

Luke 13:10-17 *And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.* (vv.12-13 KJV)

Jesus loosed many infirmities. It is phenomenal to recall all the infirmities, battles, and challenges he has loosed in my own life. Not to mention the battles that he fought without my knowledge. Many people were healed by Jesus, and some never glorified God or were thankful about their healing.

My freshmen year of college I lived hard at it. I pushed my body to complete break down and received a massive case of pneumonia. The pneumonia slowed me down physically and, during that time, I read the Psalms and reread Psalms and the Lord healed me beyond the physical need. The power of God and His word healed me body, soul, and spirit. My infirmity was as much spiritual as physical. Through the physical sickness, Jesus started healing my spiritual infirmities.

Ezekiel 26:1-14; Psalm 72; Revelation 16:1-11

Birthdays: Alex Burrowes, Jackie Gregory, Robert Johnson and Khawovmi Wallace

Anniversaries: Peter & Connie D'Oench and Ernest & Mary Williams

Thursday, November 3

Psalm 70 *But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you: may those who long for your saving help always say, "The LORD is great!"* (v.4 NIV)

Seek Him, for He is great! When I was young I recall hearing my pastor say "Let's open our Bibles and examine the text..." That is certainly not what comes to my sons' minds when they hear the word text. But, I would say that texting has become a gift from the Lord for my communication with my sons. During my prayer times and devotional readings—and honestly, throughout the day—if I sense the Holy Spirit prompting, I will pass along, via a text message, what I feel God wants me to send them. Now, I have learned not to expand upon, or express my personal opinions because Scripture speaks for itself, but God is modern and ancient, and He can use whatever He chooses if we seek Him. There is nothing He hasn't seen and nothing He doesn't anticipate. So, I'm going to continue to text His texts.

Ezekiel 29:17-21; Psalm 71; Revelation 16:12-21; Luke 14:18-30

Birthdays: Stephanie Ciocca, Rev. Michael Lewis, Steven Malmberg, Dorothy Remy and Sydney Young

Anniversaries: Cecil & Hyacinth Rhoden

Friday, November 4

Revelation 17:1-18 *"These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."* (v.14 NAS)

It is certainly easy to see the world is at war with the King of kings. The Lamb will overcome the world—that is tremendous news. The last part of this verse is challenging in that you and I are "the called and chosen and faithful." If I am part of the big picture, I need to look to the fact that I am chosen because I believe in Christ, called because God put a ministry in me, and faithful because of what he has done in my life.

My friend Ken wears a bracelet that has the initials H.O.G., which stands for Hand Of God. Ken's prayer every morning is, "God show me someone I can reach out to as an extension of Your hand in Your name" Like my friend, when I wake up every morning I have to understand I am called by the King of kings to do something, chosen to do something, and walk faithfully towards my purpose in Christ. Today, Lord, impress on each of us to walk in Your will.

Ezekiel 12:12-28; Psalm 69; Luke 13:31-35

Birthdays: Forrest Belnavis, Andrew Carr, Ken Chen, Theresa Imhoff-Gannett and Devon Prawl

Anniversaries: Norman & Karen Allen

Saturday, November 5

Ezekiel 13:1-16 *"Son of dust, prophesy against the false prophets of Israel who are inventing their own visions and claiming to have messages from me when I have never told them anything at all. Woe upon them!"* (vv.2-3 TLB)

My job has me driving 400-600 miles a week. Being a radio listener, it is very disconcerting hearing many of the talking heads of our culture. Several times a week I get fired up when a spiritual leader, world leader, commentator, or celebrity "spins" the word of God or their interpretation of God's desires errantly to the masses. Sometimes the cultural appeal of their message is so loud, so frequent, and met with such agreement in our culture, it is hard not just to accept these messages. Helpful platitudes like, "Don't rock the boat" and "Why can't we all get along and coexist?" are all great concepts. But, if people are leading others into hurtful places, how do I respond?

My first prayer is that I would not be a condemning judge, but ask the Holy Spirit for his discernment. Secondly, I pray that my response would be of Christ and his Word, not my personal interpretation of his Word. Thirdly, that I would walk in love toward others in God's timing.

For sure, truth sets people free. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Psalms 75, 76; Revelation 18:1-14; Luke 14:1-11

Birthdays: Karen Allen, Brandon Bonnitto, Joannah Bwomezi, Frank D'Angelo, Jean Gaudard, Jr. and Donalyn Hislop

Anniversaries: None

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