

Good News Daily

June 11-17, 2017

Sunday, June 11

Psalm 24 (NIV) *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and establish it on the waters. Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by false God may enter. Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.* (vv.1-4, 10 NIV)

When I was serving in the Coast Guard many, many years ago, we often found ourselves on drug interdiction patrol. Our mission was to deter the entrance of illegal drugs into the United States. We frequently were running a darkened ship at night, with no lights, so we were not so visible from many miles away. One of the fondest memories I have from those patrols was standing on the bridge wing in the dark. I would gaze up into the heavens and see more stars than anyone could count. It was an awesome view and it is hard to describe the immenseness of it all. I can truly say I caught a glimpse of the King of glory.

"And when the sky was starless in the void of the night he spoke into the darkness and created the light. Our God is an awesome God. He reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power, and love. Our God is an awesome God" (lyrics by Rich Mullins).

Ponder that.

Deuteronomy 29:16-29; Psalm 29; Revelation 12:1-12; Matthew 15:29-39

Birthdays: Emma Burke, Barbara Day, Karen Hayden, Jon Rice and Tavis White

Anniversaries: None

Monday, June 12

Luke 18:31-43 *Jesus stopped and ordered the blind beggar to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied. Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and follow Jesus, praising God.* (vv.40-43)

Is that not the question Jesus asks us all every day? "What do you want me to do for you?" Is our answer something like a bigger house, more money, more clothes, more cars, a summer home? Or is our answer, "To be more like you"? Once we come to know Christ, the first thing that should prosper is on the inside of us, not on the outside.

Jesus said the man's faith made him well. What is faith? Faith is being sure of what you hope for, and certain of what you do not see (Hebrews 11:1). Faith and doubt cannot coexist. You can start with faith the size of a mustard seed—and that is quite small. To help your faith grow, you should study God's word and surround yourself with other people of faith.

After receiving his sight, the man who was healed "followed Jesus, praising God." That's God's will for us, too. "Rejoice always, pray continuously, give thanks in all circumstances [note: not *for* all, but *in* all]; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Ponder that.

Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Psalms 56, 57, 58; 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

Birthdays: Dolly Ramjass and Laurena Wild

Anniversaries: None

Tuesday, June 13

Deuteronomy 30:11-20 *This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.* (vv.19-20a)

Can you name someone you know, but do not love? That is easy. We all can. The harder question is, can you name someone you love, but do not know. In today's passage, we are told to love God. How can we love Him if we do not know Him? To know Him, we have to spend time with Him. He longs to spend time with us. How do we listen to Him? We spend time reading and meditating on His word in the Scriptures. How do we hold fast to him? We become obedient. It's really pretty simple.

Ponder that.

Psalms 61, 62; 2 Corinthians 11:1-21a; Luke 19:1-10

Birthdays: Hyacinth Lawrence, Regis Lolo and Christina Norman

Anniversaries: None

Wednesday, June 14

2 Corinthians 11:21b-33 *I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.* (vv.23b-27)

How many of us would go to such toil and trouble just for the privilege of preaching the gospel? Paul did so without reservation, without grousing, and without complaining. Paul lived this lifestyle because he believed it. If we don't live it, we don't believe it.

Ponder that.

Deuteronomy 31:30—32:14; Psalm 72; Luke 19:11-27

Birthdays: Melissa Holmes, Donna Prawl and Bill Sprung

Anniversaries: Lorna & Trevor Edwards and David & Margaret Williams

Thursday, June 15

2 Chronicles 6:18-31 *"When famine or plague comes to the land, or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers, or when enemies besiege them in any of their cities, whatever disaster or disease may come, and when a prayer or plea is made by anyone among your people Israel—being aware of their afflictions and pains, and spreading out their hands toward this temple—then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. 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 all the time they live in the land you gave our ancestors."* (vv.28-31)

These reflections were written almost a year before publication. So many things have happened in the intervening time. But let's talk about just a few that have happened already. Famine in Africa, drought in California, and citrus blight Florida. The Zika virus is on the move; cancer, AIDS, STDs and other chronic conditions are increasing. ISIS terrorism will continue worldwide and the global economy will continue to flounder.

What will it take for us to fear the Lord and walk in obedience to Him all the time we live in this land?

Ponder that.

Psalms 70, 71; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Luke 19:28-40

Birthdays: Maurice Greene, Anderson Nandoo, Andrew Scott and Sean Tromans

Anniversaries: None

Friday, June 16

Psalms 69 *I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. This will please the LORD more than an ox, more than a bull with its horns and hooves. The poor will see and be glad—you who seek God, may your hearts live! The LORD hears the needy and does not despise his captive people. Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and all that move in them, for God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah. Then people will settle there and possess it; the children of his servants will inherit it, and those who love his name will dwell there.* (vv.30-36)

Have you ever wondered what God's will is for you? 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 gives us one of the answers: rejoice always, pray continuously, give thanks in all circumstances. Note that it says *in* all circumstances, not *for* all circumstances. The Lord inhabits eternity. He dwells 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).

Does humble in spirit with a heart of the contrite describe you and me?

Ponder that.

2 Chronicles 26:1-22; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21; Luke 19:41-48

Birthdays: Phillip Chang, Kate Doebler, Tara Fiore and Kimberley Hutchinson

Anniversaries: None

Saturday, June 17

2 Corinthians 13:1-14 *Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored. This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.* (vv.5-10)

What would be different if we examined ourselves to see whether we are holding to our faith? What would happen if we tested ourselves? Would we test positive for Jesus? We seem to have a problem identifying sin. Jesus never did.

Ponder that.

2 Chronicles 31:2-10, 20-21; Psalms 75, 76; Luke 20:1-8

Birthdays: Chris Nembhard

Anniversaries: None

by Richard Mead

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