

February 18th Readings

[ISAIAH 33:10-36:22](#)

[GALATIANS 5:13-26](#)

[PSALM 64:1-10](#)

[PROVERBS 23:23](#)

Galatians 5:13-26 – Esteem Others Above Yourself

Galatians 5:14 states that “The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”” What kind of obligation does that lay upon us? Verse 13 says “serve one another in love.”

If our service is motivated by love, it is not necessary to enumerate all of the ways that we “Love our neighbor as ourselves.”

Paul further states in 1 Corinthians 10:24 “Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.”

These instructions are easy to verbalize but difficult to consistently apply in our lives. Paul exhorts in Ephesians 6:7 “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.” Although this is in relation to slaves service to their masters I think it is also applicable to our service to one another.

Paul goes on to say, “you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does”.

February 19th Readings

[ISAIAH 37:1-38:22](#)

[GALATIANS 6:1-18](#)

[PSALM 65:1-13](#)

[PROVERBS 23:24](#)

Galatians 6:1-18 - Loving Concern for the Spiritual Welfare of a Brother or Sister

Galatians 6:1 “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore

him gently.”

We are all susceptible to being caught in this situation, realizing this we should approach a brother or sister “caught in sin” with love and concern. Often we are too quick to condemn and criticize, sometimes even before we know all of the facts. Certainly, we should not ignore sin but our goal should be to lovingly, gently, restore those who have fallen.

February 20th Readings

[ISAIAH 39:1-41:16](#)

[EPHESIANS 1:1-23](#)

[PSALM 66:1-20](#)

[PROVERBS 23:25-28](#)

Ephesians 1:1-23 – The Riches Found in God

In this passage, Paul writes to the Ephesians that he is praying for them to have wisdom and knowledge that they might know Christ better. He wanted them to “know the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.” We often do not appreciate what glorious riches we have in Christ Jesus: forgiveness, adoption, eternal life, fellowship of the saints and much more. Thank God for the riches and power found in Him.

February 21st Readings

[ISAIAH 41:17-43:13](#)

[EPHESIANS 2:1-22](#)

[PSALM 67:1-7](#)

[PROVERBS 23:29-35](#)

Ephesians 2:1-22 – The Grace of God

Paul writes of the grace of God and makes it clear that because of our nature to be sinful we

are without hope except for the grace that is extended to us through Christ Jesus. What was it that caused God to extend this grace through the sacrifice of His Son? Did we have any redeeming attributes that would commend us to God? No, it is only because of His love, undeserving though we are, that He extends this marvelous grace to any who will accept it. He not only redeems, He gives us a place of honor. “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:6)

Praise God for His undying mercy, grace, and love!

February 22nd Readings

[ISAIAH 43:14-45:10](#)

[EPHESIANS 3:1-21](#)

[PSALM 68:1-18](#)

[PROVERBS 24:1-2](#)

Ephesians 3:1-21 – An Example of Humility

Paul, in verse 8, says “Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.” Although this is not the main thought of the chapter I am impressed with the humility of Paul. Paul excelled first as a Jew of the strictest sect and then as an Apostle of Christ. Paul wrote a large part of the New Testament, established congregations on his missionary journeys and suffered greatly to expand the Kingdom of Christ. Even so, he considers himself as nothing.

Paul urges the Philippians to emulate Christ concerning humility.

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross.”

(Philippians 2:5-8)

February 23rd Readings

[ISAIAH 45:11-48:11](#)

[EPHESIANS 4:1-16](#)

[PSALM 68:19-35](#)

[PROVERBS 24:3-4](#)

Ephesians 4:1-16 – Paul’s Plea for Unity

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (verse 3). Think how powerful our influence would be toward the unbeliever if all who believed in Christ were united under one fellowship, all worshipping and working together. The world would no longer be confused by the conflicting messages coming from “Christianity”.

Listen to the prayer of Jesus shortly before his crucifixion: “I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. **May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me** and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17:22-23)

February 24th Readings

[ISAIAH 48:12-50:11](#)

[EPHESIANS 4:17-32](#)

[PSALM 69:1-18](#)

[PROVERBS 24:5-6](#)

Ephesians 4:17-32 - Living as Children of Light

In Ephesians 4 Paul urges the Ephesians to “put on the new self, created to be like God” (verse 24). He then lists a number of things that “Children of Light” should no longer do. One item listed is **stealing**.

Normally when we think of stealing we think of money, but we can also steal in other ways.

If we do not spend the time necessary to nurture our children in the Lord or to give them the attention to make them feel loved and secure, we are stealing from them.

If we do not give love and support to our mate, we are stealing from them.

If we do not honor God and worship Him or if we do not give to Him out of love, we are stealing from God.

Consider Paul's exhortation, "He who has been stealing must steal no more" (verse 28).