

September 3rd Readings

[DEUTERONOMY 28:1-68](#)

[LUKE 11:14-36](#)

[PSALM 77:1-20](#)

[PROVERBS 12:18](#)

Light is important to us. We need it every day. Life would be very different without it. Without light we have darkness, emptiness.

In Luke 14: 24 - 26 we read of a house swept clean and put in order after the banishment of an evil spirit. However, nothing was put into this clean, orderly place and so the evil spirit moved back in - with seven more! The result of that is darkness.

Jesus is THE LIGHT. Because of him, we can overcome the darkness in our lives. In Luke 11:33 - 36 we see how important it is to fill ourselves with light rather than darkness. To do that we must study the Word, pray and allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives daily. If we do this, we will be following the will of God and be able to reflect the love and light of Christ to others.

September 4th Readings

[DEUTERONOMY 29:1-30:20](#)

[LUKE 11:37-12:7](#)

[PSALM 78:1-31](#)

[PROVERBS 12:19-20](#)

God loves us and has provided for his people long before sending his son to die on the cross for us. He provided for the Israelites many blessings despite their repeated failings. Their actions caused God much sorrow and anger. He pronounced dire consequences on them for not following his instructions and yet was willing to forgive them if they repented and obeyed his words. They could choose between life or death, blessings or curses.

Today we also have a choice to follow the ways of the world or God's way. We must choose life and blessings - "loving the Lord God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days." Deuteronomy 30:20

September 5th Readings

[DEUTERONOMY 31:1-32:27](#)

[LUKE 12:8-34](#)

[PSALM 78:32-55](#)

[PROVERBS 12:21-23](#)

Our earthly lives are filled with concerns, some small and inconsequential and others grave and consuming. Much of our time is spent in working through these things - looking for solutions. And we often try to accomplish this independently, without asking for help.

Moses, Joshua and the Israelites were all told by God to be "strong and courageous" without fear or dread, because God would be with them. He told them that he would not leave them or forsake them.

Jesus told his disciples not to be anxious about daily concerns such as food and clothing. They were told they were unable to add even an hour of time to their lives by worrying. Rather they were instructed to put their efforts into seeking God's kingdom. He reassured them that God knew their needs and would provide these things.

Today we also need to remember to ask God to guide us in our daily lives. As we replace worry with trust in Him we can find relief for much of our stress as well as solutions to our problems.

September 6th Readings

[DEUTERONOMY 32:28-52](#)

[LUKE 12:35-59](#)

[PSALM 78:56-64](#)

[PROVERBS 12:24](#)

The Bible directs us to be ready, prepared to obey and follow the instructions we are given. Scripture gives us many examples of this.

Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake

when he comes. Luke 12:35-37

Therefore prepare your minds for action; be self controlled, set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:13

Always be prepared to give the reason for the hope you have. 1 Peter 3:15

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage. 2 Timothy 4:2

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

We know the result of our obedience to instruction for readiness and preparation will be good. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. Colossians 3:23-24

September 7th Readings

[DEUTERONOMY 33:1-29](#)

[LUKE 13:1-21](#)

[PSALM 78:65-72](#)

[PROVERBS 12:25](#)

While on earth Jesus presented his message of God's love and plan for salvation everywhere he went to young and old, Pharisees and other authority figures, as well as the common people.

He taught that there were no degrees of sin and that all men were sinful. He also told them that anytime was appropriate for healing people of their physical infirmities and forgiving their sins, even on the Sabbath Day. He encouraged them to make every effort to enter through "the narrow gate" while it was open and, though God was patient and wanted all men to be saved, the time was coming when the door would close. His message to all was to repent and yet he knew many would not and that God would abandon Jerusalem.

We know today that God's plan for salvation remains available to all. But it is not enough to

believe God's word. It is necessary that we repent of our sins and confess them to become eligible for forgiveness. That, along with baptism, will allow us to participate in the salvation made possible by Christ's death on the cross.

September 8th Readings

[DEUTERONOMY 34:1-12](#)

[JOSHUA 1:1-2:24](#)

[LUKE 13:22-14:6](#)

[PSALM 79:1-13](#)

[PROVERBS 12:26](#)

In the book of Joshua we read about a woman named Rahab, a prostitute who lived in Jericho. She was not Jewish but played a very important part in the days leading up to the fall of Jericho to Joshua and the Israelites. She not only provided hiding places for the two spies sent by Joshua, but turned away the king of Jericho's men to search elsewhere and also told the spies of a safe way of departure. She and the spies made an agreement that she and her family would be spared during Jericho's fall if she did not betray the Israelites. Because she believed in God and helped the Israelites, she and her family were saved from the city's downfall and lived with Israel from then on.

Rahab is probably not one we would have chosen as a good example to be highlighted in the pages of the Bible. Yet she demonstrated faith and courage and so was saved from harm. We read again about Rahab in Matthew as she was listed in the genealogy of Jesus, as an example of works in James and as a woman of faith in Hebrews.

Aren't we blessed to have a God who is loving and just and who allows us to see that He can use all kinds of people to accomplish His plans? Even we in our ordinary lives can demonstrate His will and ways and so influence others.

September 9th Readings

[JOSHUA 3:1-4:24](#)

[LUKE 14:7-35](#)

[PSALM 80:1-19](#)

[PROVERBS 12:27-28](#)

Pride is a human characteristic that we are all familiar with. Unfortunately, it turns up easily in our everyday lives. We may rate ourselves as very good, or even superior, in intelligence, performance, creativity, efficiency, etc. and especially in comparison to others. We may think we deserve recognition because we have earned it due to experience or abilities. Surely others can see how deserving we are!

The Bible records numerous scriptures where Jesus pointed out the effect of pride in people's lives. Luke 11:43 Luke 18:10-14 Luke 20:46-47

Humility is the opposite of pride. Humility does not seem to come as easily to us as pride. While pride may be almost automatic to some, humility is a quality we must work at developing. When we depend only on our own resources humility may seem to elude us while pride comes unbidden.

We know God wants us to be humble.

James 4:6 God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Matthew 23:12 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under God's mighty hand that he may lift you up in due time.

James 4:2 ... You do not have because you do not ask.

Let us pray for God to help us deny our pride and strengthen us with humility.