March 18th Readings

JEREMIAH 31:27-32:44

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-16

PSALM 88:1-18

PROVERBS 25:20-22

1 Timothy 3:1-16 tells us that the house of God is the church of the living God. Paul is expressing how Christians should conduct themselves. He discusses the qualifications of elders and deacons. We would do well to examine the characteristics expected from Christians as they grow in the Lord.

Humility is a characteristic that is taught throughout the word of God. Lowering one's self to serve is an act of love. Example: John 13:1-17 gives the stirring story of Jesus washing the Disciples' feet. When one shows constant humility in Church or in his/her everyday life, the teaching of the word shines through those actions.

Through study and conversing with one another that are versed in the Bible lends itself to teaching the word. We are to go into the world and spread the good news for all to see and hear. The more we study, the better prepared we become to teach and live the will of God.

When we seek to have the attributes of a Christian, we slowly give up self and submit to the will of Jesus. The blessings of a Godly life are unsurpassed.

March 19th Readings

JEREMIAH 33:1-34:22

<u>1 TIMOTHY 4:1-16</u>

PSALM 89:1-13

PROVERBS 25:23-24

I will sing! What a powerful beginning to a statement of love. Singing is an expression of joy or happiness in most cases. Psalm 89:1 is a reflection of that joy. "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations."

Several things to note: The Lord is a merciful God. He gives us his grace daily. We can take great comfort in the knowledge of understanding his love for us.

We express the Lord's faithfulness to us by way of our mouths. In other words, we sing, we tell others of his love for us, and we express that joy through the way we live our lives.

Do we wake up with a song in our heart? Do we give God the glory to show that we believe in his faithfulness to us? I will sing!

March 20th Readings

JEREMIAH 35:1-36:32

1 TIMOTHY 5:1-25

PSALM 89:14-37

PROVERBS 25:25-27

A righteous man. Those three words carry a tremendous amount of responsibility. The expectations are lifelong, not just when one feels like it. Proverbs 25:26 says, "a righteous man who falters before the wicked is like a murky spring and a polluted well." Therefore, it might serve those well that follow the Lord to keep honorable friendships.

We have all seen many that forget their first love as referenced in Galatians1:6. Paul marvels at how quickly some have turned away from the teachings of Christ. When this happens, it can put a strain on many relationships. We need to bask in pure streams and drink from the living well of Christ daily.

A righteous man keeps the word of God close to his heart, teaching others about the good news. He guards against the unrighteousness of the world by praying unendingly. His greatest achievement in life is putting on Christ and being faithful each living day.

March 21st Readings

JEREMIAH 37:1-38:28

<u>1 TIMOTHY 6:1-21</u>

PSALM 89:38-52

PROVERBS 25:28

Who is in control? As we go about our daily lives, we face many challenges, and we must choose the path in which we travel.

In 1 Timothy 6:20 Paul admonishes Timothy to guard what was committed to his trust, avoiding profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge. Verse 21 continues, By professing it some have strayed concerning the faith.

Concerning the faith: To keep the faith, we must not resort to opinions or hearsay, either in teaching others, or being taught by those who are not well versed. We are blessed to have God's word written for our instruction. If we do not study, we lose control of our faith by becoming passive. Our mistake is not allowing God to control our journey daily.

Paul finishes verse 21 with "Grace be with you. Amen."

Continue in the faith, study the word, accept God's grace, and give him the glory.

March 22nd Readings

JEREMIAH 39:1-41:18

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-18

PSALM 90:1-91:16

PROVERBS 26:1-2

In the first Chapter and first several verses of Timothy, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and other books of the New Testament, Paul and those with him begin with uplifting greetings. 2 Timothy 2, *To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.* Philippians 1:3, *I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.* Colossians 1:3, *We give thanks to God and Father of our Lord Jesus* 

Christ, praying always for you.

Paul shows his joy for their love for the Lord Jesus Christ. His first words are filled with reinforcement to their commitment. He uses a positive approach to show his love for the brethren. His greetings are important to set the stage for the full text in which he will put energy for their edification.

It is always a joy to be greeted by brothers and sisters that care. Sometimes I wonder if we put enough emphasis on the way in which we reach out to folks in the assembly. Paul and the ones that travel with him use the words love, remembrance, in our prayers continually, our Lord Jesus Christ, we have heard of your faith. We get the idea that each soul is precious. May we all strive to be loving in our nature and strong in our will to greet those around us.

March 23rd Readings

JEREMIAH 42:1-44:23

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-21

PSALM 92:1-93:5

PROVERBS 26:3-5

Being a Christian does not take courage, but rather humility. It takes understanding, not hearsay. We are to trust in the grace of God, not in our ability to accomplish. All through 2 Timothy, Paul is encouraging Timothy to remain faithful and remember his upbringing as a child from both his grandmother and mother.

Being a Christian teaches us the love of God. In 1 John, we find that we love God because he first loved us. What comfort we enjoy from this love of our Father. He gave all to us through his son Jesus. Being a Christian allows us to bask in his mercy.

Paul says as much in 2 Timothy 2:15 in just a few phrases. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. He tells Timothy to be strong in the grace that is in Jesus Christ in verse 2:1.

Being a Christian is the fullness of God's blessings. Through his grace, we share his son. We

need to live with a prayer in our hearts thanking the Lord daily for the gift of his son. By being humble in our actions, we are demonstrating the power of being a Christian.

March 24th Readings
JEREMIAH 44:24-47:7
2 TIMOTHY 2:22-3:17
PSALM 94:1-23
PROVERBS 26:6-8

The words of our Holy Father give us immeasurable blessings daily. They are the fulfillment of our very being. Paul, in 2 Timothy 3:16, sums up the whole purpose and importance of being diligent while perusing the Bible, *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, or instruction in righteousness, that the man of God can be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.* It is reasonable to assume that we need to study in depth, what the word of God has to offer.

Ephesians 2:8-10 says that we are saved through grace by faith, not of ourselves, but it is a gift of God, not from works lest any man boasts. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Our strength comes from our dedication to live daily as a Christian, following the blessings of the scripture. God's gift to us comes from his grace when we fulfill what is written in his word. We are to be his workmanship to show the glory of his Son through the way in which we live our lives. Through study, we become complete, ready to do the work given in the scriptures. God has given us the blessings of his words. Will we accept this precious gift?