March 25th Readings

JEREMIAH 48:1-49:22

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-22

PSALM 95:1-96:13

PROVERBS 26:9-12

2 Timothy 4:1

Paul solemnly charged Timothy to preach the word.

Is anything more important than God's Word? It is the power of God unto salvation.

But how many follow His word and how many follow myths? A myth is anything man teaches from his own imagination. Not all truth that we claim to know is pure.

The name 'Church of Christ' does not guarantee truth. Just because someone writes something (as a member of the church) doesn't mean that his word is truth.

"But we back up everything with scripture." So do many denominations. But we also can be and are mistaken many times. Daily bible reading is good, but daily bible searching is necessary.

"Let God be true and every man a liar." (Romans 3:4) It is His truth that saves – not our idea of what His truth is.

"Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth." (John 17:17) If truth is not pure, does it sanctify? If we are satisfied where we stand, woe unto us.

Are we as noble-minded as the Bereans? (Acts 17:10-11)

March 26th Readings

JEREMIAH 49:23-50:46

TITUS 1:1-16

PSALM 97:1-98:9

PROVERBS 26:13-16

Psalm 97:1-98:9

These psalms speak of God's power. We who are His children have no trouble believing it. But there is a large segment of our population who do not believe it.

It seems to me that these people are not thinkers.

Just to look around at the design and order of things shouts of God as creator and leaves evolution begging. You may choose only one of God's creations and it disproves evolution. For example: Language – if evolutionists cannot see God in that, they are unthinking. Or the ability that God gave them to think and reason.

Romans 1:28 "And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do these things which are not proper." Everything in all creation disproves evolution. They use 'billions of years ago' to cover up their extreme ignorance.

If there is <u>no</u> God, what happens to me? If there <u>is</u> a God, what happens to them? "Without Him was not anything made that was made." (John 1:3)

"Praise God from Whom all blessings flow." (Quote from the song of the same name.)

March 27th Readings
JEREMIAH 51:1-53
TITUS 2:1-15
PSALM 99:1-9
PROVERBS 26:17

Titus 2:1-15

Verse 1 says, "...speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine."

And then Paul describes the kind of people we should be in our conduct. Because our

conduct should adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect, and our conduct includes, to a large extent, our speech.

James 1:26 "If anyone thinks himself to be religious and bridles not his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless."

Our conduct is the advertisement which makes our religion beautiful or repulsive to the world.

Our physical dress can either adorn us or degrade us. So can our outward behavior.

If our conduct does not adorn the doctrine, who will listen to our message?

March 28th Readings

JEREMIAH 51:54-52:34

TITUS 3:1-15

PSALM 100:1-5

PROVERBS 26:18-19

Psalm 100

The part of this psalm that gets my attention most is: "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise."

How else but through prayer, of course?

Is He saying to thank God first in our prayers (which we do) and then come even closer in praise? That is: into His very throne room?

Our praise is usually sparse.

God is not the one benefitted by being praised. It is for us to profit by giving thought to how great God is.

If praise doesn't come easily for us or doesn't sound or feel sincere, we can read the psalms a lot. His praises are sung continually by the psalmist.

We don't necessarily need to mimic David, but use our own imaginations to praise our great God. I think He wants us to praise Him from the depths of our own heart. We should praise until it becomes natural and pleasurable. Why do people say, "Praise the Lord" for their praise? That's just saying to praise. There are hundreds of praise words and phrases.

Have you ever prayed a whole prayer of praise? Try it. It will make you think of the attributes of God. The list is endless.

March 29th Readings

LAMENTATIONS 1:1-2:22

PHILEMON 1:1-25

PSALM 101:1-8

PROVERBS 26:20

Proverbs 26:20

This proverb is so simple, straightforward and obvious.

We know the truth; and yet we can't keep our mouth shut.

Truly, James (3:5) convicts us when he says, "the tongue is a small member yet boasts great things. How great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire." Where there is no whisperer contention quiets down.

It should not even have to be mentioned that a christian should never be a whisperer, but it seems we can contend with the best.

We are so sinful to take another's problems and run with them. Who gives us the right? It is an act of flagrantly ignoring God's instruction and purposely, carelessly handling another person's character, maybe even a brother's.

Do we stop to think that what we deal out will be meted to us again?

Do we think God hears and gives His approval? Another name for whisperer would be gossiper, babbler, and busybody. Don't you just hate the sound of those names?

March 30th Readings

LAMENTATIONS 3:1-66

HEBREWS 1:1-14

PSALM 102:1-28

PROVERBS 26:21-22

Lamentations 3:22-24

These words are put together in such a way as to give peace and hope. It is difficult to comprehend that God's "steadfast love <u>never</u> ceases. His mercies <u>never</u> come to an end." Given the 'corruption that is in the world by lust" (2 Peter 1:4) and our weakness in the fight against it, it makes me wonder why God would continue to love through all of this sinfulness.

Who are we to be able to enjoy this fact? Is this awesome or what? And the next statement only increases our joy and hope. "They are <u>new every</u> morning." <u>That</u> is thrilling!!

We use the expression: "Today is the first day of the rest of my life." With our God that is literally true. When we continually ask for forgiveness (as we walk in the light (1 John 1:7)) God wipes out our past. "Their sins and their iniquities I will remember no more." (Hebrews 10:17) Not just an idle statement. At the moment of our true repentance He remembers no more. It matters not who we are or what we have done, we have no past in God's mind, where it really counts.

"Great is Thy faithfulness." Does that blow you away? God Himself is faithful to <u>me</u>. "The Lord is my portion says my soul." The word portion can mean: dividend, share, allotment, measure. God doesn't add blessings, He multiplies them.

So then: The Lord is my share, my allotment, my dividend says my soul. If only we can truly comprehend such, then, of course, "I will hope in Him."

Our God is an awesome God!!

March 31st Readings

LAMENTATIONS 4:1-5:22

HEBREWS 2:1-18

PSALM 103:1-22

PROVERBS 26:23

Hebrews 2:11

I think Paul is the writer of this letter. After all, he was caught up into the third heaven and allowed to see things he could not speak about. Therefore, he would be more able to comprehend and describe the Lord's greatness in the foregoing verses of this chapter.

The word "sanctify" means to set aside as special, or to make holy. So he says, "For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father."

In chapter 12, verses 22-24, he says, "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God ... and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect...." Is this not us? Our spirits have been made perfect by the washing in Christ's blood in baptism, therefore, he is the one who sanctifies and we are the ones who are sanctifed. "And we are all from one Father for which reason He is not ashamed to call them (us) brethren." In this spiritual family, God is our Father and Jesus is our brother and Jesus is not ashamed to call us such.

Maybe we shouldn't take such a high blessing for granted, but by faith in Him, it has been granted. Just another one of the gazillion blessings our Father has lavished upon us. Listen to verse 14 of chapter 12: "Pursue peace with all men and the <u>sanctification</u> without which <u>no one</u> will see the Lord." Whew!!