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**April to June
2009**

**“Grow in Grace,
and in the
knowledge of
our Lord and
Saviour Jesus
Christ”**

by
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About the Author



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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

PSALM 1

2 PETER 3:18

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

**GROW IN GRACE AND IN
THE KNOWLEDGE
OF OUR LORD**

Nowadays, we often hear of “Church Growth” with man’s ideas and worldly methods, and many churches are boastful of their “church growth” with their big membership and wealth.

How about true church growth? It is like a mustard seed. Jesus says that *“It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it”* (Luke 13:19). There must be life within in order to grow. Without life, there can be no growth. A healthy child grows naturally. We must be born again and be nurtured with the Word of God if we want to grow spiritually. *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”* (1 Peter 2:2). Spiritual growth is the work of God and not of man. True spiritual growth must come from God alone. We can never grow spiritually and bear fruit by ourselves without the Lord, our True Vine. Our Lord Jesus confirms, *“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing”* (John 15:5). God’s Word also confirms, *“So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase (growth)”* (1 Cor 3:7). “Church growth” is the spiritual growth of born-again Christians who rely on and submit to God and His Word.

The verb “grow” is a command in the present tense, denoting to *“keep on growing.”* God commands you and me to keep on growing in His grace and in His knowledge. Are you really growing spiritually day by day?

THOUGHT: We must have God’s life within in order to grow spiritually.

PRAYER: Lord, help me grow in Your grace and in Your knowledge.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

PSALM 8

JOHN 3:16

“For God so loved the world.”

GOD’S COMMON GRACE

God’s grace is God’s love, mercy, favour, and blessings toward mankind, especially toward His children regardless of their merits. Understanding the Scriptures, we may see God’s common grace for all mankind and His special grace for the elect or His children.

We are to be grateful to God for His common grace or general blessings toward us on this earth and in this universe such as the rain, the sunshine, seasons, fruitful crops, etc. *“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust”* (Matt. 5:44-45) and *“Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness”* (Acts 14:17).

By His common grace and love, God does desire all mankind to repent and to be saved. *“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Tim 2:4) and *“not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9). God gave mankind His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who came into the world as a perfect God-Man to die for the sins of all mankind and to rise again for the justification and salvation of everyone who believes and receives Him as his personal Lord and Saviour (John 3:16). When sinners reject God’s grace, and especially God’s plan of salvation in Christ, God is righteous and vindicated to condemn them to hell.

THOUGHT: God’s grace and love are manifested in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: Thank You, Father, for Your amazing grace and love.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
EPHESIANS 2:1-10
EPHESIANS 2:8

*“For by grace are
ye saved through faith.”*

GOD’S SPECIAL GRACE

Even though God has shown His common grace and love toward mankind including you and me, the total depravity and rebellion of human hearts hinder us from sincerely believing in and submitting to God and His Word. Then, if we sinners are cast into Hell, we deserve it.

However, we must give thanks to God for His special grace, saving grace or irresistible grace (Calvin’s TULIP) that, by His great love (Eph 2:4) and His election of grace (Rom 11:5), He has chosen us (John 15:16), drawn us to Himself (John 6:44, 65), quickened us together with Christ (Eph 2:1, 5), delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into His kingdom of light (Col 1:13), even granted us faith to believe and to be saved (Eph 2:8) and justified (Rom 3:24). All is by God’s grace alone. Praise the Lord!

Truly, *“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness”* (2 Cor 12:9). By God’s sufficient grace not only are we saved, but we can also live a godly life overcoming our sinful nature, Satan, temptations, trials in life and worldliness (Rom 7:24-25; Rom 8:37; 2 Cor 2:14; 1 John 2:14, 5:5). Moreover, by God’s grace, we shall be kept safe in the Lord’s mighty hands and be saved forever, *“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand”* (John 10:28-29). All is by God’s grace alone from the beginning until the end, my friends. Let us give all glory and thanks unto the Lord.

THOUGHT: *“So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy”* (Rom 9:16).

PRAYER: O Lord, how I thank You for graciously choosing me, saving me, preserving me and blessing me!

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

JAMES 4:1-10

2 PETER 3:18

“Grow in grace.”

KEEP ON GROWING IN GOD’S GRACE

Besides thanking God for His amazing grace for our salvation, we must remember that we also need God’s grace for our daily walk with Him, for our service to Him, and for our battle against the enemies of our souls, even “self”, Satan, wrong doctrines, and worldliness. We thank God for His sufficient grace in our Lord Jesus Christ, who confirms, *“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness”* (2 Cor 12:9). Truly, *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,... full of grace and truth... And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For... grace and truth came by Jesus Christ”* (John 1:14,16,17) and *“he giveth more grace”* (James 4:6). God’s grace is always sufficient for all our needs, and we can never use up His unlimited and abundant grace. Then how do we grow in God’s grace?

Humble Ourselves More with Full Submission: As *“God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble”* (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5), we are to humble ourselves before God (James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6). Many appear very gentle and humble before men but are not totally submissive to the Lord and His Word! True humility before God means our full dependence on and submission to Him and His Word.

Humbly Come to the Lord Himself with Trust and Dependence: All grace comes from the Lord Himself alone, so *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”* with trust and dependence (Heb 4:16).

Grow in God’s Knowledge: Our growth in God’s grace depends on our growth in His knowledge (2 Peter 1:2). The more we know the Lord, the more we shall humbly trust in Him and His sufficient grace.

THOUGHT: *“But by the grace of God I am what I am”* (1 Cor 15:10).

PRAYER: O Lord, help me grow in Your grace daily.

LORD'S DAY, APRIL 5

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

2 PETER 3:18

“Grow ... in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

**KEEP ON GROWING IN
THE KNOWLEDGE
OF OUR LORD**

In this world we usually admire the learned or scholarly people who have a wide knowledge of many things. But how about the knowledge of God and of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? God says, *“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD”* (Jer 9:23-24), and *“For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings”* (Hosea 6:6). God not only desires and delights in our knowledge of Him but also commands us to keep on growing in His knowledge (2 Peter 3:18).

You and I cannot trust or follow someone we do not know well. It is vital for us to experientially know the Lord personally. The more we know the Lord and what He has done for us, the more we shall love Him and appreciate Him. The more we know our Lord's majesty and holiness, the more we shall humbly fear Him and depart from evil. The more we know our Lord's faithfulness and sovereignty, the more we shall trust in Him and commit everything to Him. The more we know our Lord's love, grace and mercy, the more we shall be thankful to Him and willing to serve Him. The more we know and keep our Lord's faithful words, the more we stand firm on His sure foundation.

Are you really growing in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ daily as He commands us?

THOUGHT: A heart knowledge of our Lord is so vital.

PRAYER: O Lord, help me grow in Your knowledge daily.

MONDAY, APRIL 6

JOHN 14:1-11

JOHN 5:39

*“Search the scriptures...
which testify of me.”*

**A HEART-KNOWLEDGE OF
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
(1)**

God commands us to keep on growing in His grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into this world as a perfect God-Man to reveal God the Father to mankind, the more we know about the Lord Jesus Christ, the more we know about God Himself. Truly, *“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him”* (John 1:18). Jesus says, *“He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me”* (John 12:44-45) and *“If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him”* (John 14:7).

As God inspired His servants to write the truth about Him, His will, His creation, and His salvation for mankind, we are to read and study God’s Word, the Holy Scriptures. Thank God for His omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence that He is able to perfectly preserve His inspired words (Ps 12:6-7; Matt 5:18; 24:35; 2 Tim 3:16; etc) for His children to read without any doubt or confusion. That is the Masoretic Text of the Hebrew Old Testament and the Received Text of the Greek New Testament, underlying the King James Bible.

In order to have a heart-knowledge of the Lord, we must be born again, have a desire to know about Him, seek Him, study and keep His Word, take up our cross and follow Him.

THOUGHT: The Holy Scriptures testify of the Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: Thank You, Lord, for having preserved Your Word for me to read and to know about You.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

JOHN 3:1-8

JOHN 17:3

*“And this is life eternal,
that they might know thee.”*

**A HEART-KNOWLEDGE OF
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

(2)

Be Born Again: The first condition to have a heart-knowledge of God and the Lord Jesus Christ is to be born again into God’s family. Many professing Christians think that they know the Lord, but it may be only head-knowledge. Some of us may know and talk about a well-known king, president, prime minister, scientist, or philosopher but we do not have any relationship with him. Likewise, many professing Christians may know and talk or even preach about the Lord Jesus Christ, but they do not have any relationship with Him. A dog may be faithful and intelligent but it is a creature created much lower than man. It may recognize its owner, express its feelings and have some simple communication with him, but it cannot know him and have fellowship with him as a son can with his father. Likewise, if we are not born again by the Holy Spirit and by God’s Word (John 3:5-6; 1 Peter 1:23), we cannot experientially know the Lord and have a close fellowship with Him as a child knows his father or as a bride knows her bridegroom.

Our Lord Jesus prays to His Father, *“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent”* (John 17:3). Dear friends, we must be born again so that we may have eternal life and a living fellowship with Him, and then may grow in the knowledge of Him as a child gets to know more about his father while he is growing up.

THOUGHT: Without being born again, we are hopeless at knowing the Lord Jesus Christ experientially.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for graciously giving me eternal life so that I may know You and have fellowship with You.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

PROVERBS 8:32-36

PSALM 73:25

*“There is none upon earth
that I desire beside thee.”*

**A HEART-KNOWLEDGE OF
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
(3)**

Desire to Know the Lord: God delights in our knowledge of Him (Jer 9:23-24) and commands us to keep on growing in His knowledge (2 Peter 3:18), so we must have a desire to know Him; otherwise, we are indifferent or lukewarm like the believers in Laodicea (Rev 3:16-17). The Psalmist says, *“Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee”* (Ps 73:25). Our Lord will be pleased when we, like Paul, can *“count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus”* (Phil 3:8).

We are growing in the knowledge of the Lord if today or this month we know Him and His Word better than yesterday or last month. If we are content with our knowledge of the Lord and His Word in the past but today we do not have any desire to know Him more, we are not growing. Then, let us *“press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”* (Phil 3: 14).

Seek the Lord First: It is not enough to have a desire to know the Lord. To know someone or something well requires our time, zeal and effort. We have to seek the Lord and His Word daily through our personal devotion time, Bible study, and worship. The Holy Spirit uses His Word to reveal the Lord and His Truth to us. This is God’s promise, *“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart”* (Jer 29:13). The Lord Jesus says, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”* (Matt 6:33). Do you seek the Lord and His Word first daily?

THOUGHT: A lukewarm heart cannot please the Lord.

PRAYER: Lord, please help me desire to know You and seek You first daily.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-11

JOHN 14:21

*“I will love him,
and will manifest myself to him.”*

**A HEART-KNOWLEDGE OF
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

(4)

Keep His Word with Humble Submission: Paul said, *“I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord”* (Phil 3:8). When confessing Jesus Christ as Lord, we must mean that He is our supreme and sovereign Lord and that we are not our own but the Lord’s as His bond-slave. Our Lord Jesus says, *“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him”* (John 14:21). Our Lord Jesus will manifest Himself more to us when we love Him and humbly submit to Him and His Word. Those who doubt, question, or criticize God’s Word are arrogant and rebellious and cannot experientially know the Lord.

Take up One’s Cross and Follow Him: To know the Lord more, we must take up our cross and follow Him faithfully unto death. Paul said, *“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death”* (Phil 3:10). It is a blessing to know the power of Jesus’ resurrection in our lives and ministry to overcome Satan, our sinful nature and worldliness. But do we also regard it a blessing to know the fellowship of Jesus’ sufferings and to be conformed unto His death? When we encounter misjudgment, contempt, criticism, hatred, betrayal, opposition, attacks or persecutions from the world or from professing Christians, it is a blessing to know and understand the sufferings of our Lord, who *“endured such contradiction of sinners against himself”* (Heb 12:3). Then we may be constrained by His love to willingly be conformed to His death – death to “self,” and to sins and to worldliness.

THOUGHT: Do I humbly submit to my Lord and His Word?

PRAYER: Lord, help me humbly submit to You and Your Word always.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

ISAIAH 53:1-12

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3

*“Christ died for our sins
according to the scriptures.”*

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is the day we commemorate the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was despised, rejected, hated, persecuted, blasphemed, betrayed, forsaken, beaten, and crucified on the cross. Then He died and was buried. Who did He die for? For all mankind including you and me!

Jesus bore our sins as well as *“the sins of the whole world”* in His own body on the cross (1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 2:2), and His holy Father turned His face from His dearly beloved Son at the moment when all the wickedness, sins, unrighteousness, iniquities, and transgressions of human beings were upon the Lord Jesus, who cried, *“My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?”* (Matt 27:46).

Dear friends, we can never fully understand how great and deep Christ’s sufferings were. And it is no fault of His, but because of your sins and my sins: *“Christ also suffered for us...for sins”* (1 Peter 2:21, 3:18, 4:1). It is because of Christ’s love and because of our salvation that He suffered and died for us. Let us remember our Lord’s love and sacrifice and be grateful. Being purchased by His blood, we are to glorify God with our lives, *“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s”* (1 Cor 6:20).

It is vital for us to experientially *“know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God”* (Eph 3:19) so that His love may constrain us to live for Him (2 Cor 5:14), to *“follow his steps,”* to be *“partakers of Christ’s sufferings”* (1 Peter 2:21, 4:13), and to be *“faithful unto death”* (Rev 2:10).

THOUGHT: I have to receive Christ’s love and sacrifice for myself personally. He *“loved me, and gave himself for me”* (Gal 2:20).

PRAYER: O Lord, how I thank You for Your love and sacrifice for me!

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

1 JOHN 4:7-12

1 JOHN 4:10

“He loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

GOD’S LOVE AND RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

Many do not see God’s love and just blame Him for all the sufferings and evils in their lives or in this world, while others take God’s love for granted and keep living in sin. We must have a right attitude toward our Lord’s death on the cross for us and for our sins.

God’s Love for Us Is True and Great: We may be in the midst of troubles and trials of life, and Satan and our sinful nature may cause us to doubt God’s love. Let us look at the Lord Jesus Christ, who really loves us and has died for us and our sins. Hear God’s faithful Word: *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (Rom 5:8), and *“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins”* (1 John 4:10).

God’s Judgment Is Sure: Our Lord Jesus Christ’s death on the Cross reveals not only God’s love but also God’s righteous judgment. Sin is always serious. If God could have ignored sins, Jesus would not have come to die for mankind’s sins. The holy and righteous God had to condemn and deal with sin. If Jesus Christ did not suffer the death penalty for our sins, we must be condemned to hell for our sins. Let us remember our Lord’s humble and shameful death on the Cross for our sins so that we may humbly receive His death for our sins with much appreciation, and then by His grace and strength we stop living in sin as sin is always serious and God’s judgment is sure.

THOUGHT: God’s love is true and His righteous judgment is sure.

PRAYER: O Lord, thank You for being judged and punished in my stead for my sins!

LORD'S DAY, APRIL 12

JOHN 20:19-31

1 CORINTHIANS 15:4

"He rose again."

JESUS CHRIST ROSE AGAIN

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the important foundation of our faith and our salvation. A dead person cannot save or help anyone as he cannot see, hear, know, or move. *"If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain... ye are yet in your sins...are perished"* (1 Cor 15:14, 17-18). Truly, if Jesus Christ had not risen, it would be vain for us to trust in Him, pray to Him or worship Him as He cannot hear, know, help or save! But praise God that the Lord Jesus really rose again, and He is ever living to hear our prayers and has power to save us perfectly, *"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them"* (Heb 7:25).

The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ proves that

- Jesus is the Son of God, is God Himself with all power (Rom 1:4).
- Jesus fulfilled all of Scriptures (Luke 24:27, 44).
- Jesus' atoning sacrifice has been accepted (Acts 2:22-36). His resurrection is for our justification (Rom 4:25).
- Jesus has overcome Satan, death and the world (John 16:33; 1 Cor 15:25-26; 1 John 3:8, 4:4, 5:5).

Jesus' resurrection secures His new life in us to overcome our sinful nature, Satan, temptations, trials of life, and worldliness (Rom 7:24-25, 8:37; 2 Cor 2:14; 1 John 2:14, 5:5).

Jesus' resurrection ensures that our labour in Him will not be in vain (1 Cor 15:58) and that He will come back again to give us a glorious body like His (Acts 1:11; 1 Cor 15:22, 34, 51, 57; Phil 3:21; 1 Thess 4:16-17). Praise the Lord!

THOUGHT: Jesus Christ *"was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification"* (Rom 4:25).

PRAYER: Lord, I thank You for Your death for me and for Your resurrection for me.

MONDAY, APRIL 13

EXODUS 3:1-15

REVELATION 17:14

“He is Lord of lords.”

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD

Many know Jesus as a good prophet or a good teacher, but we must know Him as our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18; cf. 1:11; 2:20). The phrase *“our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”* has only one definite article in Greek, denoting one Divine Person, our Saviour Jesus Christ is the LORD, the Jehovah, the *“I AM THAT I AM”* in the Old Testament (Exod 3:14; cf. Isa 6:3; John 12:41). Our Lord Jesus confirms that He is the Jehovah by His *“I AM”* statement, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am”* (John 8:58), and due to this, the Jews wanted to stone Him. Let us meditate on Jesus’ other seven *“I AM”* statements and trust that He is All we need:

- *“I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst”* (John 6:35).
- *“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life”* (John 8:12).
- *“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture”* (John 10:9).
- *“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep”* (John 10:11).
- *“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live”* (John 11:25).
- *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”* (John 14:6).
- *“I am the true vine, ... ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing”* (John 15:1,5).

THOUGHT: *“God hath made that same Jesus... both Lord and Christ”* (Acts 2:36).

PRAYER: Lord, help me exalt You as Lord of my life.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

MATTHEW 7:21-29

PHILIPPIANS 2:11

“Jesus Christ is Lord.”

IS JESUS REALLY YOUR LORD?

An experiential knowledge of Jesus Christ as our personal Lord is vital for us. Many professing Christians say to Jesus, *“Lord, Lord”* with their lips but their hearts are not submissive to Him or His Word at all. They still use their lives, their time, and all they have according to their own will and plan. They still want to speak, read, watch, listen to, believe, write and do whatever they like or go wherever they like regardless of the Lord and His will and His Word! Many even arrogantly question, criticise, and misinterpret the Lord’s Word! Our Lord Jesus says, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven”* (Matt 7:21).

Dear friends, when we confess that Jesus is the Lord, we must mean that He is the Jehovah, the covenant Lord of His covenant people, the self-existent and self-sufficient God, eternal, immutable, holy, mighty, loving, and faithful to His covenants, to His promises and to His Word. And when we confess that Jesus is our Lord, we must mean that He has the full authority and right over our lives, our time and all we have, and that we are not our own but His, and that we willingly submit to Him and His Word with our trust and dependence.

How can human beings with their totally corrupt, depraved, sinful and rebellious nature (Jer 17:9; Rom 8:7-8) be submissive to Jesus Christ as Lord? Thank God that the Holy Spirit is able to subdue our sinful nature and help us humbly exalt Jesus Christ as our Lord, *“no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost”* (1 Cor 12:3).

THOUGHT: *“And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God”* (John 20:28).

PRAYER: My Lord Jesus, help me submit to You and Your Word always.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

JOHN 5:15-27

1 JOHN 4:15

“Jesus is the Son of God.”

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

The name *“the Son of God”* referring to our Lord Jesus Christ has at least 46 occurrences in the New Testament. The Holy Scriptures testify that Jesus Christ is *“the Son of God”* (Mark 1:1; Rom 1:4). The angel Gabriel announced that Jesus Christ is *“the Son of the Highest”* and *“the Son of God”* (Luke 1:32; 35). John the Baptist saw the Holy Spirit descending and remaining on Jesus and testified that Jesus is *“the Son of God”* (John 1:33-34).

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself declares that He is *“the Son of God”* (John 3:18; 5:25; 9:35; 10:36; 11:4; Rev 2:18). Jesus also declares His eternal Sonship as *“the only begotten Son of God”* (John 3:18; cf. 1:18; 3:16; 1 John 4:9). Sadly, many modern English versions, like the New International Version, replace *“only begotten”* with *“one and only,”* undermining the eternal Sonship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord Jesus also confirms His equality with His Father, *“I and my Father are one”* (John 10:30) and *“If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him”* (John 14:7). When Jesus spoke of God and prayed to God as His Father, He also identified Himself as the Son of God, making Himself equal with God (Matt 11:25-27; 26:29,39,42; John 3:35; 5:17-26; 6:44-46; 17:1-26; etc), and *“the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God”* (John 5:18; cf. 19:7).

Then, when we confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, we must mean that Jesus Christ was not created but begotten of God from eternity, and that He is equal with God and that He is God Himself.

THOUGHT: *“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God”* (Acts 8:37).

PRAYER: My Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God and You are God.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

1 JOHN 5:1-13

MATTHEW 11:27

*“No man knoweth the Son,
but the Father.”*

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD?

Many nowadays do not believe that Jesus Christ is equal with God and is God Himself. How about you?

After Jesus calmed the storm by His Word, His disciples *“came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God”* (Matt 14:33). Peter confessed that Jesus is *“the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (Matt 16:16; John 6:69). We can hear the same confession that Jesus Christ is *“the Son of God”* from Nathanael (John 1:49), Martha (John 11:27), the centurion and those with him (Matt 27:54), the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:37), etc. John wrote his Gospel with a clear purpose, *“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name”* (John 20:31; cf. 1 John 5:13). After Paul met Jesus and was converted, he immediately preached that Jesus Christ is *“the Son of God”* (Acts 8:37) and confirmed that truth in his epistles (Rom 1:4; 2 Cor 1:19; etc).

Truly knowing, believing and confessing that Jesus is the Son of God must come from God. Jesus said to Peter, *“Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven”* (Matt 16:17). God’s Word confirms, *“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God”* (1 John 4:15).

Our faith in the Son of God is our Life and our victory over the world, *“Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?...He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life”* (1 John 5:5, 12).

THOUGHT: Grow in the knowledge of the Son of God (Eph 4:13).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me to experientially know You as the Son of God.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

HEBREWS 1:8-14

JOHN 1:1

“The Word was God.” R

JESUS IS GOD

As Jesus is the LORD and the Son of God, He is God Himself. There are more biblical proofs testifying that Jesus is God.

The phrase *“God and Saviour Jesus Christ”* in these two following verses has one definite article in Greek, denoting that our Saviour Jesus Christ is God Himself: *“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ”* (Titus 2:13) and *“through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 1:1).

Isaiah foretold the coming of the Lord Jesus, and His Name is called *“Emmanuel”* which being interpreted is, *“God with us”* (Isa 7:14; Matt 1:23) and *“Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”* (Isa 9:6). Jesus is called *“the everlasting Father”* although He is not God the Father, denoting that He has the same eternal essence of God. Jesus’ name is also called *“The Word of God”* (Rev 19:13), and *“the Word of life,”* (1 John 1:1), and *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”* (John 1:1).

It is amazing that God the Father says to His Son, *“Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever”* (Heb 1:8). Another clear Bible verse about our Lord Jesus’ Deity is *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory”* (1 Tim 3:16). Sadly, many modern English versions, like the NIV, replace “God” with “He,” undermining the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Heaven, Jesus Christ is worshipped as God, *“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing”* (Rev 5:12). How about you?

THOUGHT: *“And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God”* (John 20:28).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, You are my God.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

JOHN 17:1-10

REVELATION 5:12

“Worthy is the Lamb.”

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS GOD?

It is always good for us to meditate on some of our Lord Jesus' Divine attributes so that we may fear Him, honour Him, love Him, and trust in Him. Our Lord Jesus is:

- Eternal: *“Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever”* (Heb 1:8)
- Omnipresent: *“I am with you alway”* (Matt 28:20; cf. Matt 18:20)
- Omniscient: *“Jesus knew from the beginning”* (John 6:64; cf. 2:24)
- Omnipotent: *“All power is given unto me”* (Matt 28:18)
- Unchangeable: *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever”* (Heb 13:8; cf. 1:12).
- Holy: *“he that is holy”* (Rev 3:7; cf. Luke 1:35; Acts 4:27)
- Righteous: *“Thou hast loved righteousness”* (Heb 1:9; cf. Isa 53:11).
- Just: *“the Holy One and the Just”* (Acts 3:14; cf. 1 Peter 3:18)
- Faithful: *“Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness”* (Rev 1:5; 3:14).
- True: Jesus is called *“Faithful and True”* (Rev 19:11; cf. 3:14).
- Glorious: *“our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory”* (James 2:1).
- Good: *“the good shepherd, ... Good Master”* (John 10:11; Matt 19:16).
- Loving: *“he loved them unto the end”* (John 13:1; cf. 15: 9, 13).
- Gracious: *“My grace is sufficient for thee”* (2 Cor 12:9; cf. John 1:14)
- Merciful: *“a merciful and faithful high priest”* (Heb 2:17)
- Long-suffering: *“show forth all long-suffering”* (1 Tim 1:16)
- Forgiving: *“the Son of man hath power... to forgive sins”* (Matt 9:6).
- Giving Life: *“he should give eternal life”* (John 17:2; cf. 6:33; 10:10).
- Our Object of Worship: *“Worthy is the Lamb...”* (Rev 5:12; cf. Matt 28:9).
- Our Object of Faith: *“the author and finisher of our faith”* (Heb 12:2).

Dear friends, do you really believe that Jesus Christ is God, who is worthy to receive our worship, thanks, praise, reverence, love, and obedience?

THOUGHT: Our Lord Jesus Christ is God.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me to honour, trust, obey and worship You worthily as God.

LORD'S DAY, APRIL 19
COLOSSIANS 1:12-20
JOHN 1:3

"All things were made by him."

JESUS IS THE CREATOR

As Jesus is the Son of God and God Himself, He is the Creator, all-powerful, all-wise, and sovereign. We shall love Him, honour Him, trust in Him and appreciate Him more when we acknowledge that He created us and loves us so much that He humbly came into this world to die for us who are His sinful and rebellious creatures!

God's Word declares that *"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made"* (John 1:3), and *"Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him. And he is before all things, and by him all things consist"* (Col 1:15-17), and *"upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high... And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands"* (Heb 1:3, 10).

Dear friends, our Lord Jesus Christ, as God the Son, did perform the work of creation together with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit (Gen 1:1-2; Job 33:4; Ps 104:30; Acts 17:24). Let us ponder on this truth: All things were created and upheld by Jesus! May the Lord open our eyes so that we may see His wonderful work of creation everywhere and we may give thanks and praise to Him whether we look at the universe or enjoy the sunshine, the rain, the magnificent scenery, good food and fruits, beautiful flowers, even the life He has given to us!

THOUGHT: *"... ye believe in God, believe also in me"* (John 14:1).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, how I thank You for having created me and saved me!

MONDAY, APRIL 20

2 CORINTHIANS 13:1-10

MATTHEW 28:20

“I am with you always.”

JESUS IS OMNIPRESENT

As our Lord Jesus Christ is God, He is omnipresent or ever-present everywhere at all times. Sometimes, due to our difficulties, problems, or trials in life, we may be so worried, troubled and frightened that we forget our Lord’s presence with us. It is so comforting to remember that our Lord is with us always because His Word says so, and this confidence is based on His faithful Word and not on our feelings.

With much surprise Nathanael confessed that Jesus is *“the Son of God”* and *“the King of Israel”* when Jesus said to him, *“Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee”* (John 1:48-49). Our Lord is omnipresent!

Our Lord Jesus is now at the right hand of God the Father, making intercession for us, *“It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us”* (Rom 8: 34; cf. Heb 7:25). However, His presence is everywhere, *“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them”* (Matt 18:20). Wherever His children gather in His Name, whether in Africa, America, Asia, Australia or Europe, whether in a church building, in the jungles, at sea or at home, He is in their midst. It is so amazing! Moreover, Jesus promises, *“I am with you always, even unto the end of the world”* (Matt 28:20). Jesus uses the verb in the present tense, denoting the truth that at this very moment He is ever with His children everywhere, including you, always (all days or all the way)! Our Lord Jesus is even in us, *“Jesus Christ is in you”* (2 Cor 13:5), and *“Christ in you, the hope of glory”* (Col 1:27). It is so comforting!

THOUGHT: Jesus is truly the omnipresent God.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me live in Your presence always.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

REVELATION 2:1-7

JOHN 6:64

*“Jesus knew
from the beginning.”*

JESUS IS OMNISCIENT

As our Lord Jesus Christ is God, He is not only omnipresent but also omniscient or all-knowing. This truth will help us both trust in Him and fear Him. We shall trust in our Lord more because our loving and caring Saviour does know us very well, even our weaknesses, our health condition, our situations, our difficulties, our trials, and all our needs. We shall fear our Lord more because we cannot hide anything from Him. He does know our thoughts, our minds, our hearts, our motives, our works, our service, etc. Let us hear God’s Word confirming this truth:

Jesus foreknew His sufferings, death and resurrection (Matt 16:21; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22), and *“Jesus knew their thoughts”* (Matt 12:25; cf. Luke 6:8), and *“he knew all men... he knew what was in man”* (John 2:24-25). Jesus knew the Samaritan woman’s life very well, and she said to her folks, *“Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”* (John 4:18,19,29), and *“Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it... Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him”* (John 6:61,64), and *“Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father... Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God”* (John 13:1,3). Truly, in Jesus Christ *“are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”* (Col 2:3).

To the seven churches in Asia Minor (modern Turkey), Jesus says, *“I know thy works”* (Rev 2:2,9,13,19; 3:1,8,15). Jesus knows all their strengths and weaknesses and He rebukes them for leaving their first love toward Him, for their compromise and tolerance to sins and wrong doctrines, for their spiritual death and for their lukewarmness. How about you and your church?

THOUGHT: Jesus knows all things well.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, *“Now are we sure that thou knowest all things”* (John 16:30).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

ACTS 10:34-43

HEBREWS 7:25

“He is able also to save.”

JESUS IS OMNIPOTENT

It is vital for us to know and trust that our Lord Jesus Christ is the omnipotent God, the Almighty God, because it is true that He is able to do all things well according to His holy will and good pleasure, and nothing is too hard for Him or impossible with Him, *“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?”* (Jer 32:27; cf. Matt 19:26).

- Jesus is the Creator, who has power to create all things and uphold all things (John 1:3; Col 1:15-17; Heb 1:3).
- Jesus was anointed *“with the Holy Ghost and with power”* (Acts 10:38).
- Jesus was *“mighty in deed and word before God and all the people”* (Luke 24:19)
- Jesus has power over Satan and demons and He cast them out with His Word (Matt 8:16; Mark 1:39).
- Jesus has power over Nature, turning water into wine, calming the storm, *“walking on the sea”* (John 2:7-9; Matt 8:26-27; 14:25).
- Jesus has power over sickness, healing the sick, the blind, the lame, the deaf, etc. (Matt 8:16; 11:5).
- Jesus has power over death, raising Jairus’ daughter, a young man in Nain, and Lazarus (Mark 5:22, 41, 42; Luke 7:14-15; John 11:43-44).
- Jesus’ resurrection proves Him to be the Son of God with power (Rom 1:4)
- Jesus *“hath power on earth to forgive sins”* (Matt 9:6; Mark 2:10).
- Jesus has been given *“authority to execute judgment”* (John 5:27).
- Jesus *“is able also to save”* us perfectly (Heb 7:25).
- Jesus *“is able to keep”* what we have committed unto Him (2 Tim 1:12) and keep us safe in His mighty hand (John 10:28).
- *“All power is given unto”* our Lord Jesus Christ (Matt 28:18).

THOUGHT: Jesus is truly the Almighty God.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me trust in Your omnipotence.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

REVELATION 6:1-16

ACTS 10:36

“He is Lord of all.”

JESUS IS SOVEREIGN

We believe that God the Father is sovereign or in control over all, *“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered”* (Matt 10:29-30), and *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him”* (John 6:44, cf. 65). However, when we know and believe that Jesus is the living and true God, omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent, we must also believe that He is sovereign as God the Father is.

As Jesus Christ is *“Lord of all”* (Acts 10:36), and *“King of kings and Lord of lords”* (1 Tim 6:15; Rev 17:14; 19:16), He is in control over all as His Father is. Only our Lord Jesus Christ is worthy *“to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof”* (Rev 5:4-5). When He opens one of the seals, a great event takes place (Rev 6:1,3,5,7,9), and this is one of the great events in the last days, *“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; ...And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, ... And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; ... And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb”* (Rev 6:12-16).

Knowing that our Good Shepherd is sovereign and is with us, in us, and for us, we shall fear no evil (Ps 23:4). Praise the Lord!

THOUGHT: Our Lord Jesus Christ is sovereign.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I praise You for You are in control of all things.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

MATTHEW 1:18-25

1 TIMOTHY 3:16

“God was manifest in the flesh.”

JESUS IS THE PERFECT GOD-MAN

Knowing and believing that Jesus is a perfect Man is as important as knowing and believing that Jesus is God. Why? Only a perfect and sinless Man could die for sinners and only a perfect God-Man can be a Mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2:5). Therefore, *“Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist”* (1 John 4:2-3; 2 John 7).

Right after the Fall of Adam and Eve, God promised His salvation through the seed of a woman, saying to Satan, *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel”* (Gen 3:15). This promise was confirmed by the prophet Isaiah (c.700 BC), *“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel”* (Isa 7:14), and this was fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself to become man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, *“that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us”* (Matt 1:20-23).

Jesus is 100% God and 100% Man.

THOUGHT: Jesus is the perfect God-Man in one Person.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for humbly becoming a Man to die for my sins.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

ACT 2:22-36

ACTS 7:56

*“The Son of man standing
on the right hand of God.”*

JESUS IS THE SON OF MAN

The name *“the Son of man”* referring to our Lord Jesus Christ has at least 87 occurrences in the New Testament, in which 84 occurrences are from the mouth of our Lord Jesus Christ, humbly confirming His real humanity. Before being martyred, Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit, *“looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God”* and he testified, *“Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God”* (Acts 7:55-56). John also gave a similar testimony (Rev 1:13; 14:14).

The Holy Scriptures testify that Jesus Christ is a real Man: *“the Word was made flesh”* (John 1:14), and *“God was manifest in the flesh”* (1 Tim 3:16), and *“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know... Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through **this man** is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins”* (Acts 2:22; 13:38), and *“much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by **one man, Jesus Christ**, hath abounded unto many”* (Rom 5:15) and *“The first man is of the earth, earthy: **the second man** is the Lord from heaven”* (1 Cor 15:47), and *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus**;”* (1 Tim 2:5), and *“But **this man**, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God”* (Heb 10:12; cf. 7:24).

Jesus Christ became a Man and died for mankind.

THOUGHT: *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death”* (Phil 2:8).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for Your humble sacrifice for me.

LORD'S DAY, APRIL 26

ROMANS 5:1-11

HEBREWS 7:26

*"Who is holy, harmless,
undefiled, separate from sinners."*

JESUS IS A PERFECT MAN

Jesus Christ must be a perfect Man to die for the sins of mankind, including yours and mine. He has a human soul, human will and human body with flesh, blood and bones like us. Jesus said, *"My soul is exceeding sorrowful"* (Matt 26:38; cf. John 12:27), and prayed to His Father, *"not my will, but thine, be done... Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit"* (Luke 22:42; 23:46), and *"Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have"* (Luke 24:39).

With His real human body, Jesus was hungry, wearied, and thirsty. He also ate, drank, worked, walked, rested, slept, wept, and died and was buried and risen again (Matt 4:2; 26:26-29; Mark 6:31; Luke 8:23; 24:39,46; John 4:6,7; 5:17; 7:1; 11:35; 19:30,33,40). However, being born of the virgin Mary, Jesus did not inherit the sinful nature from Adam; and while living on earth, Jesus submitted His will to His Father's will and kept the law to the jot and tittle despite the temptations from Satan (active obedience, Matt 4:1-11) and all the contempt, blasphemy, hatred, opposition, persecutions, sufferings even the cruel and shameful death on the cross (passive obedience, Isa 53; Matt 26; John 19). Truly, *"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross"* (Phil 2:8), and *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin"* (Heb 4:15).

Jesus Christ lived a perfect life for our righteousness, died for our sins, and rose again for our justification (Rom 4:25; 5:8-10). Praise the Lord!

THOUGHT: Jesus' active and passive obedience is for my salvation.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for Your sacrificial life and death for me.

MONDAY, APRIL 27

HEBREWS 7:19-28

1 TIMOTHY 2:5

*“One Mediator between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus.”*

JESUS ALONE IS THE MEDIATOR

Many believe that they can approach the Holy God through their meditation or mysticism. Others believe that they can draw near to God through their religious leaders' teaching and training. Others believe in Jesus Christ but that in order to draw near to God they need a priest, a bishop, or even the Virgin Mary! What then is the truth? How can we not be deceived? Thank God for having preserved His inspired words for us to learn and to follow. Let us wisely hear God's Word alone and shut our ears to human words or strange voices from Satan. Jesus says, *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me”* (John 10:27).

There must be a perfect God-Man to be the mediator between God and man. We must realise that no human being with our sinful nature is able to be our mediator. Only our Lord Jesus Christ alone, who is God but who humbled Himself to become a Man, lived a righteous life before God, died for the sins of mankind, and rose again, the perfect God-Man, is able to be the only one Mediator between God and man. Our Lord Jesus says, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”* (John 14:6), and God's Word confirms, *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”* (1 Tim 2:5). *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12). *“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them”* (Heb 7:25).

THOUGHT: We can approach God through Jesus Christ alone.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, I thank You for being my Mediator.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

REVELATION 20:11-15

JOHN 5:22

*“For the Father...hath committed,
all judgment unto the Son.”*

JESUS IS THE JUDGE

Many are living in this world without any care for their souls. They are deceiving themselves by ignoring their immortal souls and thinking that death is the end and that there is neither judgment nor hell. Therefore, they just enjoy life and think, believe or do whatever they like.

How about us? Let us wisely hear God's Word alone and *“prepare to meet thy God”* (Amos 4:12). God's Word confirms that there will be a Judgment Day, and that no one can escape God's judgment, and that Jesus Christ is the Judge: *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”* (Heb 9:27). *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it... they were judged every man according to their works”* (Rev 20:11-13). *“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son... And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man”* (John 5:22,27). *“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats”* (Matt 25:31-32).

Although we as God's children will not be judged before the Great White Throne, we shall appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive His reward or rebuke, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad”* (2 Cor 5:10).

Many still despise and reject the Saviour Jesus Christ. How will they stand before Him on the Judgment Day?

THOUGHT: Everyone will be judged by Jesus Christ some day.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me to honour You and to hide myself in You.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

JOHN 4:39-42

JOHN 4:42

*“This is indeed the Christ,
the Saviour of the world.”*

JESUS ALONE IS THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD

Coming back to our theme, *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18), we have learned from God’s Word about Jesus as our LORD, our God, our perfect God-Man, our Mediator and our Judge, let us learn more about Jesus as our Saviour.

The name Jesus is a short form of Joshua or Jehoshua, which means, *“Jehovah is salvation.”* Jesus means Saviour. His incarnation, His virgin birth, His death for our sins, and His resurrection for our justification secure our salvation for ever. The angel of the Lord announced to Joseph, *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins”* (Matt 1:21) and to the shepherds, *“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord”* (Luke 2:10-11). The Samaritans, after meeting Jesus and hearing His Word themselves, testified to the woman, *“Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world”* (John 4:42). How about you?

Dear friends, you must personally know and believe that Jesus alone is your Saviour. God’s Word confirms, *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12). Jesus is able to save us not only from our sins, from His wrath and condemnation (Rom 5:9, 8:1), but also from the bondage of our sinful nature (Rom 7:24-25). Praise the Lord!

THOUGHT: *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief”* (1 Tim 1:15).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, I believe and receive You as my Saviour.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

ACTS 16:25-34

ROMANS 10:13

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

YOU DO NEED THE SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

Many people live without realising that they do need a Saviour. How about you? To you this may be a strange question, but truly you and I do need a Saviour. Why?

First, we are sinners before God. God’s Word says, *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* (Rom 3:23). God is holy and all-knowing and He condemns sin even in our hearts, minds, thoughts, and motives. Rejecting the Saviour Jesus Christ, telling lies, embracing sinful thoughts, lusts, hatred, and so forth are all sins before God. God’s Word says, *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us”* (1 John 1:8).

Next, all sinners will be judged and be condemned to hell. God’s Word says, *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”* (Rev 21:8).

However, there is good news for mankind. God does love you and wants you to be saved. God’s Word says, *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16).

How can we be saved? The only way to be saved is to realise that you have sinned against God, to confess your sins to the Lord in prayer and to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour. God’s Word says, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9).

THOUGHT: *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house”* (Acts 16: 31).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, I do need You to save me for ever.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

COLOSSIANS 1:9-17

PSALM 19:14

*“O LORD, my strength,
and my redeemer.”*

JESUS ALONE IS OUR REDEEMER

We must thank God for His greatest Gift, His only begotten Son, Who is All we need. We are sinners, we need to be saved. Jesus Christ is our Saviour and our Salvation. We need to approach the holy God. Jesus Christ is our Mediator. We need to be redeemed from all our sins. Jesus Christ is our Redeemer and our Redemption.

The verb “redeem” in Greek (*lutrôô*) has three occurrences in the NT (Luke 24:21; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:18). To “redeem” means “*to release by payment of a ransom.*” The noun “redemption” in Greek (*apolútrôsis*) has 10 occurrences, and is translated “redemption” (9 times) and “deliverance” (1 time), denoting “the deliverance from the power and consequences of sin which Christ procured by laying down His life as a ransom” (Zodhiates).

The holy God cannot ignore sins, so Jesus Christ had to pay the cost of releasing the bondage of our sins by His blood-shedding death on the cross, bearing all our sins: “*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*” (1 Peter 1:18-19), and “*Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works*” (Titus 2:14). Only in Jesus Christ “*we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins*” (Eph 1:7; Col 1:14).

When we receive Jesus Christ as our Redeemer, we must understand that we have been bought by Him already, “*For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.*” (1 Cor 6:20).

THOUGHT: My life belongs to Jesus Christ, my Redeemer.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for having redeemed me by Your blood.

SATURDAY, MAY 2
MATTHEW 16: 13-20
1 JOHN 5:1

“Jesus is the Christ.”

JESUS IS THE CHRIST

When the Samaritan woman met the Lord Jesus Christ (John 4), she was impressed by our Lord’s kindness and gentleness because He did not despise her or discriminate against her like other Jews. Talking with our Lord and being surprised at His omniscience, she said to Him, *“Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet”* (v 19). Then, after hearing our Lord talk about true worship in spirit and in truth, she said to Him, *“I know that **Messiah** cometh, which is called **Christ**: when he is come, he will tell us all things”* (v 25). And Jesus said to her, *“I that speak unto thee am he”* (v 26). Knowing that Jesus was the Christ, she left her water pot, went her way into her city and said to her people, *“Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this **the Christ**?”* (v 29).

Then Jesus stayed with them for two days upon their request. On hearing Jesus’ Word in person, they said to the woman, *“Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed **the Christ**, the Saviour of the world”* (v 42). Sadly, many modern English versions, like the NIV, omit *“the Christ”* in this verse, undermining the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ. They omit *“Christ”* in over 30 verses, e.g. *“But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, **even Christ**; and all ye are brethren”* (Matt 23:8); *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel **of Christ**: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth”* (Rom 1:16); *“I can do all things through **Christ** (him) which strengtheneth me”* (Phil 4:13), etc. This is serious as it promotes the ecumenical mindset. Unbelievers may quote these verses while thinking of their religious leaders and not of Jesus Christ!

THOUGHT: *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (Matt 16:16).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I believe that You are the Christ.

LORD'S DAY, MAY 3

JOHN 6:60-71

ACTS 10:38

*“God anointed
Jesus of Nazareth.”*

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST?

It is vital to know and believe that Jesus is the Christ. *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God”* (1 John 5:1). Christ (or Messiah) means the Anointed One, *“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me...”* (Isa 61:1-2). This prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who read this Scripture text and said, *“This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears”* (Luke 4:18-19, 21). God's Word also confirms, *“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him”* (Acts 10:38).

There are three anointed offices: the priestly, the kingly and the prophetic, e.g. the high priest Aaron and his sons (Exod 28:41; Lev 8:12), Kings Saul, David and Solomon (1 Sam 10:1; 16:13; 1 Kings 1:39), and the prophet Elisha (1 Kings 19:16), etc. Jesus is the Christ, who has been anointed to be the Great High Priest, the King of kings, and the Great Prophet.

When Peter confessed to Jesus, *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,”* Jesus said, *“Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven”* (Matt 16:15-17). This shows that we do need divine revelation to know that Jesus is the Christ, and we do need to be born again to believe this truth with our full submission (1 John 5:1).

Dear friends, when you confess that Jesus is the Christ, you must mean (with your saving faith and full submission) that He is your Saviour as your Great High Priest, your King of kings, and your Great Prophet.

THOUGHT: *“And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God”* (John 6:69).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I believe that You are the Christ of God.

MONDAY, MAY 4

HEBREWS 10:19-27

HEBREWS 4:14

*“A great high priest, ...
Jesus the Son of God.”*

JESUS IS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

A human high priest was anointed to represent the people before God Himself. He held a leadership position in the religious life of the people. He alone wore the Urim and the Thummim, and Israel came to him to learn the will of God (Num 27:21). He bore the names of the children of Israel on his breastplate (Exod 28:29). He offered a sin offering for his own sins and the sins of the congregation (Lev. 4:3–21; 9:7). He burnt incense every morning and lit the lamps in the evening and burnt incense upon it (Exod 30:7-8). He lifted his hand toward the people and blessed them (Lev 9:22), etc. Most importantly, once a year, on the Day of Atonement, he alone entered into the Holy of Holies behind the veil before God, always bringing with him the blood of the sacrifice and sprinkling it on the mercy seat to make atonement for himself and for the people for all the sins they had committed (Lev 16).

No one was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies (the Holiest) behind the veil, except the high priest once a year with the blood of the sacrifice. When our Lord Jesus yielded up His spirit on the cross, *“the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom”* (Matt 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45). It is an act of God, opening a way for us to enter into His holy presence through Jesus Christ our Great High Priest and through His blood. *“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh”* (Heb 10:19-20). Praise the Lord!

THOUGHT: Jesus Christ is my Great High Priest.

PRAYER: Thank You, Lord, for opening a living way for me to come into Your holy presence through Jesus' Blood.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

HEBREWS 4:12-16

HEBREWS 2:17

“a merciful and faithful high priest.”

IS JESUS CHRIST YOUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST?

The human high priests were weak and mortal and had to offer a sin offering for himself and for the people daily and yearly (Heb 7:27; 9:7, 25). But our Lord Jesus Christ is our *“great high priest”* (Heb 4:14) who is *“for ever after the order of Melchisedec,”* the Priest-King (Heb 5:6-10; 7:1), *“holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners”* (Heb 7:26), who sacrificed Himself and offered His own blood once for all to put away sin (Heb 7:27; 9:14, 26), and *“he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood”* (Heb 7:24) and *“is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens”* (Heb 8:1).

Many trust in their good works to draw near to God with their offerings like Cain but they will surely be rejected by the Holy God (Gen 4:5). Many others dare not approach God’s holy presence because of their sins. How about us? We do need the Lord Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest, our perfect Representative before God, *“now to appear in the presence of God for us”* (Heb 9:24) and *“he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them”* (Heb 7:25).

In Jesus, our spiritual sacrifices, even ourselves and our prayers, are *“acceptable to God”* (1 Peter 2:5; Eph 1:6). We do need His blood to keep on cleansing us from all our sins so that we can come into God’s presence, maintain our fellowship with Him (1 John 1:7) and overcome Satan’s accusation (Rev 12:11).

As our Great High Priest can *“be touched with the feeling of our infirmities,”* let us therefore *“come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”* (Heb 4:15-16).

THOUGHT: Jesus Christ is my perfect Representative before God.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, I need You and Your blood every time I come into God’s holy presence.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

LUKE 24:35-46

ISAIAH 53:3

*“He is despised and
rejected.”*

JESUS IS THE REJECTED KING

Looking forward to a Messiah to be their *“Prince of Peace”* (Isa 9:6) and *“King”* (Zech 9:9), coming to deliver them from the bondage of the Roman Empire and to restore their nation Israel (Luke 24:21), the Jews did not expect their Messiah to be shamefully despised and crucified on the cross, so they rejected Jesus as their Messiah (Isa 53; John 1:11).

Our Lord Jesus, the King, was rejected since He was born. While the wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, seeking to worship the newborn King, asking, *“Where is he that is born King of the Jews?”* (Matt 2:2), Herod was troubled (v 3). Knowing that Christ would be born in Bethlehem, he killed *“all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under”* (v 16). Herod only wanted himself to be king! Nowadays many only want themselves to be king, thus rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pilate asked the Jews, *“Will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?”* They cried, *“Not this man, but Barabbas”* who was a robber (John 18:40), and *“We have no king but Caesar”* (John 19:15). Today, many reject Jesus Christ and choose another to be their King!

Being crucified on the cross, with *“a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS”* (Luke 23:38), our Lord Jesus was mocked by the religious leaders and others, *“Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe”* (Mark 15:32). Even one of the thieves said to Jesus, *“If thou be Christ, save thyself and us”* (Luke 23:39). Nowadays, many still challenge and mock the kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ!

THOUGHT: *“Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom”* (Luke 23:42).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, open my eyes so that I may see, appreciate, and exalt You as my King.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

ACTS 5:29-32

REVELATION 19:16

“KING OF KINGS,
AND LORD OF LORDS.”

IS JESUS YOUR KING OF KINGS?

Many reject Jesus Christ as King. How about you? Is He really your King?

Jesus is the Christ, the anointed King, who humbly came to die for sinners, but He rose again, and God has “*exalted*” Him “*with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour*” (Acts 5:31) and says, “*Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom*” (Heb 1:8). How about us? Shall we also “*exalt*” the Lord Jesus to be the King of our hearts and our lives? Does He have full authority and full control over our lives? If we still decide to do whatever we like according to our own will regardless of His will, He is not truly our King. If we still say, read, watch, listen to, write, or do whatever we like or go wherever we like regardless of His guidance and His Word, He is not our King. Many still despise, challenge, mock and reject the kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ, and even arrogantly question, criticise, misinterpret and twist His Word, but when He comes again with all His might and glory as “*King of kings, and Lord of lords*” (Rev 19:16), they cannot stand before Him to hear His sentence, “*But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me*” (Luke 19:27).

Dear friends, our Lord Jesus Christ is also the King of heaven and earth and universe, and we can trust in His sovereignty as He is able to make all things work together for good unto us when we love Him and submit to Him as our King (Rom 8:28).

THOUGHT: God has exalted Jesus Christ to be the King of kings.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I want to exalt You to be the King of my heart and my life.

FRIDAY, MAY 8
JOHN 12:44-50
LUKE 7:16

*“A great Prophet
is risen up among us.”*

JESUS IS THE GREAT PROPHET

A prophet is God’s spokesman and representative to His people. His ministry is to speak exactly God’s Word to the people as well as to properly foretell, warn, rebuke, teach, and preach according to God’s Word. God promised Moses, *“I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him”* (Deut 18:18-19). And this promise has been fulfilled in our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 3:22-23; 7:37), who is God’s Spokesman and Representative to us.

Truly God has *“spoken unto us by his Son”* (Heb 1:2). Our Lord Jesus says, *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak”* (John 12:48-50). Therefore, Jesus’ words are God’s words and therefore the truths (John 17:8, 14, 17) and *“shall not pass away”* (Matt 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33). It is thus dangerous to arrogantly attack, question, criticize, twist, misinterpret, mistranslate, modify or cast doubt on God’s Word as many people do, even “scholars,” to serve their own worldly purpose and selfish ambitions. This will be their tragic end, *“And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that Prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people”* (Acts 3:23).

THOUGHT: We would rather hear and obey Jesus Christ than man.
PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me to submit to You and Your Word always.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

PSALM 12:1-8

MATTHEW 5:18

*“One jot or one tittle
shall in no wise pass.”*

JESUS BELIEVES IN GOD’S PRESERVED WORD

In the days of our Lord Jesus, there were no original manuscripts of the Old Testament in Hebrew (autographs) but only copies (apographs), but our Lord Jesus, the all-knowing God, neither doubted God’s Word, nor criticized, nor questioned God’s Word, nor saw any discrepancies like many modern “scholars” do today. He did not doubt the global flood in Noah’s days, *“until the flood came, and took them all away”* (Matt 24:39) or Jonah in the whale’s belly for three days (Matt 12:40), etc. Our Lord uses the perfect tense in passive, *“It is written”* (Matt 4:4,7,10), which means “It has been written and remains written” or “It stands written and is still in force” when He quoted the Scriptures to confirm that God’s Word is always living, powerful and unchangeable throughout the ages. He confirmed the perfect preservation of the Scriptures, *“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled”* (Matt 5:18). One jot is the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet, and one tittle is a small extension like a small dash of a letter and it may totally change the meaning of a word. For example, in English the word “lame” is totally different from the word “tame” because of the tittle. God is unchangeable and unable to make any mistake, so His Word is unchangeable without any mistakes.

Dear friends, do you believe in God’s perfectly preserved Word just as our Lord Jesus does? That is the Hebrew and Greek texts that underlie the King James Bible, which is the most faithful, trustworthy and correct translation in English. We can safely and wisely build our saving faith and saving knowledge on this perfect foundation no matter what others, even “scholars,” may say.

THOUGHT: *“Thy word is truth”*
(John 17:17).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for encouraging me to believe in God’s perfectly preserved Word.

LORD'S DAY, MAY 10

LUKE 24:25-35

LUKE 24:27

“He expounded unto them in all the scriptures.”

JESUS KNOWS GOD'S WORD THOROUGHLY

Our Lord Jesus not only believes but also knows all the Scriptures thoroughly, and expounded (explained clearly and exactly) God's Word to His disciples. *“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself... And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me”* (Luke 24: 27, 44). The common Jewish division of the Hebrew OT is the Law, the Prophets and the Holy Writings. The Law comprises the five books of Moses. The Prophets has two parts. The former prophets comprise Joshua, Judges, two books of Samuel, two books of Kings. And the latter prophets comprise the books from Isaiah to Malachi except the books of Daniel and Lamentations. The Holy Writings comprise Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel and two books of Chronicles. The first book of the Hebrew OT is Genesis and the last is Second Chronicles. Our Lord knows all these books well. When rebuking the Jewish leaders, *“That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel (Gen 4:8) unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias (2 Chron 24:20-22), whom ye slew between the temple and the altar”* (Matt 23:35), our Lord refers to the whole Hebrew OT, from Genesis to Second Chronicles.

Our Lord Jesus expounded to His disciples *“in all the scriptures the things concerning himself”* (Luke 24:27). May the Lord help us to study and know His Word well and see Him in all the Scriptures.

THOUGHT: *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God,...rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Tim 2:15).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me grow in the knowledge of Your Word and Yourself.

MONDAY, MAY 11

MATTHEW 4:1-11

LUKE 4:4

*“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word of God.”*

JESUS LIVES BY EVERY WORD OF GOD

When our Lord Jesus was hungry after fasting for forty days and forty nights in the wilderness, Satan came to Him, challenging His eternal Sonship and tempting Him to turn stones into bread (Matt 4:1-3). Our Lord is truly the Son of God and is able to turn stones into bread, but He did not obey Satan nor did his will despite His hunger. Our Lord Jesus could overcome Satan's temptation because He lives by *“every word”* of God and submits Himself to God's Word and God's will, even unto death (Phil 2:8). He said, *“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”* (Matt 4:4).

Adam and Eve succumbed to Satan's temptation as they failed to resist him and live by *“every word”* of God although they were enjoying all the good things from God, without thirst or hunger! Nowadays, many blame poverty for crimes, saying that if they were wealthy and had everything they needed, the society would be good and without crimes. They naively fail to see the sinful, deceitful and wicked heart of human beings after the Fall of Adam and Eve (Jer 17:9)!

Many are very *“open-minded”* or *“simple-minded,”* not caring about *“every word”* of God, saying that sound doctrines are enough and that they do not want to argue about *“words”*! Are they better or smarter than our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives by *“every word”* of God? How can they have sound doctrines without every sound word of God? No wonder they easily fall into the trap of Satan and cannot overcome temptations, their sinful nature and worldliness. It is worse for those who criticise and attack God's Word!

THOUGHT: I must live by every word of God.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for encouraging me to live by Your every word.

TUESDAY, MAY 12

1 PETER 1:22-25

1 PETER 2:2

*“Desire the sincere
milk of the word.”*

DO YOU LIVE BY EVERY WORD OF GOD?

Many assume that they are living by God’s Word when they read God’s Word every day with several English Bibles and several commentaries! What does it mean to live by “*every word*” of God? It means we are to read, study, meditate, expound, and digest “*every word*” of God with a prayerful, teachable, faithful and submissive heart. It means when we read the Scripture, we pray, “*Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth*” (1 Sam 3:9) with trust, reverence and trembling, “*but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word*” (Isa 66:2). Every word of God is the pure milk for our spiritual growth, “*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby*” (1 Peter 2:2). Then we are to receive, depend on and submit to every pure word of God without any addition, subtraction, or modification. We must be careful about what is not the pure word of God if it is based on the corrupt texts or twisted by human thoughts, ideas, mindset, philosophies, dynamic translation or textual criticism.

Many say, “I like that pastor. His preaching is very powerful. He shares so many interesting stories and experiences. He quotes many profound sayings from great men, etc.” But they fail to examine themselves and ask, “What is God saying to me today through His Word?” If they are fed with the junk food of stories, experiences, and human words, their souls will not be strengthened to overcome their sinful nature, temptations and worldliness.

Dear friends, let us not be deceived. Only God’s Word is able to regenerate us and sanctify us, “*Being born again...by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever*” and “*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth*” (1 Peter 1:23; John 17:17).

THOUGHT: Only God’s Word is our spiritual food.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me live by Your pure Word daily.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

MATTHEW 22:23-33

EPHESIANS 6:17

“The sword of the Spirit.”

JESUS EFFECTIVELY USES GOD’S WORD

Our Lord Jesus perfectly believed, knew, lived by God’s Word and used it effectively in His teaching, preaching and fight against Satan and His enemies. He quoted God’s Word to resist and defeat Satan and his temptations, *“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God... Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God... Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve”* (Matt 4:4, 7, 10). He reminded the people about Noah, Lot, and Lot’s wife to warn them to be prepared for His return (Matt 24:38-39; Luke 17:28-32). He spoke about David and his men eating the shewbread on the Sabbath in answer to those who accused His disciples of plucking the ears of corn to eat on the Sabbath (Matt 12:1-4). He quoted God’s Word, *“For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?”* in answer to those who wanted to get a divorce easily (Matt 19:5). He quoted God’s saying, *“I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living”* to refute the Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection (Matt 22:23, 32).

Dear friends, if we do not believe, know, live by God’s Word and use it effectively, we shall be defeated by Satan and our enemies. The more we know God’s Word with faith, reverence and submission, the more effectively we may use the Sword of the Holy Spirit, who reminds us and helps us to use the right verse at the right time, *“For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say”* (Luke 12:12).

THOUGHT: God’s Word is the Sword of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me know and use Your Word effectively.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

JOHN 1:1-9

JOHN 8:12

*“I am the
Light of the World.”*

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Light is so vital for our lives, animals and plants. God created light on the first day of His literal six 24-hour days of creation. God saw the light and said that it was good (Gen 1:3-5). And on the fourth day God made the sun, the moon and the stars to be lights in the firmament, to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, for seasons, for days, and years (Gen 1:14-17).

As God’s natural light is free and available, many people take it for granted. In darkness, how can we see each other? How can we admire the beautiful and splendid scenes of Nature or appreciate an artist’s masterpiece? How can we see and remove the dirt from our faces or our bodies? How can we read a book and understand it? How can we find the way and walk safely in the right direction? How can we work and do this or that? How can we discern a true diamond or banknote from a fake one? *“O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth for ever”* (Ps 136:1,7). Natural light is good and vital for our lives, how much more is God’s Divine Light vital for our spiritual life!

God’s Word says, *“God is light, and in him is no darkness at all”* (1 John 1:5), our heavenly Father is *“the Father of lights”* (James 1:17), our Lord Jesus Christ is *“the true Light,”* and *“the light of the world”* (John 1:9; 8:12), and God’s Word is a lamp and a light (Ps 119:105). To enjoy the true Light for our spiritual life, we are to come to our living and true God, to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to God’s Word alone.

THOUGHT: Jesus Christ is the true Light.

PRAYER: Thank You, Lord, for being my true Light.

FRIDAY, MAY 15

JOHN 12:31-36

PSALM 27:1

*“The LORD is my Light
and my Salvation.”*

IS JESUS CHRIST YOUR TRUE LIGHT?

The Lord Jesus is *“the true Light”* (John 1:9). He says, *“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life”* (John 8:12). However, not everyone has received and followed the Lord Jesus as the true Light of their spiritual life!

Many human religions and cults and occult groups are deceiving themselves by believing that their gods, their leaders and their books are true light! No wonder, even Satan transformed himself into an angel of light (2 Cor 11:14). Many think that they are walking in the “light” while they are walking in spiritual darkness! They cannot see God’s truth nor their spiritual corruption and perishing condition. They arrogantly regard themselves as saints, spiritual leaders or teachers, *“a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness”* (Rom 2:19) and mislead many followers who also reject the Lord Jesus as their *“true Light.”* To them, our Lord says, *“Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch”* (Matt 15:14).

Many others love to live in the darkness of sin. They reject the Lord Jesus as their true Light *“because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d”* (John 3:19-20). But those who love and practise the truth despite their hopelessness and helplessness will come to the Lord Jesus Christ, their true Light, *“But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God”* (John 3:21).

How about us? Is the Lord Jesus Christ our true Light?

THOUGHT: *“While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light”* (John 12:36).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, You are my Light in this world of darkness.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

EPHESIANS 5:8

“Walk as children of light.”

WALKING IN LIGHT OR IN DARKNESS? (1)

If we follow our Lord Jesus, we shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life, *“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life”* (John 8:12). How can we know if we are walking in light or darkness?

Walking in the Lord’s Presence: The Lord Himself is our Light. We must have His presence as Light in our lives. Many may have a head-knowledge of the Lord and His Word but do not have a living fellowship with Him, so they are still walking in darkness. *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin”* (1 John 1:7).

Walking by Faith: Our Lord Jesus says, *“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness”* (John 12:46). If we truly believe in the Lord, we must believe in His Word as well (John 3:34; 12:47-50; 14:10) and *“walk by faith, not by sight”* (2 Cor 5:7). Those who doubt the Lord and His Word are still walking in darkness!

Walking in Truth and with God’s Guidance: The Lord is Truth and His Word is Truth (John 14:6; 17:17). If we are walking in the Light, we must be walking in His will, truth and guidance, *“O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me”* (Ps 43:3). In darkness, many cannot see the truth, nor discern the truth from falsehood, thinking that all religions are good or all Bible versions are good! Many are walking in darkness without God’s truth: doing their own will, living a double life, telling lies, and even “serving” the Lord but according to their own will, terms and ways!

THOUGHT: Am I walking in light or in darkness?

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, keep me walking in Your Light.

LORD'S DAY, MAY 17

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14

“What communion hath light with darkness?”

WALKING IN LIGHT OR IN DARKNESS? (2)

Walking in Holiness and Practising Biblical Separation:

God is holy and He demands us to be holy, *“Be ye holy; for I am holy”* (1 Peter 1:15-16), and *“God is light, and in him is no darkness at all”* (1 John 1:5) and *“what communion hath light with darkness?... Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you”* (2 Cor 6:14,17; cf. Eph 5:11). If we do not live in holiness and separate ourselves from sin, unbelief, compromise, wrong doctrines and worldliness, we are still walking in darkness! To live in the Light, we must walk in holiness and practise Biblical Separation.

Walking in Love: God is Light and Love (1 John 1:5; 4:8), so *“He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes”* (1 John 2:10-11). This is not “human love” but Divine Love that *“rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth”* (1 Cor 13:6). Many are living in darkness of hatred or vengeance. Many others are willing to sacrifice God's truth for the sake of “love and unity” while they cannot discern God's love from human love, or biblical unity from worldly unity!

Walking in Humble Submission:

Paul was knocked down to the ground by *“a light from heaven,”* and humbly said *“Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”* (Acts 9: 3-6). If we really see the Lord and see ourselves in His Light, we will follow Him in full submission. Many are proud and arrogant in darkness without any humble submission to the Lord or His Word.

THOUGHT: Am I walking in the light of holiness, love, and humility?

PRAYER: Lord, please shine forth Your Light in me and through me.

MONDAY, MAY 18

2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-18

MATTHEW 5:14

*“Ye are the
light of the world.”*

REFLECTING HIS LIGHT

It is vital for us to see that the true Light of our spiritual life is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, a living Divine Person. Having Him, we have Light. Having fellowship with Him, we have fellowship with Light. Living in Him, we are living in Light. Being controlled and led by Him, we are filled with Light and directed by Light. As we open the windows to let the light in and dispel the darkness, we open our hearts to welcome the Lord Jesus Christ and submit to His control, His Light of holiness, truth, love, joy, peace, hope and enlightenment which will dispel the darkness of sins, selfishness, lusts, hatred, gloom, fear, worry, doubt, confusion, ignorance from our hearts.

The Lord expects us to exactly reflect His Light as *“the light of the world”* (Matt 5:14). To reflect His Light we must always have the Lord Jesus Christ Himself shining in our hearts and there must be nothing between us and the Lord. *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass (a mirror) the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord”* (2 Cor 3:18). A mirror facing the sun will be ablaze with sunbeams. But how can a mirror reflect well if it is dirty or its back faces the sun or there is something between it and the sun? Likewise, our lives reflect God’s light differently depending on how much we know the Lord and His truth, how much we are submissive to the Lord and to His perfect Word, and how close we keep our fellowship with Him in His light. So, are we clear mirrors facing the Lord? Is there anyone, anything, any sin, any idol or “self” between us and the Lord?

THOUGHT: Am I truly reflecting the Lord’s Light?

PRAYER: Lord, please help me reflect Your Light always.

TUESDAY, MAY 19

JOHN 6:25-35

JOHN 6:35

*“I am the
Bread of Life.”*

JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bread (or food) is essential for our physical life. Because of this, we have to work to eat our own bread (2 Thess 3:12). Due to Adam and Eve’s disobedience, the curse of sin and death entered into this world, *“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return”* (Gen 3:19). Having no food or drink for a few days, we shall feel thirsty and hungry, and then weak, exhausted and faint. When we have healthy food and drink, we shall feel refreshed, strengthened, and satisfied. How about our spiritual life and spiritual food? Many souls are hungry and thirsty and they do not understand why they are not satisfied at all. Pursuing fame, power, positions, wealth, human religions, life philosophies, fashions, materialism, worldly values or pleasures, they still feel empty and learn that neither anyone nor anything in this world can really satisfy them.

Our Lord Jesus Christ confirms, *“I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst”* (John 6:35). Are our souls really satisfied in the Lord and never hungry or thirsty for anything else? What does it mean when we say that our Lord Jesus Christ is our Bread of Life?

Jesus Christ is the Bread of our spiritual life, without whom our souls shall be dissatisfied, empty, hungry, thirsty, exhausted and spiritually faint. May the Lord open our spiritual eyes to see that our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, a living Divine Person, is our Bread of Life. Having Him, obeying Him and keeping our living fellowship with Him, we have the Living Bread and therefore spiritual nutrition, strength and satisfaction.

THOUGHT: I need Jesus Christ Himself, my Spiritual Bread.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me find satisfaction and strength in You.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

JOHN 6:44-51

JOHN 6:35

“I am the Bread of Life.”

IS JESUS YOUR BREAD OF LIFE?

Our Lord Jesus Christ’s statement is still the same throughout the ages, always in the present tense, *“I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst”* (John 6:35). Then, right now, is Jesus Christ Himself, a living Divine Person, your Bread of Life?

Truly, God’s Word is our spiritual Bread, *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”* (Matt 4:4), but many just read God’s Word without a living fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, so they still feel empty, hungry and thirsty. Our Lord Jesus is *“the Word of life”* and His name is called *“The Word of God”* (John 1:1; 1 John 1:1; Rev 19:13), and we do need Him to open our understanding so that we may *“understand the scriptures”* (Luke 24:45) and be edified, nurtured, strengthened and satisfied. Without sincere dependence on and submission to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and God’s Word, many do not understand God’s Word properly and then misinterpret it and mislead many others.

Dear friends, we should be discerning and cautious about unhealthy bread from books, journals and magazines, even modern Bible versions, “Christian” websites, articles or commentaries which may contain the poison of wrong doctrines or human ideas or misinterpretation, casting doubt on God’s Word by arrogant textual criticism which harms our spiritual life and our holy faith. The living truth in the past, present and forever is still the same: our Lord Jesus Christ is our Life, our Light, our Bread of life, and our All. The more we know Him, the more we shall appreciate Him, love Him, trust in Him, depend on Him and submit to Him and His Word and shall find true satisfaction.

THOUGHT: I cannot live without the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I do need You, my Life, Bread and Light.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

JOHN 6:24-37

JOHN 6:35

*“He that cometh to me
shall never hunger.”*

COMING TO JESUS, THE BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus says, *“I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger”* (John 6:35). What are our motives when we seek and come to the Lord Jesus Christ? In John chapter 6, Jesus performed the miracle of feeding 5,000 men besides women and children. The next day, the multitude got into boats and were looking for Jesus (v 24). They found Him, but their motive was only for material blessing, because they *“did eat of the loaves, and were filled”* (v 26), not because of the Lord Himself as their Messiah. Many today are also seeking the Lord for material blessings such as health, wealth, and salvation without their repentance or submission. They will not be spiritually satisfied!

Jesus always welcomes everyone coming to Him with His open arms, *“him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out”* (v 37), but human beings with their rebellious and sinful hearts cannot come to the Lord with proper motives and full submission. Jesus confirms, *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him”* (v 44; cf. 45, 65). Many church leaders may boast of their clever leadership and worldly methods of “church growth” with big membership, but how many of them are sincerely submissive to the Lord Jesus Christ and God’s Word? Not only did the Jews murmur against Jesus (v 41), but many of His disciples also murmured, went back, and walked no more with Him (vv 60-61, 66). Jesus did not run after them nor lower His standard. He asked His twelve disciples, *“Will ye also go away?”* (v 67).

Dear friends, it is by God’s grace alone that we may willingly and submissively come to our Lord Jesus Christ, take up our cross, and follow Him. When we do this by God’s grace, we *“shall never hunger.”*

THOUGHT: Come to Jesus Christ with proper motives.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me come to You because of Yourself.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

JOHN 6:53-58

JOHN 6:35

*“He that believeth on me
shall never thirst.”*

BELIEVE IN JESUS, THE BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus says, *“I am the bread of life: ... and he that believeth on me shall never thirst”* (John 6:35). Do we really believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? The faith that we may submissively believe in the Lord Jesus Christ must be a gift from God, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God”* (Eph 2:8). Submissively believing in the Lord is submissively believing in and obeying His Word, *“By faith Abraham,...obeyed”* (Heb 11:8). Many profess that they believe in Jesus but question or criticise His Word! Their faith is not from God.

When Jesus says, *“He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me”* (John 6: 56-57), He does not mean eating His real flesh nor drinking His real blood, but He wants us to receive Him, depend on Him and obey Him, saying to Him, *“I do need, believe and receive Your death for me personally, Your blood for the constant cleansing of all my sins, and Your resurrected Life for my spiritual food, the living Bread. I live by You and I cannot live without You.”* Exactly, *“he that eateth me, even he shall live by me”* shows a constant dependence on and submission to the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word. Peter submissively confessed, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God”* (vv 68-69).

Dear friends, when we submissively believe in the Lord and His Word, we shall never thirst.

THOUGHT: *“My meat is to do the will of him that sent me”* (John 4:34).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me submissively believe in You and Your Word.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

JOHN 14:1-11

JOHN 14:6

*“I am the way,
the truth, and the life.”*

JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

There may be different ways from our home to the airport. There is a saying, “All roads can lead to Rome.” That is true in the physical sphere, but that is not the truth for our salvation. Sadly, many accept that concept for their salvation. If sinful human beings were able to find a way to save themselves and to lead them to Heaven, our Lord Jesus Christ would not have needed to come into this world to die and to save sinners! If all religions can lead sinners to God and Heaven, we would not need to evangelise or contend for God’s Truth!

Many nowadays are very “open-minded” and “tolerant,” believing that all religions are good and all ways can lead them to God or to Heaven. This mindset promotes a one-world religion or the ecumenical movement. They welcome all religions and all beliefs regardless of idolatry or unbiblical doctrines, gathering to worship God and pray to God together! Why do they have that mindset? Because they are still in spiritual darkness and cannot discern the truth from falsehood. We have learnt that the Lord Jesus Christ is our true Light and we do need Him to shine His Light into our hearts and open our eyes to see the truth in His Word with spiritual discernment.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Truth, God’s Word is Truth and the Holy Spirit is Truth, then by following the Lord and His Word we are safe. Jesus confirms that there is only one living and true Way that leads us to God and Heaven and that Way is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”* (John 14:6).

THOUGHT: Without Jesus, there is no way to God or to Heaven.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for being the Way, the Truth and the Life for me.

LORD'S DAY, MAY 24

JOHN 3:11-18

JOHN 14:6

"I am the Way."

JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD AND HEAVEN

Many human religious leaders might claim that they have found the truth or a way to God or to Heaven, but it is only man's empty claim and imagination. They are sinful human beings, bound to sin and death, waiting for the Judgment Day. They have never been to Heaven nor seen God the Father, how can they know the way? But our Lord Jesus is the very God from Heaven, saying, *"And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven"* (John 3:13). Jesus humbled Himself and came into this world to die for sinners, but He is risen, saying, *"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death"* (Rev 1:18).

Our Lord Jesus Christ did not teach or show His disciples a way to the Father or to Heaven, but He Himself, a living Divine Person is the living and true Way. Following Jesus' teaching is not enough, we must have the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Having Him, we have the Way. Following Him, obeying Him, and keeping a living fellowship with Him, we are on the living and true Way or on the right track to Heaven and to our heavenly Father. *"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh...Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"* (Heb 10:19-20; 4:16). Praise the Lord!

THOUGHT: The Lord Jesus Christ alone is the only Way to God.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I am on the right track when I follow You, the living and true Way to God and Heaven. Praise the Lord!

MONDAY, MAY 25

MATTHEW 7:13-23

MATTHEW 7:14

*“Narrow is the way,
which leadeth unto life.”*

THE NARROW WAY THAT LEADS TO LIFE

Most people prefer a broad way, and very few like a narrow way because it is neither spacious nor comfortable. Spiritually speaking, many are very broad-minded, thinking that all religious ways will lead them to a better place as long as they are sincere and not doing evil. But they fail to see that forsaking God is committing evil already (Jer 2:13). Even in Christianity, many think that they only need to believe in the Lord Jesus to be saved, without being bound by anything, not even by God's Word! The way they live and worship is worldly and compromising! No wonder, *“broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat”* (Matt 7:13). They fail to see that true faith must show the fruit of trust in and obedience to the Lord (Heb 11:8).

Our Lord does not want us to be bound by man and by human words, rituals, or traditions. He requires us to submit to Him, to His will and to His Word. *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven”* (Matt 7:21). Because of love, He commands us, *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: ... Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”* (Matt 7:13-14).

Then we should not be discouraged when very few are willing to walk in the narrow way in the boundaries of God's Word. It is good to challenge ourselves, *“If others do not believe in the Lord and His every preserved Word, shall I also?”* and *“If many do not walk in God's narrow way, shall I also?”*

THOUGHT: God's narrow way will lead me to eternal life.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me not to be discouraged when walking in Your narrow Way.

TUESDAY, MAY 26

MATTHEW 16:21-28

LUKE 9:23

*“Take up his cross daily,
and follow me.”*

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

The narrow way is not an easy way. It is the way of the cross, of shame, of self-denial, of full submission. No wonder, not many are willing to walk in it. Our Lord Jesus is the living and true Way, and walking in Him means following Him with our full dependence, submission and obedience, *“to walk, even as he (Jesus) walked”* (1 John 2:6). Our Lord Jesus challenges His followers, *“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me”* (Luke 9:23). Denying ourselves and taking up our cross mean being dead to our selfish “I” (self-will, self-image, self-love, self-complacency, self-importance, self-glory, etc. – Gal 2:20), to our sinful nature (the flesh with sinful lusts – Gal 5:24), and to worldliness (Gal 6:14). Are we willing to deny ourselves and our own will to follow the Lord and to do His will? Let us remember that *“he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever”* (1 John 2:17). And it will lead us to Heaven (Matt 7:21).

Doing God’s will is following our Lord Jesus Christ, loving Him, obeying Him, serving Him, keeping His words, glorifying Him, and living a godly life according to His Word (Luke 9:23; 10:27; John 6:40; 12:26; 14:23; 1 Cor 10:31; 1 Thess 4:3). When we are willing to humbly take up our cross, to submissively follow our Lord Jesus Christ and to do God’s Word, He will give us sufficient grace to do His will, *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure”* (Phil 2:13) and *“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness”* (2 Cor 12:9). All praise and glory be unto Him alone.

THOUGHT: No cross, no crown of glory (Luke 24:26).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me take up my cross and follow You daily.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

GALATIANS 1:1-9

JONAH 2:9

“Salvation is of the LORD.”

JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO SALVATION

Our Lord Jesus alone is the living and true Way to the Father, to Heaven and to our salvation, not through any human agent, not even Mary, a saint, a Pope, a bishop, a priest, a pastor, a minister, or through any religious practices, not even the church, traditions, rituals, sacraments, etc. Our Lord Jesus states clearly, *“no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”* (Jn 14:6). The Bible confirms, *“Salvation is of the LORD”* (Jonah 2:9), and, *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12). Jesus is the only Way, so we should not be deceived by any other way or a different gospel or a different Jesus or a different spirit. This is a good warning, *“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him”* (2 Cor 11:3-4).

Surely knowing and believing that there is salvation only through Jesus Christ, we shall not be ashamed of His gospel but be constrained by His love to share His pure gospel to the unsaved, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth”* (Rom 1:16), and *“Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory”* (2 Tim 2:10).

THOUGHT: *“Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”* (1 Cor 9:16).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for being my Salvation. Please constrain me by Your love to share Your salvation message with others.

THURSDAY, MAY 28
EPHESIANS 1:1-14
2 CORINTHIANS 2:14

“To triumph in Christ.”

JESUS IS THE WAY TO SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS AND VICTORY

Many think that Jesus Christ is a gift or blessing among many other gifts or blessings from God, so they are still seeking many other gifts or blessings besides the Lord Jesus! God’s Word confirms that all these gifts or blessings are from, by and in Christ only: *“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”* (Rom 8:32) and, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ”* (Eph 1: 3). May God help us to see this truth and wisely seek the Lord Jesus first in all things.

Jesus is also the only way to victory over our “self,” sinful nature, temptations, trials, worldliness, etc. Many books have been written about how to live a victorious life over temptations, difficulties or problems. However, if they are not about the Lord Jesus Himself, they are only human ways, ideas, methods, or secrets that will never help due to the sinful and depraved nature of human beings. It is easy to say or to write about good things, but how to perform it is another matter. Paul shared his helplessness and hopelessness about himself and his victory in Jesus Christ alone, *“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Rom 7: 24, 25), and *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us”* (Rom 8:37; cf. 2 Cor 2:14). Dear friends, we can only have true victory when we humbly trust in and submit to the Lord Jesus and God’s Word. There is no other way.

THOUGHT: Having the Lord Jesus Christ. I have all the blessings and victory.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me seek You first.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

JOHN 8:31-43

JOHN 14:6

“I am ...the Truth.”

JESUS IS THE TRUTH

Where can we find the truth about God and man, His work of creation, His salvation for man, His judgment, and His will and commandments for man? We can never find the truth in Satan because *“there is no truth in him...for he is a liar, and the father of it”* (John 8:44). Nowadays some religious groups even openly worship Satan! They are really blinded by Satan and are in spiritual darkness (2 Cor 4:4). Many others are unwittingly worshipping Satan, *“the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God”* (1 Cor 10:19-20). Neither can we find the truth in sinful man who lives in bondage to change, sins and death, *“let God be true, but every man a liar”* (Rom 3:4). Then, we should not be deceived by books written by men, even by religious leaders, claiming that they have the truth.

Thank God that *“God is true”* (2 Cor 1:18) and His *“word is truth”* (John 17:17), His *“word is true from the beginning”* (Ps 119:160) and His *“words are true and faithful”* (Rev 21:5). Through God’s written Word (the Scriptures) we may find and know the Truth. Moreover, God sent His only begotten Son into this world to confirm, bear witness unto, and fulfil God’s written Truth. Jesus Christ is the living Truth of God, who confirms, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”* (John 14: 6), and *“I tell you the truth... I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?”* (John 8:45-46), and *“for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth”* (John 18:37). Truly, Jesus Christ is *“full of grace and truth... grace and truth came by Jesus Christ”* (John 1:14,17), and *“the truth is in Jesus”* (Eph 4:21).

THOUGHT: We can only find the Truth in Jesus and through God’s Word.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I believe in You, the Truth of God.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

JOHN 16:1-15

JOHN 16:13

*“The Spirit of truth...
will guide you into all truth.”*

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD’S TRUTH?

God wants all mankind, including us, *“to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Tim 2:4), and He has given mankind His written Word/Truth (the Scriptures) and His living Word/Truth (His only begotten Son), but sadly, not all humbly believe and receive God’s Truth. Today, if we share *“the truth of the gospel”* (Gal 2:5) to others, many are not interested, some even feel offended, and some even resist the Truth! Exactly as God’s Word says, *“they shall turn away their ears from the truth”* (2 Tim 4:4), and *“believed not the truth”* (2 Thess 2:12), and *“changed the truth of God into a lie”* (Rom 1:25), and *“do not obey the truth”* (Rom 2:8), and *“these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds”* (2 Tim 3:8). It is serious when *“they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie”* (2 Thess 2:10-11). It is serious for those who think that their beliefs are right when they are not based on the Truth of God’s Word and Jesus Christ!

Dear friends, Truth is Truth whether we believe or not. We cannot debate or argue to find out the Truth. We must be illumined and our spiritual eyes must be opened to see the Truth. Thank God for graciously sending the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, to help us see, understand, and believe in God’s Truth. *“When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth”* (John 16:13). Shall we not wisely humble ourselves and submissively ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us see God’s Truth?

THOUGHT: I need the Holy Spirit in order to see God’s Truth.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for sending the Spirit of Truth to help me see and know the Truth.

LORD'S DAY, MAY 31

PSALM 100

PSALM 146: 5-6

*"The LORD...
keepeth truth for ever."*

GOD KEEPS TRUTH FOR EVER

As the Lord Jesus is Truth, God's Word is Truth and the Holy Spirit is Truth (John 14:6; 17:17; 1 John 5:6). We must see that these three are one without any contradiction. Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit never contradict God's written Word/Truth, which is complete and sufficient. We should not be deceived by those who claim that they have received new revelation from the Lord Jesus or from the Holy Spirit or even recorded it in a book regarded as God's truth!

Satan is *"a liar, and the father of it"* (John 8:44), and he does not want anyone to receive God's Truth and be saved, *"then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved"* (Luke 8:12). Therefore, he has actively attacked and cast doubt on God's Word/Truth since the beginning, *"Yea, hath God said?"* (Gen 3:1). Today, many have fallen into the trap of Satan to criticise and cast doubt on God's Word/Truth. They do not believe that the omniscient and omnipotent God is able to keep His Word/Truth as He has promised. *"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever"* (Ps 12:6-7). God *"made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever"* (Ps 146:6; cf. Exod 34:6; Ps 31:5; 119:160; Dan 10:21). Our Lord Jesus confirms, *"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled"* (Matt 5:18). We must stand firm on the foundation of God's Word/Truth no matter what others may say.

THOUGHT: *"For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth"* (2 Cor 13:8).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for confirming God's preserved written Word/Truth.

MONDAY, JUNE 1

GALATIANS 5:16-26

3 JOHN 1:3

“Thou walkest in the truth.”

ARE YOU WALKING IN THE TRUTH?

It is vital to know that Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are for God’s written Word/Truth, which endures for ever. *“The truth of the LORD endureth for ever”* (Ps 117:2), and *“the word of the Lord endureth for ever”* (1 Peter 1:25; Isa 40:8) just as Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are for ever (Heb 1:8; 10:14; 13:8; Rev 5:13). Only walking in God’s Truth or doing God’s *“abideth for ever”* (1 John 2:17). What does it mean to *“walk in the Truth”* (3 John 1:3)?

Walking in the Truth is walking within the boundaries of God’s Word, which is the Truth, *“taking heed thereto according to thy word”* (Ps 119:9). We are to study God’s Word to know God’s will and then worship Him, serve Him, and live according to God’s Word, which is the foundation of our faith, beliefs, doctrines, worship and practices (Matt 7:24-25; Eph 2:20; 2 Tim 3:16-17; James 1:22).

Walking in the Truth is walking as Jesus Christ walked. He is the Truth, so we are to walk *“even as he walked”* (1 John 2:6). We are to live a humble, holy, and victorious life as He lived. And we are to love, obey, serve and glorify God as He did. Jesus Christ is the perfect example for us to follow (John 13:15; 1 Peter 2:21).

Walking in the Truth is walking in the Holy Spirit, who is Truth. *“Walk in the Spirit”* (Gal 5:16, 25). We are not to walk in the flesh, nor to let it control us, nor to trust in ourselves, but to humbly trust in the Holy Spirit, His guidance, His help, His power, and submit to His control, *“be filled with the Spirit”* (Eph 5:18).

Dear friends, let us walk as Jesus walked in the Truth of God’s Word and in the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

THOUGHT: Am I walking in God’s Truth?

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me walk as You walked in God’s Truth.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

JOHN 15:1-8

JOHN 15:1

“I am the true Vine.”

JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE

Jesus says, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life”* (John 14:6), and *“I am the resurrection, and the life”* (John 11:25), and *“I am the true vine”* (John 15:1). All these statements tell us that Jesus is our true Life or true Source of spiritual Life. We must thank the Lord that He does not only give us His teaching of the Truth or His perfect Example for us to follow, but also gives us His Life so that we may live and walk as He lived and walked. Praise the Lord and all glory be unto Him!

With a totally depraved, corrupt and sinful human nature, no one can live a true Christian life as Jesus lived without His Life. The Jewish leaders appeared good, beautiful and righteous outwardly before men, but our Lord Jesus saw that their hearts were full of hypocrisy, uncleanness and iniquity (Matt 23:25-28). That is the vast difference between true Christianity and all other human religions. Knowing this truth, we shall not be deceived or impressed by any who boasts of his good life or good religion outside of Christ!

Jesus says, *“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing”* (John 15:5). This shows Jesus’ sufficient Life, strength, and power to support and nurture the branches so that they may bear much good fruit. It also shows the total dependence and submission of the branches, which can never live or produce any fruit by themselves without the Vine.

Dear friends, Jesus Christ Himself, a living Divine Person, is the True Source of our spiritual Life. Having Him and maintaining a living fellowship with Him, we have His Life. Without Him, we have no Life (1 John 5:12).

THOUGHT: Jesus Himself is the true Source of my spiritual Life.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for being my true Divine Life.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

JOHN 15:8-17

JOHN 15:8

*“Herein is my Father glorified,
that ye bear much fruit.”*

BEARING MUCH FRUIT FOR GOD’S GLORY

God the Father gave mankind His only begotten Son to be the True Source of spiritual Life. We must thank God for graciously grafting us (like wild branches) onto the True Vine so that we may partake of the root and life of the Vine. This reminds us not to be proud or high-minded but with humble reverence be grateful to Him as it is the Vine that supports the branches and not vice versa (Rom 11:16-22).

God the Father is the Husbandman (a farmer, a gardener) who takes care of the branches and purges them so that they may bear more fruit for His glory (John 15:1,2,8,16). And He will cut off every branch that does not bear fruit (v 2). This reminds us that we must bear fruit, more fruit and much fruit for His glory. There is no other way. What are the fruit that God expects us to bear?

God wants us *“to be conformed to the image of his Son”* (Rom 8:29), and bear *“the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance”* (Gal 5:22-23), and *“all goodness and righteousness and truth”* (Eph 5:9), and have our *“fruit unto holiness”* (Rom 6:22), *“the peaceable fruit of righteousness”* (Heb 12:11), and *“the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name”* (Heb 13:15), and bear the fruit of His Word, *“brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold”* (Matt 13:8). All the above is good and precious fruit that God expects us to bear. Because of this He has to purge us, clean us and purify us. Thank God for His love, His goodness, and His gracious work in us!

THOUGHT: Am I bearing much fruit for God’s glory?

PRAYER: Father, I thank You for grafting me onto Your Son and purging me so that I may bear more fruit for Your glory.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

JOHN 15:1-8

JOHN 15:4

*“Abide in me,
and I in you.”*

ABIDE IN ME AND I IN YOU

God has given us His only begotten Son to be our true Source of spiritual Life, and He expects us to bear much fruit for His glory. Then what should we do to bear much fruit?

There are two conditions to bear much fruit: (1) Abide in Jesus, and (2) Let Jesus and His Words abide in us. *“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing”* (v.5). *“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you”* (v 7).

To abide in Jesus means to humbly seek Him first in all things, constantly depending on Him, trusting in Him, and looking unto Him for life and strength. Satan may use the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, worldly pleasures, wrong doctrines, etc. to distract us from our focus on our Lord Jesus, our Life. Our loving Father may purge us, discipline us, or use difficulties or trials to bring us back to the Lord.

To let Jesus and His words abide in us means letting the Lord and His Word control and direct our whole being, our hearts, minds, motives, and lives. It means dying to self and letting the Lord live and manifest His life in us and through us (2 Cor 4:10-11). No more I, but Christ (Gal 2:20). Our loving Father may purge us from our self-will, self-confidence, self-righteousness, self-justification, self-glory, etc. by using failures, trials or *“a thorn in the flesh”* to humble us until we totally submit to the authority and control of the Lord and His Word. Then how can those who criticise and doubt God’s Word bring forth good fruit?

THOUGHT: Am I abiding in Jesus and is He abiding in me?

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, keep me dependent on and submissive to You always.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

HEBREWS 12:5-11

ISAIAH 64:8

*“We are the clay,
and thou our potter.”*

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER’S GRACIOUS WORK

We have learnt that our heavenly Father as the caring Gardener has to purge or cleanse us so that we may bear much fruit for His glory as we totally depend on and humbly submit to our Lord Jesus Christ and His Word (John 15:1-8).

God’s Word also tells us that God as our loving Father has to chastise and correct us His children so that we may be *“partakers of His holiness”* (Heb 12:10), and that God has to refine and purify us as the gracious Refiner and Purifier does to gold or silver so that we may come forth as pure gold. *“And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness”* (Mal 3:3). God has to mould us as the sovereign Potter does to the clay so that we may be *“a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use”* (2 Tim 2:21). *“But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand”* (Isa 64:8; cf. Jer 18:2-6; Rom 9:20-24).

We must be grateful to our loving Father and His gracious work in our lives through His Word, His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. *“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”* (Phil 1:6). In his great trials, Job acknowledged the refining work of God in his life. He said, *“when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold”* (Job 23:10). How about you? Would you respond in the same way?

THOUGHT: My heavenly Father’s gracious work is so good to me.

PRAYER: O Father, how I thank You for Your gracious work in my life.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

JOB 1:6-22

MALACHI 3:3

“He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.”

GOLD HAS BEEN TRIED (1)

Gold is rare, precious and valuable. To get gold, people are to mine it from the ore, crush it into small pieces in special machines, wash it in water to separate it from sand, earth, or gravel, and then burn it by fire to remove the dross or impurities thus purifying it. After getting pure gold, people may melt it and mould it into whatever shapes they want to make gold ornaments or jewellery.

Looking at the life and trials of Job, we shall see God’s gracious work of refining him until he came forth as pure gold. The trials Job suffered were very great (Job 2:13) and heavier than the sand of the sea (6:2-3).

The loss of material wealth: Job was very wealthy, but because of Satan’s accusation against his faith, God allowed Satan to take away his material wealth so as to test his faith (1:10-11).

The loss of children: Job had ten children—seven sons and three daughters (1:2)—whom he loved, and for whom he prayed and offered burnt offerings continually (1:5). God permitted Satan to take away his children (1:12-19).

The loss of good health: Seeing Job’s perseverance, Satan accused him of believing in God because of good health (2:4-9). So God let Satan torture him with sore boils from the sole of his feet to the top of his head.

The loss of respect and support: Job used to be highly respected by the aged, the princes, and the nobles (29:6-11). But now his wife, his relatives, his friends and even his servants despised him (19:14-19). Even his three friends mercilessly misjudged him, assuming that Job was suffering the punishment of the wicked due to his iniquity. This may well be the worst of all sufferings for Job.

THOUGHT: I need to see God’s sovereignty in my trials.

PRAYER: O Father, help me see Your sovereignty and gracious work in all my trials.

LORD'S DAY, JUNE 7

JAMES 5:7-11

2 CORINTHIANS 12: 9

"My grace is sufficient for thee."

GOLD HAS BEEN TRIED (2)

We thank God that in his great trials, Job blessed the name of the Lord, worshipped Him and did not sin. *"Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD"* (Job 1:20-22). When Satan used his wife to discourage him, *"Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die"* (2:9), Job still trusted in God. Job replied his wife, *"Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?"* (2:10). Praise the Lord for His sufficient and sustaining grace that Job was able to trust in the Lord in his great sufferings. Job sometimes desired death in his depression, but he never attempted to commit suicide. *"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in Him,"* (13:15). God's Word encourages His children who are suffering to persevere as Job did. *"Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy"* (James 5:11).

Nevertheless, as sinful human beings with a corrupt and depraved nature, Job's sinful "self" was exposed by God Himself and in the end he abhorred himself and said in repentance, *"I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes"* (Job 42:6). Only God can help Job do that, nobody else can. Indeed, this is part of God's refining work so that Job might come forth as gold (23:10). What did God purify Job from? It is his self-righteousness, self-glory, self-justification and complaining.

We must thank God for His sufficient grace and His refining work in our lives, even in our trials.

THOUGHT: Do I see God's sufficient grace and refining work in my life?

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for Your sufficient grace and Your refining work in my life.

MONDAY, JUNE 8

ROMANS 3:20-26

PHILIPPIANS 3:9

*“The righteousness
which is of God by faith.”*

GOLD HAS BEEN TRIED (3)

Self-righteousness: God considered Job “*perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil*” (Job 1:1, 8; 2:3). Does God contradict Himself since His Word says, “*There is none righteous, no, not one*” (Rom 3:10), and “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?*” (Jer 17:9), and “*all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags*” (Isa 64:6)? God forbid! Only God, and Himself alone, has the right to justify sinners when they believe in Him and receive His atoning sacrifice in the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 3:22-26). Before Jesus came into the world, the sacrifice of a lamb was a type of Christ which pointed to His atonement. This is why God could justify the Old Testament saints like Abel (Gen 4:4; Heb 11:4) and Abraham (Gen 15:6; Rom 4:16-22), etc.

Here it is God, who had the right to justify Job (Job 1:1, 8; 2: 3) because Job believed in Him and His atoning sacrifice. Job used to rise up early and offered burnt offerings, and he did this continually (1:5). It is sad that in his great trials, Job failed to do this, even failed to mention this atoning sacrifice in all his arguments. Not only did Job forget that his righteousness was from God, he also tried his best to defend his righteousness before the harsh and false accusations of his three friends. Job mentioned “*my righteousness*” twice (6:29; 27:6). Can “*my righteousness*” stand before the holy God? Absolutely not! God challenged and rebuked Job and he did learn to abhor himself including his own righteousness, his own integrity, and his arrogant words without knowledge (42:1-6).

May God help us count all things but loss so that we may win Christ and be found in Him “*not having mine own righteousness...but... the righteousness which is of God by faith*” (Phil 3:8-9).

THOUGHT: I need God’s righteousness by faith in Christ.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for giving me Your righteousness.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

PSALM 136

PSALM 136:1

*“O give thanks
unto the LORD.”*

GOLD HAS BEEN TRIED (4)

Self-goodness and Self-glory: All the good works that we can do are by God’s grace alone. It is God who works in us *“both to will and to do of his good pleasure”* (Phil 2:13). Therefore, it is proper to say like Paul, *“But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me”* (1 Cor 15:10).

It is true that *“A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven”* (John 3:27). Job really needed to learn the lesson of humility. Instead of giving all thanks and glory to God who had helped him do good works, Job seemed to boast of what he had done. We can recognise his many I’s: *“Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless,...and I caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem. I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a father to the poor...”* (Job 29:12-17).

How about Job’s present situation? Could he now say that he was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame, and father to the poor? It is a lesson for him to learn that without God’s grace and blessings, he could not do any good works! Moreover, after encountering God directly and personally, he did abhor himself and repent in dust and ashes (42:6).

We cannot give what we do not have. If God does not give us life, good health, strength, sound mind and good opportunities, we cannot work or give our offering back to Him or help others!

THOUGHT: *“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory”* (Rev 4:11).

PRAYER: Lord, I give thanks and glory to You for all Your blessings.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

PHILIPPIANS 2:14

*“Do all things
without murmurings.”*

GOLD HAS BEEN TRIED (5)

Self-justification and Complaining: Complaining and murmuring against God are evil and sin, *“How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me”* (Num 14:27). *“Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer”* (1 Cor 10:10). When we complain or murmur against God, we are actually saying that God is not good, not right, not fair, not just, and that we are not happy with His will, His way, or His dealings! This is sin!

Job, in his great depression and sufferings and before the false accusations of his three friends, sometimes lost his control, and complained against God and became defensive: *“I will complain in the bitterness of my soul...How long wilt thou (God) not depart from me?”* (7:11, 19), *“He (God) teareth me in his wrath, who hateth me”* (16:9-14), *“Know now that God hath overthrown me, and hath compassed me with his net. Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment. He hath destroyed me on every side, and I am gone... he counteth me unto him as one of his enemies”* (19:6-12), *“As God liveth, who hath taken away my judgment; and the Almighty, who hath vexed my soul”* (27:2).

By these complaints, Job implied that God was wrong and unjust and that he did not deserve this great suffering. He did not know that he was reproving His Maker and condemning his God! However, God was gracious to him. God spoke to him directly, showed him his arrogant attitude and words, *“Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?”* (40:8). After that Job repented, abhorred himself and repented in dust and ashes (Job 42:6).

THOUGHT: God is always good and right.

PRAYER: Lord, help me not to murmur or complain against You in any situation.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

GENESIS 50:14-21

JOB 23:10

*“When he hath tried me,
I shall come forth as gold.”*

GOLD HAS BEEN TRIED (6)

God had a higher purpose in Job's life when He allowed Satan to touch him and sift him. Satan wanted to destroy Job, but God built him up in the knowledge of God and of himself. Job had known human sinful nature, but not deep enough to abhor his “self” in humble repentance until he encountered his Maker, the holy and righteous God. Job had already known that when God tried him, he would come forth as gold. After having gone through his trials, Job did come forth as gold. He was refined from the dross of self-will, self-righteousness, self-goodness, self-glory and self-justification. He did learn to humbly submit to His Maker and His sovereignty. Satan failed because Job did not curse God when he tempted Job through trials, through the foolish suggestion of Job's wife, and through the false accusations of Job's three “friends.” God's grace was sufficient for Job to see him through the trials. Praise the Lord!

Through trials we will know more about God and ourselves. God is always just, gracious, and sovereign. Is it true that God is never unjust even if He puts all mankind in Hell? Absolutely true! If we really know God's righteousness, our total depravity, and our justification based on God's grace in Christ's atonement alone, we will be submissive to the Lord, knowing that our sufferings are still much lighter than the sufferings we deserve in Hell! Only by this heart-knowledge can we give thanks to the Lord and endure our trials.

Moreover, it is comforting to remember that trials from our just and loving Father are necessary for our spiritual life as we need to be purged, refined, purified, and conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was humbly submissive to His Father even unto death.

THOUGHT: God wants me to be like His Son Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: Thank You, Lord, for Your sovereignty and Your gracious work in my life.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

JOHN 10:1-16

JOHN 10:11

"I am the Good Shepherd."

JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Our Lord Jesus declares, *"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep"* (John 10:11), and this "I AM" statement reminds us of His covenant name Jehovah, the *"I AM THAT I AM."* Truly, our Lord Jesus is the same Shepherd of His people in the past, in the present and forever, and we can confess with trust like David, *"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want"* (Ps 23:1). God's Word also confirms that the Lord Jesus is *"that great shepherd of the sheep"* (Heb 13:20), and *"the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls"* (1 Peter 2:25), and *"the chief Shepherd"* (1 Peter 5:4).

Sheep are naive, harmless, defenceless and simple animals. Without a shepherd, they easily go astray and are scattered here and there (Matt 9:36). If the shepherd does not seek the lost sheep and bring them back, they will perish as they do not know how to seek the shepherd or go back to the fold by themselves. The LORD says, *"As a shepherd seeketh out his flock..., so will I seek out my sheep"* (Eze 34:12). The Lord Jesus says, *"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd"* (John 10:16).

It is vital for us to know, receive and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ as our good Shepherd. He gave His life for us, seeking us, bringing us back to His fold, taking care of us, guiding us and protecting us, *"For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls"* (1 Peter 2:25). Truly, Jesus says, *"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you"* (John 15:16). Praise the Lord for His goodness!

THOUGHT: A sheep cannot live by itself without the shepherd.

PRAYER: O Lord, how I thank You for being my good Shepherd.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

PSALM 107:1-9

JOHN 10:4

“He goeth before them.”

FOLLOW OUR SHEPHERD’S GUIDANCE (1)

Many a time in our lives we are so worried for not knowing what decision we should make, which direction we should take, where we should go, what we should do or say, how to solve the problems or deal with difficulties, etc. Thank God for our good Shepherd, who always goes before us and faithfully leads us in His right way step by step for His name’s sake, *“he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out... he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice”* (John 10:3-4). David shared his experience, *“he leadeth me beside the still waters... he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake”* (Ps 23:2-3).

It is so encouraging to know that in following our Shepherd’s guidance, we are always led in *“the way of the LORD”* (Prov 10:29), *“the way of righteousness”* (Prov 8:20), *“the way of life”* (Prov 6:23), *“the right way”* (Ps 107:7; 2 Peter 2:15), *“the way everlasting”* (Ps 139:24), *“the narrow way which leadeth unto life”* (Matt 7:14), *“the way of peace”* (Luke 1:79), and *“the way of truth”* (2 Peter 2:2).

It is also so comforting to hear God’s sure promises to guide us. *“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye”* (Ps 32:8). *“I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go”* (Isa 48:17). *“The LORD shall guide thee continually”* (Isa 58:11). When we recall what God has done in our lives, we shall praise the Lord for graciously guiding us to Himself, to His truth, to His salvation, even guiding us where to study, work, live, worship and serve Him. Will you continue to trust in the Lord and His faithful guidance?

THOUGHT: I do need the Lord’s guidance.

PRAYER: Thank You, Lord, for faithfully leading me in Your right way.

LORD'S DAY, JUNE 14

PROVERBS 3:1-10

JOHN 10:4

"The sheep follow him."

FOLLOW OUR SHEPHERD'S GUIDANCE (2)

Our Lord Jesus Christ is our good Shepherd who goes before us and leads us in His right way. How do we enjoy His guidance?

Pray for His Guidance: *"Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path" (Ps 27:11), and "For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me" (Ps 31:3).* Do you earnestly and wholeheartedly pray for God's guidance?

Acknowledge the Lord: *"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov 3:6).* Do you remember the Lord, acknowledge His Godhood, Lordship and sovereignty, and then look unto Him for His guidance so that He may direct your paths?

Fear God and Be Teachable: *"The meek will he guide in judgment: ... What man is he that feareth the LORD? Him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose" (Ps 25:9, 12).* The meek are those who are humble, teachable and receptive to God's Word. How about the fear of the Lord? *"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate" (Prov 8:13).* Will you fear God and be teachable and receptive to His Word?

Commit to the Lord and Trust in Him: *"Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass" (Ps 37:5).* Even when we do not see God's will or His way clearly, it is wise to commit ourselves and everything to the Lord, trust in Him and wait upon Him.

Following Jesus Step by Step: It is always wise and safe to hear our Shepherd's voice (God's Word) and walk after Him, step by step, one step at a time (John 10:4,27).

THOUGHT: *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:4,27).*

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me to wisely hear Your voice and follow You.

MONDAY, JUNE 15

JOHN 10:25-30

PSALM 127:1

“Except the LORD keep.”

**TRUST IN OUR
SHEPHERD’S PROTECTION
(1)**

As we greatly need and appreciate our Shepherd’s guidance in this confusing world of sin and darkness, we also greatly need His protection. The sheep are helpless and defenceless. They cannot protect themselves and become easy prey for the wild beasts. If the shepherd does not protect them, they are defenceless. The Lord Jesus says, *“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves”* (Matt 10:16). Moreover, Satan is like *“a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Peter 5:8). Without our Lord’s protection, we are defenseless victims of Satan! Truly, *“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain”* (Ps 127:1). Therefore, our Lord’s protection is always vital for us.

We thank the Lord Jesus for He is our true, good and caring Shepherd. Jesus is not an hireling, *“whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep”* (John 10:12-13), but He truly loves, cares, protects His sheep, and even *“giveth his life for the sheep”* (John 10:11). He will never leave nor forsake us (Heb 13:5), and He promises, *“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand. I and my Father are one”* (John 10:28-30). We are safe in our Shepherd’s mighty hand and our loving Father’s hand. Praise the Lord!

THOUGHT: I am really safe in the Lord and in His hand.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for your faithful and mighty protection.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

PSALM 121

PSALM 121:7

*“The LORD
shall preserve thee.”*

**TRUST IN OUR
SHEPHERD’S PROTECTION
(2)**

In perilous time, how can we be sure that God’s protection is perfect? His sure and perfect Word says so!

God’s Promises to Keep Us: Besides Jesus’ promise to protect us (John 10:28-29), God also has promised to keep us, e.g. *“The LORD is thy keeper... The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul... The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore”* (Ps 121:5,7,8). Do we wholeheartedly trust in God’s precious promises?

God’s Power to Keep Us: Our almighty Lord is able to keep us perfectly and forever by His power: *“Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation”* (1 Peter 1:5). And He *“is able to keep you from falling”* (Jude 1:24). Praise the Lord!

God’s Faithfulness to Keep Us: *“But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil”* (2 Thess 3:3). Praise the Lord!

Jesus’ Atonement and Prayer for Us: We are perfectly preserved forever not because of our goodness, merits or cleverness but because of our Lord’s atoning sacrifice and prayer: *“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them... For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified”* (Heb 7:25; 10:14). Our Lord is still praying to His Father, *“Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me...keep them from the evil”* (John 17:11, 15). He is praying for us, as He prayed for Peter, *“But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not”* (Luke 22:32). Dear friends, we can stand firm now in the Lord because of our Lord’s faithfulness, power and prayers! Praise the Lord!

THOUGHT: Thank and praise the Lord for His faithful protection.

PRAYER: Thank You, Lord, for mightily, faithfully, and prayerfully protecting me.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

JAMES 4:1-10

MATTHEW 26:41

“Watch and pray.”

**TRUST IN OUR
SHEPHERD’S PROTECTION
(3)**

Our Lord is able to keep us forever based on His promises, power, faithfulness, atonement and prayers. What should we do in order to enjoy His protection?

Be Cautious, Prayerful and Hide Ourselves in Christ: We cannot take our Lord’s protection for granted and do whatever we like or go wherever we want. It is a sin to tempt or test God! Satan tempted the Lord Jesus by asking Him to jump down from the pinnacle of the temple. Satan quoted God’s promise, *“He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee”* (Luke 4:9-10), but our Lord did not fall into Satan’s trap. Jesus answered, *“It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God”* (v 12). We cannot drive carelessly and expect God to protect us. We cannot tempt God by watching ungodly movies/TV programmes, reading ungodly/unbiblical articles, surfing ungodly/unbiblical websites or going to places full of temptations and then expect God to keep us from defilement, sin and evil! Our Lord resisted Satan until he fled away. We have to do the same, *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”* (James 4:7). Dear friends, we are to keep ourselves (1 John 5:18), to *“be sober, be vigilant”* (1 Peter 5:8), to *“watch and pray”* (Matt 26:41) and to hide ourselves *“in Jesus Christ”* (Jude 1; cf. Ps 91:1).

Live in God’s Presence: To be kept from sin and evil, we are to walk in God’s light and practise living in God’s presence everywhere and all the time. *“I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved”* (Ps 16:8). *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin”* (1 John 1:7).

THOUGHT: I must cautiously and prayerfully resist Satan.

PRAYER: Lord, help me hide myself in You and live in Your presence always.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

PSALM 91

PSALM 145:20

**TRUST IN OUR
SHEPHERD'S PROTECTION
(4)**

Commit Ourselves and Everything to the Lord: God only keeps what we have committed to Him. If I ask you to keep my key, but I do not pass it to you, you cannot help me. Many pray to God to keep them, but they have not committed themselves to the Lord. Their lives are not the Lord's. They still do whatever they like and go wherever they want, then how can God keep them? It is wise for us to commit our lives and everything to the Lord, "*I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day*" (2 Tim1:12).

Trust in God's Faithful Protection: To enjoy God's protection, we are to trust in His promises and protection "*for whatsoever is not of faith is sin*" (Rom 14:23). Truly, "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee*" (Isa 26:3; Ps 91). Will you not wisely trust in our almighty and faithful God?

Love God and Keep His Word: To enjoy God's protection, we must love Him and keep His Word. "*The LORD preserveth all them that love him*" (Ps 145:20). "*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation*" (Rev 3:10). Will you not wisely love God and keep His Word? (John 14:23).

Be Kind to the Needy: "*Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive*" (Ps 41:1-2; cf. Prov 19:17). May the Lord fill us with His love so that we may show His love to the needy, especially bringing them to our good Shepherd.

THOUGHT: I am safe because my life is the Lord's.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me love You, trust in You and keep Your Word.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

PSALM 23

PSALM 23:1

“The LORD is my shepherd.”

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

David confessed his trust, *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want”* (Ps 23:1). What about us?

We have learnt that the Lord Jesus Christ is our good Shepherd, who really loves us, cares for us, leads us, protects us and gives His life for us. But that is only our head-knowledge if we have not trusted in Him and acknowledged Him as **“my Shepherd”** personally. What does it mean when we confess, *“The LORD is my shepherd”*?

First, I acknowledge Jesus’ Divine Lordship as my eternal Jehovah and my Shepherd. I confess that I really need and wholeheartedly trust in my Lord’s loving care, guidance and protection, from which I shall have all I need, both my spiritual needs, *“He restoreth my soul... thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over”* (Ps 23:3,5) *“life... more abundantly”* (John 10:10) and my physical needs, *“having all sufficiency in all things”* (2 Cor 9:8; cf. 1 Tim 6:8,17).

Then, I confess that I am the Lord’s sheep, and this means I truly commit my life to the Lord, belong to Him, and submit to His leadership, guidance, and discipline. I will not run before Him or listen to strangers’ voices, but I *“know his voice”* (God’s Word) and only hear His voice and walk after Him alone with my full trust and confidence, *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me”* (Ps 23:4).

Finally, I put my hope and trust in my Lord’s goodness and mercy for my life and my eternal future with Him, *“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever”* (Ps 23:6).

THOUGHT: *“The LORD is my shepherd.”*

PRAYER: Thank You, Lord, for being my Divine Shepherd.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

EPHESIANS 4:1-16

COLOSSIANS 1:18

*“He is the head
of the body, the church.”*

JESUS IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

It is vital for us to know our Lord Jesus Christ, depend on Him, submit to Him and maintain our living fellowship with Him personally. However, we cannot ignore the other children of God. If we are born of God we shall also love those who are born of Him (1 John 5:1). Our Lord Jesus Christ has many brethren (Rom 8:29; Heb 2:11-12), and many sheep in His fold (John 10:16), and many members in His body (1 Cor 12:12). He wants all the members to submit to Him, the Head, to be united, take care of one another and edify one another until *“all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ... grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ”* (Eph 4:13, 15).

God’s Word confirms that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church. *“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence”* (Col 1:18 cf. Eph 1:22; 4:15; 5:23). And there is only one Body (Eph 4:4). Despite the many denominations in the world, before God there is only one true Church, invisible and universal, comprising His truly born-again believers, who are His true children or true sheep, keeping a living fellowship and connection with Him, like the branches to the Vine or the members of the body to the Head. Our Lord’s Church is built on the foundation of Himself and God’s Word (Matt 16:18; Eph 2:20). We should wisely attend a Christ-centred and Bible-centred church so as to be edified and blessed.

THOUGHT: Jesus Christ alone is the Head of the Church.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for building Your Church.

LORD'S DAY, JUNE 21

1 CORINTHIANS 12: 12-31

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

"Ye are the body of Christ."

YE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, controlling and directing His members to act properly according to His mind and will. It is a great blessing to enjoy the guidance, direction, and loving care of our Divine Head. *"Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it...nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church"* (Eph 5:25,29). God desires and is able to join all members together in unity as long as they all submit to Jesus Christ the Head and His Word and do their parts faithfully (1 Cor 12).

Subject to the Head: The body has only one Head, and *"the church is subject unto Christ"* (Eph 5:23-24). Sadly, there is division in many churches nowadays, caused by church leaders and members who are not fully submitted to the Lord Jesus Christ and God's Word. They do not practise Biblical Separation in their lives nor in their ministry, but compromise with wrong doctrines, sins, and worldliness.

Do One's Part Faithfully: God does not count how much we have done for Him but how faithfully we do our part according to His will (Matt 25:21, 23). In God's sight, a faithful prayer, worshipper or helper is much better than an unfaithful pastor, preacher or teacher who is not fully submitted to Him and His Word.

Belong to One Another and Need One Another: *"Ye are the body of Christ"* (1 Cor 12:27). "Ye" here in plural denotes many members. The body cannot have only one member, *"the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee"* (vv 15, 21). We need Christ our Head as well as one another.

Care for One Another: All the parts in our body are related to one another and affect one another, so the members should care for one another and pray for one another (1 Cor 12:25-26).

THOUGHT: We need Christ. We also need God's true children.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me to submit to You and Your Word always.

MONDAY, JUNE 22

ROMANS 7:14-25

COLOSSIANS 3:11

“Christ is all, and in all.”

CHRIST IS ALL, AND IN ALL

True believers are those who acknowledge their sins, sincerely repent and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour, but not all experience that the Lord is their All.

After being saved, they read the Scriptures and hear messages from God’s Word, and *“grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18). They understand that God wants them to be holy, perfect, humble, gentle, patient, loving, faithful, as the Lord Jesus is. They pray so hard that the Lord may grant them faith, love, peace, joy, strength, holiness, faithfulness and many other spiritual virtues. As the years go by, they may think that they are more mature, godly, holy, humble, and more like Christ, but if those spiritual qualities are from their own efforts and strength, they are not true nor long lasting. Their spiritual life has ups and downs. Sometimes, they are spiritually strong and godly. Other times, they are weak and carnal. They experience conflicts in their life and acknowledge their corrupt and depraved nature. Like Paul, they cry, *“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not... O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”* (Rom 7:18, 24). Through all these, they find the answer in the Lord Jesus Christ. *“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (v 25). Truly, it is through the Lord Jesus Christ Himself alone, their All and in All (Col 3:11). And they start to learn to die to their “self” and submit to the Lord and His Word and find true peace, joy and victory in Himself alone.

Is the Lord Jesus Christ your All?

THOUGHT: Jesus Christ is All I need.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for being All I need.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

COLOSSIANS 3:1-11

GALATIANS 2:20

“Not I, but Christ liveth in me.”

NOT I, BUT CHRIST

In God’s sight, *“there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all”* (Col 3:11) and *“there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus”* (Gal 3:28). In order that *“Christ is all, and in all,”* our “self” must be crucified with Christ, *“Not I, but Christ”* (Gal 2:20), no more racial discrimination (Greek or Gentile, or Jew), no more difference in culture or civilisation (Barbarian or Scythian), no more inequality in social status or position (bond or free), and no more sex discrimination (male or female), but *“Christ is all, and in all”* and we are *“all one in Christ Jesus.”*

Dear friends, we come from different countries and different backgrounds, but if each one of us can say, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me,”* then Christ is living in us, and Christ will be all, and in all.

That is the cross and self-denial we are to take up daily to follow our Lord Jesus Christ, *“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me”* (Luke 9:23). To deal with our sinful nature, the biblical way is to keep it dead and not to revive it. There is no other way, *“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God... Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth...”* (Col 3:3,5). Do we die daily so that we may not think of our “self” any more, no more “I am holy, I am spiritual, I am better, I am humble, I am wise, etc.” but Christ alone is all, and in all.

THOUGHT: Human sinful nature cannot be improved. It has to be crucified with Christ.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, please control me and manifest Your life in me and through me.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-18

COLOSSIANS 3:4

“Christ, who is our life.”

CHRIST, WHO IS OUR LIFE

No one can live a true Christian life without Christ. We can neither have true love, true holiness, true righteousness, true wisdom, true faith, true peace, nor have true happiness without Christ. Our Lord Jesus confirms, *“without me ye can do nothing”* (John 15:5). God’s Word says, *“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory”* (Col 3:3-4). As only Christ’s life is true, instead of trying to love those who despise or offend us personally, we should ask our Lord to manifest His true love through us. Instead of trying to overcome temptations by ourselves, we should ask our Lord to manifest His true holiness and overcome temptations through us. Instead of trying to humble ourselves, we should ask our Lord to manifest His true humility through us. *“Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body”* (2 Cor 4:10). Our Christian life is Christ’s true life manifested through our body.

Although our sinful nature has been crucified with Christ, it does not totally disappear, but is only subdued by the Lord and by His life in us. Our sinful nature is like gravity (instead of the force of gravity, it is the force of sin), always pulling us down when we are weak, but as long as we are spiritually healthy and strong in God’s Word and by being attached to the powerful life of Christ, our True Vine, moment by moment, we shall not be influenced or pulled down by our sinful nature. *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death”* (Rom 8:2). Praise the Lord!

THOUGHT: Only Christ’s life is true.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for being my true Life.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

JOHN 13:1-17

JOHN 13:15

“I have given you an example.”

JESUS CHRIST IS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE

Many just blindly follow their “leaders” who may not believe in or submit to the Lord Jesus Christ and God’s Word! God’s purpose is that *“Christ is all, and in all”* (Col 3:11) and that His children are *“to be conformed to the image of his Son”* (Rom 8:29). Then, we are to look at our Lord Jesus Christ, our perfect Example, and just follow Him even if the majority or many others do not. *“For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you”* (John 13:15). *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps”* (1 Peter 2:21).

How can we see Jesus Christ as our perfect Example? It is through God’s perfectly inspired and perfectly preserved Word and through the Holy Spirit. Our Lord Jesus says, *“Search the scriptures...and they are they which testify of me”* (John 5:39), and *“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me...He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you”* (John 15:26; 16:14). Our part is to seek the Lord first in prayers and to diligently read and study God’s Word, the Scriptures, prayerfully with sincere faith and humble submission, and the Holy Spirit will help us see and know more about the Lord Jesus Christ so that we may look unto Him and follow Him by His grace and strength.

It is wise for us to always look to our Lord Jesus Christ, our perfect Example, and compare ourselves with Him, not with others, so that we may see our shortcomings and humbly press on toward the goal - to be like Christ.

THOUGHT: Jesus Christ is our perfect Example.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me wisely follow You alone, my perfect Example.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

JOHN 17:1-10

JOHN 17:4

*“I have glorified
thee on the earth.”*

JESUS' PURPOSE IN LIFE

(1)

Our Lord Jesus has clear purposes in His life and ministry:

To Glorify God the Father: Jesus prays to His Father, *“I have glorified thee on the earth”* (John 17:4). *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”* (1 Cor 10:31). Do we glorify Him too?

To Do the Father's Will and Finish His Work: Jesus says, *“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me”* (John 6:38), and *“My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work”* (John 4:34) and *“I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do”* (John 17:4). Many are so busy doing their own work even in “serving the Lord.” The truth is that only when we do our Lord's work according to His will and His way will our labour be not burnt up or be in vain (1 Cor 3:15; 15:58).

To Bear Witness of the Truth: Jesus says, *“To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth”* (John 18:37). To bear witness of the truth is to bear witness of the Lord Jesus, who is the Truth, and God's Word, which is Truth. How can we bear witness of the truth if we still doubt, question, or criticize God's Word?

To Minister: Jesus says, *“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many”* (Matt 20:28), and *“If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet”* (John 13:14). If we have a purpose to serve, we shall not be sad, discouraged or offended when our labour is ignored or not appreciated.

THOUGHT: What is my purpose in life?

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me follow Your Example.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-10

1 TIMOTHY 1:15

*“Christ Jesus came ...
to save sinners.”*

JESUS' PURPOSE IN LIFE

(2)

To Preach the Gospel and Save Sinners: Jesus says, “*Let us go into the next towns that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth*” (Mark 1:37-38), and “*I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*” (Matt 9:13). Paul gave his testimony, “*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief*” (1 Tim 1:15). This is Jesus' Great Commission, “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway*” (Matt 28:19-20). Shall we not follow our Lord Jesus' example and fulfil His Great Commission?

To Train the Saved to Continue His Work: Unlike many “leaders” today, Jesus did not focus on or boast about the number of followers He has. Instead, He focused on the faithful men who could continue His work after His ascension. “*He ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach*” (Mark 3:14). Paul followed Jesus' example and exhorted Timothy, “*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also*” (2 Tim 2:2). It is better to train one true Christian who is submissive to the Lord and His Word and serves Him faithfully than to have hundreds or thousands of professing Christians who are not faithful or submissive to the Lord and His Word. We thank God for the sound teaching and faithful training of the Far Eastern Bible College in these last days of compromise and apostasy. Shall we not follow our Lord Jesus' example and train faithful men to continue our Lord's work before we are called home to be with the Lord?

THOUGHT: Who will continue the Lord's work?

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me fulfil Your Great Commission.

LORD'S DAY, JUNE 28

1 PETER 2:21-25

1 PETER 2:21

"Ye should follow his steps."

FOLLOW JESUS' STEPS (1)

Our Lord Jesus Christ has set a perfect Example for us to follow even in His sufferings, *"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps"* (1 Peter 2:21). What are His sufferings?

- *Jesus was despised and rejected* although He was the holy God and the Creator (Isa 53:3).
- *Jesus was hated, persecuted, blasphemed and evil spoken of* although He lived a perfect life and served His Father faithfully according to His Father's will (John 5:16, 18; 7:7, 12; 9:24; 10:20).
- *Jesus was betrayed, forsaken and denied* (Mark 14:50; John 13:21; 18:17, 25-27).
- *Jesus was exceeding sorrowful unto death* (Mark 14:34).
- *Jesus was tortured, smitten and crucified* (Matt 26 and 27).
- *Jesus was misjudged and thought to be punished by God* (Matt 27:43; Isa 53:4).
- *Jesus was burdened with the sins of all mankind* (1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 2:2), and it seems that His holy Father turned His face from His dearly beloved Son at the moment when all the wickedness, sins, unrighteousness, iniquities, and transgressions of human beings, including yours and mine, were upon the Lord Jesus. Jesus cried *"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* (Matt 27:46).

Dear friends, we can never fully understand how great and deep Christ's sufferings were. That it is not because of His faults, but because of our sins. It is because of Christ's love and our salvation that He suffered for us. May His love constrain us to willingly be *"partakers of Christ's sufferings"* (1 Peter 4:13) and may the Lord help us not to be offended or give up our faith when we are despised, rejected, evil spoken of, persecuted, betrayed, forsaken, misjudged, or even put to death.

THOUGHT: There is a price to pay in order to follow Jesus' steps.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me count it a privilege to follow Your steps.

MONDAY, JUNE 29

1 PETER 4:12-19

1 PETER 4:19

*“Suffer according
to the will of God.”*

FOLLOW JESUS’ STEPS (2)

Knowing Jesus Christ’s sufferings for us and the price of following His steps, what are our proper attitudes when we are suffering because of our Lord, His name or His Word?

Be not surprised nor ashamed :
“Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you” (1 Peter 4:12) and *“Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed”* (4:16). Our Lord Jesus says, *“Remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you”* (John 15: 20).

Dear friends, if we are determined to live according to God’s Word without any compromise and to practise Biblical separation from sin, worldliness and unbiblical doctrines, we shall surely encounter hatred, opposition and persecutions from the world and even from professing Christians. May the Lord help us not to be surprised nor ashamed when we are despised, rejected, or persecuted because of Him.

Suffer according to God’s will:
Jesus suffered according to His Father’s will. We should not suffer because of our sins *“as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil doer, or as a busybody in other men’s matter”* (1 Peter 4:15), but only *“suffer according to the will of God”* (4:19), which means to suffer for the name of Christ (4:14), as a Christian (4:16), for Jesus’ sake (Matt 5:11), for righteousness’ sake (3:14; Matt 5:10), for good conduct in Christ and for well doing (3:16-17), for a good conscience toward God (2:19; 3:16; Acts 23:1; 24:16); for the gospel (Mark 8:35), and for the word of God and the testimony of Christ (Rev 1:9; Mark 4:17).

Are you suffering according to God’s will?

THOUGHT: We must be prepared to suffer for our Lord and His Word.
PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me only suffer according to God’s will.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

HEBREWS 12:1-11

HEBREWS 12:2

“Looking unto Jesus.”

FOLLOW JESUS’ STEPS (3)

Look unto the Lord and follow His steps: It is vital for us to look to our Lord in order to be strengthened, encouraged, comforted and carried through by His grace: *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds”* (Heb 12:2-3).

Rejoice and glorify God: We should rejoice and glorify God even in sufferings according to God’s will because (1) it is God’s glory, *“the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified”* (1 Peter 4:14). (2) it is our great privilege (Phil 1:29); (3) we shall know our Lord more and the *“fellowship of his sufferings”* (Phil 3:10); (4) we shall be more refined in sufferings (1 Peter 1:7; 4:1; Job 23:10) and *“may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God”* (2 Thess 1:5); (5) we will be comforted and more mature to comfort others in sufferings (2 Cor 1:4); (6) it is *“not worthy to be compared with”* the *“far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”* (Rom 8:18; 2 Cor 4:17); and (7) it is the Lord’s command with His reward: *“Rejoice (Keep on rejoicing) , and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven”* (Matt 5:12), and *“If we suffer, we shall also reign with him”* (2 Tim 2:12).

Trust in God and commit everything to Him: Jesus *“committed himself to him that judgeth righteously”* (1 Peter 2:23), so we also trust in the Lord and commit everything to Him (1 Peter 4:19).

THOUGHT: It is vital to look to our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me look to You and keep on following You until the end.