

WEEK ELEVEN

—Sunday—

When we live in a democracy it is difficult to truly relate to the rule of a king. I want to change this in the closet of prayer.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Anointed. Messiah, Christ, Prophet, Priest, King. What was said of our Lord can surely be said of our heavenly Father — nowhere can I find a reference to you as anointed, so I'll worship my Lord who said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." To consider one who knows all the future as easily and as fully as I know the past or present is a source of wonder to me. Bless his holy name forever. You anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power. You gave him the Spirit with no limitations, i.e., in expression the Holy Spirit by reason of his nature has no limitations. To talk with such a prophet, priest and king is an awesome thought.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Anointed for me. To consider this one as fulfilling his ministry through, or because of me is amazing. He was anointed as a prophet to teach me and all other men your will for our lives; to predict all the future of my life; to look all the way down the corridor of time and see every part of the changing scene. To be *my priest*, to listen patiently to my babblings and interrupt them to read the motive — to know the *real* need. Oh, oh, to be my king — you have a right twice over to the throne of my heart. Dear Lord, speak, intercede, reign. I gladly own you and worship you.

How do you personally relate to the anointed of God, and God who is anointer? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How poorly have I expressed my love for you — forgive me! What a sin it is to accept you as my prophet and not heed what you say — to know you are my intercessor but leave you unemployed. To claim you as king but refuse your rule! In all these ways I am blood guilty and I ask you to not only forgive but give me grace to fulfill what those names mean in my life!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise;
Father, all glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹⁹"It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. ²⁰Instead we should write them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. ²¹For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath."

²²Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, two men who were leaders among the brothers. ²³With them they sent the following letter:

The apostles and elders, your brothers,
To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia:
Greetings.

²⁴We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said. ²⁵So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul — ²⁶men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁷Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing. ²⁸It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:

²⁹You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid

these things.

Farewell. — *Acts 15:19-29, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear God, what a penetratingly real text there is here for me to share with you — for you, indeed, to share with me! How very often I have made it difficult for men and women who have been turning to you.

I have bound on them certain regulations of my own judgment. I want always to immediately relate them to your word, not mine — forgive me! Are the four prohibitions of this letter for me today? (1) I want *nothing* to do with idols. (2) Blood is not appetizing to me — and I see in it your price for my redemption — I'll not eat it. (3) Eating the meat of strangled animals would be dangerous to my health. (4) I want nothing to do with any form of immorality!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I have read to you, but I have applied to me — now I want to do so even more. Somehow I get the impression that such prohibitions were accommodations, or provisions for the benefit of the Jewish believers. The law of Moses speaks out most clearly against such practices *under the penalty of death*.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Somehow this always becomes the easiest time of worship — joy and peace! (1) Thank you for James' judgment which was accompanied by the Holy Spirit. (2) For the wonderful way the Gospel appeals to all men. (3) For the practical nitty-gritty interest you have in what we eat and feel. (4) For your involvement in social distinctions. (5) That there were indeed elders (no mention of deacons or "the pastor") in the first century church. (6) The apostles, elders, and whole church could and did give "authorization" to men and decisions. (7) That our work is not unappreciated. It is not wrong to be complimented, or to compliment someone else.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us." May this ever be the deciding factor in all my actions and attitudes. "What do you think about it?" must be asked of the Holy Spirit. His word has much to say. There are four ways I believe he will use in directing my steps: (1) His word — much of it is not read; we just talk about reading it. (2) His teachers — God set teachers in the body for the purpose of direction — listen to them. (3) His providence — which is only perceived in retrospect. (4) Answer to prayer. Until I have searched out all these areas most carefully, I cannot say the Holy Spirit did not speak. He did. He

is. I'm just not listening.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

There is so much for which to pray in these verses: (1) Help me not to make it difficult for anyone to accept you, i.e., through my own selfishness. (2) Deliver me from all idolatry. (3) From all forms of immorality, dear Lord, deliver me. (4) May I respect those who have rules I do not know. (5) May I include "the whole church" in my decision making. (6) Somehow show me how the leadership and the whole body can agree on decisions.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me through this letter: (1) "There are unauthorized men who trouble my people. Are you one of them?" (2) "The decisions of the apostolic church are the decisions of the Holy Spirit." (3) "If the first Gentiles needed to abstain from these things, so do you."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Turkey — Points for prayer: (1) *The barriers to the gospel appear insurmountable*: a) *History*. Turkey's long association with Islam and bitter wars with "Christian" European nations make conversion appear almost an act of treachery. b) *Culture*. To be a Turk is to be a Muslim, even if nominally so. Family pressure is usually acute on any who want to follow Christ. Every conversion to Christ is a miracle of grace. c) *Attitude*. A deep seated resistance in the general public to anything Christian makes any form of witnessing difficult. A radical change in public attitudes must be prayed for. d) *Wrong understandings*. Evangelical Christians are lumped together with Armenian terrorists and Jehovah's Witnesses. Muslim preconceptions about Christian doctrine are also a major barrier. e) *The god of this world* has blinded them. In the name of Jesus we can pray for supernatural illumination! (2) *The Christian Church* as a whole is in decline, largely because of heavy emigration, but the number converted out of Islam is rising. Most Christians are nominal, introspective and are not evangelizing. The majority live in Istanbul.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

We would see Jesus, for the shadows lengthen
Across this little landscape of our life;
We would see Jesus, our weak faith to strengthen
For the last weariness, the final strife.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Monday—

Movement is surely a part of your very nature. You are the Great Sender. "Here am I, send me" — direct my ways!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

The Apostle and high priest of our calling. This is said of our Lord and he often said it of himself, i.e., that he was "sent" from heaven or your presence. Both the sent and the sender are involved. I could never thank you enough for sending your Son. I could never thank him enough for coming! I need to understand more fully what happens when you come and what happens when you do not, i.e., in my own experience. It is one thing for my blessed Lord to leave the wonders of the eternal world and come to this earth; it is quite another to be as prepared as was the earth when he came. He came "in the fulness of time." He came when many, many prophecies were being fulfilled.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

The Apostle for me. Am I as prepared as the stable in Bethlehem? Surely there is an obvious comparison. What an unworthy, unholy, filthy place to be born. Am I to understand he is growing in me as he grew in Nazareth? I believe (thank you, Lord!) this is the key to the change I want in my life — that you want more than I do! "Until Christ be formed within you." Dear God — the Sender — I want to open my mind, yield all my will, totally identify with the One who lives inside! How shall I think his thoughts? Memorize the record of his life! Review those words until they become spirit and life! Pray into your will the words you memorize! Do this over and over again and Christ will become real to you! (I write this to you for me.)

How do you personally relate to God the Sender, and God the Sent? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How miserably I have failed in the highest, most joyous of experiences! I.e., of emotionally identifying with the Living Presence within! You are the sender,

he is the "Sent One." I am the recipient — my heart the manger! Could the tragedy of Bethlehem be repeated all over again? "He came to his own and they who were his own didn't receive him" — or know him.

Until the desires of the body and of the mind are satisfied repeatedly in you, there is no option but to seek satisfaction where there is none. Dear Lord, for today: let me discover all over again your coming into the world and into my heart. I freely, openly confess my sin, my violation of your law. Forgive me, cleanse me!

*What personal sins do you want to confess?
We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.*

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

There is a place of quiet rest,
Near to the heart of God,
A place where sin cannot molest,
Near to the heart of God.
O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us, who wait before Thee,
Near to the heart of God.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

³⁰The men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter. ³¹The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message. ³²Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the brothers. ³³After spending some time there, they were sent off by the brothers with the blessing of peace to return to those who had sent them. —Acts 15:30-33, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What an understatement is found in verse thirty! It is a 300-mile walk from Jerusalem to Antioch, but

distance is no distance with you — or so it would seem with your historian, Dr. Luke. The purpose, not the distance, was important — help me to remember this. The church was not a building — it was a people who needed to be gathered into a building. How I would like to have been there! The letter essentially said “how to get along with Jews”: Respect them, accept them, love them, learn from them. Am I right about this? I love the little designation “*the brothers*” repeated twice in these four verses. Thank you for speaking to me of this. Prophets encouraged and strengthened — aside from the direct supernatural input of their message I have the same job. Praise you!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

This will not be difficult. I want to read each word into my conscience. Who paid for the expense of the trip? I travel almost every week and someone has to pay for the trip. Money never seemed to be mentioned — because it was no problem, any more than it was for our dear Lord who had to depend on others to cook his meals and wash his clothes and pay the inn keepers. Is a servant above his master? Who read the letter to the assembly? “The people” — or was it available for all to read? There was only *one* copy. Who were Judas and Silas? Praise God there were several men named Judas who did a good work — one of them our Lord’s brother and another this wonderful prophet!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Indeed I shall: (1) Thank you for the beautiful dedication of Luke the writer of this record. (2) Thank you that we can be the same church today they were in Antioch. (3) For the education you permitted (or directed) in the first century that gave us your word. (4) Thank you that encouragement is such a large part of the light of the church in Antioch. (5) Thank you that words from you can produce such inward joy and strength. (6) For every precious day we can spend together worshipping and learning. (7) Thank you, thank you for “the blessing of peace.”

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*With the blessing of peace,*” Just what is involved in this little expression? When we consider carefully it becomes not a “little” expression at all. The term “blessing” can have the following meanings: (1) A bounty or benefit from God or man — such as the creatures of air and sea (Gen. 1:22). The benediction God placed on Adam and Eve (Gen. 1:28). (2) A recognition of God’s favor in a thankful and adoring manner (Psa. 103:1; Matt. 26:26). (3) The invoking of God’s favor on another — such as is indicated in the

reference we are considering.

The meaning of peace is far more than the absence of hostility. Essentially peace is an attitude of the heart — this wish or prayer for Judas and Silas is for God to so arrange the circumstances and the attitude of their heart that they might confidently face every circumstance of life with total trust in God.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

It was a 300-mile walk from Jerusalem to Antioch. Dr. Luke was so anxious to tell us of the events in Antioch he totally ignored the distance. There is much in this to prompt praying: (1) Give me the same attitude toward the body of Christ as seen here. (2) Remind me again that there is just one church — the body of your Son. (3) How I long to meet in heaven some of the men and women who were first called Christians. (4) How I want to be an encouragement to others — enable me! (5) Lift up my heart that I might help others. (6) Open the eyes of my heart to see all Christians as my blood relatives. (7) I need the blessing of peace in my service for you.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these three verses speak to me: (1) “Deliver my letters of joy to my body today.” (2) “There is nothing men need more than encouragement.” (3) “Spend enough time to get my task completed.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Turkey — Points for prayer: (1) *Missionary work* began in 1821, but was soon directed to the more receptive non-Muslim minorities. Since 1960 renewed prayer and effort is slowly yielding fruit among the Muslims. (2) *Other means of witness* are profitably employed, and need prayerful support: a) *Literature*. 3,500,000 pieces of literature have been distributed over the past few years in door-to-door work, postal evangelism, advertisements in the press, etc. Pray for fruit, and the development of effective ways of follow-up. b) *Postal evangelism* through pen-pals, direct mail and correspondence courses have yielded a response. *Friends of Turkey* and other agencies are further developing this means of outreach. Pray that the postal system may function well and without interference. c) *Radio outreach* in combination with literature distribution is generating a good response.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awakening cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised;
Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Tuesday—

The beginning of so many things is exciting — interesting — promising — this you are. Open my heart as I start this new day with you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Beginning — the cause and author. Everlasting Father. I love the beginning — of the day, of a new project, of life, of most things I like the beginning best. It is wonderful to know someone who is the Everlasting Beginning — actually the first cause or origin, or head, or the One who stands as the ruler. In every life that has been a failure, you are the beginning. There is a place (it is a Person) of “beginning again.” How marvelously thoughtful to know Some One like that! Today at the beginning you are there to make it the very best day I have had, or anyone anywhere has had. You are the freshness and strength of new energy. You indeed are the essence of energy and hence always Beginning.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Beginning for me — how often I do need a fresh start! How gloriously good to only use those things of the past which help — all else is forgiven and forgotten, i.e., with you! I should like today to begin and develop a new thought — I need your help. Oh, bless your holy, pure, separate name, you are beginning! Dear Lord, I want to begin the outreach to your children — my brothers and sisters in encouraging them to pray. Only you can teach us to pray. You did so, best of all, by your example. Dear Beginning: Give me the wisdom (the best use of the knowledge I have) to approach and develop this concept in just the way you want it done!

How do you personally relate to the beginning of all, and God who is the Beginning?

CONFESSION OF SIN

There have been beginnings when you were *not* in them! Dear God, if somehow I could be so aware, so wise, that I would pause — wait — consider — and then “in faith” or “trust” move, I believe you would

be honored. I’m not at all sure I have pure connections so I can not say all my beginnings are right, but now they will surely be much better than many others. Forgive me for ignoring the most obvious need I have. In the sins mentioned in your word Satan offers an “easy way out” — a way with no responsibility — but a way that leaves guilt and unfulfilledness! Forgive and make me whole!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I am Thine, O Lord,
I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

³⁵But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.

³⁶Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.” ³⁷Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, ³⁸but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. —Acts 15:35-38, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, it is easy to see how Paul and Barnabas

could teach and preach the "word of the Lord," but "many others" did it too — where did they get "the word of the Lord"? The most obvious answer is the only right answer: They were directly inspired or instructed by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit programmed their minds and they, out of their mouths, gave the "read out" or "the word of the Lord." There *was no* New Testament to consult to prepare them to "teach and preach the word of the Lord." I write this in your presence O Lord — am I right?

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Dear Lord! If inspired men have disagreements and cannot decide your will, i.e., who is right in a given circumstance, how can I possibly decide when I do not even have direct inspiration? The answer is in the purpose of inspiration — not to make a "better Christian" — that is move in my personal response to your will for life, but to give information from you that is not otherwise available.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

There is so *much* for which I can thank you in this text: (1) Thank you for the combining of teaching and preaching in the same men (since this is what I do). (2) Thank you for the unnamed prophets in the church in Antioch (we have the names of three of them in 13:1), but for the "many" others we will wait until we see them and ask them all about it. (3) Thank you for the unselfish interest of Paul and Barnabas in their converts. (4) Thank you for the confidence Barnabas had in John Mark. (5) Thank you for Paul's concern for the work and the workers. (6) Thank you for human disagreements since it teaches us you can use us. (7) Thank you that there were two missionary journeys instead of one and both could fulfill the same original purpose.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Why rebuild the fallen house of David? James quotes the very words of the prophets in answer: "That the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord. . . ." The allusion in this text is the beautiful Temple of Solomon. When we consider the church as the rebuilt Temple we stand back in wonder. Remember its beauty? Its value? Its impressive size? It should have been built of the living stones of the Jewish nation. The purpose was to evangelize the Gentiles. How sadly did that purpose fail of fulfillment.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the midst of personal disagreement there is a need for prayer: (1) How could "many others" or even Paul and Barnabas teach your word unless they had

direct inspiration? (2) Give me such an earnest desire to spread your word today. (3) I want the same concern for those I have taught as filled the heart of Paul and Barnabas. (4) Could both be right in the disagreement over John Mark? (5) Was Paul applying his definition of love to John Mark? (Cf. I Cor. 13:3-9.) (6) Thank you for the encouraging words of I Pet. 5:13; Col. 4:10; II Tim. 4:11 and Philemon 24.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me for my service in your body today: (1) "The service of my Son's body requires many to teach." (2) "Disagreement does not necessarily mean anyone is right or wrong." (3) "Sometimes more is accomplished because of disagreement."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Tuvalu — Point for prayer: *Unreached peoples*: The few Christian groups are almost all confined to the Istanbul and Syrian border areas. The rest of the country and its many cities and provinces are virtually without any witness. Specific minorities for prayer: a) *the Kurds*: there may be only two to three believers in Turkey, and no outreach in their own languages. Pray both for the penetration of their mountain homeland and expatriate communities in Europe and North America with the gospel. Many follow the Alevi teachings, which give high regard to the Lord Jesus Christ, and are only nominal Muslims. b) *The ethnic Muslim minorities*. None have been evangelized in their native tongue; many are living in communities separated from the mainstream of national life. c) *The Iranis* have been streaming over the border to flee the war and radical Islam in their homeland. Most are too poor and ignorant of other languages to emigrate elsewhere. No one is reaching them. d) *The Central Asian refugees* from Communism; many from the unevanglized areas of the USSR and Afghanistan. There are Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Kirghiz, Tatars, Turkmen, etc.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Wounded for me, wounded for me,
There on the cross He was wounded for me;
Gone my transgressions, and now I am free,
All because Jesus was wounded for me.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Wednesday—

Emotional identity with you is so very, very important! I renew this relationship just now!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Beloved. This was said by God of his Son at his baptism and his transfiguration. It could well have been returned by the Son to the Father — “This is my beloved Father in whom I am well pleased.” This is indeed true of all men as they relate to you. Of all men you are the sum total of their emotional, mental and physical need! All the qualities of your being enhance you to us. We find in you the perfect expression of love. For ten thousand reasons we can call you “Beloved.” It is like some wonderful person whom to know is to love. *Only* when we know you do we love you. Left to ourselves, we feel a great loneliness that only you can fulfill. The one essential ingredient is “communion, or fellowship with you.”

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Beloved for me. This is a delight to express. How very, very much I have found you “The Beloved One”! I am not ignoring the days — and nights — of struggle, nor my disappointing coldness toward you, but you have not changed! You are and always have been “the beloved.” I surely agree with your estimate of Jesus — “your blessed Son” — our (my) beloved Savior and Lord — in him I also am very, very well pleased! I want to hear him and see him all over again — just for today — just right now! See him at the happy wedding feast; see him in the house of Levi around the banquet table; see him in Simon’s house addressing the prostitute; hear him say, “My joy I give to you and no man shall take it away.”

How do you personally relate to the belovedness of God, and God who is Beloved? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I cannot say that I have even consciously thought of

you as anything less than “beloved.” I have failed, however, to make this objective fact as subjectively personal as I should have and could have. To feel estranged from my beloved is sad, and for which I do indeed seek forgiveness. I rush again into your open arms! One sin listed in your word is “profanity” — to lower the pure to the dirt, to treat lightly and of little account that which is so important and valuable! Dear, dear God, how I need, how I want to make all of life sacred, holy, true, beautiful; to not “put down” what you have lifted up. All men are precious to you. Help me to look up beyond their words and actions as you do.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go;
Anywhere He leads me in this world below;
Anywhere without Him dearest joys would fade;
Anywhere with Jesus I am not afraid.
Anywhere! anywhere! Fear I cannot know;
Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁴⁰but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a **16** disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. —Acts 15:40-16:1, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I never tire of attempting to adopt your point of view in reading this text. It is so, so good to thank you, adore you and seek forgiveness as you speak to me. I

thought Silas left and returned to Jerusalem. Perhaps the time element is the answer — he did leave — time has gone by and he was returned, perhaps in answer to Paul's request to accompany him. Just how did "the brothers" at Antioch commend Paul and Silas to your grace? Did they pray? Did they fast? Were their hands laid on their heads? Thou knowest! What churches were in northern Syria? What churches were in Cilicia other than Tarsus? How I would like to know — one day I shall!

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Dear Lord, forgive my self-centeredness. I do want you to speak your word into my heart. Didn't Paul and Silas further evangelize in the areas of Syria and Cilicia? We cannot build a case on what is *not said*, but the strengthening of the love and devotion of those who were already Christians is what Luke deems important; so do I! There were several congregations in these two provinces. Did the prophets establish them? Was it better to have those who had direct inspiration rather than everyone with a copy of your revelation in their hand? Dear, dear Lord, it is not a matter of inspiration or revelation, it is a desperate need for motivation! Even in the primitive church of pure direction there were those who had a divided house.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Yes, yes — (1) Thank you, thank you for your grace that will protect me and direct me as well as forgive me. (2) Thank you for those who were willing to be missionaries without a missionary organization — or were "the brothers" at Antioch their source of support? (3) Thank you for telling me all over again my task is to strengthen churches as well as establish them. (4) Thank you for telling me churches can grow from the seed planted by anyone. (5) Thank you so much for Timothy — as Paul said, "There is none like him." (6) Thank you for "fruit that remains." Eunice and Lois and Timothy were probably all converts from the first trip. (7) Thank you for the challenge of winning Timothy's father.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... whose father was a Greek." There are so many wonderful people in the Bible who have just one flaw in their character — just one exception in an otherwise flawless record. Was it Timothy's fault his father was a Greek? Of course not, but it is always mentioned when we discuss Timothy. What is the "chink" in your armor? What is the hole in your dike? All of us have one. And we do not have one flaw; we have a thousand. There isn't one opening in our armor, there

are a hundred. The dike is all but swept away in the flood.

We have just described Timothy as man sees him, but as God sees him Paul's word could well describe him: "I have none like him."

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As we travel with Paul and Silas we pray: (1) Choose the very persons with whom I should work for you. (2) Thank you for those who pray for me today. I claim your grace. (3) Keep me aware that there are many more churches than those I have visited. (4) Lead me to men like Timothy. (5) Enable me to influence women like Eunice and Lois. (6) Give me the humility and honesty necessary to be like Timothy. (7) Thank you for the faith of mothers who share their treasure with their children.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Out of the experience of Timothy speak to me: (1) "There are jewels in the most unlikely places." (2) "I have a Timothy to take Mark's place in several of life's relationships." (3) "A Christian home is fine, but all my children are born again."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Uganda — Points for prayer: (1) *Pray for the government.* The economic and moral devastation caused by 20 years of unrestrained murder, tribal hatreds, and corruption have left a legacy of deep bitterness. Only deep spiritual transformation can bring about an effective, lasting reconciliation and reconstruction. (2) *The persecution of Christians* during Amin's reign of terror was a dark time. Nominalism, formalism and failure to check tribalism in the churches prevented the Church from unitedly standing up for the right. The result was the destruction of many churches and institutions, the loss through death and exile of some of Uganda's finest Christian leaders, and heavy loss of life among Christians. (3) *Ugandan missionary vision* has been expanded through exiled leaders and movements of refugees. Pray that the Ugandan believers may continue to develop missionary concern and send out workers to serve in other lands. Especially needy is nearby southern Sudan.

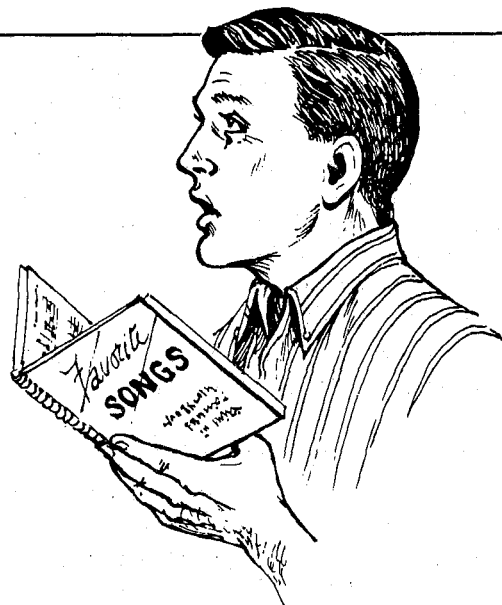
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in mine ear,
The sweetest name on earth.
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Because He first loved me!

WEEK ELEVEN

—Thursday—

All that you are can be summed up in the one word "Blessed" — Eagerly do I meditate — and express myself before you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Blessed. This has primary reference to our Lord (Luke 1:42), but God is in the highest possible sense of the word "THE BLESSED ONE." Indeed, indeed! How exalted above man. In every way I can think of you, you are blessed, i.e., have all things, all the qualities of beauty and goodness or moral excellence. You have all the capacities of ruling in power and love — the accumulation of all the more than one hundred qualities of yourself accumulated and multiplied could not truly express how much you are "blessed" — and in the same context, a blessing to all men.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Blessed for me. I want to praise or pronounce a blessing upon your name — to love you from my heart. I do so want to identify with you. "Bless the Lord O my inward being (soul) and forget not all his benefits." He has, he is, forgiving all my sins; healing all my diseases. Since this one word comes from the very heart of human-divine relationship I can only fall before you in speechless praise! Every blessing, or benefit in my life comes from the Blessed One — even yourself! Can I not pause now and review a thousand blessings given in the past year?

How do you personally relate to the blessing of God, and God who is Blessed? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The sin of ingratitude strikes so close to the cause of sin — selfishness! Dear God, forgive me for at any time associating myself as the source of any good thing — every good and perfect gift comes from you — not just some of them. The sin of "hatred" — i.e., for any man or woman — hatred — abhorrence for my sin and for sin itself should increase. Dear

God, I want it to! But the same attitude cannot, should not, will not be directed toward any man. Vengeance and revenge are too heavy for me; they belong to you. Dear Lord, you have heard from my heart my failures and disappointments — cleanse and forgive!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

My soul in sad exile was out on life's sea,
So burdened with sin and distress,
Till I heard a sweet voice saying,
"Make me your choice";
And I entered the "Haven of Rest"!
I've anchored my soul in the "Haven of Rest,"
I'll sail the wide seas no more;
The tempest may sweep o'er the wild, stormy deep,
In Jesus I'm safe evermore.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. ³Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. ⁵So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers. —Acts 16:2-5, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How gladly I take up the reading of your word with yourself! I try to take Timothy's place. I try to imagine how you saw Timothy. He must have asked many questions of the people from Antioch, Iconium, and his own house of Lystra. Did he go to Derbe too?

I.e., to make inquiry? As he inquired of Paul, others were inquiring about him — it is always so. What others only heard — and poorly reported — you knew perfectly. *Why* did Paul want to take this young man? Did Paul have need of a cook? An apprentice? I appreciate what I do not know, as well as what I do know about this journey. I'm so glad to worship and to inquire about the blank spaces.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How I want to imitate Timothy. I can learn so very much by following closely all that happened to him. I can and want to learn of his total devotion to carrying the good news — the number one priority in Paul's life was evangelism. Paul needed help and helpers — Paul was conscious of culture distinctions and problems, I must have, and even look for help in the work I do for my Lord. I cannot and will not run roughshod over the taboos of others. Dear Lord, help me to believe with Paul and Silas and all the disciples in each town that there are decisions reached by the apostles that *must* be obeyed. What was "the faith" in which the churches were strengthened? How could they grow so rapidly?

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Yea, Lord, gladly. (1) Thank you for the power to raise Paul from stoning at Lystra. This story has blessed untold millions. (2) Thank you that brothers who are not of the same town can recognize quality of character when they see it. (3) Thank you that team work is our Lord's work and Paul's work. (4) Thank you that you let me know here that it is sometimes better to ignore a problem than to fight it. (5) Thank you for men who are willing to overcome heredity defects that could hinder the spread of the word. (6) Thank you for the Holy Spirit's ability to work through apostles and elders. He must do that today. (7) Thank you for the emphasis on evangelism in the first century church.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"So the churches . . . grew daily in numbers." With no Bible — no publishing company — no TV or radio — with none of our special programs; i.e., campaigns of any type — without even a preacher, for Paul soon left — the increase of disciples was large and daily! How could it be? What caused it to happen? Dear Lord, how I would like to be able to answer these questions! I cannot say, I will not say, that these people were all so different and more easily persuaded than the people in my own town. Of course the direct input of inspired speaking must have been a telling factor, but we could speak the word of the Lord in

such a clear, interesting manner today if we would. These people allowed their relationship with our Lord to break through all barriers of social resistance.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Timothy's experience prompts us to pray: (1) Help me to follow again the experiences of Paul in these cities, to appreciate all that happened. (2) May I gather with Timothy, Eunice and Lois as we kneel before the broken body of Paul. When Paul opened his eyes he saw the tear stained faces of these loved ones (so we interpret II Tim. 1:4). (3) Give me such a consistent life that men might speak well of me. (4) I want to be a help to all those who work for you. (5) May I submit to anything necessary to better open the hearts of those who hear me. (6) How I want to deliver from town to town the decisions reached by your inspired writers. (7) Somehow may I be used to strengthen the church where I worship.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

There are several messages to hear from your word: (1) "Keep on following closely all Paul did." (2) "So live that men will see your good works and glorify me — not you." (3) "Churches can and should grow in numbers daily."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Uganda — Points for prayer: (1) *The Refugees*. The ebb and flow of refugees within Uganda and to and from neighboring lands has been enormous. There were estimated to be 800,000 Ugandan refugees in 1983. Pray for: a) *Stable political conditions* to help resettlement. b) *Aid* to enable the destitute to re-establish family life and a reasonable living standard. c) *Banyarwanda refugees* on the Rwanda-Uganda border. About 80,000 live in squalid camps and are rejected by both governments. Their economic status and long-term future is bleak. (2) *Christian leadership* for the growing Church is a pressing need. Many pastors bear responsibility for numerous congregations. Bible schools and seminaries will have to be re-equipped and staffed. Pray for the return and reintegration of former exiled leaders into the life of the churches.

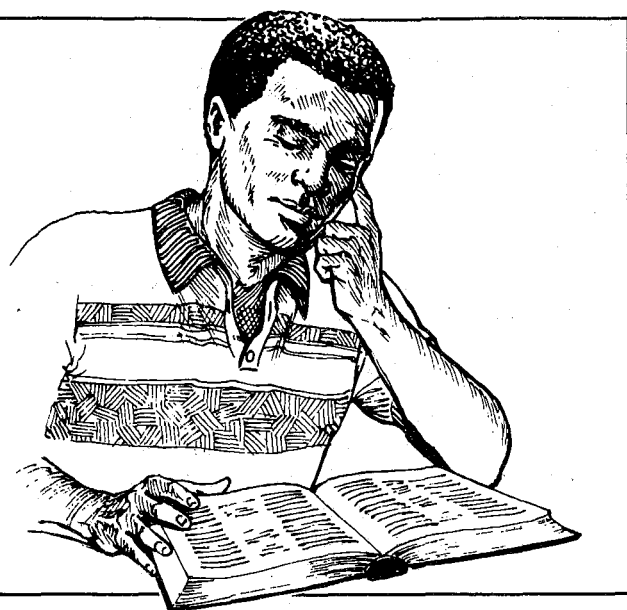
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Friday—

I am so glad to bow and worship the One who is even now building an eternal city for me.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Builder. God is portrayed as a builder in Psa. 102:16; 127:1; Matt. 16:18; 26:61; 27:40; John 3:13-22; Amos 9:11,12. It is wonderfully good to consider you as the builder and maker of all days! You are indeed “the builder” of everything, all the time, but it would be so much more meaningful if I would consider you as the builder of one life — representative of millions, even billions of lives: (1) You built the spirit which contains all powers of expression. I believe at this moment I am writing words because you built into my spirit or “programmed” my spirit with this capacity. (2) You also built the body in which man lives — it is wondrously made — out of the dust of the earth. The capacities and strength and durability of the organs you have built into the body are a constant source of amazement. Truly, truly on this day I want to praise you!

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Builder of myself. I have anticipated this quality of yourself, but it is here that you, the Builder, become real, powerful, personal! I want to watch your handiwork in building abilities into man. Let’s meditate and praise around the ability to paint. To be able to put on canvas or paper — or some substitute — a representation of what you have put before us is a true gift from you and surely one of your higher forms of building. To copy or transfer from sight the surface is one thing, and is truly a blessed thing to do, especially when we but try to express our appreciation of the physical world you have built — but to be able to see with the eye of the imagination and transfer that to a surface and then to see all the shades and shadows of the scene and express it. That is a true source of wonder and praise from my heart! What tremendous capacities you have built into man! Oh, praise and glory be to your name!

How do you personally relate to the building of God, and God who is Builder? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

To admit that I have not at all accepted your capacities for building in my own life is almost too obvious to be mentioned, but I do want to enter into the depth of confession and guilt and admit this very fundamental sin. I am far, far, far below what you could make me. I am speaking primarily of moral building. I believe you can (and will) enable me to “present my body a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you” — no longer as a vessel of selfish dishonor, but of honor for your service, by the renewing of my mind I can be transformed! Dear God, dear Lord, I this day do commit myself to a mind renewal; to a body giving. Forgive me for my unwillingness to receive your work in me!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

All the way my Savior leads me;
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my Guide!
Heav’nly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, whate’er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well;
For I know, whate’er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

“Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸So they passed by

Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹From Troas we put out to sea and sailed for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. — *Acts 16:6-11, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Now it is "Paul and *his* companions" — it used to be "Paul and Barnabas" or even "Barnabas and Paul" — why the change in leadership? I am glad to acknowledge this change; it teaches me much for today — ability expressed and used and matured is your way of change. Praise your name! How did the Holy Spirit keep them from preaching the word in Asia?

Why would the Holy Spirit want to hinder the preaching of the word at any time, any place? Once again they are held back — was it by a direct audible voice? Was it through a set of circumstances they attributed to you? Was it through mutual intuition that was defined as your voice?

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Yes, yes! Dear Lord, you *do* have priorities in places for preaching! Is this a one-time occurrence that has no principle for repetition? It would seem here that Europe would never have heard (at least at this time) if Paul had not been sensitive to the leading of the Spirit. Was there something in the hindrances of Asia and Bithynia that made them think about Macedonia? Am I to read into all the activities of my life the direction of your Spirit?

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for your negative answers — without them we would all have much less. (2) Thank you that the one job of these men — and your men today — is preaching the Word. (3) Thank you that the Holy Spirit is called "the Spirit of Jesus." I know what type of person he is. (4) Thank you that you appeal to us through men. (5) Thank you that you are willing to beg us to do your work. (6) Thank you that even the man of Macedonia didn't expect Paul to do it all — "help us" was his request. (7) Thank you that Paul acted at once — no procrastination or rationalization.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them." Here is a good example of being called to preach. Notice the factors involved: (1) Complete trust by the preacher. (2) Total desire to

preach anywhere to anyone. (3) Paul and his companions were already serving in whatever way they could. (4) The need of the people to be evangelized was communicated to Paul. (5) He had a vision of what could and should be done.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

While Paul was seeking direction for his service we can seek answers to our prayers: (1) Why am I sometimes prevented by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word? Give me wisdom to know. (2) Help me not to mistake my unwillingness for the hindrance of the Holy Spirit. (3) May the "Spirit of Jesus" give me definite help in my efforts to reach men with your word. (4) I do want to be responsive to any Macedonian call I might hear today. (5) Give me as good helpers as Paul had in Silas, Timothy and Luke. (6) I am glad to rest my travels in your hands.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In ways past my understanding, speak to me from these verses: (1) "There are many calls for help if you only had your ears open." (2) "Passing by a place where lost people live does not necessarily mean you are insensitive." (3) "Without your response to my message people will perish."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

USSR — Point for prayer: *The Church in USSR has suffered more severe and sustained persecution than that of any nation in recent history. Yet there is much cause for praise: a) The survival and spiritual growth of the Church.* The steady drop in total numbers has been compensated by a corresponding increase in spirituality and commitment. There has been steady growth among Evangelicals; 100 years ago there were hardly any in Russia itself. There are a large number of deeply committed Orthodox and Catholic believers too. b) *The bankruptcy of atheistic propaganda.* Enormous effort has been expended by the state to propagate atheism and discredit religion. The Marxist claim that the Church would wither away with the advent of Communism has not been fulfilled even with active efforts to destroy it. The proportion of believers steadily increases for many are converted as they grow older and become more disillusioned with atheism. c) *The impact of radio gospel programs.*

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Saturday—

You have chosen me — all other choices are unimportant in comparison. I bow to worship you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Chosen. In response to our Lord, but also related to the One who does the choosing (Isa. 28:16; 42:1-4; Haggai 2:23). In a sense we of ourselves could never know my Lord is *your Chosen One*. You are the One to make the choices. In the mundane matters of daily life it is good to know “our lives are ordered” or chosen by you. You have prepared our minds in the study of your word and in this way you direct our conduct, or exercise influence. In the larger arena of history you have been so very active in the choices of kings and rulers. I like to believe that at the final judgment we will all be able to see and understand your choices in the nations and peoples of the world. Most of all you have set aside your dear Son as *the Chosen One*, chosen to be given as Personified Love for us that we through him might live with you. Bless your wonderful name!

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Chosen for me. As you chose your Son, so in every life you have chosen us. Because I have chosen you, you have chosen me! Why? “To bring forth fruit” in my own life the fruit of Spirit-sponsored character — your kind of love, joy, peace, kindness. Dear God, may your purpose in choosing be fulfilled! Why have you chosen me? Not only to be, but to do. If your purpose of the salvation of the world is accomplished it will be through poor, weak people like myself. Dear Lord, I know you didn’t make a mistake in choosing me. May I not disappoint you, or myself! Why did you choose me? That I might be conformed to the image of your Son. He was the prototype for all who were chosen. Dear Lord, be formed in me! May I yield myself to him.

How do you personally relate to the choosing of God, and God who is the Chosen?

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Lord, forgive me for choosing my own way — choices *were* made each time I sinned! Dear Lord,

how clearly do I see that *discipline* is the first quality for development — *all the time!* I hear you speak to me: “If any man (this is me) would be my disciple (learner), let him (first) deny himself — take up his cross (a public declaration of the death sentence) and follow me” — does this mean that without this disciplined denial I cannot, or will not, follow you? What else *could* it mean? It no doubt means more but it will never mean less. Thank you for opening my mind. Forgive me for my selfish, undisciplined indulgence. Dear God, I want to choose your way that I might be chosen by you, i.e., in the area of overcoming sin. Thank you for cleansing.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

More about Jesus would I know,
More of His grace to others show;
More of His saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me.
More, more about Jesus,
More, more about Jesus;
More of His saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹²From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

¹³On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.

¹⁵When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us. — *Acts 16:12-15, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How I do want to go from Neapolis to Philippi! I know it is no problem for you to go every day. (For there are no days — you live in the everlasting now — so all past, present and future are open to you. What an amazing thought!) Could we walk in the streets and look into the shops? What did the river look like? How many women were present for the prayer meeting? What were they praying before Paul arrived?

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Why not preach on the streets? Why not call in the homes? Why go to a place of prayer for women? And on the Sabbath besides! Paul is my example in evangelism. I must search out those who have a felt need that relates to you. Not all religious people are saved. I can almost hear the message Paul preached to these sincere women — the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah fulfilled in Jesus. Do I know the scriptures well enough to do this?

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

I am glad to do this: (1) Thank you for the adventurous spirit of Paul and Silas and Timothy. (2) Thank you for religious associations we can use for telling the good news. (3) Thank you for all the beauties of your own outdoors — it makes it easy to pray. (4) Thank you for the Sabbath rest for the people of God toward which we all press. (5) Thank you for the strange fact that the first convert in Europe was from Asia. (6) Thank you that there are business people who love you more than money. (7) Thank you for the clear example of how to become a Christian.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message." Just who is a good prospect? How do we know who is "not far from the kingdom of God"? Lydia is a real good example. Those who choose God are chosen by God. The sincere openness on her part to worship God was a marvelous preparation for Paul's preaching. The arguments from the Old Testament fell upon receptive ears. Here was "the good and honest heart" that produced a harvest unto eternal life. We are glad to acknowledge the presence of God in all that happened, but we cannot ignore Lydia's attitude. She

herself referred to her attitude — "If you consider me a believer in the Lord." Our Lord said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be condemned." Lydia believed and was baptized and was saved.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Upon arrival at Philippi there are many things for which we can pray: (1) Is there a pattern for the choice of places of evangelism as seen in these verses? Grant me wisdom. (2) Did Paul keep up his personal devotional life in the midst of his travels? Help me to learn how. (3) How precious was the Sabbath to the Jewish people — do we have a *day* of worship? (4) Lead me to a group who will meet regularly with me in prayer. (5) Help me to share with women in the same concerned manner as Paul. (6) Open the hearts of those to whom I speak your word. (7) Open my mind and heart to always baptize converts for the same reason as Paul did.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me dear Lord: (1) "Accept hospitality; it helps those who offer it." (2) "Business people can sometimes be the very best prospects for salvation." (3) "Find those who have a felt need and meet it."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

USSR — Point for prayer: *Specific churches need prayer:* a) *The Orthodox Churches* survive under severe pressures such as the closure of 88% of all Russian Orthodox Churches, and infiltration of the leadership by agents of, or those prepared to compromise with, the atheist authorities. b) *The Roman Catholics* have suffered probably more than any other major ecclesiastical tradition. Most Catholics are now concentrated in Lithuania, Eastern Byelorussia and Western Ukraine. c) *The Lutheran Churches* are predominantly national churches in the two Baltic States. The Russian occupation of these independent states in 1940 brought great suffering and years of persecution. d) *The Registered AUCECB* is a government-engineered union of Baptist, Brethren, Pentecostal and Mennonite churches that submitted to government restrictions, which, if rigidly enforced, make evangelical Christianity and effective outreach extremely difficult.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He, whose words cannot be broken,
Formed thee for His own abode:
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.