

WEEK TWELVE

—Sunday—

Speak to me dear Lord, I am listening. I do need your counsel!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Counsellor. Isa. 9:6 — applied to our Lord — Isa. 11:2; 25:1; 40:13-28; 46:10; Jer. 23:18; 23:22. One who has absolute knowledge and wisdom — what a beautiful expression to describe yourself! Counselling is such a large part of the preacher's work today. How do you view some of our efforts? With your capacities our efforts must indeed seem feeble! How you long to be the confidant of all men on all levels with all problems. What a careful listening ear you would (and do) give to all men! What marvelous advice, what penetrating counsel you have for those who have ears. It was the habit of your dear Son to walk and talk and counsel men. Dear Father! May I hear him today!

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Counsellor for me! Oh, this is indeed how I view yourself. I am such a child, such a poor student. I do need so sorely your words of light and life. Dear Lord, how I long to sit like Mary at your feet and eagerly grasp each word. At the same time I lose interest when my energy lags. Dear Lord, you know my limitations. Forgive my negligence, strengthen my weakness. How good it would be to read and absorb every word you have spoken on 100 subjects! Such can be done in searching your word. It is so much easier to think of you as a counsellor in some subjective manner that requires no effort on my part but listening (and full many a time I do not want even to do this), but to suggest a careful research project! Do I have a greater need or a more important task?

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

How slow and dull I am in listening with the inner ear! Forgive me. It is more than rude not to listen when someone has an important word he wants to

share. It is more than impolite to be occupied with my own interests when you are speaking to my deepest needs. It is a sin! Forgive me, Oh, stop me! Unstop my ears! Shut my mouth! Make me to lie down in your green pastures to be healed by your words! It is in quietness I learn more than in the rush of many words! Forgive me, speak deep peace and calm to my whole life! For other sins that are only a result of this lack of attention, forgive! Cleanse, release!

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 hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

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

HIS WORD

¹⁶Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." ¹⁸She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

¹⁹When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰They brought them before the

magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

²²The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. — *Acts 16:16-22, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I perceive that Dr. Luke joined "Paul and his companions" (Timothy and Silas) at Troas. How did Paul find Luke? Or how did Luke find Paul? Why did Luke join the work? Was Luke a Christian at the time Paul first met him?

How often did they go to "the place of prayer"? Was it every day at 9, 12 and 3? Could Lydia interrupt her business so often? We do for coffee! Our hours are 10, 12 and 3, but we do pause for refreshment.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Demons could and did predict the future. Slavery was a very real part of first century society! I am so delighted to be the slave of the only one who knows unerringly all about the future. How often can the lost find me on the way to the place of prayer? Paul did have the capacity to discern spirits or identify the presence of a demon in this poor girl. However, Dr. Luke seems to indicate in his historical record that the presence of an evil spirit was evident to all: the actions and attitudes of the girl clearly indicated this. What strange words came to her mouth. But no different from those from demons who acknowledged the deity of my Lord.

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

How anxious I am to do this: (1) Thank you for the slave girl. What was her name? Surely she later became a slave to King Jesus. (2) Thank you that I am told again and again of the regular schedule of prayer time. (3) Thank you for the persistence in Paul's prayer and preaching pattern — he did it "for many days." (4) Thank you that it is *not* necessary to correct a problem as soon as you know of its existence. (5) Thank you that Paul was ready to pay the price of misunderstanding and judgment to help a possessed slave girl and to exonerate the name of our Lord. (6) Thank you I can be warned that whenever money is involved danger is present.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar." The contrast here is a little different than we face today, but what a change it would be if Christians

had the same testimony today! How many total cities have been affected with the good news? In Paul's day the real issue was ignored — the trumped up charge was money and politics, not the facts of salvation or miraculous powers. Dear Lord, somehow we are afraid of the consequences of challenging Satan's power in the lives of people.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As we read of the occult, we all need prayer: (1) Give me a place of prayer — with others and for myself. (2) May I always link prayer and evangelism. (3) Keep me, guard me from the evil one. (4) Deliver me from those who would distract hearers of your word. (5) Give me the courage to rebuke Satan in the lives of those who would be helped. (6) Overcome the prejudice of men in my efforts to teach the lost.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

There are so many things you could say to me in these verses: (1) "Never minimize the power of the love of money." (2) "Truth from an inconsistent life does not say anything to anyone."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

USSR — Point for prayer: The unregistered Baptists and Pentecostals have grown prolifically and have suffered intensely because of their refusal to compromise. In some areas the persecution has been particularly severe and the KGB is very much in control of the situation. The majority of the present leadership is in prison or exile. Pray for: a) A new generation of younger leaders to emerge. b) Those in prison, also their families and children who suffer so much. Maybe 400 leaders of the unregistered Baptists are behind bars in the infamous Gulags. Many Christian organizations in the West have details of such martyrs and their families for prayer and communication of letters of encouragement. c) The continued growth and multiplication of the churches, and the conversion of persecutors and informers.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus has loved me — wonderful Savior!
 Jesus has loved me, I cannot tell why;
 Came He to rescue sinners all worthless,
 My heart He conquered — for Him I would die.
 Glory to Jesus — wonderful Savior!
 Glory to Jesus, the One I adore;
 Glory to Jesus — wonderful Savior!
 Glory to Jesus, and praise evermore.

WEEK TWELVE

—Monday—

The joy of a new day is mine in you — only in you and because of you can I say this. Teach me to pray!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Dayspring. Luke 1:78; Isa. 11:1; Zech. 3:8; 6:12; Isa. 61:11. The uprising — the rising of the sun or a star. How lovely — and so much to be desired is the sunrise — to relate you to the sunrise — there could be no more beautiful figure of speech. The charming pastel colors I see in the sunrise do indeed remind me of you. There are so many ways you are the *Dayspring*! As is your dear Son: (1) A fresh, new beginning — the very source of this is yourself! How good to find we can start all over again! Bless your wonderful self! (2) Cool and still and calm, more than placid the silentness of all your movements, this is emphasized in a beautiful way at sunrise! (3) The colors of the morning — how soft and mysterious they are! Unknown except to the observer — soft and magnificent in shading — so is your total being, beyond human understanding, but soft and lovely. We can look and look and look at sunrise and wish it were always this time of day — so we do with you dear, beautiful, heavenly Father. The *Dayspring* on high! How full of amazement you are to us!

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

Dayspring to me. To continue the qualities of sunrise I have seen in you, and to relate them to myself! Oh, praise your name! (4) The promise of a new day — each day is new, has never been here before, is different and distinct. So is yourself — I shall never find enough days to reveal all the phases of your Being. Bless the Source of infinite variety! (5) The source of light is reminding us again that without him we would have no light.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Oh, to confess that I have been so unappreciative of the newness of life you give to all of life. Indeed, I do so confess! Forgive me! Lest I become only generic in

my admission of sin, let me say specifically that from sins listed in your word, “anger” is my sin. I do become angry with those I should love the most — my dear family. Oh, dear God, keep my heart soft and open, and like you. I know you can empower me to overcome this sin of the temperament. It is a pure form of sin for it comes as a direct extension of my own selfishness. Do, do forgive and cleanse me! Help me to relax and let you work out the problems of life.

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

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known;
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

HIS WORD

²³After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. ²⁷The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted, “Don't harm yourself! We are all here!”

—Acts 16:23-28, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, how can I relate these verses to yourself? Our high priest was so beaten, so misrepresented, if he hurt I know you did. I am sure in a way I cannot fully appreciate, you do suffer when any one of your children hurt. This is a capacity I just do not know how to express, but it is a great source of strength and identity for me, and all men with you. The first night in a strange place — with antagonistic strangers — there have been thousands (millions?) since who wondered if you knew or felt the deep hurt of a beating! Dear Lord, I believe you do — help my poor, limited understanding!

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I truly have a difficult time relating personally with this circumstance. I have never been so beaten. Never, under such conditions have I sung hymns. I am so glad to acknowledge the liberating power of song, i.e., to the human spirit. We are somehow lifted right out of our environment into the meaning of what we are singing. I wonder what Psalm or hymn or spiritual song Paul and Silas were singing? Whatever it was, it was loud enough to be heard by the other prisoners. Why is it that so many of your actions in human affairs are so sudden, so shocking? It must be that we poor mortals do not pay attention to your daily silent messages of your world about us.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the clear record of total commitment of these men. We could have never known of their beating if Luke had not recorded it. (2) Thank you for the example of the jailer who became one of the first trophies for King Jesus in the church at Philippi. (3) Thank you for the comfort of song. (4) Thank you for your answer to prayer in the form of an earthquake. This is not the first time (Read Acts 4:31). (5) Thank you for the insight this incident gives us into Roman law — the jailer's life was held forfeit — we appreciate our law system more. (6) Thank you for Paul's immediate reaction of concern for others. (7) Thank you for the unnamed prisoners who shared the jail with Paul and Silas. Were some of them converted? I plan on asking Paul one day.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Do yourself no harm for we are all here." What a good phrase to use for the church in the midst of a world bent on self-destruction. The injuries of most of the world are self-inflicted. Man seems determined to commit suicide regardless of his bounties. It is a strange but true fact that all men have within them the capacity for self-destruction. Such is a part of the wages of sin. How this old sad world needs more men like Paul, ready to lift up their voice like a trumpet and assure men that life *does* have meaning — all is *not* lost; there *is* hope.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

An earthquake moves many to pray: (1) Lord, prepare my heart to suffer for you. Forgive my lax, even luxurious living as compared with those who even now are suffering for you. (2) How can I truly understand the conditions of "the inner cell"? Speak to my conscience. (3) Oh, for a song to sing in every situation — teach me. (4) I want wisdom to be able to teach "prisoners" today the song of deliverance (5) May I be reminded of my Lord's words about those in prison today. (6) Give me the spontaneous courage to call out to the lost. (7) Lead me to someone who is even this day about to end his life. Open my heart to stop him to teach him.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

There are several messages from you to me in this text: (1) "No prison can hold my message prisoner." (2) "Find someone who hurts — he will hear my word." (3) "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

USSR — Point for prayer: *Persecution is a very real factor for believers.* It takes many forms: a) *Constant propaganda* and crude attempts at conversion to Communism at school, work and at home. Pray for believers to stand firm. b) *Discrimination* in education, job opportunities and housing condemn many believers to a life of privation and poverty. c) *Am-biguous legislation* which enables heavy fines and sentences to be handed down by courts for "criminal" activities. d) *Psychiatric treatment.* To many atheists, those with a religious belief suffer from mental illness. Pray for believers suffering in such "hospitals" — some estimate that around 1,000 prisoners of conscience are being maltreated in this way. e) *Imprisonment.* About 10,000 Christians are believed to have been sent to Siberian "gulags" or exiled for their faith. During the terrible purges in Stalin's rule during the '30s it is believed millions perished. Pray for those suffering because of their Christian testimony.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,
A wonderful Savior to me,
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
Where rivers of pleasure I see.
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;
He hideth my life in the depths of His love,
And covers me there with His hand,
And covers me there with His hand.

WEEK TWELVE

—Tuesday—

It would seem man is in constant need of a great deliverer — it is so today! I bow before you to receive your deliverance.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Deliverer. (Isa. 59:20; Rom. 11:26; Isa. 61:1,2; Psa. 14:7.) I truly empathize with this name. It seems to me you have been in the delivery business for a very long time with a great number of your people. Let's start at the beginning. Most of the deliverance was subjective, i.e., delivering man from himself as he yielded to Satan. Adam was delivered in the blood sacrifice from his own nakedness and guilt. Noah was delivered through water in an ark you helped him prepare. You delivered Abram from the pagan worship of idols. You delivered Lot from Sodom, but you had real problems in delivering Sodom from Lot and his daughters. You delivered Jacob from Laban and Jacob's own selfishness. Then there were those who would not be delivered! What a wonderful deliverer you are — in history and my own experience!

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

A deliverer for me! How many thousands of times you have delivered me! Oh, praise your wonderful name! How often have you delivered me from an accident that could have happened, but didn't? From how many bouts of sickness have I found blessed escape? From encounters with unreasonable men or circumstances, how often have I been delivered? Dear, dear Lord, you have made my way one of pleasantness and peace! How often, how many ten thousand times ten thousand have I been delivered from overbearing temptations? I have prayed so, so often, "Lead me not into temptation" and you have delivered me! Bless your marvelous hidden name! What other men call coincidence I *know* is your deliverance! As a father pitieth his children and gets up before they awake and provides in many ways for them, even removing some of their toys so they will not stumble, so you have done for me.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear, dear Lord, I have been so very negligent in seeing your deliverance. I have been so lacking in perception and faith. Please forgive me! It seems to me this is one of the most serious sins I have. It is such a sad reflection on my insensitiveness and selfishness — do forgive me and open my eyes! "Railing" is a sin mentioned in your word. At times I have done this — at my dear wife, or children, or myself — and in all such sin I am only railing at you. I was mad because I could not have or do or be something I thought was right. Oh, oh, the sin of it all! Forgive me! This is Satan's substitute for praise.

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 need Thee every hour,
Most precious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford.
I need Thee, O I need Thee;
Every hour I need Thee!
O Bless, me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee!

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

HIS WORD

²⁹The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰He then brought them out and asked, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household." ³²Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. ³⁴The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal

before them, and the whole family was filled with joy, because they had come to believe in God.

³⁵When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men," — Acts 16:29-35, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Oh, holy Father! How I do want to see these verses as you do! How very near to death and loss was the jailer! You know him as an individual — you know his family. How I would like to know his name and ask him how he transformed his interest from saving his life so quickly to saving his relationship with you. Somehow he associated the earthquake and safety of the men in his prison with Paul and Silas. How did he do this? Why did he? Dear Lord, I have so many questions you alone can answer. It would seem that physical safety and teaching about yourself and your Son were all a part of the same subject. Is this right? Why was everyone so concerned about baptism — even in the middle of the night? A meal was eaten in the early hours of the morning — how unusual!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Here I am a part of the jailer's household! What do I know about you before I meet Paul and Silas? Did I hear Paul or Silas speak in the synagogue? Perhaps my willingness or deep desire to believe is what led me to open my heart to the word of the Lord. All was accepted at face value as soon as it was spoken. How wonderfully good it is to embrace and cherish each blessed thought! I never tasted a meal that had such flavor and nourishment. There is no joy like that of the first opening of the eyes of my heart to the meaning of life from your perspective.

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 "the lights" that illumined the evidence of your destruction, but also the opportunity to hear your word. (2) Thank you for Paul — always ready to turn events to your advantage. (3) Thank you for the sincere evidence of repentance on the part of the jailer in washing the wounds of Paul and Silas. (4) Thank you for the preaching of baptism as a part of "the word of the Lord." (5) Thank you that this Gentile jailer could learn enough in a few hours to become a sincere Christian — yea, with all his house. (6) Thank you for the influence this father had over the members of his family. (7) Thank you for this clear model of evangelism and salvation.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"The whole family was filled with joy, because they

had come to believe in God." Here is surely one of the first Gentile families. There are several things to say about these wonderful people: (1) The father and mother had some really strong influence upon the children and in this case for good. How many members were there? (2) We must be discussing persons of an age of reasoning because they are "filled with joy" because of what they believed. (3) Their baptism must have been a part of their faith for it just preceded their expressions of happiness.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

The jailer's needs call forth requests in our own lives: (1) May I often fall down before you with a request for deliverance. (2) Keep me as aware of my need for a Savior as was the jailer. (3) Open my heart to know all that is included in believing in my Lord. (4) Dear Lord, save my whole household! (5) May I show my repentance as clearly as the jailer. (6) Help me to supply the same source for belief as given by Paul and Silas to the jailer. (7) Give me the joy of salvation — may it be based on the same foundation as that of the jailer and his household.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

How clearly you can speak to me out of this text: (1) "It will take a moral earthquake to save some people today." (2) "Men are saved today by the same word spoken to the jailer." (3) "Please notice *when* the jailer rejoiced."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

USSR — Points for prayer: (1) *Young people and children* are singled out for abuse, mockery and harassment if they follow their parents in believing and refuse to join the Communist youth groups. It is illegal for parents to teach their own children about the Lord, or for churches to allow those under 18 to attend services. (2) *Christian printing presses* have multiplied in the USSR despite the energetic efforts of the KGB. The work is dangerous; supplies are difficult to obtain and home-made presses hard to construct. Pray for those involved, and for their protection. There are reckoned to be only three million Bibles in the USSR.

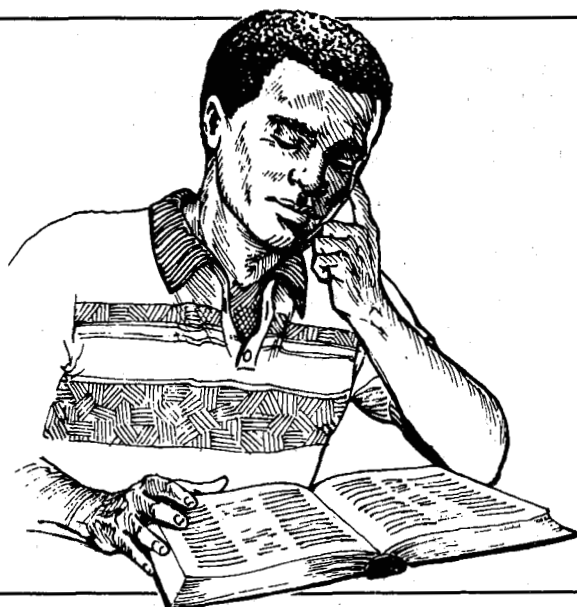
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I love Thy Kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

WEEK TWELVE

—Wednesday—

You are at work in the nations of the world. I want to share in your work. Teach me!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Desire(s) of all nations (Haggai 2:7). Precious, pleasant. “Whom you delight in” — “desirable.” Of our Lord, but of God also. Surely all nations — all men of all time desire him (you) not in a definable form. The deep dissatisfaction and yearning is but a reaching out to you. You give all men life and breath and everything else. You determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. Since you have such an investment in man, it is only a part of your design that men would once they found you, or better, you found them, would find you precious or most desirable. How wonderful it would be to have universal worship and love for you. Indeed you are my desire — my desires are fulfilled in 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

Desire of all nations for me. What a high and exalted Person I worship, i.e., as man would look at him — the focus of interest and desire for all nations of the world! All 220 nations reaching out to find fulfillment in you. Surely I should be mightily encouraged in this fact. At the same time I should stand aghast that more than half of the world’s population does not know you. Dear Lord, forgive me and help me to fulfill your intention that the knowledge of yourself should cover the earth like the waters cover the sea. Dear Lord, may this same kind of knowledge at least cover the “world” where I live! You are sending me out into it that I might be true.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

When I think of “blood guiltiness” I think of the lack of world evangelism. We now live in the year of

1982 [when these words were penned -- now 1990!], almost 2,000 years since our Lord gave the command — and yet, nations wait, full of desire not satisfied! What a reproach! Forgive me — I cannot ask for others. “Railing” (a sin I need to mention again) — yes, I’m guilty — I do not now think of a specific time or place, but I have railed at others, at circumstances, at an act poorly performed at least by my standards, and what good came of all these angry words? None! Sin came of it. Dear Lord, dear Lord as near as I can remember I have not railed at you. I am not immune, but I do want to be. Forgive my lack of love and faith.

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 must tell Jesus all of my trials;
I cannot bear these burdens alone;
In my distress He kindly will help me;
He ever loves and cares for His own.
I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus!
I cannot bear my burdens alone;
I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus!
Jesus can help me, Jesus alone.

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

HIS WORD

³⁶The jailer told Paul, “The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.”

³⁷But Paul said to the officers: “They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.”

³⁸The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman

citizens, they were alarmed. ³⁹They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. ⁴⁰After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and encouraged them. Then they left. — *Acts 16:36-40, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It seems each day is a new beginning in the worship and praise to you through your word — and indeed it is! Can you hear the words of the messengers who came to report the decision to release Paul and Silas? I am sure you can! These words were spoken 2,000 years ago, but time is no hindrance with you. "Instant play back" on any event of any life is no problem at all! How surprised and pleased the jailer must have been to hear the words of Paul. Evidently the rights of a Roman citizen were a proper claim when they would help the cause of yourself. How I would like to have been a spectator at the meeting of Paul and the magistrates. What happened to the good work at Philippi?

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How can I use the privileges of my American citizenship to the advantage of my Lord? The magistrates and officers, indeed the whole colony-right of Philippi, was put on trial by Paul's words. No wonder they were alarmed. Dear Lord, am I as ready to stand up and be counted as were these intrepid servants of yourself?

May I learn that the essential facts of many a case have never been considered. How many millions have lost their very lives — to say nothing of freedom — because of their love for you and your Son? How is it with my courage and boldness?

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 the jailer who was so full of joy and gratitude. (2) Thank you for Paul who spoke up and stood up for your place in the community. (3) Thank you for Silas who was glad to sing the second verse — to back up all Paul did — all you did through Paul. (4) For Timothy and Luke who began the experience in Philippi with Paul and Silas. What happened to them? (5) Thank you for the shock-wave that was sent through the Roman Colony. (6) Thank you for the maid who was "free indeed." (7) Thank you for Lydia and "the brothers" whom I confidently hope to meet in your home.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Shall we consider three thoughts on the work at

Philippi? (1) The blessed facts about the slave girl: (a) She found the greatest treasure — she obtained it from her owner. (b) She transferred masters — she was a glad, willing slave. (c) She found what she proclaimed: "The way to be saved." (2) Three helpful facts about Timothy: (a) He, like us, was a witness to all that happened at Philippi. (b) He somehow escaped the imprisonment. (c) He no doubt taught many people in the city. (3) How did the jailer come to have saving faith? He was moved by the earthquake and freeing of the prisoners to ask for salvation. Paul spoke the word of the Lord to him. He felt his lostness and welcomed God's answer through Paul. His saving faith included repentance, indicated in washing the wounds of Paul and Silas — it included baptism as indicated in the same hour.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Paul's actions and attitudes are the basis for many requests: (1) Give me the wisdom to answer those in power so you can give the advantage. (2) Keep me aware of my privileges as an American citizen — and to thank you for it. (3) May I right now review the privileges of my citizenship of heaven. (4) Help me to be able to separate what is an action of selfishness and pride — and what is not. (5) Thank you for the candid honesty of the Acts account. (6) May I have words of encouragement for "the brothers." (7) Thank you for those who continued the work in Philippi after Paul left.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In the fleeting hours of change speak to me: (1) "You need not always heed the words of officials." (2) "The most surprising actions for the advantage of the gospel are possible if you have courage." (3) "My church will be well and strong long after you leave."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

USSR — Point for prayer: *Christian radio* has been an exciting success story. Pray for: a) *The 10 or more Christian stations* that ring the USSR; important ones being *FEBC Manila*, *HCJB Ecuador*, *TWR Monaco*. There is one short-wave radio for every two people in the USSR, and millions listen! Yet the ministry is expensive, and spiralling costs must be met to continue the ministry. b) *Those preparing radio programs* need a deep understanding of the different cultures and intimate knowledge of the languages. Such are hard to find! c) *Follow-up* is complicated and demanding.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

We praise Thee, O God! for the Son of Thy love,
For Jesus who died, and is now gone above.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
Hallelujah! amen;
Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again.

WEEK TWELVE

—Thursday—

*Show me your goodness yet once again.
It is in prayer this can happen. Expectantly do I approach you.*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"And he said, I will make all my *goodness* pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee" (Exod. 33:19). Indeed this is just what you have done throughout all my life. I wish to acknowledge this quality of yourself. How you did fulfill the promise to Moses: (1) He was an unusual child when he was born (is not every baby so considered by the parents?). Thanks be to you, such was indeed true of this son of Jochebed. (2) He was born into a loving, caring family. How good it was to find a mother and father with such courage. (3) What unusual goodness came his way when he was "found" by the Pharaoh's daughter — he could have been discovered and destroyed by any one of many others. (4) What a good education you gave him! (5) What you did in the past life of Moses was only typical of what was to come. Praise your wonderful name!

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

Your goodness has been more than evident in my life. Oh, bless and adore your very essential Being — which is altogether good! If I believe you are good — and I do — then I will look for expressions of this in my life. They are not hard to find: (1) I was born into a loving home. I believe my father almost worshiped my mother in his love for her. He was born into a very humble circumstance — commercial fisherman and logger. His mother died when he was born; his father raised him. A good deal of raising me was done by him; my mother was sick a good deal of the time, but I'm sure I was very much wanted and loved when I came. I thank you for this. (2) The care and provision of food and clothing and a home was a very big concern of my parents — thanks to you through them. (3) A trust and love for my parents was easily transferred to you. Praise your name! And praise you for Marie and Charles, my dear mother and father.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Surely your goodness has led me to repentance — and more than once this has happened. I want to change my mind again and again as I rethink your word in the two books of nature and the Bible, to say nothing of the record of your blessing and direction in my daily living. How totally selfish and thoughtless I have been. Forgive me! I would have long been in hell had you given me what I so richly deserved. "Shameful speaking" is a sin mentioned in your word. Dear Lord, if you could play back examples of this sin in my life — and I know you could — what ones of the many would you choose? I know I would bow my head and heart in shame as I do now, and no doubt I would be as surprised as much in what you included as what you left out. Dear God, forgive 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

Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp, and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

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

HIS WORD

17 When they had passed through Amphipolis and Appolonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ²As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said. "Some of the Jews were

persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women. — *Acts 17:1-4, NIV* Read also II Thess. 3:7,8

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Gladly, gladly do I approach this time of worship with you. How I would like to go into the Jewish synagogue of Thessalonica. Can I hear the conversations of several groups gathered? Is it dark or light inside the building? What were the fragrances? Paul was in the custom of attending, i.e., from his childhood. He had a new, delightful message in a very old setting. Dear Lord, I want to hear it.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

What did Paul and Silas do during the three weeks? I.e., between Sabbath days? "Out of the heart proceed the issues (or actions and motivations) of life." They spoke personally and door to door about our Lord (i.e., if Ephesus is an example). I want to listen ever so closely to what Paul is saying: "He reasoned with them from the Scriptures." His reasoning was in the form of explaining and "proving." This says *so much* to me. The Holy Spirit supplements and implements all that Paul says, i.e., the Holy Spirit gave the Old Testament scriptures. The Holy Spirit gave Paul wisdom (the best use of the knowledge he obtained by his study of the Old Testament).

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, dear Lord, for the example of the apostles who were selective in where they preached the word. (2) Thank you for good habits — such as regular attendance of public worship. (3) Thank you for your wonderful Scriptures — the same ones Paul used. (4) Thank you I can reason — explain and prove in the use of your word. (5) Thank you that I am convinced Jesus is your Son and my anointed King. (6) Oh, for the meaning of his suffering and resurrection — how could I ever thank you enough? (7) Thank you for the power of the gospel in all social strata of mankind.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"We worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you" (II Thess. 3:7,8). What an example Paul and Silas were to the Thessalonians — and to all of us. Would he be classified as a workaholic? As compared with whom? Our Lord?

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

While working for you in Thessalonica there was much reason for prayer: (1) Give me "customs" or habits that lead me to places of worship. (2) I need your wisdom to be able to reason from your word. (3) I do want the same approach to religious people today as seen in the life of Paul. (4) Open the eyes of my heart to see again your suffering Servant put to death for my sins. (5) Show me again the open tomb. (6) What an example of energy under your control is seen in the life of Paul and Silas. I want to be like them!

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I am glad to hear you speak to me from these verses: (1) "Paul passed by some large cities to find one where he would have the ears of the people." (2) "Men are fickle and inconsistent, but so are you." (3) "I am always the same and I love you and will use you."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

United Arab Emirates — Points for prayer: (1) *The radical changes of the last two decades* have made UAE citizens more cosmopolitan and open to new ideas. Many are in daily contact with foreigners and with all forms of media. Yet the effects of Islamic fundamentalism have increased restrictions on communicating the gospel. Pray for open doors and open hearts. (2) *Several Christian medical agencies* were invited in to serve the people. The continuance of these ministries is dependent on good relationships with the authorities. Christians serve in difficult conditions with little visible fruit. (3) *Expatriate Christians* have considerable freedom for witness and worship. Pray for the various English, Arabic, Urdu and Indian language worship groups and congregations that meet. They need grace to evangelize their own ethnic groups in a materialistic society. They need even more grace to evangelize across cultural barriers to other un-reached peoples.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I will sing of my Redeemer
And His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
From the curse to set me free.
Sing, oh, sing of my Redeemer,
With His blood He purchased me,
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt and made me free.

WEEK TWELVE

—Friday—

You have my way already charted — I gladly pause to learn your plan for me today.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“... unto a land that I will show you” (Gen. 12:1b). *You are our guide!* Bless and praise your name. As he guided the wise men to Bethlehem by the finger of light, so he makes so plain the path of duty that “the wayfaring man, though a fool, shall not err therein” (Isa. 35:8). How reassuring to know our way is under *your* direction. We can place ourselves confidently in your hands. Just for today (I have no other). I give myself to you to show me the path I should take.

“And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.” Dear Lord, let me learn the lessons in this for me: (1) It is your very self manifested in the circumstances of my life today — you are *in* the phone calls, letters, people, etc., of today’s activities. (2) You are present to guide at night — I can choose to stay in my tent and not look for the fire!

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

Guide for me. I apologize for the personalness of the above — what I said of myself, I say for all — “as thou very well knowest”! Dear Lord, how glad I am to acknowledge your direction for my life. (3) The cloud was high in the sky to give general direction. It was up to the people to step over the stones and avoid the snakes. So it is with the plain principles in your word — my pillar of cloud and fire. You said “to prefer one another fervently from the heart” — even those who are not at all lovable. (4) God expects us to move — we *are* moving whether we know it or not.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

How easy and “natural” it is to make up my own mind and ignore your presence or interest in the “affairs of this life.” Dear God, this must be the ultimate sin — forgive, forgive me! Kindly, patiently, let me walk through this day!

A sin listed in your word is “passion.” This is a synonym for illicit sex, i.e., arousing the desire of sex with someone other than your wife. Dear God, forgive me! The sex desire is generic — like the desire for food is generic — we make the choice of where and when and how these desires will be fulfilled. If we decide that your choice of food is not adequate or attractive, we look elsewhere. We are essentially saying, “You do not know what you are doing — I know how better to satisfy these desires than you do.” Oh, oh, what a sin! Forgive me!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Are you weary, are you heavy-hearted?
Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus;
Are you grieving over joys departed?
Tell it to Jesus alone.
Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus,
He is a friend that’s well known;
You’ve no other such a friend or brother,
Tell it to Jesus alone.

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

HIS WORD

⁵But the Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason’s house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. —Acts 17:5, NIV

¹⁶for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. —Phil. 4:16, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Father, how I do want to stand back from the text and attempt to see it through your eyes — at the same time to praise you for what I see. Paul was truly in need in Thessalonica. Again and again he was hungry and had no certain dwelling place. Even with his working night and day, he was overjoyed with the gifts from Philippi. Am I right in this estimate? There must have been some exchange between the two cities. These people were truly interested in each other — they cared! So much like you! I know you care for me, for you have sent me aid again and again when I was in need.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

There are always “bad characters” around. They frequent the “market places” of the whole wide world. It is only because someone did not get to their parents or grandparents with the “good news” of regeneration. What terrible things jealousy will cause men to do, will cause *me* to do! What a lesson there is for me in these few words. Paul stayed in the most difficult town in spite of all opposition — up until his life was threatened — then he left, but not until then. How did Jason react to this circumstance? We believe he gladly paid the bond. Even in the distortion of the truth there is an element of truth. There is another king and *his name is Jesus!*

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 the dear friendship of those who care — and “put their money where their mouth is.” (2) Thank you for those who do not care once and forget until next Christmas, but come again and again to help. (3) Thank you for the aggressiveness of Paul and Silas that caused a real threat to someone’s status. (4) Thank you for the “ring of truth” in all this account. (5) Thank you for Jason who helped an unpopular cause and leader. (6) Thank you for yourself as the silent observer of all that happened. (7) Thank you for Dr. Luke who researched so carefully the facts of this incident.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*Bad characters from the marketplace.*” There never seems to be a lack of such persons. How many millions are there today in the marketplaces of the world? Why are they “bad”? Only because their purpose in life was bad. When there is no reason for living beyond the daily routine of today and tomorrow, frustration sets in and anger and meanness become a way of life. Such a lifestyle prevents responsible work — a “quick dollar” is a welcome offer to such persons. Dear Lord, shall we ever break out of our little mold of middle class respectability and go to the

marketplace?

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

The opposition in Thessalonica moved Paul to pray, and it does the same for me: (1) Thank you for those dear people who remember with gifts those who labor for you. (2) Keep me aware that jealousy is a very common sin. (3) Guard my heart with your peace that I might not envy others. (4) Thank you for every person with whom I have stayed in my many travels. (5) Keep me aware that there are men in today’s marketplace who will do anything for money. (6) Dear Lord, deliver me from the deadness of a “*religious club*” with a social emphasis. (7) Give me the excitement of suffering for your name’s sake. (8) Guard me from seeking sensationalism.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

There is much you can say to me in your word: (1) “There are those who work for me today who are in need — you could send them a gift.” (2) “Jealousy is self-destructive.” (3) “Violence is still possible today.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

United Kingdom (Britain) — Points for prayer: (1) *The century-long decline in church membership and attendances is slowing; many congregations are starting to grow, and there is an air of faith and expectancy that the long-awaited revival is round the corner. May it come; and may Britain become a spiritual blessing to the world!* (2) *Traumatic social change, increasing violence and the breakdown of moral standards before the tide of secular humanism has shocked many to realize that something has gone seriously wrong. There is a willingness among young and old to consider the claims of Christ. Pray that millions may yield to Him! The campaigns of Billy Graham and Luis Palau (1982-85) were respectfully received and fruitful. Effective church-based evangelism must become more important.* (3) *There is a new confidence among evangelical believers. Decline is predominantly in non-evangelical congregations. Liberal theological institutions are nearly empty, and evangelical ones are full to overflowing.*

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When I saw the cleansing fountain
Open wide for all my sin,
I obeyed the spirit’s wooing,
When he said, Wilt thou be clean?
I will praise Him! I will praise Him!
Praise the Lamb for sinners slain;
Give Him glory, all ye people,
For His blood can wash away each stain.

WEEK TWELVE

—Saturday—

No promise of yours has ever failed in fulfillment — I pause to review and renew what you have promised.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Faithful who promised. Dear Lord, this does so fully describe you. In so many promises you have demonstrated your concern and your faithful interest in the affairs of men. Bless your name for this wonderful quality. It is awesome to consider your promises of wrath were just as real and true as your fulfillment of blessings. The promise of a flood, the promise of destruction for Sodom, the promise of the death of the first born — all these are now historical facts that were once only words. The promise of a great nation — of the land of Canaan — your presence in the sanctuary and Temple as well as in the bodies of your children are also eloquent testimonies that you are faithful to your promises. How I rest upon your promises for this day.

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

Faithful to me who promised. You promised to me release from all the weight of my sin. Bless your name — you *are* faithful. You promised my name in the eternal roll book of heaven — it is there even now! Dear God, I purpose to remain faithful, not perfect (in the sense of sinless), but mature and in this sense perfect. You have promised to treat me as a needy son and supply my lack. In a wonderful way you have done this physically, and I would not minimize this, but in so many other precious ways you have, and are meeting my heart needs. You are so good to me!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

That I have not always relied upon your promises — dear Lord, I have not even known them — forgive me! I have so often wandered as an orphan when all

the while you were a searching Father. Dear Father, forgive me and receive me!

Another sin listed in your word is “covetousness.” This is essentially wanting that which belongs to someone else — another form of stealing, but it refers not so much to the act as the desire to act. What have I wanted, yearned after, that belonged to my neighbor or relative? Right here and right now I cannot think of anything, but I’m sure I have done so — reveal to me the deceitfulness of my heart, the frailty and pride of my memory. The desire to be accepted among men is a form of covetousness. Dear Lord, open my mind and humble my spirit. 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

Thou, my everlasting portion,
More than friend or life to me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Savior, let me walk with Thee.

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

HIS WORD

⁶But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting: “These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, ⁷and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.” ⁸When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. ⁹Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

¹⁰As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹Now the Bereans were of

more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. —Acts 17:6-11, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The cry of alarm still rings in your ears. I am sure however we represent the gathering before the city officials it is less than complete. But I do want to identify with you and each person at the trial. Who expressed the charge? It *was true* that men like Jason had effected the "whole world." (Read again Col. 1:23.) It *was true* that there is another king than Caesar and his name is Jesus! It *was true* that these men defied the laws of the government when they contradicted your laws! What excitement! What turmoil! But it was all so clear and obvious to you.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How can I sit passively by and not reason and persuade men? I refer to men who have not heard what you have said. Dear Lord, I purpose to reach every man and woman, every boy and girl, in the city where I live. I cannot be personally responsible for people in Africa or India, but I am going to be held for those right next door or in the next block. I believe there are many faithful, trusting men like Jason, but they will never be discovered without men like Paul and Silas. Dear God, at least I can be Jason.

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 the unnamed brothers who shared the unjust trial with Jason. (2) Thank you we can affect and effect society. (3) Thank you some are ready to invest their money in the cause. (4) Thank you for the example of leaving as well as staying. (5) Thank you for the noble Bereans. (6) Thank you that we do not have to travel far to find an entirely new environment. (7) Thank you we have your wonderful scriptures today we can search and believe just like those of Berea!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Meditate on this word: ". . . they received the message with great eagerness." Does not your message merit eagerness? They were eager to hear of the fulfillment of prophecy in Jesus of Nazareth — their Messiah. We Gentiles can never appreciate the long hopes of the Jewish nation. They were eager to hear how they would "escape the corruption that is in the world through lust." Oh, to find "the Way," to be the overcomer instead of the overcome, to be the victor instead of the victim. To not just drag along and live somehow, but triumphantly! Our blessed Savior

fulfills his name! They were eager to find the relief of forgiveness, which could never be found in the law.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In Acts 17:6-11 several reasons for prayer arise: (1) Dear Lord, help me to so live and work for you that at least men will do more than yawn. (2) In several areas of my life I need Jesus to be king. (3) Give me friends like Jason who will risk life and money for you. (4) May I have the courage of Paul to leave when your work is helped by my doing so. (5) Thank you for those I meet who have the same attitude as those of Berea. (6) Keep me always aware that just nearby is a much better response to your word. (7) Give me wisdom as I read again the two letters Paul wrote to the Thessalonians.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I am sure Paul prayed often and sought your direction while working in Thessalonica. What do you say to me from this text? (1) "There is another king — his name is Jesus." (2) "Appreciate those who suffer unjustly — sometimes because of you." (3) "I have a nobility in the world — they are all who are like the Bereans."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

United Kingdom — Points for prayer: (1) *Social breakdown* and increasing violence in the cities, divorce, drug abuse, immorality, and a helpless despair could take the country further down the road to disaster. Pray for a national repentance, and return to God that will once more restore this nation to the spiritual greatness that made it one of the greatest moral and spiritual forces in modern history. The government needs prayer that legislation may be both just and morally uplifting, and not passed for expediency. (2) *The lack of concern of many evangelical believers for the spiritual and moral collapse around them.* Many believers are smugly ignorant of the stagnation and lack of outreach to the many without Christ and without hope. Revival is the need once more. (3) *The influx of non-Christian religions.* Many of the spokesmen of Islam, Buddhism, etc. vociferously push for legislation that will favor their religions, and demand freedoms they would never grant Christians in their lands of origin. The mission field has come to Britain, but few stir themselves to win these people to Christ.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

To God be the glory, great things He has done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the Lifegate that all may go in.