

WEEK TWELVE

—Sunday—

*Jesus never fails — and you love me —
how welcome I must be in your
presence!*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant, Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight” (Psa. 119:76,77). You are the fountain of everlasting love — and a love expressed in such a way as to give personal comfort to each of your children. This quality is expressed in other translations as “merciful kindness.” These words are a happy combination — “They express exactly what we need in affliction: mercy to forgive sin, and kindness to sustain under sorrow. With these we can be comfortable in the cloudy and dark days, and without them we are wretched indeed” (*ibid*).

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

The King James version calls “compassion” “tender mercies.” This is a dear sweet expression. David was hard pressed in his life when he wrote these words. He despaired of his very life and felt if you did not intervene he would die. Is this not my condition each day? I do live by your tender mercies. I find peace in looking up to you as One who looks upon me with deep compassionate interest. It is out of your word I will find the source of delight. “To delight in the word when it rebukes us, is proof that we are profiting under it” (*ibid*).

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

How easy it is to accept your unfailing love and find comfort in such a position. At the same time am I ready to serve you, or just to enjoy your gifts of mercy? If I am truly your servant then I must believe you expect me to take an interest in what pleases you. I

belong to you. The conduct of my life speaks loud and clear that full many a time I act as if I belonged to myself and none other. Dear Lord, forgive. A servant has but one master — else both he and his master suffer. The master I must overcome before I can serve you adequately is my own self. Help 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

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

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, —Romans 1:18, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

“The whole world lieth in the evil one.” Indeed the description given in verses 18 through 32 pictures the Gentile world in which we live. Such sins are not ignored by yourself. Your judgment is already being expressed against them — and shall be expressed on the last day. Nothing happens on earth that is not known in heaven. Your disapproval of sin is built right into the act of sinning — sin is self destructive. There are only two types of sin, “ungodliness” — i.e., sin against your Person — and “unrighteousness” i.e., sin against your law.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Man today wants to leave you and your law out of his life. I believe your truth — i.e., the truth of your very being is implicit in man — indeed a part of the image of yourself man's right of creation. It is possible to suppress this fact — and men do it constantly. Not without the aid of the evil one. This is the antithesis of what I want to do. I want to include you in all of my life — every minute of it. I want to constantly meditate on your law — day and night. I want your truth to be heralded forth from my life. Break all the shackles of hesitancy and give me the liberty of speech and thought!

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 assurance that there will be a balance in good and evil. (2) Thank you that heaven does not ignore sin and evil. (3) Thank you for the solid assurance that evil is self-defeating. (4) Thank you for the desire to worship — a part of the nature of all men. (5) Thank you for your word that tells me where to direct my worship. (6) Thank you that the truth can never be finally suppressed.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... who suppress the truth by their wickedness.” If one knows the truth and yet acts contrary to it they themselves will feel a sense of suppression. Far from being ignorantly innocent these persons act against their own conscience. It is impossible to suppress the truth if one does not have the truth. A continual practice of such suppression will produce a callousness and indifference to truth. Continued long enough rationalization sets in and they exchange the truth of God for a lie. Professing themselves to be wise they become fools.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Surely there is much cause for prayer here. (1) Keep me aware that your wrath is just as real as your love. (2) Since your word contains a record of this revelation of your wrath open my eyes to see it. (3) May we be as impressed with your greatness on earth as the angels are in heaven. (4) Keep me constantly aware that no sin is ignored by you. (5) Sensitize my heart to the terribleness of the sin of irreverence.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me from your word and heaven: (1) “My wrath is being revealed from heaven against sin right

now — i.e., if you have eyes to see it.” (2) “The one primary sin is leaving me out of life.” (3) “My truth is always ready to be released.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Argentina — Points for prayer: (1) *A feeling of helpless despair swept through the nation due to the political and economic upheavals of the last decade.* This helped to open the hearts of many to the gospel. Pray that many may turn from superstition, witchcraft and sin to a living hope in Jesus. Pray for the young people and their salvation, as many have turned to immorality and drugs. Praise for the new air of excitement and expectation among Evangelicals for future advance! (2) *There is still prejudice against Protestants*, which is heightened by the activities of fast-growing sectarian groups such as the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses. Pray for a fervent evangelistic spirit among the believers and a willingness to witness to the Roman Catholic majority. (3) *Leadership training* — there is a need for godly theologians and pastors who will stand for the truth in the Argentinian context. Many theological colleges emphasize humanism, liberation theology and social action rather than the preaching of the Word. The Protestant Church is largely evangelical, but could be influenced by such teaching. (4) *Missions.* The greatest need is for mature missionaries able to assist the Church in Bible teaching, church planting and imparting a missionary vision. (5) *The missionary vision of the Argentinian Church is small but growing.* A number of evangelical and Pentecostal churches support missionaries in Argentina and abroad. Pray for this vision to grow despite the economic difficulties in the land.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!
Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.
Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.
A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun,
Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.
O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

WEEK TWELVE

—Monday—

Your mercy and goodness is new every morning — and every time I enter the closet of prayer.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“My eyes fail, looking for your promise; I say, ‘When will you comfort me?’ Though I am like a wineskin in the smoke, I do not forget your decrees” (Psa. 119:82,83). Dear Lord, I praise you for those in years gone by who praised you in such beautiful words: “To read this word till the eyes can no longer see is but a small thing compared with watching for the fulfillment of the promise till the inner eyes of expectancy begin to grow dim with hope deferred. . . . this experience of waiting and fainting is well known by full-grown saints, and it teaches them many precious lessons which they would never learn by any other means” (ibid).

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

“The skins used for containing wine, when emptied, were hung up in the tent, and when the tent reeked with smoke the skins grew black and sooty, and in the heat they became wrinkled and worn. The Psalmist’s face through sorrow had become dark and dismal, furrowed and lined; indeed his whole body had so sympathized with his sorrowing mind as to have lost its native moisture, and to have become like a skin dried and tanned” (ibid). Is David using poetic license to describe something that really never happened? Is he only piously exaggerating? Dear Lord, no, no! We are so far below the measure of his devotion we are confused with such love. Forgive me!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

“What a metaphor for a man to use who was certainly a poet, a divine, and a master in Israel, if not a king, and a man after God’s own heart! It is little

wonder if we, commoner folk, are made to think very little of ourselves, and are filled with darkness of mind” (ibid). Yea, I am indeed filled with distress of mind that I was not filled with much more distress of mind. My eyes have often turned away to other things if I did not see almost an immediate fulfillment of your promise. Dear Lord, what a terrible sin — forgive me. I do want to remember your decrees — often today may I do it!

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

Jesus, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see
And in Thy presence rest.

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

HIS WORD

¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. —Romans 1:19,20, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

“Even entirely apart from special revelation through the gospel, which ever so many Gentiles have never heard, God has made himself known and continues to do so by means of his general revelation in nature, history, and conscience; here, as the sequel indicates, with emphasis on God’s revelation in nature: that is, in ‘creation.’ ” (Hendricksen). If Gentiles without your word are without excuse what shall we say of us Gentiles who have both revelations of yourself? There

are three things about yourself I can know from what you have created: (1) You are invisible; (2) you have eternal power; (3) you are divine, i.e., far above and apart from man.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Dear Lord I want to learn all I can by my observation of your handiwork. Tonight I want to contemplate the heavens and think again how vast — how immeasurably immense is the cosmos in which we are but an infinitesimal speck! Turn my eyes downward to the grass under my feet. I want to lift one blade of grass and pause to think of the One who could fashion such a lovely thing! What of the mystery of growth from the seed to this plant? What of the marvelous means you have for watering such a plant? Dear Lord, I worship in wonder before you.

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 that your invisible qualities have always been knowable. (2) Thank you that even now I can appreciate these lovely qualities of yourself. (3) Thank you for the concern you have for all men of all time inasmuch you have given them two revelations of yourself. (4) Thank you for your incredible eternal power — observable anytime I want to look. (5) Thank you for your “other worldly” nature — it gives me hope and peace. (6) Thank you that you have left us with evidence and no excuses.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... so that these people are without excuse.” Is Paul saying that the whole world is without excuse for their sin? There hardly seems to be another conclusion. If the wages of sin is eternal death then indeed the world is lost! Even at the best when these Gentiles who have not the law do by nature things required by the law they do not obey perfectly and therefore sin and are therefore lost. How very much is the gospel needed! What a debt we have to pay! Dear Lord, open our hearts!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the face of this overwhelming need what are my requests? (1) Only in the good news do we find your dynamic for salvation — I want to tell it today — give me the opportunity. (2) Deepen my appreciation of the revelation of yourself in my observation of your handiwork. (3) I need wisdom in telling others of your eternal power. (4) If you said “men are without excuse” then they are without excuse — crystalize my

convictions on this truth. (5) How much more meaningful is the message of the gospel when we consider how many men do not have it. Keep this fact up front in my mind.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to my conscience with this text: (1) “More truth is being suppressed today than when Paul wrote these words — there are more men.” (2) “In the face of this need what will you do?” (3) “You have less excuse than many men.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Argentina — Points for prayer: (1) *There have been many conversions in the land since 1976*, but this has not resulted in the expected growth in the churches. The rate of backsliding is high. Pray for revival to stir the churches into new life. The dramatic impact in imaginative evangelism and church growth by “Vision de Futuro” is cause for much praise. Many believe that Argentina is on the threshold of great church growth; pray it into being. (2) *Areas of weakness in the Protestant churches are shared for prayerful concern.* a) Superficiality in conversions and inadequate follow up of those who profess faith in Christ. b) Divisiveness over personalities and doctrine — especially the charismatic issue. c) Insufficient leaders for the churches to be able both to teach the believers and mobilize them for evangelism. d) The high loss of believers’ children to the world. (3) *The “Allianza Cristiana de las Iglesias Evangelicas” (ACIERA)* was formed in 1982 as a rallying point for Evangelicals. Its purpose is to promote evangelism and give a united stand for biblical truth nationally and internationally. Pray for a unity of believers that will speed the evangelization of Argentina and the world.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

This is my Father’s world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas —
His hand the wonders wrought.
This is my Father’s world,
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker’s praise.
This is my Father’s world:
He shines in all that’s fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

WEEK TWELVE

—Tuesday—

Salvation — right here and right now are mine. Renew this blessed fact.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"Save me, for I am yours; I have sought out your precepts. The wicked are waiting to destroy me, but I will ponder your statutes" (Psa. 119:94,95). We are yours by creation, election, redemption, surrender, and acceptance; and therefore our hope is firm that you will save us. "A man will surely save his own child: Lord save me" (*ibid*). This one grand quality of yourself is ever before us: you are the total source of our salvation. Saving is inseparately linked with seeking. I have a strong desire to open your word and meditate upon your precepts. Indeed even now I am doing so. This but indicates my need and your interest in me, yea, your *love* for me.

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

There is such comfort and encouragement in repeating this blessed little phrase: "I am yours . . ." I praise you and thank you for all it means. In how many ways I do belong to you. Bless your name! I am not ignoring the efforts of the wicked. They do wait to destroy me. The psalmist was so calm in face of such danger he could 'ponder' your word; he was so victorious over all their plots that he did not allow them to drive him from his devotion or contemplation." (*Ibid*). Dear Lord, may I follow in his train! I believe in your precepts I will find my salvation.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

There are times I do not want to be saved, i.e., my selfishness is my preoccupation and I resent your interruption. Dear Lord, what a sad confession — but it is true. How like a spoiled child I have acted! But still I am reminded that I am your child and I do want to

claim my heritage. How good it would be if I but had the same desire to seek your precepts or to ponder your statutes that I have just now — but it is not always so. Forgive me. Remember that I am dust. Renew my mind and transform my attitudes.

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

O to be like Thee! Blessed Redeemer,
This is my constant longing and prayer;
Gladly I'll forfeit all of earth's treasures,
Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear.
O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee,
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art!
Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fulness;
Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.

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

HIS WORD

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. —Romans 1:21-23, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Here is an explanation as to how the Gentiles have suppressed the truth. Such persons knew there was a God and also knew you were powerful and super-human. However you were not at all honored as such and no thanks was given to you. The fundamental sin of man is to posit a position that leaves you out. Any such position produces futility. How true is this principle in all of life. Such persons are identified by

yourself as fools! The longer one pursues such a course the more foolish and darkened is their mind. Their wisdom is turned into foolishness.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It would be easy to relegate all these words to someone else and forget that this attitude can be practiced by anyone. Do I always glorify you as God and give thanks? Where is the unbroken fellowship I long to share with you? Dear Lord, deliver me from any claim of wisdom except it be in you and your word. The word "glory" as used here is so important. It refers to your essential being. You are traded for idols — images of man, birds, beasts and snakes. It seems hard to believe — but it is so tragically true! The *heart* as described in your word is my mind; my emotions; my will and my conscience. Enlighten it with your word!

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 that I can and do know you — I want to honor you with my whole heart. (2) Deepen my appreciation for yourself — I thank you for what I now know. (3) Thank you that my thinking can have eternal meaning. (4) Thank you for your identity of the fools of this earth. (5) Thank you that your foolishness is wiser than all the wisdom of men. (6) Thank you for your essential Being — what a joy to worship you. (7) Thank you that I can identify the real value of your creation.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images" What a sad choice! "They exchanged their glory — God was Israel's glory — for the image of an ox that munches grass" (Psalm 106:20). The prophet Jeremiah said: "Has any nation ever changed (its) gods, though they were not (even) gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that is of no benefit whatsoever" (Jeremiah 2:11). (*After Hendricksen.*) There is a nation much closer to home who has done the same thing. The images we have are of men or what men can give. Sex, food and money are our gods. Of themselves they can not satisfy.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

If I am ever to know you I must be honest with myself. I come to you in prayer seeking such honesty: (1) I do know you intellectually — I want to know you with my total self. (2) I want to let you be God — i.e., in every sense of the word. (3) My thankful

praise does arise before you from my heart. (4) Give me the courage to accept your definition of a fool. (5) Wisdom comes down from yourself — I want that wisdom — I ask believing you want to give it to me. (6) Deliver me from all idols.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

If ever I needed to hear your voice through your word it is now! (1) "You glorify me when my attributes are seen in your character." (2) "You are unavoidably a reflection of the one you truly worship." (3) "Worship requires time, thought, talent, energy, whatever receives such is your God."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Argentina — Points for prayer: (1) *The immigrant minority Churches* make up approx. 20% of the Protestants. They have attended to the spiritual needs of their own communities (such as the Italian, Danish, Dutch, Welsh, etc.) but have not evangelized the Spanish-speaking majority; though some, such as the Italian, Russian and Chilean believers, have evangelized their own groups. They are in decline, partly because their Spanish-speaking children do not feel at home in the churches. (2) *The less evangelized peoples and areas:* a) The sparsely inhabited Patagonia in the south, and the north and west of Argentina. b) The 500,000 Jews, most of whom live in the environs of Buenos Aires. c) The urban slum areas. (3) *The Amerindians of the Chaco in the north have been responding to the gospel.* Pockets of animism remain. Pray for Bible translation work in nine of the 21 Indian languages. Pray for effective integration of these Christians into national life. Gospel Recordings International has recordings in all nine languages.

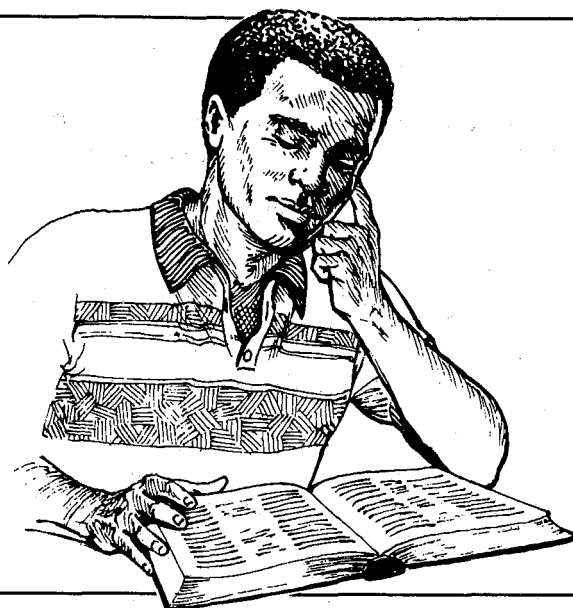
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Day by day and with each passing moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure
Gives unto each day what He deems best —
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.
Every day the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
He whose name is Counsellor and Power.
The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
"As your days, your strength shall be in measure,"
This the pledge to me He made.

WEEK TWELVE

—Wednesday—

I am so encouraged with your invitation to ask and receive abundant wisdom. I do so just now.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts” (Psa. 119:98,100). The commands were his book, but God

was his teacher . . . wisdom is knowledge put to practical use. Wisdom comes to us through *obedience* . . . “If any man will do his will he shall know of the doctrine” (*ibid*). Indeed, indeed, I have found this true! My enemies are ever with me — but you are always closer than my enemies. Thank you for being One who is always with me and always ready to direct my feet.

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

I recognize the meaning of the term “ancients” or “elders” as here used. If one much younger and inexperienced can by your precepts be more understanding than these men — what does this say about them? It says quite plainly that they do not know or meditate upon your word. Once again understanding stands on the other side of obedience. If I were to choose one quality out of these two verses and lift it up to you in praise it would be that you are an intelligent Being. All the knowledge or wisdom of men is but a faint and poor reflection of yourself. Praise your name.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

My confession, like my praise is single: I fail to obey your precepts — I refuse to follow your statutes. As a result you appear distant and unreal to me. As a result I do not have your light on my path — there is no illumination on my way. Forgive me. I am learning — but I have yet much to learn. Such learning is for my own protection; without it I am open to my

enemy. Forgive me for following the poor example of those who we assume should know when the clear evidence is they do not. Worse than this; forgive me for justifying my actions because of others.

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

Down at the cross where my Savior died,
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried,
There to my heart was the blood applied;
Glory to His name.
Glory to His name,
Glory to His name!
There to my heart was the blood applied;
Glory to His name.

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

HIS WORD

²⁴Therefore God gave them over to the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator — who is forever praised. Amen. —Romans 1:24,25, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

There is a very close connection between idolatry and immorality. When one chooses to worship himself sex is not far under the surface. Paul’s word speaks so directly to our society. There is something separately serious about the little phrase “God gave them over” — repeated three times (24,26,28). It is not without great reluctance you do this. The example of those in the days of Noah or even the notorious Jezebel all testify to your longsuffering patience. The beautiful expression in I Peter 3:20 speaks to this point: “*the patience of God waited.*” Thank you for your patience.

May it not become a license for licentiousness.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

In my need I want to be reminded often of the other side of the coin. *There is an end to your waiting!* "Mercy unrequited produces wrath." The awesome fact is that vile passions can become an uncontrollable monster. The wrath of yourself here and hereafter is promised as a result of such sin. I want to read again and again Col. 3:5,6, as well as: II Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; I Thess. 4:7. Dear Lord, *this is serious — deadly — damning* — may I treat it as such!

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 unambiguous statement that there is an end to your mercy — sinful desires *can* overcome our whole life. (2) Thank you that you consider sexual impurity to be just that: *impure — dirty*. Man calling dirty clean does not change it. (3) Thank you for the plain promise that such sexual practice will degrade our bodies — what a warning! (4) Thank you for the clear delineation of responsibility — a choice was made — "the truth of God for a lie." (5) Thank you that I can learn, if I will, from this sinful spectacle.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... the Creator — who is blessed forever — or forever blessed. Amen." How very interesting is the designation "Creator." This is much more than just deity. Here is One who originates; here is where thought becomes fact. We are considering One who lives forever — and who deserves our praise — our worship throughout eternity. This portion of the verse is a benediction — one I gladly lift up before you. In all these thoughts I can gladly concur. I therefore say with Paul a hearty "Amen," i.e., "so be it." It is a settled fact you are the Creator of all things — you deserve our adoration forever.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How shall I pray through these verses? (1) Open my understanding as to the connection between the conscious and the subconscious as related to sin. (2) Show me again what terrible futility results in the worship of the creature. (3) Impress me again with the satisfaction I find in worshipping yourself. (4) Our bodies and ourselves are separate — but cannot be separated in either sin or service. Keep me aware of this fact. (5) Teach me how to more adequately express my praise for your creative nature.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

If ever there was a contemporary word it is here: (1) "Sexual impurity always degraded those who practiced it — and it always will." (2) "You can now make the happy exchange of a lie for the truth." (3) "Worship is service — action, decision."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Australia — Points for prayer: (1) *Australia has become a very secular society*, and the same materialism, permissiveness and rejection of traditional authority characteristic of the whole Western World is just as discernible here. There has been a greater openness to the gospel since 1977, when Christians began taking the trouble to reach people on *their* ground. (2) *The decline in church attendance is causing deep concern* (1966 35%, 1976 18%). This decline is most noticeable in some of the larger and more traditional churches, but there is some growth in the more evangelical denominations, particularly in the various Pentecostal and charismatic churches and groups. Pray for revival. (3) *The Evangelicals are strong in the Sydney Anglican diocese*, and in the mainline churches, several have evangelical majorities while all the rest have significant and active minorities. Pray that overall there might be a greater return to biblical truth and emphasis on evangelism and missions in the churches. (4) *The witness among the 332,000 students in the 79 universities and colleges*. Various groups are active — AFES (IFES), Student Life, Navigators, etc., and few colleges are without witnessing fellowships. Pray for these key ministries. Pray for witness among overseas students; one of the most active is the Overseas Chinese Fellowship. (5) *Young people*. The Inter-Schools Christian Fellowship has a valuable ministry in secondary schools. Many groups, such as Youth For Christ, God Squad, etc., are now evangelizing among young people.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.
Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

WEEK TWELVE

—Thursday—

Please, please direct my anger — to evil — to the enemy — relax my relationship with those I love.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws. Accept, O Lord, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws" (Psa. 119:104,106,108). There would be no understanding for us if it did not begin in yourself. "If the Lawgiver were foolish his laws would be the same. We are wise if we obey and we grow wiser by our obedience" (*ibid*). It is not enough to know that wrong is wrong — I must *hate it!* Only when I develop strong aversion to sin will I respond properly in temptation.

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

Mistrusting my fickle mind I pledge myself to the vows my Lord has placed upon me. My baptism declares that I have died and have been buried — his Supper tells the world that I accept his death for my death. My acceptance of my Lord was an enlistment in his army — a declaration that we are bound to be loyal soldiers throughout the war. How beautiful is this little phrase "the willing praise of my mouth." By a multitude of motivations you have indeed made me a willing, glad, eager worshipper of yourself. Blessed be your name.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

My understanding of your precepts is surely lacking if it does not develop within me a continual hatred of *every wrong path*. Such has not always happened — forgive me. My Lord warned me as to the danger of taking oaths — he has already bound me to himself by all he has done for me. Or has he? Your mercies

have not always led me to present my body as a living sacrifice. Dear Lord, why is it? Forgive me and deepen my love! I am not at all willing — I am very unwilling — such is my honest confession of stubborn selfishness. Forgive me — I am glad I can and do improve — but most of all for your 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

Take the name of Jesus with you,
Child of sorrow and of woe.
It will joy and comfort give you,
Take it then where'er you go.
Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heaven,
Precious name, O how sweet —
Hope of earth and joy of heaven.

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

HIS WORD

²⁶Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. —Romans 1:26,27, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

These words represent many people in Paul's day — they also describe your action toward all those since the first century. How many are involved today in such a condition only you would know. At what point in time did you decide "enough is enough"? The record of your patience as found in your word is our only reliable criterion. It would seem that Paul felt

lesbianism was an extreme form of "shameful lusts." Should we have a different attitude about this sin than the one here adopted by yourself?

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Are homosexuals happy? Is there anything gay about such a lifestyle? The "due penalty" in themselves is found in : guilt, sleeplessness, emotional stress and depression. The epidemic of venereal disease is also a very real part of the penalty due. Sin, particularly in this area, is self-destructive. At the same time we need to remember Paul wrote this letter from one of the centers of such practices — i.e., Corinth — and he says of them: "*but such were some of you*" — but you were washed, you were justified; you were sanctified. If it could happen then and there it can happen here and now! Praise your powerful name!

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 that we can be ashamed — in this we can find change. (2) Thank you for the strong desires that can be directed toward you instead of sin. (3) Thank you for the clear cut heterosexual statement in this text. (4) Thank you for the joy of sex in marriage — and the warning of the shame that comes from sex outside of marriage. (5) Thank you for your definition of perversion. (6) Thank you for this warning of love.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... receiving in themselves the due penalty of their perversion." Your laws have a way of fulfilling themselves. Perversion *does* have a penalty. There is no payment more severe than the one paid by the spirit — or within the spirit of man. Perhaps the most obvious form is *guilt*. Men and women are today running in the excess of immorality and are denying they feel any guilt at all. We must accept the fact that your presence and greatness are a part of man's essential being. Naturally the term "guilt" would not be used — but there is an uneasiness — a futility — a depression — an anger that can be defined in no other way but *guilt*.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How can I pray for the tragic circumstance found here? (1) I do not want to be ashamed — it is a sad feeling — give me the liberty of forgiveness. (2) Turn all my strong desires to you and your Son. (3) How beautiful is everyone and all of life when you are in it. (4) Sex of itself is clean and good — open my heart

— yea, the eyes of my heart to see it that way. (5) Homosexuality is here plainly called perversion and sin, and yet I am to love such sinners — even as you do. Help me. (6) Sensitize my memory that I may know all your laws have payments — good and bad.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Surely there are messages in these verses for me: (1) "I will give people over — even today to their sin — i.e., if they insist on it." (2) "Sex is pure and a joy with no guilt to those who love me." (3) "You can see about you and within you the immutable operation of my word."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Australia — Points for prayer: (1) *The missionary vision of many Australians has been encouraging.* Pray that this vision may be shared so that missionary concern becomes a normal part of church life. Pray for the well-filled Bible schools and theological colleges which are training many for the mission field. Pray also for those who have gone out that all, whether in home or mission ministries, may have a heart for world evangelization. (2) *The 166,000 indigenous Aborigines* have suffered much in their contacts with Western culture, and their political and land rights have become a major political issue. Some have adapted and have been absorbed into the life of the nation, but many have sunk into moral and spiritual degradation, and others have retreated into the more inaccessible and inhospitable parts of the country. Yet in the last eight years an indigenous revival movement in the north has spread through parts of the west and center of the country with thousands being soundly converted. (3) *Christian radio and television* could be more effectively utilized by Evangelicals through the national and local broadcasting networks, who are required, by law, to give a percentage of time weekly to religious broadcasts.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,

Ye ransomed from the fall;

Hail Him who saves you by His grace,

And crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe,

On this terrestrial ball;

To Him all majesty ascribe,

And crown Him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng

We at His feet may fall!

We'll join the everlasting song,

And crown Him Lord of all.

WEEK TWELVE

—Friday—

*Only you can give me a willingness — I
bow to receive your gracious gift.*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Accept, O Lord, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws. My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the end. Uphold me, and I will be delivered; I will always have regard for your decrees” (Psa. 119:108,112,117). It is one thing to praise you — it is something else to be eager to do so. “God’s revenues are not derived from forced taxation; but from freewill gifts. There can be no acceptance where there is no willingness; there is no work of free grace where there is no fruit of free will” (*ibid*). When such an attitude prevails then it is easy for you to be our teacher. How glad I am for this clear view of how to learn from yourself.

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

We could say of David as we want to say of ourselves: “He had by prayer, and meditation, and resolution made his whole being lean towards God’s commands; or as we would say in other words — the grace of God had inclined him to incline his heart in a sanctified direction” (*ibid*). Dear Lord, I want to do the same! A very few months ago I thought my end had arrived. I am glad to say my heart was set on keeping your laws. Dear Lord, uphold me that when the end of my life does arrive I will be delivered into your eternal presence.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Accept, O Lord, the willing confession of my mouth that I have not been at all willing to praise you at all times. I want to, but I am distracted by the “this” and the “that” of living. Forgive me. My heart does so fluctuate that there are indeed times when it is not at all set on keeping your statutes. I will be saved out

of your mercy or not saved at all. I know your grace — I claim your righteousness — offered freely — but not cheaply. Unless you lift me up I shall be utterly cast down. I lift up the banner of love and stand under it.

What personal sins do you want to confess? There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Under His wings I am safely abiding,
Though the night deepens and tempests are wild;
Still I can trust Him — I know He will keep me,
He has redeemed me and I am His child.
Under His wings, under His wings,
Who from His love can sever?
Under His wings my soul shall abide,
Safely abide forever.

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

HIS WORD

²⁸Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.
—Romans 1:28, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

There is something so fundamental here that I want to pause long to assimilate it. You are being left out of man’s thinking. This is a very serious choice — when such happens the mind becomes depraved. This is the third and last time the expression “God gave them over” appears. Until you are admitted to the citadel of the mind you have no influence in the life. It would seem that ordinarily you are in the business of moving the thoughts of men in the right direction — but here we learn there comes a time when we are left to ourselves and Satan.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

This is surely one awesome thought. I do not even like to entertain it — but it is so very obviously true. The depraved mind is the mind without yourself. The mind that operates for years without you becomes set or turned in such a manner that it is almost impossible to influence it. But it all began with a choice. Was it the parents who made this terrible choice for their children? The denigrating of the Bible and God in our humanistic culture is the environment out of which such a condition comes.

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

Only in a reversal of such a verse can we lift up our hearts in thanksgiving: (1) Thank you I have been shown time after time how good it is to have you up front in my thinking. (2) Thank you that you expect us to use our minds in your praise and service. (3) Thank you that you are always at work in the "little things" of life to turn our hearts to you. (4) Thank you that sin is here described as subnormal or abnormal. (5) Thank you that the true balance of life is found when you are in our thoughts.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done." It is most remarkable that you do tell us through your inspired writers what ought, and ought not, to be done. At the same time all actions proceed from the mind. So if we do what is right it is because our thinking is right — if we do what ought not to be done it is because our thinking is wrong. So we become fully responsible for our actions. We need to not discount Satan in all this discussion. The evil one has no more influence over us than we are ready to give him. A refusal to have you in our thinking is tantamount to having Satan direct our lives.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In this one verse there is a multitude of requests: (1) I want to review often the benefits of having you in my mind. (2) Increase my knowledge of yourself — even this day. (3) Please interfere with Satan's efforts to get my mind off yourself. (4) If I do not give you over in preference to Satan you will never give me over to my choice — what a comforting thought! (5) It is also a comfort to know I can do the things I ought do, i.e., just for today.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me from these sobering words: (1) "A high

estimate of Me is essential to a high estimate of life." (2) "I live in your body in the Person of the Holy Spirit — but I operate through your mind." (3) "As a man thinketh in his heart so he is."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Australia — Point for prayer: *Unreached peoples* — both among the indigenous inhabitants and the four million non-British post-war immigrants and their families. Pray for these local churches with an active ministry to such communities and also for the work of ECM among the European minorities. a) *Aborigine tribes* — only a few isolated groups have failed to respond to the very considerable missionary effort now being made all over the country. b) *Many people in the working-class urban areas* and in isolated mining and farming communities in the vast interior, north-west and north have had no contact with the true gospel c) *Muslims* — around 300,000, with 200,000 living in the Sydney area. The majority of this diverse community is Arab-speaking; 200,000 from Lebanon, Egypt, etc.; others are Turkish (30,000), Yugoslav, etc. Small beginnings are being made to reach these peoples, and there are Arabic and Turkish-speaking groups of believers. d) *Chinese* 160,000 (30,000 being refugees from Vietnam). About 20% of the Chinese are Christian in name, others are secular or adhere to the various Chinese traditional religions. There are lively groups of believers in the cities and among overseas Chinese students in universities. Pray for a complete evangelization of the non-Christians and the newly arrived refugees. e) *Vietnamese* 28,000. Mostly refugees recently arrived. There are a few Christian congregations. Asia Evangelistic Fellowship is expanding a ministry to meet the spiritual needs of Asian communities in each state. f) *The Yugoslavs* are ethnically diverse, and most still retain the use of their mother tongue; Croation 70,000; Serbian 35,000; Macedonian 70,000; etc. They originate from one of Europe's least evangelized countries. There are very few believers among them. g) *Jews* (78,000) — half live in Melbourne, but relatively few have become Christian. h) *Southern Europeans*. Many second and third generation settlers have assimilated into English-speaking Australian society. Many, however, still use their original languages: Italian 450,000; Greek 230,000; Polish 90,000; Spanish 60,000; Maltese 60,000. These represent strategic minorities that, if evangelized and motivated, could make a decisive impact for God on their lands of origin. [Note: these population figures are now a few years old, and may have changed considerably among the Asian refugees.] ---

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Christ has for sin atonement made —
What a wonderful Savior!

We are redeemed, the price is paid —
What a wonderful Savior!

What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Jesus!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Lord!

WEEK TWELVE

—Saturday—

Fear and hope are my honest estimate of your greatness and my weakness — most of all my need!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"My flesh trembles in fear of you; I stand in awe of your laws. I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes. Because I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold, and because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path" (Psa. 119:120,125,127,128).

"True worship consists in a proper mixture of fear of God, and hope in his mercy; and whenever either of these is entirely wanting, there can be no true worship" (Edward Payson). It is indeed true here what God has joined together we must not put asunder.

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

I have examined and wondered at your power and mercy. Just here I read of your ability to give me understanding. Out of your love you can teach me. Indeed such instruction is being accomplished day by day as I pause here before you and your word in worship. I can not read it enough: *"Because I love your commands more than gold . . . I hate every wrong path."* If I do not hate the wrong path it is because I do not love as I ought. Thank you for this insight — which seems so obvious and yet is neglected.

How do you personally relate to the right paths of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

If I tremble here and now what will happen at judgment? Indeed when I consider your laws there is nothing else I can do but tremble. I have not kept them. I do love them but I also fail in keeping them. It is only out of your love I will be taught any thing. I must cast myself on your mercy. It is a lack of constant consideration of your precepts that causes me to take a wrong path. For today I shall renew my loving examination of your word. I want just the balance

your wisdom can give me between justice and mercy — law and grace. Help 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

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

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

HIS WORD

²⁹They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. —Romans 1:29-31, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Here is a list of twenty-one sins. I agree with many others who have looked lovingly at your word: there are three groups. The first of four sins: (1) unrighteousness, (2) wickedness, (3) greed, (4) depravity. Then a group of five: (1) envy, (2) murder, (3) strife, (4) deceit and (5) malice. And finally a group of twelve: (1) gossips, (2) slanderers, (3) haters of God, (4) insolent, (5) arrogant, (6) boastful, (7) inventors of new ways of doing evil, (8) disobedient to parents, (9) senseless, (10) faithless, (11) loveless, (12) pitiless. It does become interesting when we look in vain for one sexual sin in this list. Such has been treated earlier. I

want to look at each one and ask: "Lord, is it I?"

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It will not be difficult to identify with these sinners — and their sins. I am not at all involved in some of these sins some of the time, but I am at least implicitly involved in some of them some of the time. Dear Lord, speak to my conscience! Wickedness refers to persons who take some kind of delight in doing what is wrong — have I ever found such delight? I am covetous at times and only awaken to it later. We are repulsed by the word "depravity" as if we are not the fallen sons of Adam. Super criticism of another belies our envy of that very person. As so it is with the whole list — may such thoughts purify my motives!

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 can indeed thank you for the antitheses of each of these sins: (1) Thank you for love — your kind of love the opposite of murder. (2) Thank you I can be a peace maker and avoid strife. (3) Thank you for the beauty of transparent honesty. (4) Thank you I can develop the desire to help not hurt. (5) Thank you I can whisper love into the hearts of my fellow travelers — not slander. (6) Thank you I can compliment in public those who help me — or hurt me. (7) Thank you I can love you fervently from the heart.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of novel forms of evil, disobedient to their parents, senseless, faithless, loveless, pitiless." This is a list of the refinements of Satan's efforts. Such qualities lie just beneath the surface of many hearts. Insolence is such a repulsive sin. Such persons look down on all others and count them as nothing. The arrogant are the super race — i.e., in their own estimate. Back of all these sins is the sin of pride — the insolent and arrogant are often full of boastful words. There are men who spend long hours planning how they can hurt their fellow men — in one way or another. May I look long at these qualities and be shocked by what I see.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these twenty-one sins I can find many requests: (1) I am delighted with your righteousness — and not my own. (2) I want to be careful to do what pleases you for this day. (3) Deliver me, guard my heart from all forms of greed. (4) How easy it is to envy — protect me from this sin today. (5) There are persons who will

not agree with anything — I do not want to be like them. (6) Keep me honest — open — candid. (7) I want heaven's uncommon sense.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to my conscience through these verses: (1) "You can be filled with the fruit of the Spirit not the works of the flesh." (2) "I have delivered men from every one of these sins into the freedom of my truth." (3) "His you are whom you serve — if you serve sin you belong to death — if you serve me you belong to life."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Austria — Points for prayer: (1) *Austria is a mission field with only a small evangelical witness.* No more than 20% of the people are estimated to have ever had contact with the gospel. Many have had dealings with the occult, and the illegitimacy and suicide rates are among the highest in Europe. (2) *Many areas are without a permanent witness,* though this lack is beginning to be met. It is reckoned that only about 160 of the 4,000 towns and villages have a group of believers that regularly meets together. There are still about 55 towns of over 5,000 people with no permanent witness. Most of the believers are found in the cities. Pray for a great harvest of souls. Pray especially for the 300,000 people in the easternmost province of Vorarlberg, reputedly the "hardest" area in the land. (3) *The land is nominally Roman Catholic,* but there is a marked drift away from the church in the cities. Nevertheless, people still fear to have too much contact with Evangelicals thinking them to be a sect. Pray that the barriers to the entry of the gospel into their hearts may be broken down. (4) *The Austrians are keen readers, so literature is a vital means of witness.* Pray for the Scripture distribution of the Bible Society and the literature ministries of Austrian Bible Mission and Christian Literature Crusade.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All praise to Him who reigns above
In majesty supreme,
Who gave His Son for man to die,
That He might man redeem!
Blessed be the name, blessed be the name,
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be the name, blessed be the name,
Blessed be the name of the Lord.
His name shall be the Counsellor,
The mighty Prince of Peace,
Of all earth's kingdoms Conqueror,
Whose reign shall never cease.