

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Sunday—

*I want to weep over the sins of others —  
I want to be like David — and your  
Son.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*"Make your face shine upon your servant and teach me your decrees. Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for your law is not obeyed. Righteous are you, O Lord, and your laws are right"* (Psa. 119:135-137). What pleasure we take in the smile of approval from those we love and respect. This is a plea from a dull scholar. I have so often failed to do what I know is right. Yet I plead with you to not turn away from me — smile upon me and teach me yet again. David was free of emotion and shed many tears over those who disobeyed your laws. Did he cry also for himself?

*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

"He wept in sympathy with God to see his holy law despised and broken. He wept in pity for men who were thus drawing down upon themselves the fiery wrath of God" (*ibid*). How exaggerated all this seems to us before we remember another — the son of David who wept much over the sins of men. Is not the psalmist like your very Self — You have no pleasure (only grief) in the death of the wicked. Dear Lord, such compassion and pure love are above me. Help me — forgive me.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

It does hurt my conscience to pronounce your righteousness and the correctness of your laws. I am not right or righteous. Only by your imputed righteousness can I stand before you. I weep — but not in the broken-hearted tears of my Lord over the sins of others — or over the lost condition of men — but over my own transgressions. How utterly selfish! I want to smile at you and find my happiness returned.

I can only do this out of your forgiveness and mercy. I praise your very Self that I can claim such pleasure from you.

*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

All for Jesus, all for Jesus!  
All my being's ransomed powers:  
All my thoughts and words and doings,  
All my days and all my hours;  
All for Jesus! all for Jesus!  
All my days and all my hours;  
All for Jesus! all for Jesus!  
All my days and all my hours.

### HIS WORD

<sup>32</sup>Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. —Romans 1:32, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

We have reached the end of the chapter, but not the end of man's need. Indeed we have only begun to appreciate how lost the world is in which we live. The men here described are all made personally responsible for their sins. None are innocent or so far removed from yourself that they do not know right from wrong. It is very good for me to accept your understanding of the large Gentile world who has never heard of your Son or yourself. The last persons described are the worst of all offenders — they are not only involved in such sins but promoters of them.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Open my heart that I might see that only when men

know they are lost can they be saved. Keep me from ever thinking of myself as removed from these sins and somewhat immune from them. My only protection is yourself. Indeed, you are my refuge from the evil one. The "death" here promised fills me with fear — amazement. It is the eternal, second death of the lake of fire. You have only one punishment for sin — hell — only one reason for hell — sin. Dear Lord, sensitize my heart!

*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 word is always right regardless of the test put to it. (2) Thank you that you have spoken in permanent written form that we might read and understand your will. (3) Thank you for the fairness of your judgment. There will be no excuses on judgment day. (4) Thank you we are saved by your grace and our life style — not our moral perfection. (5) Thank you for the escape from the second death. (6) Thank you for the newness of life!

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them." This is the ultimate of disobedience. It is one thing to become addicted to drugs, it is another thing to become a "pusher" or salesman of the very thing that enslaves you. Such were these persons. We recognize pornography and a billion dollar industry as an example of this principle. We can apply this same rule to our Lord and his service. When we have given ourselves to him and continue to do so it isn't long until we want others to join us. We do indeed "approve" of those who follow him.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How can I pray over this verse and seek fulfillment in my life? (1) When I am tempted I want to recognize the source of temptation — you are not in any way responsible for my desire to sin. (2) Your word is good and righteous in every way — I need wisdom to see the application of this truth in my life today. (3) Open my heart to recognize the awfulness of the eternal penalty of sin. (4) May I never treat lightly the power of evil. (5) In the midst of wickedness give me the inward purity of heart to see yourself.

*Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.*

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In the words of this verse speak to my heart: (1) "Men know they are lost — i.e., some of them —

reach them before it becomes a reality." (2) "Have you ever considered the awfulness of hell? Do it again." (3) "Sin is a way of life with most of the world — but I can change it!"

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Austria* — Points for prayer: (1) *There is much formality and lifelessness in the Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Churches*, and they are losing 2,300 people annually. There are a number of Bible-believing pastors, and their number is now being increased by graduates (15 in 1982) of the Free Evangelical Seminary in Basel, Switzerland. (2) *The evangelical witness is small but growing*. There are about 200 Bible study or church groups meeting regularly — most being very new. Pray for the growth of this church planting ministry. The first Austrian evangelical, interdenominational Bible school in Ampflwang opened in 1984; graduates from this school could be a decisive factor for church growth in coming years. (3) *The believers need prayer* — for there is not sufficient concern for the evangelization of the lost, and they are too conscious of being a small and despised minority within the Roman Catholic majority. There are too few young Austrians coming forward for full-time service. The Lutheran and the free churches worked together for a special year of evangelism in Austria in 1985. (4) *There is a growing missionary force*. Pray that these missionaries may adapt well to the Austrian situation. Most missionaries are involved in evangelism and church-planting.

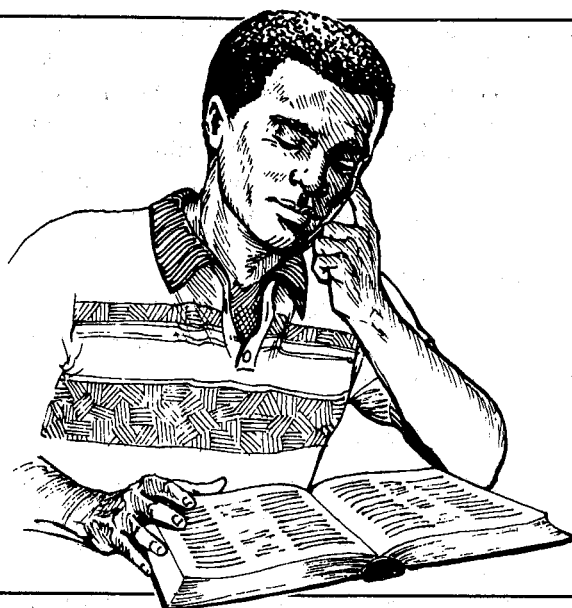
### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus, the very thought of Thee  
With sweetness fills my breast;  
But sweeter far Thy face to see  
And in Thy presence rest.  
No voice can sing, no heart can frame,  
Nor can the memory find  
A sweeter sound than Thy blest name,  
O Savior of mankind.  
O hope of every contrite heart,  
O joy of all the meek,  
To those who fall, how kind Thou art!  
How good to those who seek!  
But what to those who find? Ah, this  
No tongue nor pen can show;  
The love of Jesus, what it is  
None but His loved ones know.  
Jesus, our only joy be Thou,  
As Thou our prize wilt be;  
Jesus, be Thou our glory now  
And thru eternity.

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Monday—

*All you tell me has been “thoroughly tested.” I lean my whole self upon what you say to me just now!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“The statutes you have laid down are righteous; they are fully trustworthy. Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them”* (Psa. 119:138,140). “All that which God hath testified in his word (even yourself and your word) is right and truthful. It is righteous and may be relied upon for the present; it is faithful, and may be trusted in for the future. About every portion of the inspired testimonies there is divine authority, they are issued and published by God’s *command*, and they bear the impress of the royal style which carries omnipotence about it” (*ibid*). I could not agree more, 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

The testing of your word in the lives of millions of people over thousands of years has shown how *pure* or *whole* is the word you have spoken. “It is truth distilled, holiness in its quintessence. In the word of God there is no admixture of error or sin. It is pure in its sense, pure in its language, pure in its spirit, pure in its influence, and in all this to the very highest degree — *very pure*” (*ibid*). I have found all these words fulfilled in my own experience and therefore indeed I do *love* your word. I love you more because you are the source of such truth. Dear Lord, I have not exhausted my love — increase it!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

I had not known sin except your law had said: “You shall not covet.” But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from the law sin is

dead” (Rom. 7:7,8). This could also be said of the command not to lie or commit adultery — or any of your other commands. Your statutes are indeed righteous — but of myself I am not at all righteous. I must in the face of these facts cast myself on your mercy. Even so I yet find progress (nothing like perfect obedience) in following your word. In all of this rambling I am seeking your grace and forgiveness. I claim your promise and rejoice in 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

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

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

### HIS WORD

**2** You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.  
—Romans 2:1, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How easy it is to admit guilt in one area and totally ignore it in another. We are all *generally* guilty but *specifically* innocent! Dear Lord, deliver me from such an attitude. Deliver me because I am the sinner in this principle. Do I condemn impatience in others and excuse it in myself? Do I speak against harshness

in non-church people and yet exercise it on church members? Forgive me! Any sin we see in another is smoldering just beneath the surface of our own head. I do need to once and for all commit all judgment to yourself.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

This does *not* mean I will ignore the condemnation found in your word such as: Rom. 13:13; I Cor. 5:9-11; 6:9,10; II Cor. 12:20,21; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 4:19; 5:3-5; Col. 3:5-9; I Thess. 2:3; 4:3-7; I Tim. 1:9,10; 6:4,5; II Tim. 3:2-5; Titus 3:3,9,10. Nay, I find *myself* very much involved in these lists of sins. But I will look to myself first and ask others to do what I must do: cast themselves on your grace and trust in your power to overcome. I recognize the Jewish first century context of this verse, but I see like the morning sun the application of it to my own situation. Forgive and empower me.

*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 personalness of your word — it speaks to *me*. (2) Thank you for the universal application of your word — it speaks to *all*. (3) Thank you for the completeness of what you have said — it leaves none of us with an excuse. (4) Thank you for the sober warning against acting as a judge. (5) Thank you that all men will be judged fairly by yourself. (6) Thank you for the probing power of your law and my conscience — you have given both.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*"... for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, . . ."* We do have such penchant to condemn in others what we find in ourselves. This only aggravates our problem since all such matters belong to yourself. We excuse in ourselves what we condemn in others. We somehow imagine that the circumstance of our sin are such that we cannot be held responsible. Isn't Paul too all inclusive in his blanket statement of this verse? Is it possible that such a principle applies to all men? Yes, yes it does indeed! Implicitly if not explicitly all such sins are a part of all men.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Under such need I want to pray and ask your help: (1) I give my heart to you — I cannot without your power control it. (2) Remove my desire to excuse my sin — I want to confess it and be forgiven. (3) How glad I am that one day all inequities will be balanced

— keep me patient until that day. (4) I want the peace of heart that comes from committing all judgment to yourself. (5) Self condemnation is such a destructive practice — deliver me from it. (6) Praise your name for your amazing grace.

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

## READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

This verse has already spoken eloquently to my heart — speak to me again: (1) "I did not send my Son into the world to condemn but to save." (2) "Peace, not condemnation is what I want for you and all men." (3) "No one is capable of perfect judgment — i.e., except myself."

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Austria* — Points for prayer: (1) *The cults are aggressive and growing in numbers.* There are more active followers of the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons than committed evangelical believers. Their pervasive influence complicates any evangelistic outreach. Many young people are led astray by modern Eastern and Western youth cults. (2) *The witness among students* is one of the most fruitful in the land today. There are strong groups in the seven universities, and the groups are growing in depth and outreach. Pray that these young Christians may have an impact on the land and its churches. (3) *Migrant laborers* — little has yet been done for the Muslim Turks. There is one small Yugoslav church in Vienna, but most of this large community has yet to be evangelized. They could prove strategic for the evangelizing of Yugoslavia.

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Praise Him! praise Him!  
 Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
 Sing, O Earth, His wonderful love proclaim!  
 Hail Him! hail Him! highest archangels in glory;  
 Strength and honor give to His holy name!  
 Like a shepherd Jesus will guard His children,  
 In His arms He carries them all day long:  
 Praise Him! praise Him!  
 tell of His excellent greatness;  
 Praise Him! praise Him! ever in joyful song.  
 Praise Him! praise Him! Jesus our blessed Redeemer!  
 For our sins He suffered, and bled and died;  
 He our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,  
 Hail Him! hail Him! Jesus the crucified.  
 Sound His praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows;  
 Love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong:  
 Praise Him! praise Him!  
 tell of His excellent greatness;  
 Praise Him! praise Him! ever in joyful song.

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Tuesday—

*I believe I could “delight” in you every day if I would — I want to just now!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Trouble and distress have come upon me, but your commands are my delight. Your statutes are forever right; give me understanding that I may live”* (Psa. 119:143,144). How well does verse 143 state our perpetual problem — we are indeed troubled from without and from within and yet are delighted with what we find in your word. We are delighted and yet distressed; we feel the pleasure of your commands and also the power of our enemy. The solution is in finding more joy in your will than sorrow over our opposition.

*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 know I will live or die by or through understanding your word. Such is the vast importance of such understanding. I must first establish in my heart of hearts that your word is “forever right.” “God’s testimonies to man cannot (and must not) be assailed, they are righteous from beginning to end; and although ungodly men have opposed the divine justice, especially in the plan of salvation, they have always failed to establish any charge against the Most High” (*ibid*). The rod and staff of life is in yourself through my understanding of what you have said — therefore I do seek such wisdom as fine gold.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

It is *not* true that every time distress or trouble come upon me I took a delight in your word and found there my answer. This is the practice of my Lord — but I must confess I allow trouble to so depress me that in my discouragement I turn to many sources for help before I remember your word. It is hard to make

such a confession — but it also defines the problem. When trouble and distress *are not* upon me I want to so increase my delight in your word that I will be well prepared for the next onslaught of the enemy. Give me grace in this resolve.

*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, every soul by sin oppressed,  
There’s mercy with the Lord;  
And He will surely give you rest  
By trusting in His word.  
Only trust Him, only trust Him,  
Only trust Him now;  
He will save you, He will save you,  
He will save you now.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>2</sup>Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. <sup>3</sup>So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment? —Romans 2:2,3, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Your judgment will be in perfect balance with reality or truth. What an awesome verse is II Cor. 5:10: “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” Am I ready for such a judgment? Not of myself am I at all ready. If the result of one sin is eternal death then there is no hope for me. I am condemned to hell a thousand fold! If I judge by comparison and not truth I condemn myself, for there is always someone better than myself. I am glad, so glad that there

is therefore *now* no condemnation to those who are in your Son (Rom. 8:1).

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Isn't it strange that we are so blind to our own faults and yet can see the smallest error in the conduct of another? Somehow we use two measurements — one for others and another for ourselves. This should point out one real obvious lesson: I am out of place on the judgment seat! The Jewish reader was ever before the mind of Paul as he penned these words. He knew such people so well — *he was one of them!* The attitude of such religious persons is a common malady; we have it with us today. We shall not, we cannot escape your judgment. By our own mouths we are condemned. By your grace and your grace alone we are saved.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for your eternal truth — in your Son and your word. (2) Thank you that no one will ever “get away” with sin — there *will be* judgment — fair and complete. (3) Thank you for the peace produced by my committing *all* judgment to yourself. (4) Thank you that your word identifies me as “a mere man” i.e., as compared with yourself. (5) Thank you for the escape I have in your mercy and grace. (6) Thank you for this review of my need for you.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... *do you think you will escape the judgment of God?*” Men have tried over the centuries to answer in the affirmative to this question. Not one of the billions of persons who have passed from this life will escape the judgment. “After death cometh the judgment.” Not one of us alive escapes your judgment right here and now: “as a man soweth so shall he reap.” We can not sow to the flesh and reap anything but corruption. When we sow to the wind we do indeed reap the whirlwind.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these two verses are a multitude of requests. (1) Guard my heart of accusations against yourself for I know the source of such accusations. (2) Keep me aware that there will be a great day of equity. (3) I want to claim right now my standing outside of judgment — I have passed from death to life. (4) I want the peace that comes in committing all judgment to yourself. (5) May I once again read the words “a mere man” and recognize my limitations.

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me yet again from these words: (1) “I have all the facts on all people all the time.” (2) “I am love, therefore I cannot ignore any fact in judgment.” (3) “The greatest fact of all time is my judgment on my Son for your redemption.”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Bahamas* — Points for prayer: (1) *Christianity is a cultural veneer to most.* It is reckoned that 90% of Bahamians rarely attend church. Confused family relationships, lax morality and increasing crime are rife. Pray for a surge of new life and revival through the churches. Pray for the young people and children — many are turning away because of the inconsistent lives of their elders and the turmoil in their own hearts. (2) *Christian literature.* High illiteracy rates and lack of reading materials at affordable prices is a challenge. The enormous problems for publishing and distributing literature in the Caribbean are created by the difficulties of communication, inflation and lack of foreign exchange in the widely scattered islands. Christian Literature Crusade's ministry has been unique. Thirty-eight workers in eight nations run bookstores, bookmobiles, correspondence courses, and publish the successful *Caribbean Challenge*, an evangelistic/teaching magazine with a 30,000 circulation in 29 countries. The latter is based in Jamaica.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

One day when heaven was filled with His praises,  
One day when sin was as black as could be,  
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin,  
Dwelt among men — my example is He!  
One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain,  
One day they nailed Him to die on the tree;  
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected,  
Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He!  
One day they left Him alone in the garden,  
One day He rested, from suffering free;  
Angels came down o'er His tomb to keep vigil —  
Hope of the hopeless, my Savior is He!  
One day the grave could conceal Him no longer,  
One day the stone rolled away from the door;  
Then He arose, over death He had conquered,  
Now is ascended, my Lord evermore!  
One day the trumpet will sound for His coming,  
One day the skies with His glory will shine;  
Wonderful day, my beloved ones bringing!  
Glorious Savior, this Jesus is mine!  
Living, He loved me, dying, He saved me,  
Buried, He carried my sins far away,  
Rising, He justified, freely forever,  
One day, He's coming, oh, glorious day!

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Wednesday—

*Your love and your laws are my hope  
and strength — make it so today!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Hear my voice in accordance with your love; renew my life, O Lord, according to your laws. Look upon my suffering and deliver me, for I have not forgotten your law”* (Psa. 119:149,153). There would be no reason at all to hear my voice were it not for your love. Often, very often this aspect of your character comes to the surface of these songs. Yea, it harbors just under the surface of every thought and action of yourself. It is only out of your love that my spiritual life is at all renewed. Your word promises over and over again a renewal of our relationship. Praise your 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

We are accustomed to reading in your word in the New Testament that you are touched with the feeling of our infirmities — but here I am face to face with it in the O.T. You look upon my sufferings and are moved to do something about what you see. In ways that are best known to you — and seldom known to me — you send a deliverance. There are many ways of delivering me *through* my sufferings or sometimes *from* such sufferings. But in each action you are behind it. Praise is surely appropriate!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

If your deliverance was always contingent upon my obedience to your laws I would have no hope at all. You hear me because you love me; you help me because of my need. Yet, I do not want to use such goodness to lead me away from your laws or your statutes. I have not forgotten your law — but I have ignored it — I have been very apathetic toward it.

Forgive me. It is in the cleansing of forgiveness that my life is renewed. Each day I can find the joy of the newness of life. Thank you.

*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

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!  
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,  
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.  
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,  
By His own hand He leadeth me;  
His faithful follower I would be,  
For by His hand He leadeth me.

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

### HIS WORD

*“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?” —Romans 2:4, NIV*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

There are three qualities here mentioned that describe your essential being: (1) kindness; (2) tolerance; (3) patience. Kindness, the last quality, is to sum up the other two, and yet remains a separate quality. In each of these qualities of yourself I am to find motivation for a total change of my mind — yea, my *life*! I can and do show contempt for these qualities when I continue in any known sin. Willful rebellion is contempt for yourself. I am glad to affirm that your kindness has led me often to change my mind and follow your Son.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How exceeding tolerant you have been to me! Yet, if I only see in this an opportunity to remain a little longer in my selfishness then I am no better than the Jews here to receive your condemnation. The repentance here described is much more than a casual change of mind — it is a true conversion or it is ineffective. Stubbornness is such a common sin. Why am I so unwilling to change? Dear Lord, show me your love and judgment that I can turn and live!

*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 exceeding richness of your kindness to me. (2) Thank you for the clear indication of your purpose in your kindness. (3) Thank you for your tolerance — without it I would not last one moment in your presence. (4) Thank you for your daily expression of patience — I do want to identify such expressions this day. (5) Thank you that it is possible to make choices in the area of your goodness. (6) Thank you that I can look up into the face of One who is the total essence of kindness or goodness.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness?” I do need to understand these persons as well as is at all possible. Here are not men of indifference or apathy. They are full of aggressive rebellion. God is not ignored — he is ridiculed. These persons show contempt for God’s law. Not only so, they are rebelling and resisting his goodness or kindness. The particular expression of such contempt is most interesting. I do need to remember that all such consideration is from God’s perspective. Because they were judging and condemning others they are so described. The Jews had a strange capacity for misreading your kindness. Dear Lord, it is quite possible to do the same thing today.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Lead me into requests that speak to my heart’s need. (1) When I ignore the needs of others I am showing contempt for you. Open my heart to the lost world in which I live. (2) Enlarge my understanding as to the tremendous treasure I have in your providential care of my life. (3) Give me the same kind of tolerance toward others that you have toward me. (4) Patience is such a beautiful virtue — may I give as I have received. (5) In all your love you are leading me to a constant change of mind — I want to not at all resist your purpose.

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

## READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In this one verse is such a wealth of application — speak to my deepest needs: (1) “If I am tolerant with you how is it you are impatient with others?” (2) “My patience in your life would have been exhausted long ago if you were in my place.” (3) “My kindness has followed you all the days of your life — and will continue to do so until we meet in my house.”

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Bahrain* — Points for prayer: (1) *Bahrain has provided a good base for Christian witness* since the beginning of this century. Pray for continued freedom for the tactful witness through expatriate Christians. Pray especially for the one Arab-speaking congregation of around 150 (40% Bahraini) and their witness to the many Muslims who have never been exposed to the gospel. (2) *There are a number of avenues for tactful witness* to the Arab majority. a) The expatriate Christians employed there — meeting in churches and house fellowships. b) The Christian missionaries serving in the country. c) The well-known American Mission Hospital which has a good reputation. d) The Christian bookstore with a high annual sale of Christian literature. (3) *Half the labor force of 200,000 is foreign*, and includes people from 45 nations. Pray for Christians within some of these national groups, that in the prevailing concern for material things they may win people for Christ. Pray especially for the Iranians, Muslim Pakistanis, also Hindu and Muslim Indians from South India. (4) *FEBA Radio from the Seychelles is well received*. Pray for the financing and producing of Arabic broadcasts suitable for breaking down Islamic misconceptions of the gospel.

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,  
From heaven’s all-gracious King!”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.  
Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O’er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o’er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.



# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Thursday—

*Give me this whole day in praise to you.  
It shall start just here!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Your compassion is great, O Lord; renew my life according to your laws. See how I love your precepts; preserve my life, O Lord, according to your love”* (Psa. 119:156,159). Such an expression of renewal is repeated (not in the same context) in your word. David felt as I do the continual need for renewal — he knew, as I want to increasingly know, that only in your Self and your word can I find renewal. If you were to measure my love for your precepts I wonder how it would compare with your love for me? There would be only a contrast! Preserve my life — i.e., my spiritual, emotional, mental, physical life according to your love.

*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 do this day lift up before your throne the following qualities of yourself: (1) compassion; (2) your renewal capacity; (3) preservation; (4) love. How could I ever become discouraged or depressed when I worship you who are full of personal interest in my every need? How could I ever turn aside to learn things when you stand ready to renew my whole life? When I become impatient with some circumstance of life may I remember I would have no life at all without your mercy. When my love grows thin — as it often does — lead me to a view of your whole ocean of love toward me — and all men.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Your compassion indeed is great — far beyond anything my feeble brain can conceive — but I amaze myself at my lack of compassion — I suspect even those who have a need. Dear Lord, forgive me! There

are times when I do not want to be renewed! What an awful confession — but it is true. Dear Lord, you know my heart — make me willing to be willing. How dull I am at times to your tender mercies! You have delivered me from accident and heartache — do I appreciate it? I do want to look again at your keeping power — forgive my blindness. Just now I bow broken before your love. Cleanse my motives.

*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

There shall be showers of blessing;  
This is the promise of love;  
There shall be seasons refreshing,  
Sent from the Savior above.  
Showers of blessing,  
Showers of blessing we need;  
Mercy-drops 'round us are falling,  
But for the showers we plead.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>5</sup>But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. <sup>6</sup>God "will give to each person according to what he has done." <sup>7</sup>To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. <sup>8</sup>But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. —Romans 2:5-8, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I need to remember just who is being addressed in these verses. It is the Jew as will be seen in verse 17. It is *their* stubborn and unrepentant heart that is here

described. It is the religious person who is storing or piling up for himself wrath against the day of wrath in the revelation of your righteous judgment. He shall be saved out of your mercy and grace but it in no way negates my need for doing your will in my life. Here is a real examination of saving faith — a faith that adds on works is the only valid faith. In particular Paul speaks to the heart of those who had your law and claimed to believe it. Dear Lord, is it I?

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Open my conscience to receive with meekness this living word! I want to turn the coin over and read the other side. If I had a soft and pliable heart instead of a stubborn and rebellious one — will I not also be storing up blessings and treasures in heaven? Since all you can consider on judgment is my intentions — as expressed in my works — I do want to constantly purify them by your word. In my persistence in doing what is good I want also to seek *your* glory, *your* honor and your eternal presence. Lord, Lord, there hardly seems to be any place for compromise in light of your judgment — I want to be ready.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for your continual condemnation of stubbornness. (2) Thank you for the daily possibility of repentance. (3) Thank you for the accumulation of blessings, ready to be enjoyed in the world to come. (4) Thank you for the promise of the revelation to all of your righteous judgment. (5) Thank you for the plain promise of rewards and punishments. (6) Thank you for the closeness of identity we have with these Jewish people of Paul's day.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*"To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life."* What a beautiful description of the attitude all Christians should have toward yourself! Our persistence in doing good is to be just like our Lord who "went about doing good." Healing and teaching or teaching and healing was the *good* of Jesus — how it needs to be ours today! In our good we seek *your* glory (character), *your* honor, and ultimately fellowship with you in the world to come. To such persons you will give eternal life or all the joys of heaven.

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How can I pray through these beautiful words? (1) Can I attribute all my sin to stubbornness and an unwillingness to repent? Not altogether — Satan must also be a very large factor. (2) Am I as afraid of your righteous judgment as I ought? Do I really believe there is a hell to shun? Dear Lord, deliver me from

Satan and his hell. (3) I treasure to my heart your promise of present acceptance in your Son — at the same time I want to regive myself to you since I know something of the power of sin. (4) Sin shall not have dominion over me — if it did sin (or Satan) would be my master — dear Lord, in ways I do not even know — deliver me!

*Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.*

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Since I am the religious man of today — along with all others who claim you as Lord, I want to listen while you speak to the Jews — I know you are speaking also to me: (1) "Self-seeking is Satan's largest deceit — he makes it appear as if you were seeking me." (2) "No one *must* sin — it is *always* a choice." (3) "I am angry and full of wrath for those who will fully disobey."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Bangladesh* — Points for prayer: (1) *Bangladesh has been a hard field for the gospel.* Revulsion at the cruelty of Pakistan's repression in the name of Islam in the 1971 civil war temporarily weakened Bangladeshi loyalty to Islam. These influences are now lessening, and many obstacles are being raised to hinder the entry and activities of missionaries. Yet the vast majority of the population has never once heard the gospel. Pray for the hold of the powers of darkness on the land to be loosed. Pray for a stable, moderate government. (2) *There are signs of an abundant harvest to be reaped. Pray it in!* a) There are many aid programs through Christian relief organizations. The inter-mission "HEED" Bangladesh, World Vision, TEAR Fund, etc. have opened hearts to the Christian message. Pray for all involved in decision making and implementing these programs. Pray for eternal fruit among tribals, Hindus and Muslims. These programs have been under increasing attack by the enemies of the gospel. b) *The openness of Muslims* in some areas to innovative methods of evangelism is encouraging. Pray for strong witnessing churches to be planted and for protection in persecution of all who follow Christ. c) *There are several Hindu castes that have showed marked response to the gospel* but only 4 of the 29 lower castes have shown any significant response.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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 heav'n;  
Precious name, O how sweet!  
Hope of earth and joy of heav'n.

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Friday—

*In the depths of my heart teach me your precepts! I enter into worship for that purpose.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*"May my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word. May my supplication come before you, deliver me according to your promise. May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees" (Psa. 119:169-171).* Here I find such blessed qualities of yourself. You are the source of understanding for all men. You are indeed total understanding! What a comfort to know where to go for a grasp of all of life. Such knowledge comes from your word. Once more I want to praise you for preserving your word over all these centuries.

*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

You are also the source of deliverance! And this is in keeping with your promise. Dear wonderful Father, I claim this quality for myself. I have several areas of my life where I need deliverance — I lift them up to you even now. I understand a supplication is a particular or personal request — I do indeed supplicate for deliverance! I am at a total loss how best to praise you for teaching me your decrees! Dear Lord, you know I do sincerely *want* to be taught. Calm my spirit that I might not hinder the flow of your truth in my heart!

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

It is difficult to admit that far too often my cry is *not* for understanding according to your word — but a complaint when I have not studied your word. Forgive me — I purpose a real improvement by your grace. Oh my Father, there are times when I do not want to be delivered! Too often I enjoy my own

selfishness — but there truly is no joy in such an attitude. Search my deepest motives and deliver me! I do not believe there have been many times when I did not want to be taught. Open my ears to your voice through your word!

*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 soul, are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There's light for a look at the Savior,  
And life more abundant and free!  
Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>9</sup>There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; <sup>10</sup>but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>11</sup>For God does not show favoritism. —Romans 2:9-11, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Do we have in these verses and the preceding verses (i.e., vv. 5-8) a parallelism often found in the O.T.? We believe it is so. I want to examine it most carefully in your presence. It is impossible to read these words and not see the promise of a world and life to come. In this life the wages of sin is death — but far more so in the world beyond this one. "To whom much is given (the Jew and the Christian) much will be required." You have a most interesting manner of placing the responsibility upon each of us and yet

remaining the sovereign ruler behind every man.  
Praise and honor to your name!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Since you in no way will show favoritism it should place a responsibility before me to please you. I have no hope in form or ritual, you see and read my heart. Is not the promise of "glory, honor and peace" enough to lead me to give myself wholly to you? It is indeed! The four principles of judgment found in verses one through sixteen are the following (write them upon my heart). (1) According to truth (v. 2); (2) according to works (v. 6); (3) according to total impartiality (v. 11); (4) according to the gospel (v. 16). Dear Lord, am I ready for that day to come? I am learning how right now!

*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 including every human being in your judgment. (2) Thank you that there is in yourself a perfect balance of love and wrath. (3) Thank you for the promise here that one day we will be able to see and understand your essential being or character — i.e., in the world to come. (4) Thank you for the promise of honor to each man — the value and dignity of every man will be shown to him and to all on judgment. (5) Thank you for the ultimate promise of peace! What tranquility will flood our hearts!

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"For God does not show favoritism." At no time in any place with anyone have you ever shown favoritism. This means that all your decisions are based squarely on fairness. If the Jews seemed to have more opportunity it is only because the Gentiles were unwilling to develop what opportunities they did have. Your plan has always included the whole human race. Your Son was sent because you loved "the world." He commissions his "sent ones" to "every nation" and "every creature" in every nation. On the day of equity everyone will receive just what he earned or has chosen during his lifetime.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I shall have no difficulty lifting my heart in requests from this text: (1) Move me out of the realm of trouble and distress into the glorious liberty I find in your Son. (2) It is for those who persist and insist on sin that your condemnation comes — I want to continue in love and worship of your very Self. (3) Open my heart to see areas of your character I never saw

yesterday. (4) I claim the tranquility of spirit I find in yourself — how I need your peace! (5) My confidence in your absolute balance is increasing according to my understanding of your word — Praise your name.

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

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As you speak to the hearts of all men — speak to me! (1) "There will indeed be 'trouble and distress' for every human being who continues in sin." (2) "There will be glory, honor and peace for everyone who continues in doing good." (3) "My special blessing comes to those who especially love me and obey me."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Bangladesh — Point for prayer: Unreached peoples:*  
a) *Hindus* — All the higher castes are unreached; of the 29 lower castes, there are four which have shown some response to the gospel (over 2% Christian), in six others there are a few Christians; but in the other 11 there are hardly any. Pray that Hindus may be won in large numbers — they feel insecure as a minority in a Muslim country. b) *The Muslim majority* has hardly been touched by the gospel, most evangelism is being directed to the religious minorities. Only 25 full-time Christian workers are giving the major part of their time to evangelize these 82 million people. c) *The Biharis* are Muslims who are unwelcome in Bangladesh but are not allowed to return to India or go to Pakistan. They live in large refugee camps. Pray that their dilemma may bring an openness to the gospel. d) *The Rohingya Muslims* (250,000) (refugees from Burma in 1978) have never been evangelized. e) *The tribal peoples* — some have resisted the gospel, or have not had adequate opportunity to hear: the animist Mru (some are Baptists), the Buddhist Chakma (some are Baptists), Magh and Khyang. f) *The students* — only a small witness among the 272,000 tertiary (college and university) students. Pray for strong witnessing groups in the six universities.

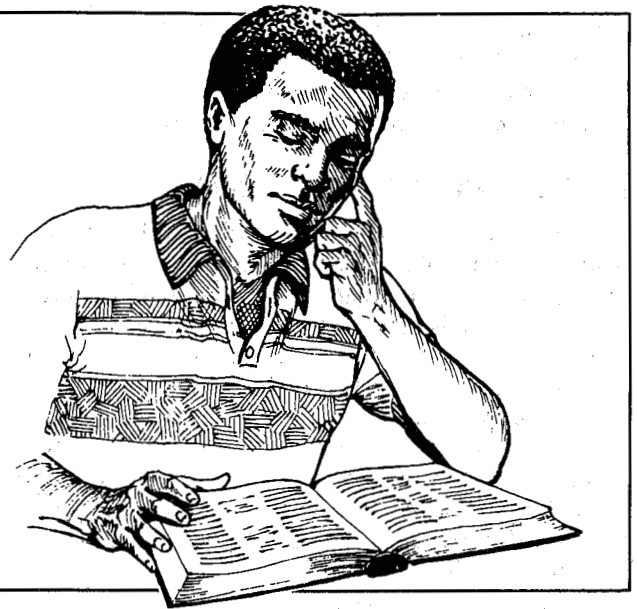
### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing.  
Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.  
He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love.

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Saturday—

*Why? — oh, why do I stray from you?  
I am glad to come home!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight. Let me live that I might praise you, and may your laws sustain me. I have strayed like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commandments”* (Psa. 119:174-176). Here are the blessed qualities for which I praise you: (1) A desire to worship you. It is of yourself that I want to worship you. (2) *Salvation and revelation* both find their origin in yourself. (3) *Life itself* comes from you — as well as the *preservation of life*. (4) You sustain me and all men by your laws — they hold us up and equip us for the battles of life.

*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

(5) *You are a shepherd* in search of this one lost sheep. How exceedingly precious is this quality of yourself. (6) *Memory* is part of your own nature you have given to man. Bless your wonderful name for the deep fulfillment I find in worshipping you. I like David do from the depths of my being long for a complete understanding of my salvation through your Son. It is a source of great wonder that you have given us in written form a full revelation of yourself. In each moment of this day I want to acknowledge your presence. I have already been sustained by your laws.

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

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Indeed I am the sheep who went astray. But I am your servant — yea, your bondservant. I have been bought and paid for by yourself. Your commandments are your rod and staff to give me direction and correction. Forgive my unwillingness to long after your

salvation — I long to be lost not saved — dear Lord, how can it be? And yet it is sadly, tragically true — forgive me! As you give life to my mind and body today I want to lift up my heart in praise! How is it I am so hesitant and lacking in praise much of the time you have given? I have all the stupid qualities of a sheep — and yet — *I am* willing to be led. Sharpen my memory of your commandments.

*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

There's within my heart a melody—  
Jesus whispers sweet and low,  
“Fear not, I am with Thee — peace be still,”  
In all of life's ebb and flow.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus—  
Sweetest name I know,  
Fills my every longing,  
Keeps me singing as I go.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>12</sup>All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. <sup>13</sup>For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.  
—Romans 2:12,13, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is one sobering fact to read here that all Gentiles who sin (and which one does not?) will perish — and all Jews who have your revelation in the form of your word and yet do not obey it will also perish — yea, your very law will be their judge. Lifestyle is the basis of judgment. A continuance in sin among the Gentiles as described in the first chapter will result in eternal

separation. As we look at those who have received your law and find them unwilling to live what they profess your judgment is upon them.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How I do want to represent your word for just what you have spoken. Help me! I am sure you do not require or expect perfect obedience. None of us have such a capacity. And yet you do expect consistent living — i.e., loving, willing obedience to the word you have given us. What a challenge is in this little phrase: "For it is not those who hear (only) the law who are righteous in God's sight, . . ." I have heard your law — read your law — taught and preached your law over all these years — I want to do far more! I want to obey!

*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 beautiful balance I see in your judgment of all men. (2) Thank you for reminding me again and again that you do have a place called *hell*! (3) Thank you that from our very hearts we have the resources for judgment. (4) Thank you for the assurance of "no condemnation" we have in your dear Son. (5) Thank you for the motivation to live for your Son and yourself found in the law of love. (6) Thank you for the promise of declaring me righteous.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous." I am glad for the wording of this text. I am glad it does not say: "... but it is those who perfectly obey the law who will be given righteousness as their just dues." We do not earn righteousness. It is a declaration of our loving heavenly Father on the basis of our willing consistent obedience. This is no excuse at all for indulgence and indifference, but neither should it be intimidating to us. Indeed, after having done all we can (and really never knowing how much is "all") we must declare "we are unprofitable servants." It is out of unearned favor we are declared righteous.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I do want to word my requests in the light of these two powerful verses: (1) Set a guard on my conduct — i.e., that disobedience will not go unnoticed or unpunished. (2) I know I can really never live apart from law — it is either of sin or of love — give me grace to live by the law of love. (3) Since I will be judged by the light under which I live — I do want to

live joyously — I live by your grace and mercy. (4) Deliver me from taking satisfaction in these pious platitudes! It is a track record that counts with you. (5) For the wonderful provision and promise for my righteousness.

*Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.*

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As I pause in your presence speak to my heart! (1) "You are righteous by what he did, even my Son, and not what you do — or not do." (2) "You are not righteous without a response on your part to the cross." (3) "Righteousness is a gift for those who obey."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Bangladesh* — Points for prayer: (1) *The Church in Bengal has been plagued by nominalism*, spiritual shallowness, introspective inferiority (almost all are from low-caste Hinduism or minority tribal peoples), and dependence on missionary aid and initiative. There are too many unfortunate divisions between different sections of the Church. Pray for revival and maturity to make these churches a power for evangelism for all peoples in the country. (2) *Praise God for growth in some churches* — significant people movement ingatherings among the tribals. There is a rising confidence that there are going to be breakthroughs soon. Outreach by some churches is leading to growth. Pray for plans for growth in numbers and spirituality to be realized. The Church is growing now at twice the population rate. (3) *Missions* have been welcomed for their social uplift programs, hence the emphasis on institutions and aid programs. Since 1980, increased limitations have been placed on missionaries with all projects, plans and finances needing government approval and strict quota ceilings for the number of missionaries allowed. Yet reinforcements are needed.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

The first Noel, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

And by the light of a star  
The wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.  
This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.