

WEEK THREE

—Sunday—

You are my separate Father as well as my "papa" — I respect you as well as love you. Gladly do I fall before you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Holy Father (John 17:11): I have worshiped you as both Holy and Father. But now I want as much as at all possible to approach you as your Son did (how presumptuous of me). For all men you want to be the heavenly Parent. Dear God, how can this be? It *could* happen in any generation. It could have happened in any past generation. The simple mathematics of each-one-win-one soon reaches every person on earth. It has been shown to me that in the same length of time your dear Son lived upon this earth all men could be told of your love for them.

You are not "holy" in the sense of being unapproachable — "holy" only in the sense of being gloriously different — but full of love and personal concern for every man.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

"Holy Father" for me. Jesus, my wonderful Lord, had such a concern for his "sent ones" and for all men through the twelve. He must have brought each of the apostles by name and need before you — each one was so important to him. I am not an apostle, but I am important to you. I believe if I were the sole resident of this earth, you would send your Son to save me! Dear Father, Holy Father, I cannot say with your Son, "I have accomplished the work you have sent me to do" — or can I? As much as my poor ignorance and weakness will permit I am trying to fulfill your work for me. Dear Lord, as much as in me is I want to set you apart in my heart as worthy of all praise and love.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Lord, I have mixed up your two wonderful qualities — at times I have been drawn to you as my Father — at other times I am ashamed to speak

because you are holy. I never thought before of embarrassing you as "Holy Father" — what a soul-purifying experience! I feel so very often like the prodigal from the pig sty, full of the smell of the hog waller. "I am not worthy to be called your son," but I come for I do need you and love you.

"False humility." I need to read this sin every day. I honestly do not know when I am false or true. When I want to be humble I express it in pride of one form or another. I pause just now to get a good look at my own heart. I'm surely glad for the "best robe" in your house. The red robe of the righteousness of your Son! Praise your name!

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, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treacherous shoal;
Chart and compass come from Thee;
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

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

HIS WORD

²He traveled through the area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, ³where he stayed three months. Because the Jews made a plot against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia. — Acts 20:2-3, NIV. Read also II Cor. 7:5-7; Rom. 1:7-11, 15; Gal. 1:1-5.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How wonderfully good it is to worship you through your word! How glad I am to read that Paul's body was not Paul. He said, "... this body of ours," as if

it were an eternal possession — which indeed it is! Paul was not the body — it was his possession. You did not protect Paul from harassment. Indeed, he had *much* harassment! I wonder who gave Paul so much trouble, so much conflict? We know it was those in Macedonia — i.e., those of Thessalonica, Philippi and Berea. These are the cities of Macedonia mentioned by Luke. There could have been others. How is it that Paul had “fears” on the inside? Are we right in thinking that Paul was downcast? I thought he rejoiced all the time! I am so glad to be able to put these two factors together. Thank you. It was like this: The substrata of Paul’s heart was “joy in the Lord” — on the upper levels of life, he did indeed have fears, harassment — he was indeed downcast but underneath were the everlasting arms of an all-knowing and all-powerful God.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I read this word for my own heart! You can and do comfort me by other servants of yourself! In this case it was Titus — in my case it has been so many dear people. Titus had been to Corinth. What news he had to give to Paul: (1) “Your affection,” i.e., the deep emotional involvement of Paul had good results. (2) “Your deep sorrow,” i.e., over the sins Paul had rebuked in person and in his letter to the Corinthians was being received. (3) “Your ardent concern for me,” is not unnoticed. Why are we so afraid of emotional involvement with other people? The Corinthians (and they were people with names and faces) were weeping and praying and talking about Paul. In return Paul expressed great joy!

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for Paul’s three-month stay in Corinth — which was in the country of Greece. How sad that we have so little work among the Greeks today. (2) Thank you for the beautiful letter Paul wrote to the Romans — what a wonderful reputation the saints in Rome had. (3) Thank you for Paul’s personal concern over people he had never seen. (4) Thank you for Paul’s powerful example of prayer. (5) Thank you for my rescue from this present evil age. (6) Thank you for the One who gave himself for my sins. (7) Thank you for the eagerness of Paul to preach the gospel.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... *speaking many words of encouragement to the people* . . .” It should be noticed that this was the common practice of Paul. Paul knew as we need to remember that words of encouragement are what we look for more than any other expression. No wonder Luke says he spoke *many* words of encouragement. It is easy to find fault — it takes real love and creativity to find something good to say. In the hour of his great trial, just before our Lord went out to face

Gethsemane, he said, “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Reading the record of Paul’s troubles and travels is a real help to me. (1) Thank you for the example of someone who gave himself for your cause. (2) Teach me that being a Christian does not deliver me from harassment. (3) If Paul had conflicts and fears and overcame them — I can too. (4) Give me a fellow servant like Titus. (5) Help me to appreciate all over again the power of your word. (6) May I remember my relationship to you: (a) beloved; (b) called “a holy one”; (c) “an anointed one.” (7) Rescue me from this present evil age.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I know there is much you can say to me from these verses: (1) “I am the One who comforts the downcast.” (2) “Talk to others, I can comfort you through them.” (3) “You can be my comfort to someone today.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Zambia — Points for prayer: (1) *Praise God for the impact of the gospel in Zambia in recent years.* a) There has been a widespread moving of the Spirit with many coming to personal faith in Christ from a nominal or sectarian Christianity. b) Increased evangelization in urban areas of the copperbelt towns and Lusaka by Pentecostal, Baptist and Brethren believers. c) Outreach to rural areas that were once devoid of a clear gospel testimony. d) The multiplication of groups of believers among the Angolan refugees. They have fled their war-torn, desolated land to the west. (2) *The maturing of the Church in urban areas is encouraging.* Strong, well-led churches have developed over the last 10 years; although few older people are responding, many educated young people and professionals are coming to Christ. Pray that some of these may also be called into full-time work. There are insufficient Zambian church leaders from among the well-educated.

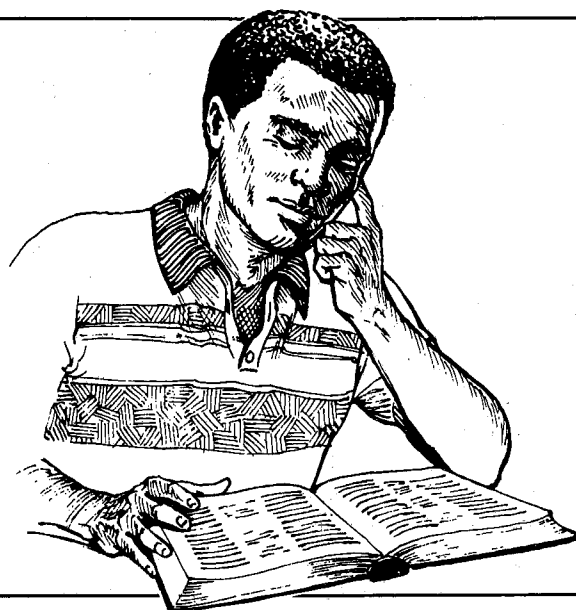
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When my lifework is ended,
and I cross the swelling tide,
When the bright and glorious morning I shall see;
I shall know my Redeemer
when I reach the other side,
And His smile will be the first to welcome me.
I shall know Him, I shall know Him,
And redeemed by His side I shall stand,
I shall know Him, I shall know Him
By the print of the nails in His hand.

WEEK THREE

—Monday—

How I do look forward to the experience of entering into a full view of your total being. I praise just now in the closet to catch a hint of the reality!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

King of Glory (Psa. 24:7,10). A name for my Lord, but one applied also to yourself! I am so much drawn to this beautiful description of your very self! That you are king of all — the ruler of absolute dimension is without question, but to associate such a quality with the word “glory” is more than interesting. “Glory” refers to “character” or essential being, so this is tantamount to saying, “King of Character.” “Glory” does refer to brightness or light, but such is only the reflection of your essential being. You are the sum and substance of all beautiful, fulfilling character qualities. *The King of Love, The King of Mercy, The King of Grace, The King of Peace* — How delightful to worship and bow as a glad slave of the King of Glory! Hallowed be your name!

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

King of Glory to me! What I have just said could and should be said by all men — and I offer it up to you as representative of what I so fervently hope will one day be the expression of every man here on earth. Now, just now, I want to attempt to express some of the deep amazement I feel when I try to say with true meaning “King of Glory”! That you are the absolute of *kindness* — thoughtful consideration on a grand scale! I see this so often in the life of Your Dear Self in the Person of your Son. He took little children upon his lap to lay his hands upon them and to pray for them. He made them feel so important because to him they were! How kind!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

How could it be? We occupy the throne with him! We are co-regent kings of glory ourselves. This fact brings a confession of sad failure! I am hardly the example of patience or compassion. Dear Lord, I *want* to be! I

can be! I want to lay down my poor broken tools. Dear God, forgive. Grant grace to use the set of new ones. Blessed Lord, I do want to be a ruler in the realm of love and glory.

“*Worship of angels.*” I do not relate to this except when I think of angels or “messengers” and I have been guilty of giving far more credit to some of your messengers than they deserved. All adoration and adulation goes to you. “Why fasten you your eyes on us? As though we through our godliness or power had made him to walk?” Look to God not to us.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Lead, kindly Light, amid th’encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home;
Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

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

HIS WORD

⁴He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and from the province of Asia Tychicus and Trophimus. ⁵These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. ⁶But we sailed from Philippi after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days.

⁷On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. —Acts 20:4-7, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Gladly I do this! Why are there seven men with Paul? We learn from Romans 15:22-32 that the men were representatives from the churches who gave to the poverty stricken Christians in Judea. Perhaps the dear

men were carrying the money so as to protect Paul from robbers and disgruntled church members. Is this true, dear Father? I am probably wrong in even thinking it. Forgive me. How I do want to meet these seven men. I can add Luke for he joins the group in Macedonia. Why does Luke mention the number of days involved? Perhaps to help us to appreciate his reference to "the first day of the week." Was the "breaking of the bread" just the supper of your Son? Or did it include a larger meal along with the supper?

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

There is much for me to learn here: Speak to me! (1) Paul wanted companionship and joint effort in his work. Do I want to "do it myself"? Why? There are: Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Timothy, Tychicus, Trophimus and Luke who were eager to help — will I deny them this privilege? (2) Paul traveled much or "was in journeys often" because men live in many parts of this world — do I begrudge travel to reach men? (3) Paul "preached" to whom? Was this room full of people all non-Christians? Not if they met for the Lord's supper; but he *is* preaching. Is then preaching to sinners and teaching to Christians? *Answer!* (4) The "lamps" evidently had something to do with the drowsiness of Eutychus — also the long sermon of Paul! Even Paul did not hold everyone's attention forever.

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 first day of the week when we can come together to break bread — but help me to remember that this was in a home and could have included more than the Lord's (my Lord's) Supper. (2) Thank you for Paul's preaching — a grand example for me. (3) Thank you for "Lucky" or "Fortunate" or "Eutychus" — his "luck" was your blessing. (4) Thank you for the humanness of this record — real people in a real circumstance. (5) Thank you so much for the "ring of truth" in the account — it reads like what it is: an account of an eyewitness. (6) Thank you for everyone who gathered on that memorable day. I want to meet each one of them. (7) Thank you for the dedication of Paul in putting real importance on the spoken word.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Paul talked on and on." Indeed he did — how long was it? Perhaps it was supper time when they met. It would seem an appropriate time of the day to have the Lord's supper. Did they have a love feast with the table of the Lord? The honest answer is: "*We do not know.*" Even if they did perhaps Paul could begin speaking at 8 p.m. — if so he had now been speaking

for four hours. I'm sure there was much more to hear — and all of it very important, but then he was interrupted. Eutychus fell out of the window! Perhaps the stuffiness of the preacher produced this response. Luke is careful to tell us of the many lamps in that upstairs room.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the journeys and words of Paul there is much to pray about: (1) From my reading of Romans 15:22-32 I see the need to protect the investment of other people in your work. (2) Thank you for Luke, Paul's biographer — may I be like him. (3) Open my mind as to the real meaning of meeting on the first day of the week. (4) I am so glad I can read many of the words of Paul today — no doubt much of the same that he spoke that day in Troas. (5) Did they wait seven days for the special day of meeting? I want to follow their example. (6) The name "Eutychus" means "fortunate" — may I remember where all "good luck" comes from.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

No doubt Eutychus wanted to know what he missed in your message through Paul. (1) "Spiritual sleep is more dangerous than the sleep of 'Lucky.'" (2) "I still keep my promise to break the bread with you in my kingdom." (3) "Paul still speaks to us today — listen."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Zimbabwe — Points for prayer: (1) *The spiritual transformation* that has occurred in Zimbabwe is miraculous. The Holy Spirit is at work! a) Despite the devastation and hurt of the war of independence, there has been an unprecedented openness to the Word of God. Many involved in the fighting have come to Christ. b) Much evangelistic outreach in rural areas and replanting of churches. c) Evangelistic campaigns in the cities have drawn many thousands to Christ. d) Vigorous growth of some churches that have emphasized outreach — mainly smaller evangelical churches and indigenous and international Pentecostal groups. e) Massive distribution of literature and Bibles to an eager readership. (2) *The brutality and horror of modern guerilla warfare* brought death to 45,000, widespread destruction and moral collapse in many areas. There is continued warfare in Matabeleland, and life there has not returned to normal.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O could I speak the matchless worth,
O could I speak the glories forth
Which in my Savior shine,
I'd soar and touch the heav'nly string,
And vie with Gabriel while he sings
In notes almost divine,
In notes almost divine.

WEEK THREE

—Tuesday—

There are so many ways I can exalt you above the affairs of my daily life — I want to enlarge upon the ways in the closet of prayer.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Most high (Deut. 32:8). The words of Moses become my words, dear Father! In a thousand ways you are “most high” in this world that owes its total existence to you. You are exalted above the heaven of heavens in the physical world — “the third heaven” is associated with your presence or “dwelling place.” Dear Lord, I believe that just on the other side of my last heart beat I will discover just how small this little planet is — just how removed from this infinitesimal speck you truly are. But when I consider the works of your fingers in this world, you are held up on high before me! How exalted is your knowledge! How great is your strength! How incalculable your planning!

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

Most high for me! Blessed Lord, I will praise you in several areas of life: You are the most-high in personal care. How very much does my dear wife care for me. How concerned are our children. I receive concerned care from Christian friends. But none of them could or would do anything without you. You supply the means and the motive for all such care. Beyond people is the fact that my body is healthy, my mind is functional, my clothes are adequate. Dear God, I gladly acknowledge that you are the exalted source for all these things. Indeed, I want to hold you up before my eyes as the One in whom I live and move and have my very being.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

That you should be any less than the most-high God, the Exalted-One, is in itself the epitome of sin. How I

do want to see you in all I do — to worship you amid your creation, to commune with you within myself, to praise you in song with the rest of your children. That I should ever live as do the beasts of the field who cannot know you is the sin of all sins. Speak to me, awaken me that I might praise you!

“*Carnality.*” How can it be that we will take the senses you gave us to express our worship to you and use them to mock and deny you? When the instrument becomes the end instead of the means we are terribly deceived. I am guilty; forgive and wash me clean!

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 gave my life for thee,
My precious blood I shed,
That thou might'st ransomed be,
And quickened from the dead;
I gave, I gave My life for thee,
What hast thou giv'n for Me?
I gave, I gave My life for thee,
What hast thou giv'n for Me?

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

HIS WORD

⁹Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. ¹⁰Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said, “He’s alive!” —Acts 20:9,10, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It does seem incongruous sometimes to read your word back to you. If, however, you caused this word

to be written and I believe you did, then such a practice would be welcome however poorly done. Such is my persuasion. Dear Lord, I shall only ask you to help me as I comment on each phrase of these two verses. How clearly does Luke describe this incident! I can see the young man totally relaxed and in a deep sleep. How often I have dreamed of falling only to find I was sleeping too close to the edge of the bed. I imagine you are thinking that so many young and old will one day fall into the bottomless pit. It will be a terrible dream and reality with no end. *"He fell to the ground from the third story."* Did Eutychus awaken on the way down? I can't imagine he did not. What terror must have filled his total being! Is hell like falling forever? Is hell like the darkness of the darkest night? Is hell the second death? I know it is! Dear God, how can I be so casual about it?

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

"... and was picked up dead." Who picked him up? His mother and father? We do not know. Was he a Christian? If he wasn't we are sure he became one after this incident. Perhaps many others did too, although Luke says nothing about it. Paul interrupted his message to meet a real human need. Paul was very much involved — *"he threw himself on the young man."* This seems like a drastic way to act. But then the situation is drastic! What am I doing about those who have fallen to their death in trespasses and sins? Am I about to rush out and throw myself on these people? Oh, for the glad word! *"Don't be alarmed."* *"He's alive."* So many need first to awaken in the midst of their fall before they realize what is happening to them.

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 sleep — it is such a blessing. (2) Thank you for awakening me to the desperate needs of men. (3) Thank you for the record of love in action as seen with Paul and Eutychus. (4) Thank you for the concern of others who shared the shock of Eutychus' fall. (5) Thank you for the comforting words of Paul, backed up with the power of God. (6) Thank you for the strong confirmation this miracle gave to Paul's work. (7) Thank you that young men who fall to their spiritual death can be raised today by the same One who raised Eutychus.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Don't be alarmed, he's alive." I wonder what happened to Eutychus in the days and years that followed Paul's visit. Did he really appreciate his resurrection? We could answer this question in several possible ways. The more important question is what has hap-

pened to any one of us since we have been raised from death in trespasses and sins? (1) Did Eutychus explain away the miraculous element in his experience? No doubt someone in Troas told a similar story of someone else with no miracle connected. Any time we want to we can offer a humanistic explanation for the power of God. (2) Did Eutychus recognize the gift of life God gave him and use it for God's glory? We like to believe he did. We can know we should!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Could there be two more dramatic verses than those in 20:9,10? In them we can find prayer petitions: (1) Wake us up to the reality of the deadly danger of closing the eyes of our heart. (2) Move me away from a too-close-to-the-edge mentality on all issues of morality. (3) Help me to remember that hell is described as falling into a bottomless pit. (4) May I remember that all of us Christians should be called Eutychus or "Fortunate," i.e., considering our fall into sin and death. (5) Open my eyes on the way down that I might appreciate what power there is in my being raised from my own neglect. (6) Thank you for Paul's willingness to get involved in the lives of those who were hurting. (7) Thank you for the obvious supernatural power at work in the life of Paul.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

This is a desperate situation — speak to me through it: (1) *"Even Paul did not hold everyone's attention."* (2) *"Paul was concerned personally with everyone."* (3) *"There are several things worse than physical death."*

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Audio-Visual Evangelism — Points for prayer: (1) *The Moody 'Fact and Faith' film series* has long had a ministry among those influenced by a presentation of science molded by a godless evolutionary materialism. (2) *The film 'Jesus' (CCC)* has been one of the most widely shown films in history. This moving rendering of the Gospel of Luke is, on average, being shown to 300,000 people nightly in over 85 languages. (3) *The whole ministry of Christian film and TV program production* is costly in time and finance but, if well done, it is a good investment. Pray for all involved in this type of work. (4) *Many national TV networks* are willing to show good Christian productions. Pray for this trend to continue.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.

WEEK THREE

—Wednesday—

Isn't it a solid comfort to know we have a Father in heaven? It is to me! I pause before you to enjoy this relationship.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Heavenly Father (Matt. 6:26,32). This is a delightful designation: "Our Father who is in heaven" is the beginning of my Lord's prayer to you — it surely means more than just a designation of where you are. You are "of heaven, heavenly," i.e., all of heaven in essence. Heaven must be a wonderful place or shall we say "state" or "condition," — but your Son did say "I go to prepare a *place* for you." He did call it your house or "abiding place." I do want to as much as at all possible appreciate heaven — for I plan on being with you there — as Jesus said "where I am (and you are) there you will be also." How can I possibly enter fully into a real awareness of where you are? It is not that you are removed in time and space near as much as that you are "other than" in every area of my thinking — this causes me to praise you even more!

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

"Our Father who is in heaven" or "heavenly Father" for me. Perhaps you want me to apply all I know about heaven to my life today — yea, Lord, I gladly do this: (a) "He (you) have *prepared for them a city*" (Heb. 11:16) the new Jerusalem — you and your Son have been working on the preparation of this city for 2,000 years. Or is it even now all ready for me, and all the redeemed? (b) "I shall sit down at a banquet table — the marriage supper of your Lamb — with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" (Matt. 8:11). (c) I shall share in "a great multitude no man can number of all the nations, tribes, peoples, and languages." I shall stand with them before your throne and before your Son, I shall have on a white robe and I shall carry a palm branch in my hand (Rev. 7:9).

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

How often was my mind and heart in heaven yesterday? Or will it be today? Since I believe there is a most glorious experience just on the other side of my last heart beat, should not this thought enter and re-enter my consciousness during this day? Since my real citizenship is in heaven shouldn't I have more than idle curiosity about this country? In all the above ways I have sinned! I have *not* thought about heaven — my mind has *not* been on "the things above where my blessed Lord is seated at your right hand." Dear God, forgive me — I am the loser.

"Malice." What an awful sin this is! The cause of the first murder — it blinds us to the light. The cause for the plot against many who loved our Lord: Daniel, Mordecai, John the Baptist and our Lord himself. Dear God, remind me to what ends hatred can lead!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
Will your anchor hold, or firm remain?
We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.

HIS WORD

¹¹Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. ¹²The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

¹³We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul aboard. He had made this arrangement because he was going there on foot. ¹⁴When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mytelene. ¹⁵The next day we set sail from there and arrived off Chios. The day after that we crossed over to Samos, and on the following day arrived at Miletus. ¹⁶Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of

Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost. — *Acts 20:11-16, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How good to share again with yourself and Paul. Paul took "a break" in the middle of the night, i.e., sometime after twelve o'clock. I wonder what went through his mind as he broke the bread and ate it? Was he thinking of "the young man"? From the fact that he walked the eight or ten miles from Troas to Assos after talking all night, we believe he must have had much on his mind. He was gathering an offering and perhaps he was concerned over this. It was eight to twelve hours of talking. I know how exhausted he was.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How much of what Paul said in the all-night marathon of talking could be remembered by those gathered? Luke remembers that it happened. If it was not a help, it would not have been done. How greatly comforted were the friends of Eutychus! Are there friends and loved ones here in this town who would rejoice greatly if someone was raised up to live? Indeed they would! This record is all so accurate and believable!

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 unselfish attitude of Paul in teaching others. (2) Thank you for the "new day" Eutychus faced because of Paul — because of yourself! (3) Thank you for the caring, sharing fellowship of believers in Troas. (4) Thank you for the example of Paul in meditation and prayer. (5) Thank you for Dr. Luke and his devotion to writing — we would have nothing of this record without him.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost." Why all this urgency? We learn from Romans 15:22-32 that he was intent on helping the poor Christians in Judea — and especially Jerusalem. Paul had been appointed — by the need and his love and ability to be a one-man committee (the best kind) to gather funds from the churches to help these people. He was very, very concerned that his generosity be received and accomplish its purpose. But perhaps the largest concern he had was with those who would misunderstand his motives. Most of the "bounty" or money came from Gentiles. Was there ever such an act of unselfish love? But there were areas of this circumstance that Paul did not know how to interpret.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

On Paul's journey he must have prayed often — we can share in some of those prayers: (1) Help me to say something when I speak for you. (2) Comfort is such a large part of the experience of your servants. I want to communicate this today. (3) Paul's emphasis was teaching — not healing — so make it mine. (4) Thank you for Dr. Luke — give me such a fellow servant. (5) Why did Paul walk from Troas to Assos? Was it meditation and prayer on the promises of suffering at Jerusalem? (6) Keep me aware that you are present in the very physical action of moving from one port the next. (7) Give me the humble determination to spread your word that filled the life of Paul.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In this moving scene of life speak to me: (1) "Paul worked with people who did not always agree with him." (2) "Please keep your priorities in order — it is sometimes better to sail past than to stop."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Bible Correspondence Courses This ministry is only about 40 years old, but it has grown and become one of the most effective means for following up contacts from literature distribution and Christian radio programs. The relative ease in using the post in sensitive areas of the world and the emphasis on studying the word of God has had a great impact on BCC students — some being strengthened in their Christian life. This has proved the best single means of winning Muslims.

Points for prayer: (1) *There are reckoned to be over 300 centers sending out evangelical BCCs.* Pray for the workers involved in preparation of materials, and helping the students through the post. (2) *Pray for the publicizing of BCCs* through tracts, radio programs or through other students, in lands where there are few believers, and doors are closed to missionaries. (3) *Pray for the effective, personal follow-up of students* by local Christians, and for their integration into Christian fellowships.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O truth unchanged, unchanging,
O light of our dark sky;
We praise Thee for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.

WEEK THREE

—Thursday—

Truth is that which perfectly matches reality. I look forward to a revelation of reality itself that I might adjust my thinking. I can begin in this time of worship.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

True (John 3:33, "God is Faithful"). How very good to approach you this day as the very essence of truth. Truth is that which is equal to reality — that which matches facts. How secure we can feel when we know we worship the original source of all truth — of all that is reality! All you say in the two books of which you are author, i.e., nature and the Bible — is totally equal to fact or it is truth. There are several obvious messages from the world all about us: (1) You have no problem with details — you produce millions, even trillions of them. (2) You speak in the same way at the same time under the same conditions each time. Uniformity is one constant message. (3) Check and balance — or plan and purpose are built into your handiwork.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

True for me! When you speak you speak truth — for "*Thy word is truth*" — indeed your name is *Truth*. How comforting and restful it is to open up and read a book with no error — "no shadow cast by turning," you speak to me and dear Lord I want to hear. I open your book to read: "Now these things occurred as examples (or types), and keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did" (I Cor. 10:6). The whole panorama of your message in the five books of Moses was to show us — teach us — speak to us — by models that what gets our thought, will, affection, gets our hearts. Whatever it is that receives much of my time in the above areas is my god. Dear God, I want to think your thoughts — will your will — feel your emotions and thus give you my heart.

How do you personally relate to the truth of God, and God who is True?

CONFESSION OF SIN

You have been so true with me — you have always done what you said you would. How fickle I have been! Forgive me. I know you desire truth in the in-

ward man. I want this also! My basic struggle is to match my conduct with what I know is right — true — fact. How easily I am deceived — forgive me — cleanse me — but renew my mind.

"*Slander.*" This is lying about another with the intention of hurting them. Dear Lord, I have been tempted and I have sinned in this area — make me see how terrible this sin is! If you wanted to you could speak truth fully about the failures of my life — you forgive — may I love like you do and forgive as I have been forgiven.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek
Thy erring children lost and lone.

HIS WORD

¹⁷From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. ¹⁸When they arrived, he said to them, "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. ¹⁹I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. ²⁰You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. ²¹I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

²²And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. —Acts 20:17-22, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is indeed with joy I approach an attempt to empathize with you on this text. Perhaps I could become one of the elders. (I am asking questions because I

know you alone have the answers — perhaps somehow you will help me to know.) Do I have one or more of the supernatural gifts listed in Rom. 12:6-8 and I Cor. 12:9-11? I cannot see how I could function without them. If this is true why do I need instruction from Paul? There must be something I do not know about the operation of these gifts. Perhaps it is to learn from his example how best to use what I have. His example is one marvelous testimony: (1) He was the same every day. (2) He served with great humility — (How could he say it and still be humble?).

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I am very much attracted by the little phrase “with tears.” What made Paul cry? Here is a possible list:

(a) The hard-hearted Jews. (b) The total ignorance of the Gentiles. (c) The misunderstanding of Christians. (d) His own weakness and sins. (e) The lack of spiritual-mindedness. What makes me cry? Or do I cry at all? Paul was severely tested by plots of the Jews. (What do I have to worry about compared with Paul?) It would seem there were two sets of Jews in the plotting business — the Jews who hated Paul and the Jews who loved Paul. The added element was yourself on the side of Paul.

Once again Paul is talking about preaching to Christians — the elders and others — his preaching consisted of helpful information for the Christian life — not the gospel of salvation. This is Paul the preacher — I’m glad to follow his example. When did Paul teach publicly and from house to house? Was this when he first came and declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God? Is Paul describing his work in Ephesus with both the saved and the lost? We believe he is.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the ability to constantly change my mind in relation to God and man. (2) Thank you for the faith, confidence, trust I can have and do have in my Lord Jesus. (3) Thank you for the element of surprise found in the leading of the Holy Spirit. (4) Thank you for the bold humility of Paul’s preaching. (5) Thank you for the example of house-to-house teaching. (6) Thank you for the example of public teaching. (7) Thank you for the ability to change my mind, to renew my mind, to cleanse my mind, to love with my mind.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“... compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.” Compelled by the Spirit is such an intriguing thought! Wouldn’t we all like to have such a nearness and direction from the Spirit? There are several factors here to consider: (1) Paul was totally involved in the work of the Lord when the Spirit compelled him. The Holy Spirit worked amid the circumstances. (2) The Holy Spirit spoke through men to tell Paul some

of the things that awaited him — the Holy Spirit did not move in a vacuum. (3) In spite of the fact that Paul had the direct operation of the Holy Spirit on his spirit he did not know everything that would befall him. He was given a sense of foreboding, but no details of just what the bonds and afflictions would be.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How much there is about which we can pray in Paul’s words to the Ephesian elders: (1) May I have as much concern for the elders with whom I work. (2) Give me the compassion for the flock that leads me to help the shepherds. (3) Dear Lord, how I need humility. (4) How can I see you “with tears”? (5) Give me the same program of public and private teaching that characterized Paul. (6) Whom did Paul teach publicly and from house to house? I want to do the same. (7) Give me true repentance that I might share it with others.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me through the words of Paul: (1) “It is possible to live and work like Paul.” (2) “You need more humility and many more tears.” (3) “Even Paul did not know all the will of God all the time.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Bible Societies It is hard to overestimate the importance of the organizations that provide God’s Word for the peoples of the world. Most significant are the 70 national Bible Societies, and a further 30 national Bible Society offices, in a total of 100 countries working in over 180 territories, who are grouped under the United Bible Societies.

Points for prayer: (1) *The staffs* of the Bible Societies with their special skills for the many tasks. Pray for their walk with God, for guidance in what translation and printing projects to tackle, etc. (2) *Translation and revision work* — UBS staff workers give much encouragement and advice to missionaries and nationals in new language and modern speech translation programs. Much wisdom is needed in the many problems that arise. The UBS was engaged in 562 translation projects in 1984.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

WEEK THREE

—Friday—

If you are my husband — and I am your bride — the closet is where we find our deepest intimacy — gladly do I enter.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Ishi (salutary — Hosea 2:16,17). This is a strange name for yourself, but you yourself chose it. As contrasted with Baal is this name *Ishi*. The new name means “husband,” as compared with Baal, which means “master.” How wonderfully good it is to call you “husband” — indeed, indeed, I want to be married to you — all men should be, and could be your bride. I want to be as attractive as possible to please such a marvelous groom — without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. How comforting to know I can live with you and you with me. I consider myself as but representative of all men.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Ishi for me. I do not want to be allured by any other. Baal is but an ancient name for Satan — he operates in the three areas of man’s needs: flesh, eyes, and pride or body, things and status. You tell me to control, not indulge the flesh; to use “things,” not to be used by them; to find my importance or status in you. Dear Lord, wonderful husband, I want to obey you. Because I have found your word to match with reality and your competitor a liar!

How do you personally relate to being married to God, and God who is Ishi? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

That I so often say one thing and do another is a mystery to me. There is something strange — ethereal (i.e., of the spirit world). At the same time, I feel totally responsible for my sin — my seeking fulfillment in “an affair” with Satan. No satisfaction beyond the moment in flesh — eyes or pride. Dear God, forgive me!
“Harshness.” How well this does fit me! I am unhap-

py with myself and others suffer the harsh consequences — I am as hard and harsh with others as I feel toward myself. The answer is loving you — accepting your acceptance of me, and loving others. Forgive me, dear Lord!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Sweetly, Lord, have we heard Thee calling,
“Come, follow Me!”

And we see where Thy footprints falling
Lead us to Thee.

Footprints of Jesus, that make the pathway glow!
We will follow the steps of Jesus where’er they go.

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

HIS WORD

²³“I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.

²⁴However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task that the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.

²⁵“Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. ²⁶Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.

²⁸Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

²⁹I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

³²“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. ³⁴You

yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.
³⁵In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " — *Acts 20:23-35, NIV*

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How shall I rid myself of the blood of all men in Joplin? I must go to every house and tell them of your rule in the heart! Have I ever hesitated in telling to some people some things from your word? You know I have — forgive me. I do not need boldness near as much as deep compassion! How I need to guard myself, protect myself — my only real protection is in your word, in your love, in your presence. I am *not* a shepherd. He substituted as one until God could raise up, through Paul's teaching and preaching, true "pastors" of the flock. Paul's task is mine — to teach and preach the gospel of the Kingdom! Dear God, I hear it — speak it again — I have obstructions. "The church of God, which he purchased with his own blood."

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

Oh, thank you — (1) For your warning that there are strange wolves who can hurt the flock. (2) For the warning that defection and distortion can happen anywhere. Jealousy and pride are such deceitful sins. (3) Men following me is a sin — thank you for saying it so plainly! (4) For the tremendous example of Paul — three years — night and day with tears — how could it be? I'm shocked! I'm rebuked! (5) Thank you that I never will know all the depth and power of your word — the word of your grace — but, oh, how it does build me up! (6) Thank you for my inheritance among the sanctified — what does that mean? Jesus is both my inheritance and my sanctification. (7) Thank you for the hard work in manual labor — it was commended and done by both my Lord and Paul.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus. It is more blessed to give than to receive." I wonder who "the weak" were in Ephesus? Is this reference to those who did not have the means to support Paul and therefore were weak financially? Was Paul saying that those who were destitute were helped financially by his labor? I.e., he bought their meals and clothes? This seems to be close to the thought since he applies the words of our Lord to the circumstance. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The facts are: Paul's companions did not have a gainful occupation they could use in Ephesus; they therefore lived from Paul's efforts. What an ex-

ample Paul is to all of us! Paul did his work without complaining.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How poignantly and personally do the words of Paul call me to prayer: (1) May I consider my life and its value by Paul's estimate. (2) Lord, may I finish the race of the Christian life. (3) May I complete the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. (4) Free me from the blood of those among whom I live — open my mouth to make it so. (5) Awaken me that I might guard myself. (6) Dear Lord, help me to communicate Paul's words to today's shepherds and overseers. (7) Impress deeply upon my heart these words: "... the church of God, which he bought with his own blood." (8) May I in every way I can "be on guard."

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in verses 31-35: (1) "Warn men night and day with tears." (2) "Supply your own needs if necessary to continue preaching." (3) "Remember, it is more blessed to give than to receive."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Bible Translation — Points for prayer: (1) *The unfinished task.* There are complete Bibles in 286 languages and NTs in 594. Of the 5,455 known languages in the world only 1,808 have any part of the Scriptures. The remaining 3,647 languages are spoken by only 3% of the world's population. SIL estimates that of the latter, 723 definitely need Bible translation work. (2) *Translators.* Pray for the calling of more missionaries, and also nationals for this ministry, and for their adequate training. This is a long and slow work — to reduce a language to writing, to learn to speak it fluently, and then to be able to translate the Scriptures both accurately and understandably. (3) *Wycliffe Bible Translators (SIL)* is a mission wholly committed to Bible translation. In 1983 there were 4,826 members and associates of this agency. SIL is praying for a staff of 8,000 translators and supportive workers to be able to tackle known needs. SIL translation teams are working in 694 languages worldwide, but at least 548 other translation projects must yet be started.

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!

WEEK THREE

—Saturday—

*When I consider your almightiness
what is man that you are mindful of
him? I bow before you.*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Elohim — the plural form of “mighty.” Used when you are contrasted with men or things. How exceedingly interesting to worship you in the plural. But plural in the form of might! I am now looking at a photograph of the *Trifid Nebula* in Sagittarius as taken by an Australian astronomer, D.F. Malin. Millions and millions — hundreds of millions of miles from the infinitesimal speck called “earth.” What is all the opposition of man to an intelligent Spirit Being who has created the expanse of ten million galaxies? But there are three such Divine Beings — all sharing the same nature. I am indeed nonplused by the concept! I can only stand or fall in mute amazement!

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

Elohim to me. Surely you are mighty beyond my poor human comprehension. At the same time, I am full of excitement in a desire to explore the ramifications of such worship. (1) Shall I think of you as three gigantic computers with equal infinite capacity? Of course the obvious question is: “Who is the programmer?” The simple answer is: You owe your programming to yourself. Man (myself) cannot understand such a concept. You would not be Elohim in intelligence if we could. (2) Shall I think of you as three great permeating, pervasive Spirit intelligences into which we can tune through faith and prayer? No, no. I shall think and worship you as three wonderful Persons found in your book, the Bible — Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

How do you personally relate to the mighty power of God, and God who is Elohim?

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Lord, I have sinned against each of the three Divine Beings — the One true God. (1) I have sinned against my Savior for he has found me *in* my sin —

but because I have been unwilling he has not saved me “from” my sin. (2) I have grieved, quenched, resisted and insulted the blessed Holy Spirit. (3) Dear God, dear Elohim, forgive me!
“*Idleness*” — this does not refer to inactivity, but to apathy toward worship and service. For this sin, forgive me!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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

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

HIS WORD

³⁶When he had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. ³⁷They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. ³⁸What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

21 After we had torn ourselves away from them, we put out to sea and sailed straight to Cos. The next day we went to Rhodes and from there to Patara. ²We found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, went on board and set sail. ³After sighting Cyprus and passing to the south of it, we sailed on to Syria. We landed at Tyre, where our ship was to unload its cargo. —Acts 20:36-21:3, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Luke is an eyewitness to what is happening here. I

want to be. I know you were and are! How did you see them as they knelt in prayer? As children in need of the Father's care and love? As sheep in the midst of wolves? How did you (how do you) react to the tears and embraces? Your own dear Son shed tears — and many more than we know — one inspired writer says, "with many tears" (Heb. 5:7). How very close — how very emotionally identified were these men with Paul and he with them. How open and honest he was with them! Oh, speak this into my hard heart! How did Paul know he would never see these dear leaders again? Did you tell him? Didn't he expect to see them in heaven? Didn't he visit Ephesus after his first Roman imprisonment (I Tim. 1:3)? I ask because I do not know.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How often do I kneel and pray with the leaders with whom I meet? There are surely times when I have no assurance that such men will see my face again or I theirs. The problem is (as far as comparison goes) I have not established with any set of elders such a close relationship that there would be such a spontaneous response of deep concern. Dear Lord, forgive me! There are elders with whom deep friendship exists, but not as deep as seen here! Let me not say that it is a cultural practice, or unnecessary. How will I learn if I do? It is so easy to use such rationalizing to eliminate anything that makes me uncomfortable because I judge others by my own motives. Forgive me and move me into the same tearful relationships my Lord had with his apostles.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Indeed I shall! (1) Thank you for the loving fellowship Paul established with those with whom he worked. (2) Thank you for prayer — individually and collectively — what a boon to the weary! What solace and strength and direction we receive! (3) Thank you for all the various expressions of love and concern we have for each other. (4) Thank you for the *strong* tie of mutual effort in your service. (5) Thank you that those we do not see here we shall see over there. (6) Thank you for the beautiful example of Paul's commitment to the larger service — not only at Ephesus but also to Jerusalem and Rome. (7) Thank you for the completely accurate record of Luke's treatise.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"After we had torn ourselves away from them."
What a tie of mutual interest and respect had developed between Paul and the elders from Ephesus! Indeed, such nearness and love was shared by Luke. We could think of the person or persons with whom

we have developed a mutual interest and respect. Think of one who has gone out of his way to help you; who has stayed up nights when you were sick; who took a real interest in those things that were of interest to you. Have we ever established such nearness with someone that we could hardly think of their not being with us? Such was the love Paul had with them. Somehow such love and fellowship has been lost in our impersonal society.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Paul's closing words to the elders move me to prayer: (1) I wonder just what the prayers were as they knelt upon the beach? Perhaps: "Give Paul and his company your grace in travel." (2) Perhaps: "Guard our hearts that we fulfill your purpose in us." (3) Perhaps: "Keep us faithful that we might see Paul in the Father's house." (4) Perhaps: "Deliver Paul from unreasonable men." (5) Help me to have as much personal involvement with those with whom I work as Paul did. (6) Teach me to love others as my Lord loved me. (7) Give me the grace to believe you are at work in *all* circumstances of life.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in these few verses: (1) "Prayer does help in every situation." (2) "Tears are the language of the heart." (3) "Close association is typical of my Son and his disciples — of Paul and his disciples."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Ministry to Children The importance of ministry to children and young people cannot be overestimated. They will be the Church of the next generation. Consider the following: (1) *Over one-third (35%) of the world's population* is under 15. Nearly half of Africa's population (45%) is under 15. (2) *Every year 130 million babies are born*, but 112 million of these are born in less developed countries. Many of the latter will grow up malnourished and with limited expectations of a viable economic future.

Points for prayer: (1) *Christian parents*. They face a difficult task in bringing up children in the fear of the Lord in today's world. (2) *The children themselves*. Only in a few lands can it be said that a reasonably adequate range of evangelistic and teaching ministries is widely available.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

We praise Thee, O God! for the Son of Thy love,
For Jesus who died and is now gone above.

Hallelujah! Thine the glory;

Hallelujah! Amen.

Hallelujah! Thine the glory;

Revive us again.