

**Weekly Memory Verse**

“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus:  
that if One died for all, then all died,”

*2 Corinthians 5:14*

**Hymn of the Week:** Here Is Love

Here is love, vast as the ocean,  
loving-kindness as the flood,  
when the Prince of Life, our Ransom,  
shed for us His precious blood.  
Who His love will not remember?  
Who can cease to sing His praise?  
He can never be forgotten  
throughout heav’n’s eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion  
fountains opened deep and wide;  
through the floodgates of God’s mercy  
flowed a vast and gracious tide.  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,  
poured incessant from above,  
and heav’n’s peace and perfect justice  
kissed a guilty world in love.

In Thy truth Thou dost direct me  
by Thy Spirit through Thy Word;  
and Thy grace my need is meeting  
as I trust in Thee, my Lord.  
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring  
Thy great love and pow’r on me  
without measure, full and boundless,  
drawing out my heart to Thee.

*Use your smartphone to  
hear this hymn’s tune:*



## Saturday, January 15

*Proverb for the Day: "Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, but a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding." 10:13*

**Read Acts 25–26**, which Pastor will be preaching from tomorrow.

### **Items for Prayer**

- Mark and Bekah Perry, Chile—Pray for Victor and Nati as they get married today. Pray for the salvation of their family.
- Selfless, sacrificial love for all Christians, Acts 6:1
- Tendency to be “now” oriented rather than Christ and eternity, Matt 6:33; 2 Tim 4:1

## Monday, January 10

*Proverb for the Day: "The wise in heart will receive commands, but a prating fool will fall." 10:8*

### **Matthew 6**

Jesus continues teaching how those who truly believed he is the promised Messiah should live. True followers of the Messiah live thoroughly righteous lives. We can know Jesus had his immediate hearers in mind from statements in verses 2, 5, 10, 13, 16, 31–33. These were Jews who worshiped in synagogues, looked for the coming kingdom, and experienced temptations from Satan.

Christians today must learn from Jesus’ teaching how to live righteously before God. examine your life regarding the areas and principles Jesus addressed in this chapter: Why and how do you do good works (vv. 1–4), pray (vv. 5–15), and fast (vv. 16–18)? What do you live for in this life (vv. 19–21, 24–34)? What is the fundamental character of your life (vv. 22–23)?

### Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. While Jesus condemns hypocrisy he does not condemn the various commands and deeds that righteous people should obey and do.
2. Jesus helps us see the difference between living for the praise of men and the things of this world and living for the praise of the Father. living for this life has benefits restricted to “now,” whereas living for the Lord has benefits for both life and eternity (cf. 1 Tim 4:8).

### **Items for Prayer**

- Mike and Marie Brunk, South Africa—Pray for the church in South Africa as they will be without direct leadership from the 20th until we return.
- Satan and wicked spiritual forces, Mark 4:15; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2; 6:12, 18
- Sinful hearts of the lost, Rom 3:10–18; 2 Cor 4:3–4; Eph 4:18–19
- Our own struggles with sin, Matt 26:41; Rom 7:13–25

## The Lord’s Day, January 16

*Proverb for the Day: "Wise people store up knowledge, but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction." 10:14*

**Think back on God’s truth you heard or read this past week**, and how you could use that to minister to the saints today as the church gathers.

### **Items for Prayer**

- Andy, Sharon, Jeff, Katie, and Trent Rupert, Calvary Baptist of Willard—Pray for Trent as he prepares for baptism.
- Christ-likeness at home and “work,” Col 3:18–4:1
- Not judge by externals, Jas 2:1; 2 Cor 5:16
- Persevering faithfulness in perilous times, Revelation 2–3; 21:7

## Friday, January 14

*Proverb for the Day: "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins." 10:12*

### **Matthew 10**

Following 9:35–38, Jesus sent the twelve apostles throughout Israel to preach that Jews must believe that Jesus is the Messiah, Israel's King (10:7). Jesus also gave the apostles authority to do miracles that proved their message about the King and the soon-to-come kingdom was true and should be believed.

Jesus describes aspects of their ministry proclaiming the King and his kingdom that point to the future Tribulation period (10:17–23). Before Jesus comes again to establish his kingdom on earth, the gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout Israel's borders by believing Jewish disciples (Matt 24:14) who will experience the persecutions described here and in 24:9–10, 21.

### Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. 10:5–15 do not give instructions for gospel ministry now, these are specifically aimed at ministry during Jesus' time. Contrast this with Luke 22:35–36 just before Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion, where Jesus changes what they disciples should bring.
2. Though Jesus' teaching applies immediately to his time right then, there are truths and principles for our application. Following Christ involves suffering. Fear God not man (v. 28); confess Christ don't deny him (vv. 32–33); live to serve Christ, not save your life (vv. 34–39); be hospitable to the Lord's servants (vv. 40–42)!

### **Items for Prayer**

- Daniel, Rosamma, Dany, Merlin, and David Kumar, India—Pray for Pastor Benny and Family in Vadamadurai.
- Always increasing Christ-likeness of Christians, Col 1:9–11; Heb 5:12–14; 2 Pet 1:5–11
- Governing authorities, Acts 5:29; 1 Tim 2:1–6
- Christians' worship, 1 Cor 14:24–25

## Tuesday, January 11

*Proverb for the Day: "He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known." 10:9*

### **Matthew 7**

Jesus concludes the main body of his teaching with a warning and exhortation regarding hypocritical evaluation of other believers. The warning is against condemning a brother for sin when one has sin in his own life that he hasn't repented of. The exhortation is to first deal with your own sin and then you will be able to help your brother with his sin.

Jesus closes his teaching (vv. 13–29) urging his hearers to listen to and do what he taught. There is no other way to life (vv. 13–14). Those who teach otherwise are false prophets (vv. 15–20). Last, Jesus says that at the final judgment he will discern between hypocritical profession and genuine faith (vv. 21–23). It is not merely what one says but whether that faith is proven in daily life and practice (vv. 21–29).

### Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. Jesus does not condemn judging a brother but hypocritical judging (vv. 1–5; cf. Gal 6:1–5). Pray for God to convict you of your own sins! (Psalm 139:23–24)
2. Verses 7–11 are a great encouragement to persistent, trusting prayer. Pray!
3. Beware the pressure from others to go the way everyone else is (vv. 13–14)! The majority of humanity is wrong when it comes to spiritual things.

### **Items for Prayer**

- Jeremy, Caroline, Isobel, William, Priscilla, and Hudson Dion, Papua New Guinea—Pray for the Bible studies with Michael & Josephine and Immanuel & Essie
- Boldness in the face of opposition and resistance, Acts 4:29; Eph 6:19
- Fear of and love for Christ, 2 Cor 5:11, 14
- Selflessness, Luke 9:23–26

## Wednesday, January 12

*Proverb for the Day: "He who winks with the eye causes trouble, but a prating fool will fall." 10:10*

### **Matthew 8**

From 8:1–11:1 Matthew records numerous miracles Jesus did. Following his teaching regarding the character of those who would enter the kingdom (vv. 5–7), these miracles were concrete evidence that Jesus was the promised King and Messiah (cf. Isa 35:4, which Matthew quotes in 8:17).

Ethnic Jews were rightly heirs of the kingdom to whom the kingdom promises were made (vv. 11–12). And yet ethnicity alone did not automatically guarantee entering the kingdom. What is required is faith, believing that Jesus is the King. The centurion in verses 5–13—a Gentile—had such faith and Jesus and Jesus said that many like him would be present in the kingdom while Jews who should have believed will be absent (vv. 11–12).

“Son of Man” (v. 20) is a title of the Messiah from Daniel 7:13–14. The Gospels record Jesus using this title for himself more than any other designation.

### Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. We often limit “sin” to our souls, but every evil effect in this world is because of sin. Jesus as the Christ and King will someday do away with every one of sin’s effects! His healing of leprosy, paralysis, fever, etc. in this chapter were clear proof of who he is and “advanced previews” of what life will be like in the kingdom!
2. Truly following Jesus (vv. 18–22) involves a complete break with the world, so that one’s life is not bound up with things or money. One cannot claim to believe Jesus is the Christ and at the same time live for the comforts, accessories, frills, and luxuries of what unbelievers prize and live for.
3. Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ?

### **Items for Prayer**

- Charlie and Bo Frink, New Zealand—Pray that God would give us wisdom as we teach God’s Word and pray for believers to grow.
- We will always be “going,” Matt 28:19; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47–49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8
- Salvation of souls, 2 Thess 3:1
- Faithfulness, 1 Cor 1:18

## Thursday, January 13

*Proverb for the Day: "The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked." 10:11*

### **Matthew 9**

Matthew continues to relate numerous miracles Jesus did, supporting his message that he is the Christ, the son of David, the King of Israel who “came to save his people from their sins” (1:21). Jesus’ authority to forgive sins is illustrated by his power of the physical effects of sin (vv. 1–8). These miracles also show the necessity of faith, the genuine and submissive belief that Jesus is the Christ (vv. 2, 18, 21, 27–28).

This chapter details the first occasions of religious opposition to Jesus. The scribes—religious lawyers—accused Jesus of blasphemy for forgiving sins (v. 3). The Pharisees—conservative, but focused on the letter of the law—took issue with Jesus being in close contact with “sinners” (vv. 10–11). The Pharisees contended that Jesus’ miraculous power was the result of demon possession (v. 34), clearly denying that he was the Christ, the King of Israel. Jewish opposition to Jesus would continue and increase from this time on, throughout Israel and the Roman empire as the gospel spread.

### Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. If your sins are forgiven you can rejoice even though suffering much physically (9:2)!
2. Jesus’ remedy for distressed, oppressed people was the ministry of the Word and praying for more to minister the Word (9:36–38). Distress and oppression are the results of sin, and sin can only be dealt with by faith in Jesus, and faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom 10:14–17). Spread the gospel, and pray for more to spread it!
3. Miracles’ significance are denied and completely missed because of unbelief (9:32–34).

### **Items for Prayer**

- Tim, Cristina, Andres, Ruth, and Patricia Goossen, Argentina—Pray for Ruth and Patricia as they start back to school and we return home.
- Open doors, Col 4:3
- Spirit-led, dependent, and empowered (tendency to follow our sin natures), Gal 5:16
- Always content in Christ, Phil 4:11–13