

Weekly Memory Verse

“Let brotherly love continue.” Hebrews 13:1

Hymn of the Week: O Jesus, I Have Promised

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear Thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

O let me feel Thee near me:
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised,
To all who follow Thee,
That where Thou art in glory
There shall Thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.

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



What is the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:7)?

The Fear of the Lord is a *reverent faith* in *Jesus Christ*,
exclusively *loving, obeying, and worshiping* he whom I will give an *account* to.

Monday, September 19

Proverb for the Day: "The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore, stop contention before a quarrel starts." 17:14

John 17

Jesus prayed for himself, that God would glorify him. His "hour had come" to die for sinners (v. 1). Jesus gives eternal life (v. 2) because he is eternal life (v. 3). Jesus, the eternal Son, glorified God throughout his earthly life in a sin-cursed world (vv. 4-5).

Jesus prayed for the disciples (vv. 6-19), praying for their protection from and purity in the world.

Jesus prayed for the salvation (v. 24) and spiritual union of all Christians (vv. 20-21) through his death and resurrection (v. 22) so that through their unified life and witness the world would know *who* Jesus is and *what* he did.

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. The unity Jesus prayed believers would have is a spiritual unity accomplished by the Father through the Holy Spirit based on Christ's death and resurrection. It is a spiritual unity because Jesus prayed that believers would be one as he and the Father are one (vv. 11, 21). This is called *Spirit baptism* (1 Cor 12:13), first occurring in Acts 2 and from then on at the moment of conversion of every new Christian.
2. Given all the temptations believers face in the world, we must learn from Jesus' simple reliance on prayer and the Word (vv. 6-19). "Sanctify" (vv. 17, 19) means "to set apart." Jesus *set himself apart* to do God's will by dying on the cross so that sinners who trust in him could be *set apart* from sin.
3. Christian, think about this: Jesus prayed here for *you* (v. 20) and his prayer was answered! The Triune God indwells you (v. 23) and you are eternally secure. Live this out before the world for Christ's glory!

Items for Prayer

- Tim and Cristina Goossen, Argentina—pray for Ricardo's recovery from surgery on a blood clot, that he and his wife would be able to return to church.
- Scripture truth for praise and thanksgiving: God is omnipresent (Ps 139:7-10)
- Church covenant commitment for prayer: We will faithfully, cheerfully, and proportionally give of our income to the Lord for the support of this church and the Cause of Christ (2 Cor 9:6-15; 3 John 5-8).

Tuesday, September 20

- Church covenant commitment for prayer: we will exercise a Christian care and watchfulness over each other, frequently exhort one another, and as the case may require faithfully warn, rebuke, and admonish one another with kindness and wisdom (Matt 18:15-16; Rom 15:14; Gal 6:1-2; 1 Thess 5:11, 14; Heb 3:13; 10:24-25; 12:12-13; James 5:19-20).

Saturday, September 24

Proverb for the Day: "He who loves transgression loves strife, and he who exalts his gate seeks destruction." 17:19

Read Ecclesiastes 1, which Pastor will be preaching from tomorrow.

Items for Prayer

- Jeremy, Caroline, Isobel, William, Priscilla, and Hudson Dion, Papua New Guinea—praise the Lord for two godly PNG men who are helping with the ministry, Silas and Alis!
- Fran Pope
- Scripture truth for praise and thanksgiving: God is all-wise (Rom 11:33)
- Church covenant commitment for prayer: When we receive correction from a brother in Christ, we will not reject or resent such but receive it with humility, careful self-examination, and necessary confession and repentance (Psa 32:3-5; Prov 3:11-12; 6:23; 12:1; 13:18; 15:5, 10, 12, 31-32; 25:12; 27:6; 28:13; 29:23; 1 John 1:9; Rev 2-3).

The Lord's Day, September 25

Proverb for the Day: "He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, and he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil." 17:20

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

- Mark and Bekah Perry, Chile—pray for God's grace to help as they finish traveling to churches in the States and reporting on their work in Chile.
- Scripture truth for praise and thanksgiving: God is the true God (Isa 65:16)
- Church covenant commitment for prayer: We will jealously guard the Spirit-given unity of this body, refusing to participate in or condone gossip, strife or dissension (Eph 4:1-6; Prov 11:13; 20:19; 2 Cor 12:20; Titus 2:3; Eph 4:29-32).

- Scripture truth for praise and thanksgiving: God is incomprehensible (Rom 11:33).
- Church covenant commitment for prayer: We will pursue those things that encourage believers to be faithful rather than trouble their consciences, disturb their faith, or cause them to sin (Rom 14:13, 19–20; 1 Cor 8:7–9, 12–13; 9:12; 10:23–33; Phil 2:1–4).

Friday, September 23

Proverb for the Day: “A man devoid of understanding shakes hands in a pledge, and becomes surety for his friend.” 17:18

John 21

Jesus’ appearance, miracle of the great catch of fish, and loving provision of breakfast served to strengthen the disciples’ faith in who Jesus was—the Christ, the promised Messiah, the eternal Son of God made flesh (vv. 1-14; cf. 20:31).

Before Jesus’ crucifixion Peter denied Christ three times (18:15-17, 25-27), though he had boldly professed allegiance to Jesus (13:37). Here, after Jesus’ resurrection, the Lord helps Peter see that his motivation for caring for Christ’s followers must be devoted love for Jesus (vv. 15-19).

The disciples—and every believer—must follow Jesus, which means a steadfast pursuit of committed faith (vv. 20-23). When a believer does so, it doesn’t matter if one lives a long life (like John did) or dies brutally (like Peter did), following Christ glorifies the Lord.

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. True faith in Jesus Christ that results in eternal life is seen and demonstrated by a life of steadfast, committed faithfulness. Because we still have a sin nature we will do and say things we shouldn’t, but the overall character and course of our lives will be marked by a controlling love for the Lord Jesus.
2. Do not concern yourself with what God providentially does with other believers, comparing what God is doing in your life with what he is doing in others’ lives. Focus instead on how you are living for and serving him!

Items for Prayer

- Dan, Amy, Josh, Emma, Genevieve Baker, Australia—Pray for their upcoming furlough in the US, particularly that their flights will go well.
- Scripture truth for praise and thanksgiving: God is perfect (Matt 5:48)

Proverb for the Day: “He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.” 17:15

John 18

John recorded Jesus’ *public* ministry (chaps. 1-12), his *private* ministry to the disciples (chaps. 13-17), and now relates Jesus’ *passion victory* (chaps. 18-22; “passion” here means/refers to Jesus’ *suffering*). Remember the purpose of John’s gospel in 20:31.

Jesus’ death happened because this was always God’s plan from eternity past (cf. Acts 2:23; 4:27-28). From Judas’ greed and betrayal of Jesus to the Jews’ hatred, to Pilate’s greater desire to pacify the crowd than administer true justice, God’s plan to save sinners through Jesus was fulfilled. Jesus knew this and willingly followed and submitted to God’s will (vv. 4, 11).

Jesus’ innocence is evident throughout: the Jews refused to hear any witnesses of Jesus’ teaching (vv. 19-24), Pilate recognized Jesus’ innocence (v. 38), and the Jews’ aim was pure murder.

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. For sinners to be forgiven by God and receive eternal life (20:31) sin must be atoned for by an innocent substitute. Jesus came as the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world (1:29). Having lived a completely righteous life without sin he had no sin of his own for which he was liable. As Jesus was fully God and man (1:1ff) and without sin he was able to be the needed, perfect sacrifice for sinners. Yet he had to be *sacrificed*, dying not by an accident or his own doing, but by another’s hand (v. 32). This and the next chapter detail how that happened and how Jesus did not try to get away but as an innocent lamb willingly submitted himself.
2. Jesus statement to Pilate, “my kingdom is not of this world” (vv. 33-37) points to the differences between worldly kingdoms and Christ’s coming kingdom. It has a completely different origin, being from heaven, not the world. It has a completely different character, being righteous, not corrupt. It has a completely different method of establishment, by God’s power, not man’s effort. Pilate, most Jews, and the Jewish religious establishment were worldly, corrupt, and depended on man’s power. Jesus wasn’t that kind of a King, and that’s why they rejected him. Because Jesus’ kingdom doesn’t depend on men to establish and sustain it, so don’t try. Jesus will when it’s time for Him to do so (v. 36).

Items for Prayer

- Daniel and Rosamma Kumar, India—praise the Lord for the ability to meet again for services! Pray for renewed efforts, prayer meetings, and Bible studies.
- Scripture truth for praise and thanksgiving: God is eternal (Ps 90:1-2)
- Church covenant commitment for prayer: We will at all times demonstrate toward each member Christian love, humility, patience, and concern in our attitudes, speech, and actions (Rom 12:15–16; 1 Cor 13:5–7; Phil 2:1–7; 1 John 2:9–11).

Wednesday, September 21

Proverb for the Day: “Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, since he has no heart for it?” 17:16

John 19

Here we read that Pilate made several efforts to release Jesus because he recognized his innocence and the Jews’ jealous hatred. Despite this, the Jews were determined to see Jesus crucified, and explicitly declared their rejection of Jesus as the promised Christ/Messiah and Son of God. Throughout Jesus’ trial and crucifixion there were repeated statements that Jesus was the King of the Jews (vv. 14-15, 19, 21; cf. 20:31). God’s will regarding all this was accomplished exactly as he said it would be in the OT.

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. Jesus was fully conscious and aware throughout the entire crucifixion ordeal (v. 28; he refused a drug-laced wine that would dull his senses, Matt 27:34). He suffered and died as the propitiation of sin, experiencing and enduring God’s wrath that sinners deserved (cf. Rom 3:25; Heb 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 4:10).
2. Jesus’ suffering and death were voluntary (v. 30) and real; in other words, as a human being (cf. Heb 2:14-18).
3. Jesus’ death must be believed for sinners to receive eternal life (v. 35); not as a mere historical fact, but that he, being the incarnate Son of God and the promised Christ voluntarily and innocently suffered, died, and was buried (cf. 1 Cor 15:3-4).

Items for Prayer

- Chris, Heidi, Rachel, Isaac, Susanna, and Titus Seawright: Thailand—Pray for Tien, a believer they are discipling, and that he would be baptized.
- Scripture truth for praise and thanksgiving: God is immutable (Mal 3:6)
- Church covenant commitment for prayer: We will partake of our mutual joys and sorrows, lovingly giving of our material substance for pressing needs (Acts 2:44–45; 1 Cor 12:26; Jas 2:14–17; 1 John 3:13–18).

Thursday, September 22

Proverb for the Day: “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” 17:17

John 20

Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the apostle John (“the other disciple, whom Jesus loved”) discovered Jesus’ empty tomb, yet did not conclude that he rose from the dead but that his body had been taken away (vv. 1-10).

Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene (vv. 11-18). The meaning of Jesus’ statement to her, “do not cling to me...,” v. 17) is that she should not *permanently, never to let go* of Jesus, as he would be with them for awhile (40 days) and then ascend to heaven.

Later in the same day Jesus appeared to the disciples, proving he had truly risen from the dead (vv. 19-23).

In verses 24-31, Thomas, one of Jesus’s twelve disciples, was not with them when Jesus appeared and so did not believe their testimony that he had risen from the dead. Jesus thus appeared and proved such to Thomas, and he rightly worshiped Jesus as the Lord God. not the connection of thought between verses 29 and 30-31.

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead was in the same body he died in (v. 27). As he was without sin his body was not susceptible to the power or corrupting effects of sin (Acts 2:22-28). Because he rose from the dead he defeated sin and death, so that all who trust him will also be saved from sin’s power and effects.
2. True apostles saw with their own eyes the resurrected Lord (1 Cor 9:1; 15:5-8). This is why Jesus appeared to Thomas. The NT limits the office of apostle to just these men listed in the NT. Those today called apostles are frauds and false apostles.
3. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead is the greatest miracle and must be believed—accepted, welcomed, and depended on as true—in order to have life (vv. 30-31). Any who call themselves Christians but do not believe Jesus is truly God in the flesh, the promised Messiah, and literally risen from the dead are still lost and without eternal life (Rom 10:9).

Items for Prayer

- Tom, Stephanie, Daniela, Nina, Angelo, and Gabriella Boehm, Italy—the war in Ukraine makes electricity cost 10 times what it did last year; pray for the Lord to provide for their needs, and for witnessing opportunities through this.