

AUGUST 2020

vol. 5 #6

*focus
today*

A DEVOTIONAL

...living godly daily!

FOREWORD

I am delighted to write these few lines of words on Focus Today, not because I see it as an opportunity to show off any skill or talent in writing, but because I'm privileged to be part of something extra-ordinary with the capacity to help man survive the onslaught of his greatest enemies, the devil and the flesh. The confession of Christ as Lord and personal saviour does not guarantee the making of heaven of a man. Only the sanctifying power of the word of God can help achieve that and this is where Focus Today becomes a must dose for daily upkeep of the soul of man.

The contents are Bible rooted and Holy Spirit inspired with the capacity to grow a scripture novice into a knowledgeable teacher and preacher of the Gospel of Christ. It is without doubt that I recommend to every lover of God to daily give themselves to the reading of Focus Today, to the saving of their souls from the corruptions of the world and providing the entire world with God given energy to perish no more.

Tosin Dunmiju

INTRODUCTION

Praises unto the God of heaven and earth, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and giver of the Holy Spirit, for grace and mercy shown to us.

This month's edition focuses on the wrath of God upon unbelief and sin; as well as His call unto man for repentance.

It is my pleasure to have you on this page, and in this month, praying that the Lord bless you, and make your daily walk with Him godlier than before. God bless you!

Deep appreciation goes to all who have being so present for the Lord's use in this view; editing team, sharing, praying, and so on. God's blessing again.

Another Beloved,

Adeyemi Michael Adetunji

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All Scriptures quoted from The Holy Bible, New King James Version, unless otherwise stated.

SAVE, LORD!

Saturday, August 1, 2020.

Psalm 20:7–9

Another grace.

LESSON: *The big beauty of this august day is that it is exactly as a New Year day. As once said, no day is different from the other in the physical, even to a philosopher, but only a spiritual man can denote the significance of them all. In most New Years, New Months, and New Days, what men tend to do is celebrate awesomely, and the most of the needful thing is neglected –prayers.*

*“Some trust in chariots and some in horses;
But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.
They have bowed down and fallen;
But we have risen and stand upright.
Save, Lord!
May the King answer us when we call.”*

The time is finite as we speak, and so, changes are bound to occur or happen. The only time when there will be no need to pray but praise is after the final victory over a thing called Second Death: For the day, the August day, fervency in prayer is preached. Please pray, this is a spiritual reasoning for everyone who reads. Pray that the Lord save the day, save the month and save the soul. In May, we prayed May Day, but in August we pray, Lord save!

Prayer: Lord, save us each day in Your will, help us to walk closer daily.

FOCUS TODAY

Saving, that was the august reason of Christ (Matthew 1:21). #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 57–59; Romans 4

IS THIS TIME?

Sunday, August 2, 2020.

Romans 1:8

When Noah awoke, the earth had fled.

LESSON: *Now that the august days have begun, what do we expect? We prayed the Lord save our souls in the multitudes of His mercy and grace. Yes, we said also yesterday that the august reason of Christ coming forth to the wrecked earth was to save (Matthew 1:21). Now, are there really men saved in any form, way, regards or aspect? Is there any one saved? Is it true what the apostles said of us?*

“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.”

Just like that church in Thessalonica that, through their faith other Gentile worlds became Christians; and like the churches of Asia whose works the Lord knew (Revelation 2–3), the Church of Rome was commanded first in the opening epistle of the apostle.

Many Christian faiths today are on the august holiday of sleep. There is almost no distinction between the church and the world and vice versa. How the prophecies of the end appear and happen so evidently, but men does not care on what side they fulfill. Is this true of us?

Prayer: Father, help me not to compromise my faith in these days, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

One fearful thing I consider so much is, me fulfilling a known negative prophecy even before my face. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 60–62; Romans 5

IGNORE

Monday, August 3, 2020.

Proverbs 1:10–15

See life.

LESSON: *Do not look at the month and see what lies in wait. What would be seen most of the time is the depth of one's imaginations and not faith that one hopes in God. Even in the month we call August; and indeed August as it is, there are real rooted evils bound up for the (selected) elects. So wonderful that we have been opening realms of metaphors, ironies and slight parables from the first day. And indeed that the Lord saves as much as expect a hopeful finish.*

And the slight case of it being true that it is evident today, men are fulfilling and being fulfilled of the end time prophecies. Yet the Lord in Proverbs called:

“My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, “Come with us... Cast in your lot among us...”— My son, do not walk in the way with them, keep your foot from their path...”

These are the words of the Lord through the wise Solomon. As it may show and happen well in this generation that we are conformed so deep into the world. And that happens because men have ignored God instead.

Prayer: Lord God, lead me out of any wicked way that I am in or has been set up for me, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

There is one answer a listening son will hear in this age to all the world's jamboree – ignore. But the otherwise is the case. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 63–65; Romans 6

KNOWING THE MYSTERIES

Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

Matthew 13:11

Twinkle baby stars.

LESSON: *What privilege it is to be called a Christian! I used to say 'to be a Christian', only to understand that many are Christians either by family birth, water baptism, civic requirements, or by name. To be called a Christian is to be a testimony to Christ and the kingdom of the Father, on earth as it is in heaven. Then, the righteous truth of the matter is that personally you'd just understand things that seem mysterious and deep to natural men.*

Sciences and philosophies would have made the most outrageous and rash conclusions that the Scripture is a myth, had Jesus not been recorded with various traces back in time. Those things which therefore could not be myths are mysteries. Yet to these people it has been given. Which people?

“He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.”

These them... The world, those whom the message of the Cross is foolishness unto, and a part of the Scripture's truth called the perishing. You can't yet know the mysteries unless you have searched the Scriptures (the word).

Prayer: Lord, open to Your church mysteries, and understanding of the times, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

If Solomon who never knew Christ directly could phantom mighty mysteries he himself did not understand, how much you, a Christian who experienced the Mystery Himself (the word) by the Spirit? #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 66–67; Romans 7

THE FEAR OF FEARS

Wednesday, August 5, 2020.

Psalm 25:12–14

Filed out!

LESSON: *Fear! The powerless unreal matter that kills without existence. Do you have an idea how ridiculous it can be to die before death comes? Take for example, a man falling from a three-storey building, having died before reaching the second floor downward. Death may come naturally when he hits his head or back on the landing surface. And that's even a 'may come'. It is not so real that he would die, but he already died before landing; that's the power of fear!*

But I consider, as some others who understand the kind of man that would need fear. What can be called fear, if it ever existed is not considered, not in our days, it is not in existence. There is no smoke or wave or cluster or any matter of fear of God, or for Him. Man so blasphemes God not to be real, yet references fear unreal to be real.

“Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses. He himself shall dwell in prosperity, and his descendants shall inherit the earth. The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.”

Having not feared the Lord, Adam and his wife received the fear.

Confession: I shall not be afraid of the terrors by night, or of the arrows that fly by the day.

FOCUS TODAY

When fear first came, it was sin that brought it –'I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself', remember? The real fear to fear is the Fear of the fears. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 68–69; Romans 8:1–21

ADDITIONAL DEBTS

Thursday, August 6, 2020.

Matthew 13:12

Life on the edge.

LESSON: *To be candid and naked before the truth, no man has ever been free from debt. Everyday we are in debt but may not be indebted (not charged). I do not speak really of the spiritual now, but of the physical and reality of a common man. I tell you, even the rich borrow pens in banks, sometimes papers in restrooms and so on. 'Oh, I borrowed, but that's not debt.' As long as you borrowed, even in seconds, it is debt.*

What does the world's economist use to rate the richest and the poorest, in possession or in wealth? They had used so many things but one –how much debt you possess. A country or nation or government can be so rich in resources, materials, in fact so developed and large in economic activities, but can yet be on the poorest list because she is on the debtors list.

JESUS:

“For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

How terrible is it for those who are so indebted. The so indebted are those who are still slaves to sin, like Adam, vagabonding the lands. The word says they have additional debt because their wretchedness is glooming and growing.

Prayer: You spirit of debt and sin in the world, I shall not be your victim, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

Get the analogy, debt attracts debt, those who are known as 'I don't have' will always never have even if they have. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 70–71; Romans 8:22–39

HONOR AND RICHES

Friday, August 7, 2020.

Proverbs 11:16

Gloria!

LESSON: *This may sound not too interesting because it is caused to criticize the unending ends seekers. Dictating and quite deciding what next to pen is trying to be compromising sometimes. Yes, this is it; honor is having respected oneself, hence brewing respect. It is being of excellence and having a modal example of being good, hence accepted. On the other hand, riches or being rich is the state of being full of something. It can be money, food, drinks, life, health etc. One thing about riches is that, it does not qualify the originality of the carrier as it exposes all his/her every self.*

*“A gracious woman retains honor,
But ruthless men retain riches.”*

I have asked myself what sort of comparison the preacher of the multiple Proverbs was driving at? The chapter was actually full of comparisons, but this drove me to pause, a woman to a man, honor to riches, why?

**So I got to understand that the issue is not the gender but the agenda. This is it, ruthless men who accumulate riches will never get honorable wives (or a woman with honor) who will ever have grace. And also a woman who loves after riches may not have the honor of bearing a man. All these may be proved wrong by the world, yes, because the church is not of it.*

Prayer: Worldliness and its lusts, that the church has accumulated, O Lord God of Israel, blow them out, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

It can appear very rare that honorable and gracious women are married to ruthless rich men, in fact they don't last e.g. Abigail and Nabal. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 72–73; Romans 9:1–15

THE ELECTION OF GOD

Saturday, August 8, 2020.

Romans 9:11

Playing the game.

LESSON: *From an angle of the Romans epistle, one may appear confused as the apostle Paul tried to unveil a mystery of the mysteries of the kingdom. The mystery of the kingdom is the God of the kingdom whose evidence is hidden from the perishing ones and so revealed to the lowly. That exactly is understood and so quietly real to the physical thinking man. But..., that aspect of election is something man is obscured to.*

“(for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls)...”

This very verse confirms the words of the Lord unto Moses ‘For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.”’ (Exodus 33:19).

And on this note I am reminded of the even physical mystery of man's choice evident in election. Take for instance, the US election in 2016 (the mystery of Donald Trump being elected president). The thing is God chooses, what brother Paul called 'call'. Yet He is most interested in those who submit willingly unto Him. And that's why He even today chooses more submitting Gentiles to rebellious children.

Prayer: Lord God, let Your will be done upon my life in Jesus' name.

FOCUS TODAY

The elections can be won based on submission, and grace as secondary. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 74–76; Romans 9:16–33

DEATH BEFORE DEATH

Sunday, August 9, 2020.

Isaiah 6:9–10

The rising of Sunday on Saturday.

LESSON: *Our previous study and focus on the Fear of Fears is an article revealing that the fear of God is the only fear that should be considered if there is any fear. Perhaps I mentioned this, the only Phobia that is and was and is to exist is the Theophobia. Also we discussed in there an example of a man dying at the second floor down after falling off a three storey building. He had actually encountered death by fear of height (acrophobia) before the real death.*

And there are many deaths that many have gotten before they experience the death called first, that is, the death of the physical. Here is a mysterious proclamation:

*“And He said,
“Go, and tell this people:
‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand;
Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’
“Make the heart of this people dull,
And their ears heavy,
And shut their eyes;
Lest they see with their eyes,
And hear with their ears,
And understand with their heart,
And return and be healed.”*

What can one call this character or nature of the God who elects? He is the author and yet the finisher of either faith or fate.

Prayer: Lord, plant Your fear in my heart today, in Jesus' name.

FOCUS TODAY

This is confirmed in the midst of the commonest verse of all John 3:16–18 ‘...but he who does not believe is condemned already’. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 77–78; Romans 10

END OF THE LAW

Monday, August 10, 2020.

Romans 10:4

Get a lawyer.

LESSON: *It landed a bang, yes like an explosion when Jesus stated on the mount 'Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets; I did not come to destroy but to fulfill' (Matthew 5:17). And so, many were being forced, yet to live under the law as Apostle Peter also subtly dwelt with the Jerusalem pilgrims who would force any new convert to be circumcised. Then, it was afterwards that the beloved Apostle John wrote addressing the Church, 'For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ' (John 1:17).*

What do you think? What crosses your mind about the matter? Kinda confused? Was Jesus the law or was He also a prophet like some anti would say? Here is the full film of the matter:

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

He is the end of the law. Yes, victory! We dwell not under the law no more. Christ lived every chapter of it and fulfilled it so it has no sting or power anymore; this is only to those who believe. The end of the law was that monumental moment when Jesus said it is finished. What the end of a static law!

Prayer: May I not break the law of the Spirit of life in which I should fulfill, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

And here is the fulfilment and the end of it, unless you have fulfilled this simple law (–love), the law is not done with you yet. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 79–80; Romans 11:1–18

THE MIXED WINE OF GOD

Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

Psalm 75:8

Being right about the wrong.

LESSON: *Oh, wine, that's it! So lovely to mention and to be found by those whose souls are attached to it. I tell you how many resolved issues, countless to number about wine and its mockers I have encountered, even the Lord's Supper. I then tell into the heart that wants to conceive, the use of wine is more spiritual than it is physically seen. The mixed wine of God.*

What! Mixed wine? That's God having a strong drink, alcohol. Yes, that's it! So the psalmist unveils a mystery unto the world but a message unto the church.

*“For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup,
And the wine is red;
It is fully mixed, and He pours it out;
Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth
Drain and drink down.”*

What can you tell about this? It is like the Death before Death message, likewise the Fear of Fears. The cup... Remember John's message of the Revelation; the cup depicts the bowl which means a measure, the wine especially mixed, strong is the wrath of God, being poured on the 'wicked of the earth'.

Prayer: Lord, help me not to partake of Your wrathful wine, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

*The mixed wine of God is the wrath of God coming. Yes, it is in His hand and it is red!
Beware and repent today! #focustoday*

Bible in One Year: Psalm 81–83; Romans 11:19–36

FOOD, FULL, FOOL

Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

Matthew 4:2–4

Children will always be.

LESSON: *The definitions may not be too clear as a dictionary will put them. So by now I suppose we are cleared and blessed to know that the only way to survive is not in eating and drinking but in righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17). So, should one not eat as one ought to? It is expedient that one eats or else death by self occurs, which is suicide. Food is good but full food turns the fed to a fool.*

“And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’ But He answered and said, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”

And that's when the tempter comes around, when you are hungry.

Hunger can come in different ways, several which are not directly imagined. Like the preacher of Proverbs warned: 'consider what is set before you when you sit down to eat with a ruler'. He even warned that you put knife to your throat if you are given to appetite –Proverbs 23:1–3. He who has his treasure as his stomach or throat will surely become full as the devil serves him, thereby he becomes a fool.

Confession: I refuse to be controlled by bread; I shall live by the word of God.

FOCUS TODAY

Being tempted with food is one of the worst temptations; remember Adam, in Eden, then Jesus in the wilderness. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 84–86; Romans 12

WHEN THE FLOODS ARISE

Thursday, August 13, 2020.

Psalm 93:3–4

Then Noah woke up.

LESSON: *There are more dangers in the world than in any palace veranda. In fact, some call it 'Wild World with Wars' like there is no words to dialogue. And it has started since the first recorded rebellion in heaven amongst the hosts (stars). Lucifer, the son of the morning took with himself a third of the stars, only to be banished into this place that sinful Adam now inherits. In the space, air, on land, the hills, mountains, even on trees and in waters (called flood).*

*“The floods have lifted up, O Lord,
The floods have lifted up their voice;
The floods lift up their waves.
The Lord on high is mightier
Than the noise of many waters,
Than the mighty waves of the sea.”*

The psalmist was quite vigilant that he observed the agendas of the floods. But his faith was in the God of Israel (of all creation) whose wave alone is mightier than the waters, the many waters (or floods).

When the floods arise, remember Zion, its king and its creator. For in this is the hope of the saints. When the waters come, even Isaiah prophesied: 'I will not leave you', says the Lord (Isaiah 43:2–4). Note, there is no promise that the floods won't arise.

Prayer: Father, my trust is in You, I shall not be washed by the floods in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

When the floods arise, it should remind you that your ship needs (and should be submitted to) a sailor, or a harbor –Jehovah! #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 87–88; Romans 13

THE AGONY EXPLAINED

Friday, August 14, 2020.

Luke 22:41–44

Can you forgive being forsaken?

LESSON: *It was until then –on this day– like history would put it, that the Cross the Lord has been proclaiming, He encountered and received. What may be regarded as forsaking of one's right is that thing or substance called a cross. What did the cross mean to Jesus who invented it? In the same way, the cross was revealed to the rich young ruler, but he left sorrowful, for it was looking unbearable.*

“And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

This was the revelation of the Cross which Christ was yet to bear the next day. He, being in the form of God, knowing all things pleaded for the opposite, and for the first time, the Savior wept with pleas. That which made the Savior so cry that day, not just cry, He was in pain, is the same thing...

Confession: Lord, help me to be faithful to the cross.

FOCUS TODAY

That thing, the cross, which made the Savior (God) to cry and be in agony that day is what we take with ease today. Even the rich young ruler could not hold it. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 89–90; Romans 14

DEEP DISTRESS

Saturday, August 15, 2020.

2Kings 4:27

When the deed is done long yonder.

LESSON: *I see two simultaneous occasions, of which one will be shared straight away. It tells and affirms that without the Flood Rising many would never appreciate the sailor or a harbor. The first occasion being the widow and her jars of oil miracle, and the second being our discussion, the Shunamite's distress. We will take hers from the point of necessity. The deep distress.*

“Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, “Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the Lord has hidden it from me, and has not told me.”

The same prophet in the same miraculous event, Elisha. A man with a double portion of a pacesetter's anointing could not see into this deep matter. Really, deep calls unto deep!

I can at this point and from your own very many experiences conclude that deep distresses, in fact poverty or whatsoever one can call things, draw men closer to God. When the flood arose, when the waves did not seem to look friendly, that was the moment Peter needed Jesus the most. He cried, Lord save me.

Prayer: Lord, save me, help my unbelief!

FOCUS TODAY

The deeper the distress, the deeper the need for a miracle. Meanwhile, be careful from whom you get help today. Go to God directly through Jesus Christ (as Savior).

#focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 91–93; Romans 15:1–13

We wish to hear from you,

AUGUST 2020

DRINK, THE MIXED WINE OF GOD

Write to us via email focustodaydevotional@gmail.com

Or Facebook: www.facebook.com/ourdaillyfocus

A DEVOTIONAL
FOCUS TODAY

...living godly daily!

HAVE A BLESSED RIDE, GOD BLESS YOU!

JESUS AND HIS CROSS

Sunday, August 16, 2020.

Matthew 27:32, 40-42; Luke 23:26

High fliers.

LESSON: *It appeared confusing sometime ago while under a teaching on the Cross. The teacher/preacher was really going good but the heat of it was not hit. The point offered was that the cross is the encounter of agony and sometimes rejection by the world, some things like suffering also may follow (and tribulations). Then the question came, 'what does the Cross mean to Jesus?' At least Jesus was the author of the Cross, saying it often to His disciples (Matthew 16:25) and the rich young ruler (Mark 10:21) amongst others.*

“Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus.” Luke 23:26
“...and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.” Matthew 27:32, 40-42

Believe Him? Probably they might have really believed Him if He had descended, just like Elijah did have revival on Carmel. But that was not the plan. Jesus' Cross meant to Him: His position, His denial, His everything rejected, and He was even rejected that He cried '...lama sabachthani?'

Prayer: Father, give me grace to bear my cross faithfully and not fearfully. May I not deny my position in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

The cross of a man is more than humiliation, but the denial of help, of rights. Tell me, couldn't the apostles have reacted like Elijah while they were persecuted? They had crosses. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 94-96; Romans 15:14-33

THE GOD WRATH (1)

Monday, August 17, 2020.

Genesis 6:5–7

Dining wine with Him.

LESSON: *To every living being, be it spirit or flesh, there is the place of emotion which could then be translated as anger, wrath, love, joy and so on. And it happened that Adam so grieved God, he had no chance of escape but was handed the judgment of rebellion –vagabond and fugitive. Same as Lucifer of old received. Thus the character of the nature of man continued, he every time pushes God to grieving. How pitiful!*

“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord [was sorry] that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, “[I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth...”

How awful the Amplified Bible would have translated the words there. God was sore vexed, He was grieved and to the point of being sorry. Can you put yourself in the position of being a parent and becoming sorry you have a son or child whose ways are very disappointing and disgraceful and disgusting? That is oops! What moment of continual wrath it would be. But, one man found grace – Noah (v9).

Prayer: Lord, may I not join to grieve Your grace.

FOCUS TODAY

The burden of the wrath of God, who can bear? (So we will look into it). What if man was God? All would have probably died. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 97–99; Romans 16

THE LEGACY OF THE CROSS

Tuesday, August 18, 2020.

Matthew 16:24, Mark 10:21

Crying out loud but no voice.

LESSON: *Tell me, couldn't the apostles have reacted like Elijah while they faced persecutions? Very well, yes! So also Jesus, when He was comely arrested, He told them, I would that I have called down twelve legions of angels (i.e. about six to ten thousands host of angels for one legion). Yet, He did not; they (the apostles) likewise did not! They had crosses. And this is the legacy of the Cross... Jesus had registered this course since the mountain message in Matthew 5, while He preached 'The Right Denial' thing. And everyone there seemed like: 'See someone we expect to emperor us against our oppressors, now telling us to yield to oppressions'.*

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Matthew 16:24

"Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." Mark 10:21

*The cross is like a symbol of acceptance of denial of self. So as not to forget the adoption of this followership, one needs to have his cross always with him. *And this does not mean carrying a physical cross but the cross of encounter, Golgotha.*

Prayer: Open my eyes to the truth of the Cross O Lord!

FOCUS TODAY

And that was what made Jesus to wail on the Oliveth Mountain, the legacy of the cross otherwise known as The Legacy of the Fools or Death. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 100–102; 1Corinthians 1

THE GOD WRATH (II)

Wednesday, August 19, 2020.

Psalm 75:8

Quickening the spirit to die again.

LESSON: *The burden of the wrath of God, who can bear? And, what if man was God? Will life still live? You know, that moment you look into your parent's face and you see disappointment towards you. One would feel so less disappointed in oneself than in the parents. Offences will surely come unless we have not left the right in Eden, yet regained in Golgotha.*

*“For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup,
And the wine is red;
It is fully mixed, and He pours it out;
Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth
Drain and drink down.”*

The first time I came across this verse, I supposed it for the Lord and strong drink (alcohol).

But, I see that only a perishing soul will definitely mistake it for drunkenness. God is wrathful; I wonder what disaster it would be every time He beholds the earth. Yet, for the blood He is restrained. There cannot be any joke associated with this verse and what happened in Noah's days. Likewise, there will be no difference when Great Babylon will be judged (see Revelation 17–19).

Prayer: Lord, may I not be caught in this world; may I not disappoint heaven, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

There is no simple wrath or complex wrath, only if you haven't had one before. Don't fall in their category: putting God to wrath. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 103–104; 1Corinthians 2

LORD, YOU KNOW!

Thursday, August 20, 2020.

John 21:17

So great a life.

LESSON: Now, 'learned discipleship' is becoming like the teacher. It was an in-process thing for the Lord Jesus then (before Golgotha), He was still tested, and tempted by the devil to fail in submitting and bearing His cross. The tricks of the devil was for Him to deny the Cross and disprove being God like the Pharisees and men of Israel wanted (in the devotional –Jesus and His Cross). So, no wonder, most of the disciples then only had words and not acts while Jesus was here, because they had not seen a path to follow.

“He said to him the third time,

“Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?”

And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.”

Would it have been so real the scene? Yes, I needed to know what my answers would have been, if I was the one in Peter's shoes. Peter was not just brave but was plain enough to say, 'Lord You know!' Can these be the words Christians would say today? Or just because He wearies you, you shut Him (Holy Spirit) up. Our response could have been 'Lord, I don't care, leave me alone!'

Prayer: Lord, again I pray, help my unbelief; help me not to fail heaven.

FOCUS TODAY

Are you who you truly portray? Can you tell God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit (the Hidden to us) 'Lord, You know' like we tell people our qualities and quantities? Would Jesus trust you? #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 105–106; 1Corinthians 3

THE GOD WRATH (III) -BURDENS

Friday, August 21, 2020.

Isaiah 23:1

Mountains and Zerubbabel.

LESSON: *And yes, these are the Burdens! The Burdens of the wrath of God, who can bear? (explained topic). There is actually no simple or complex wrath, only if one hasn't had one before. The real deal or issue is not to fall into the category of putting God to wrath... Adam did, Cain did, Babel, Israel, Saul did, even Moses did, but mercy saved. Then, and after, God had reached to Israel (but today the world) and the surrounding nations in which the Israelites were scattered. He spoke to them no more in parables but in words and wrath –The Burdens.*

*“The burden against Tyre.
Wail, you ships of Tarshish!
For it is laid waste,
So that there is no house, no harbor;
From the land of Cyprus it is revealed to them.”*

This amongst others we see in the Old Testament days having a burden. In fact most of the (minor) prophets started their books (of prophecies) with –The Burden Against/Of...

These men, the first and few, now apostles and disciples were so communed with God, that they could feel His wrath, and the afterwards, they bore burdens. Burdens bearers they were then. We have today, two: The Burdens and The Cross!

Prayer: Make me a ready vessel O Lord I pray.

FOCUS TODAY

It is either you are a (God's) burden bearer or burden loader. The time of the wrath outpouring is close, very close. #repent #return #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 107–109; 1Corinthians 4

KEEP WATCH!

Saturday, August 22, 2020.

Matthew 24:27–28, 42–44

Meaningful exploit.

LESSON: *I want to know, how does a diver who gets trapped into a shark infested water swim? He would surely swim with his brain and be so watchful with his heart. Also, how do you think a guard (security, be it a soldier) guard and watches on alert a place where robbery is prone, or a robbery note has been given beforehand? Only the situation can tell the proper answer.*

Likewise for the pilgrims, the virgins who will be wise would watch and check all the time where and what they are. Not getting involved in the affairs of this world, for they are prone and provincial distractions. So, 'watch therefore' were the Savior's words. If the person or hope you are expecting, the 911 Emergency is saying watch therefore, you'd better watch there and fore-ward.

“For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

See here the continuous emphases Jesus so lay in this chapter, they are not wastes.

Prayer: Father, bestow on me grace to watch, to stay ready and righteous in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

I think and have thought over this: if there is anything we go to do, preach on the pew of a church or anywhere, it is to watch therefore. That's the checking. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 110–112; 1Corinthians 5

THE GOD WRATH SUSPENDED (1)

Sunday, August 23, 2020.

Genesis 22:11–18

Agreement and terms.

LESSON: *The last note on 'The God Wrath, Burden' was this: it is either you are a (God's) burden bearer or a burden loader. So we have those who could actually be bearing God's burden, like Abraham did with the Angels assigned to Sodom and Gomorrah. And likewise, one can be a burden loader, one who adds to the fuel of God's wrath, the life of Sodom and Babel.*

This man, in him could God find consolation after He had rested on Noah and his family, yet they, failing to pass the rest on. God could not rest in any place anymore over the face of the earth. Until He found this man Abram (later Abraham) who could bear the burden and burn them a few. Do you know how light you become when you find a reliable person to share a burden with? That's what God saw in this man, Abraham.

“But the Angel of the Lord called... And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for NOW I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, YOUR ONLY SON, from Me.” Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord,... – blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants...” (Paraphrased and emphasized).

I wish you read the story up (refer to text above).

Prayer: O Lord, find in me a temple for You to dwell, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

If you have found a man to share your burden(s) with, and really, it became light, you'd call him friend. That was what Abraham was to God –friend. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 113–115; 1Corinthians 6

A NEW COVENANT

Monday, August 24, 2020.

Matthew 26:27–28

High above all.

LESSON: *So this is what the plan is all about? I suppose the devil, Satan I mean, the Lucifer called son of the morning, and also morning star amongst the host third fallen, could not but wonder at the wondrous happenings or meetings in which Jesus did. He would have thought that Jesus was just proving another proverb or parable to His disciples. Even while He was aiming at the instances of 'The Son of Man must suffer many things... and be raised the third day' (Luke 9:22 etc.), he, Satan, might not have discerned, for he could not reach to Jesus' heart (thoughts), as even the disciples he could, did not understand.*

“Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

I tell you, or as Jesus would say, 'Verily, verily I say unto you', many verses of the Scriptures gave some anonymity which breeds many unreasonable facts of today, that 'Jesus is not God, and/or He did not come to make Himself God'. But why a new covenant? As the Hebrews also stated, a Testator for a Testament. Jesus is the grace that erased the grave of the Old Covenant.

Confession: Today, I confess again my love for You, for Your work upon me, and For grace given me, in Jesus' name.

FOCUS TODAY

Jesus is God in flesh and the word of God in reality. Jesus is the grace that erased the grave of the Old Covenant. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 116–118; 1Corinthians 7:1–19

THE GOD WRATH SUSPENDED (II)

Tuesday, August 25, 2020.

Psalm 89:3–4

Terms and conditions apply.

LESSON: *Again, there was found another burden bearer. The last was Abram turned Abraham. And this was our focus about that: if you have found a man to share your burden(s) with, and really it became lightened, you'd call him friend. That was what Abram was to God –Friend. And Abraham, God established a covenant with, but his descendant really did their bests to break the covenant. But God did find one of the seeds to continue an establishment.*

“I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: ‘Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations.’” Selah

Yes, that was what David became to God. And you would well confirm that he was indeed a friend of God. Though on his breaking a law (not covenant), he was dealt with, yet the Lord still got him involved. Jesus was the Lord that David called Lord.

The God wrath was suspended and postponed well and enough to another millennium, another time and times. Till date, the result of these verses up there (both Abraham and David) is who we are today –Christians, Heirs of God. But... His wrath cup will soon be full.

Prayer: Lord God, may Your covenant of grace upon me, break I not, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

Till date, the wrath is suspended, yes suspending. Who knows when it will fall? Keep watch! #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 119:1–88; 1Corinthians 7:20–40

THE GOD LOVE

Wednesday, August 26, 2020.

John 3:16

Seek and find.

LESSON: *This, today is mysterious. What a show of the case that God has revealed in His power! Our last claim was this: till date, the wrath is suspended, yes suspending. And who knows when? When what? When it will fall of course. And on whom it will fall. But here is the God whose anger, wrath, disgust was abused, dug, installed, reinstalled and for no reason taunted. The same God whom the Scripture of Moses (the Genesis) acclaimed to be sorry for the earth comes again with a Grace message.*

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

So, there is the solution to the mystery for lost mankind. For now, our great millennia, we have become lost. Science would not decode it, but the Scriptures did encode it to depth.

For God so... The adverb and adjectives, the quantifiers and qualifiers used in this singular most popular verse of the Scripture is underestimated and unseen by men. It is most popular, and yes, it may be the very hindrance to many to gain the eternal life. I tell you, in fact and in deed that, even unbelievers know it offhand and by heart.

Confession: I receive Jesus as Lord today. I confess Him as Christ and the only way to God.

FOCUS TODAY

*The God love was revealed again for the third time and here, He came all by Himself to do the job on a Cross. *The cross means: you have options... #focustoday*

Bible in One Year: Psalm 119:89–176; 1Corinthians 8

THE RELIEF

Thursday, August 27, 2020.

Jeremiah 46:28

SOS came in time.

LESSON: *On a natural note, some people will not truly see death until they see redemption. Jesus' rephrased word there means that they have been sealed by divine grace not to fall away even if they want to. An example was Peter, whom the Savior Himself prayed (interceded) for. These persons amongst others too were explained to have their names in the Lamb's Book of Life from the foundations of the earth –Revelation of John. So, did it mean these people had no cross to bear? I tell you, they bore the heaviest crosses.*

Note that the Cross means: Two Options: life or death, the narrow way or the broad one...

*“Do not fear, O Jacob My servant,” says the Lord,
“For I am with you;
For I will make a complete end of all the nations
To which I have driven you,
But I will not make a complete end of you.
I will rightly correct you,
For I will not leave you wholly unpunished.”*

This is denoting discipline and at the same time, for some, rejection or denial.

To usward, yet it will surely be a relief, let the discipline come so we may stand knowing where we stand. The first part of that verse is giving the real (relief, assurance), the middle in which we did not involve is giving the reality of persecutions, and the latter part is saying discipline and denial.

Confession: I stand amazed, knowing that I have found grace in Christ Jesus. I am saved!

FOCUS TODAY

Reading this verse will tell what state you are with God; the result will either be relief or fear (Jeremiah 46:28). #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 120–122; 1Corinthians 9

BELIEVE

Friday, August 28, 2020.

John 1:12, 3:5, 6:29

Just when we called, we were heard.

LESSON: *In sincerity, we have said a lot on this issue and our key or note statement is what people tend not to understand or confirm: 'it is not easy to believe'. Do you know how much it costs to believe? Believing, believe, belief, all mentioning or motioning no natural or scientific characteristics. To believe or have belief is saying that even though there is no proof, not proved, not seen, not appearing possible or real, I accept, I agree.*

"But as many as received Him,... to those who believe in His name:..." 1:12-13

"...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." 3:5

"Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." 6:29

What a disaster on the then people of Israel! Believing in the Adam story was no problem. Eden to Noah, Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction, the Red Sea parting, Jericho's wall falling, sun and moon being still and so on were no problems indeed for the Israelites. But, believing that a child was born to change the world, God becoming a Child growing to die on a Cross? No! Blasphemy!

Prayer: Lord, help my unbelief! Help our unbelief! Help Christ be revealed to us!

FOCUS TODAY

Possibly by gauging, the unbelieving Israelites and Jews may so gain visas to heaven than our generation of Christians who don't even know 'what' from 'who'. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 123–125; 1Corinthians 10:1–18

A SONG OF ASCENT

Saturday, August 29, 2020.

Psalm 121

When the roll is called yonder.

LESSON: *Indeed, the song of Ascent we shall sing at the Rapture. This song (and songs in the Scripture) are not mistakenly ordered or written, they are prophecies of the days before, now and to come. Although we take some of them as confessions and prayers yet they make deeper words and meanings to a meditator than we think. There is no record of any song in the Scripture which is having no taste of revival or repentance or renewal.*

What have we today? Even in praising, there are so pressing up of words, compressing the truth and suppressing the creed. It doesn't have to be recorded or known, but, is it original? Is it a classic, an evergreen? The songs title Ascent, it means moving up. There is no stagnancy as much as the spiritual is concerned.

Lift up your eyes, what do you see? Do you see hills or giants? If giants, then fear of being a grasshopper will continue in you. But if hills, you'd sing the song of Ascents. The Lord will then surely preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. From this time forth, and even forevermore.

Prayer: When the saints are marching in, may I be in the number.

FOCUS TODAY

The ascension is quite near, don't be compressed and suppressed by the giants, look to the hills, be focused on Zion city. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 126–128; 1Corinthians 10:19–33

THE DAY PLACES

Sunday, August 30, 2020.

Matthew 12:43

When nights shine brighter.

LESSON: *Have you heard of the term 'The Devourer' as used in the Old Testament? I came to the realization that, devourers or destroyers are not made or adapted to live in unknown places, lands where there is no life. They actually come to live in the midst of the living, amongst those who are well. And what is their assignment? To devour! Having some depth of the knowledge, one will notice that the enemy is yet made to make men strong although the cowards die therein.*

These were Jesus' words:

“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none.”

The Amplified Bible modified the word dry using 'arid'. It means desert. Though there are lives in the deserts, real life is not meaningful in there.

Here, the Lord is actually driving at something, to get the knowledge of the disciples on deliverance and retaining deliverance. It is so vivid that a man can be delivered. Also a man can be repossessed. It is likewise revealed that even the dirty and evil spirits do not like hell, this is confirmed when Jesus met the man of Gardarenes. A man should therefore be full of the Holy Spirit to avoid or overcome the evil ones.

Prayer: Lord, may I not lose the Spirit of power, the Holy Spirit given in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

Dry land means death (dryness). If evil (dark) spirits do not want to stay in the dark dry lands, how much more the Spirit of grace? Be fruitful and filled with the Holy Spirit lest you be overtaken.

It is a shock to know that men get possessed the most after getting delivered, because they refuse to grow in cleanness and truth. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 129–131; 1Corinthians 11:1–16

THE CALL

Monday, August 31, 2020.

Exodus 3:4

I'll be there.

LESSON: *Strange things happen in strange times, but not in strange places. In this so great and ambitious generation, I have found a faithful fulfillment of the very words of Christ and the apostles on the end time casting events. Here, we have abounding faiths, voracious knowledge and doctrines, repleting and multiplying men who want to be in the field. In fact, when all of men's plans go damn awry, the next thing on their fake minds is to become a minister, not of the Gospel (good news) but of the good-news (riches).*

“So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”

Though afraid and drowning, the clarity of the Lord's distinctiveness was obvious. It is so similar to the call of Samuel also.

Yes, we are taking men of the Old as references. Someone would say, it is not so as the New Testament. Yet, I tell you, read of Peter, Paul and the rest.

Confession: I shall from today, hear the Lord and obey Him. Amen.

FOCUS TODAY

Many prefer to observe and gladly fulfill the false calls, becoming false teachers, prophesying what is not, but the true ones would be after the souls-for-God. Do you really have a call? If you want one, become an evangelist. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Psalm 132–134; 1Corinthians 11:17–34

YOU CAN BE SAVED

Have you burdens?

Have you troubles?

Have you sins and weaknesses *unthinkable*?

Come to the Lord today; He is willing to help you.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.””

John 3:16-18

Pray:

Lord Jesus, come into my heart and reign as Lord.

I confess my every sin (mention) and forsake them today.

Heal me O Lord, and save me till the end.

Thank You Lord for this grace, in Jesus' name I pray.

Perhaps you need further prayers and counselling, reach us today via any of the followings:

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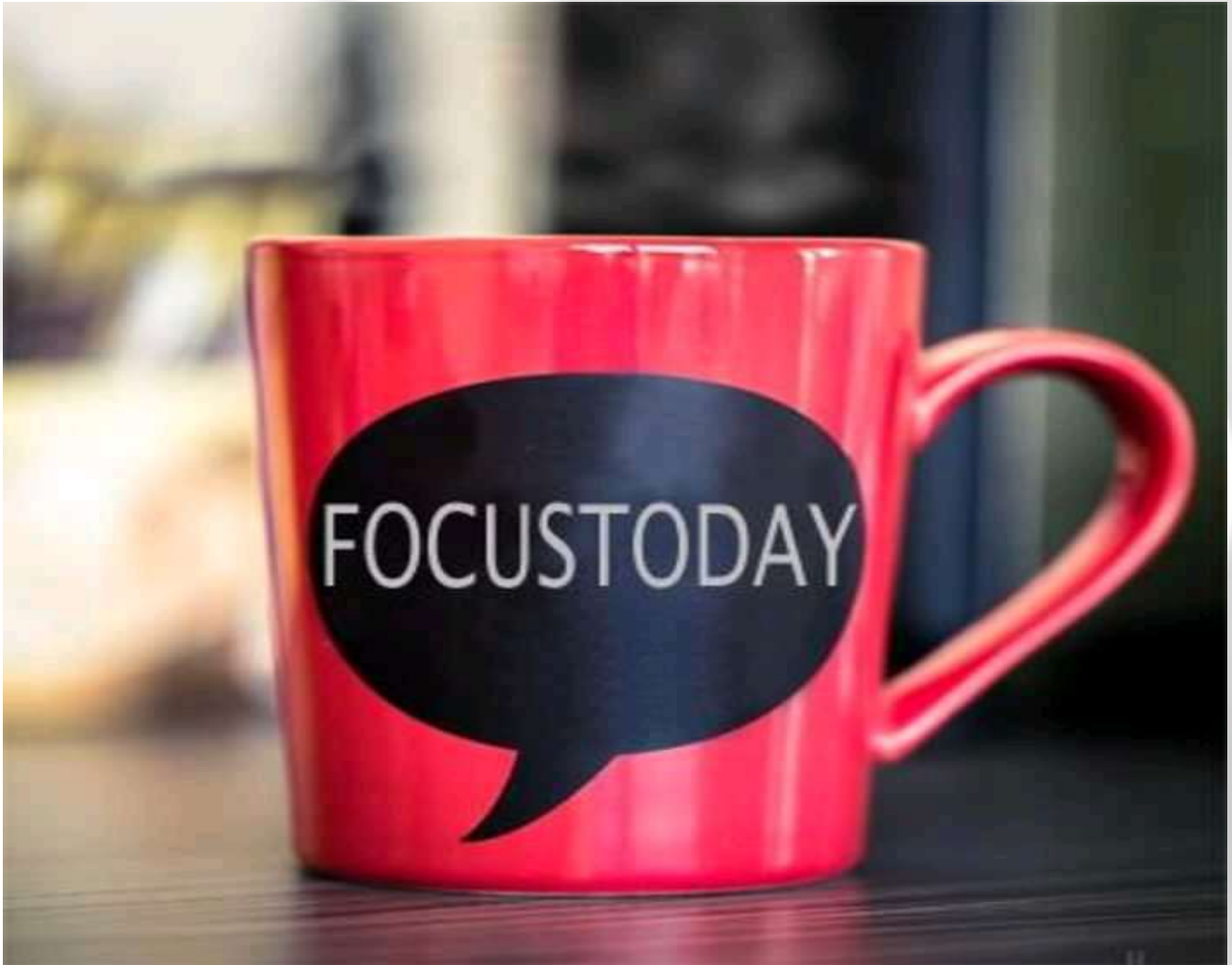
Shalom!

“In times like these you need the Bible,
In times like these O be not idle;

Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!"

~Ruth Caye Jones

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