



The DailyBibleReader.com Newsletter

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Dear Readers,

It's been a dozen years since the first Quarterly DailyBibleReader Newsletter was published in 2008. In the 48 issues of the Newsletter, articles were included about basic Bible teachings, faithful people of the Bible, and Bible background information. The purpose of the Newsletter has always been to encourage Bible reading and understanding. Although this is the final issue, we still want to encourage everyone to read and study the marvelous word of God. Learn of God, of his Son, his purpose in creating this world, and his purpose for you. In the Bible God speaks to each of us.

Fall in love with God as David the Psalmist did: *"You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you."* - Psalm 63:1-3 NIV

Learn about God through the prophets and through His Son, the Lord Jesus: *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the proph-*

ets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ... For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? - Hebrews 1:1-2, 5 ESV

Listen to Peter as he tells us **the message of the gospel**: *Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."* - Acts 2:36-39 ESV

Hear the prophecies and warnings that are given of a time of trouble and judgment: *For the day is near, the day of the LORD is near; it will be a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations. - Ezekiel 30:3 ESV. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but*

now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." - Acts 17:30-31 ESV

Know the promise that Jesus has given that he will return: *Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. - Hebrews 9:27-28 NIV "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. - Revelation 22:12 NIV*

Below we have presented a few Bible study resources that you may find helpful. Please avail yourself of these wonderful helps to reading and understanding what God is saying to us.

We pray that you will continue to read this gift from God, his words of instruction, of wisdom, of warning, and of his love for us. May God bless you in your reading.

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Some resources that you may find helpful:

The **DailyBibleReader.com** website is still available online. This includes four different Bible versions for daily readings, a focus verse for each day, and some questions and background information on each day's readings. It can be found at:

www.dailybiblereader.com

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Bible Basics The *Bible Basics* seminars and literature have helped many thousands of people over the last 25 years on their journey to find the joy and peace of true Christianity. www.biblebasicsonline.com

Williamsburg Christadelphian Foundation WCF has produced several videos on a number of topics. Many of these videos are available in multiple languages and some are even closed captioned. You can watch the full-length videos online. wcfoundation.org/videos

Is He or Is He Not?

Does God exist? Is there an almighty, righteous, loving Creator? How do you consider such a question? How do you go about finding the answer? What would be convincing evidence that there is a God? How could you be sure that you understand who God is and what character and power he has? We have five senses to perceive the world and yet God is not perceived by any of these senses. How can we be sure? Finding the answer takes diligent seeking and searching, humbly and honestly weighing the evidence, and a willingness to listen. At least this is what the Bible tells us. So what evidence should be considered? Here are three suggestions:

An artist is known by his work. An art expert will look for known characteristics of a painting in order to identify the authenticity of the work. Consider the heavens and the earth. Consider the intricate detail of each creature, the vastness of the universe, the balance in every aspect of the earth's cycles, and the living, dynamic power that permeates everything. Remember also the individuality, personality, and distinctiveness of the creatures, the ability to love or hate with

intensity, the need for socializing, and the abilities to reason, imagine and create. Are these the characteristics of this work of art that authenticates the artist who created the heavens and the earth or did all this come from nothingness?

The Bible is a very unique book. It is the only book in the world that is a collection of 66 books, written over a period of 1,500 years by at least 40 different authors. Yet all the parts fit together to tell of one plan and purpose for the earth. Throughout, it declares that the LORD God inspired all these writings. It has been preserved through centuries of wars and disasters and has been translated into almost every language on the face of the earth. To recognize the uniqueness and truth of this book results in recognizing the existence of the Author, Eternal Creator.

Finally, in the Bible, God tells us that he has witnesses that he is God. "But now, this is what the LORD says — he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel... You are my witnesses," declares the LORD,

"that I am God." (Isaiah 43: 1,10-12) The Bible prophesied that the ancient nation of Israel would be scattered and dispersed throughout the earth but that in the latter days they would be re-gathered again to the Promised Land. Over the past 70 or more years these prophetic words are being fulfilled. What God predicted would happen thousands of years ago is taking place right now. Is this just chance or the work of the Almighty God?

Recently when talking with a friend, she stated that she had grown up in a home with parents who denied the existence of any god. When she started searching for the answer to the question "is He or is He not?" she became convinced that the God of the Bible does exist and that he does care. She was so relieved to know this that even after 25 years she speaks with wonder and amazement. But she had to search and seek for God herself.

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13-14)

* * * *

Life is a Gift

We may earn a living but we don't earn life. What child born has done anything that has earned it life? It is a gift. Each day and each breath is a gift. And yet, every life as we know it has an end. It was Benjamin Franklin that commented that in this world nothing is certain but death and taxes.

It is a certainty that we live in a sick and dying world. We would like our children and other loved ones to be exempt. We would like to be exempt ourselves, but no one is. As sure as there is birth, the giving of life, there is death, the

end of life. Why is this so? Where does life come from? Why are we given life? What is death? Why do we die? Is there anything beyond what we know of this life? Is there some part of us that is eternal—that goes on living after our bodies decay?

Why is there sickness and suffering? What hope do we have? We all have questions. Consider some of the answers from the Bible:

Where does life come from? "The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed

into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. (Genesis 2)

The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (Job 33)

What is death? "...when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust." (Psalm 104:29)

"Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish." (Psalm 146)

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Life is a Gift

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Why do we die? To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' ...By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3)
For the wages of sin is death... (Romans 6)

Is there some part of us that lives on eternally—that is immortal? "... God, the blessed and only Ruler, the

King of kings and Lord of lords, **who alone is immortal** and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. (I Timothy 6)

To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. (Romans 2)

What hope do we have? Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12)

For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and be-

lieves in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6)

These are just a few of the answers that the Bible gives us. One thing the Bible is clear about: By disobedience and rebellion against God we earn death, but God in his love for us wants to give us life: "*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" (Romans 6:23)

* * * *

You Must Listen To Him

Many years before the birth of Jesus Christ, the prophecy was given that God would send a prophet like Moses, from among the people. And the command was given "you must listen to him."

Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, was rebuked by God with the words: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" (Matthew 17:5) Later, the inspired words were written: "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son..." (Hebrews 1:1)

Children are not known for listening or paying attention to those things they are not interested in. How many parents and teachers have been frustrated because of "selected hearing."

God spoke to his people for many years through prophets but they did not listen. They could not or would not learn the things that God wanted to teach them about who He is, what He required of them, and what he wanted for them. Finally, he sent his beloved Son and commands us to listen to him.

Jesus, both Son of God and Son of

Man, taught and lived what pleased his Father. Through his life and teachings he showed the love and compassion, the hatred of evil, and the power and glory of his Father. At the same time, he lived as we do with physical sufferings and needs, and temptations to disobey his Father's will.

For many years since, people have argued, theorized, defined and dogmatized about who they think Jesus is and what he did. However, we need to go back and do as God has told us: Listen to Jesus.

So start searching. Go back to the actual sayings of Jesus in the Bible. Find out what Jesus says. What did he say about himself? What did he say about God? What kind of life did he live? What example has he given us? Here are a few quotes from Jesus, himself, to get started:

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart..."
Matthew 11:29

"...for the Father is greater than I." John 14:28

"...but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father

has commanded me." John 14:30-31

"*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*"
John 14:6-7

"*I and the Father are one.*"
John 10:30

"*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.*" John 17:20-21

"*My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death...My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.*" Matt 26:38-39

"*Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.*" John 17:3-4

* * * *

Do you love God?

The answer to this question defines you and your way of life. It defines every choice you make and every desire you have. And loving God cannot be a part-time some time thing. The answer can't be "maybe a little bit". Loving God means he's at the top of your list before anyone or anything else. It means total commitment. And yet, this is what God commands. The greatest commandment is, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30).

If after trying to answer this question, you honestly have to say that your love for God is weak at best, you are in good company. Our very first parents loved a lie instead of loving God and they disobeyed him. Since then the history not only in the Bible but also of all mankind has followed their example. Hearts have been far from Him and everyone has disobeyed. In fact, the Bible has some very hard things to say concerning the heart of mankind:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked..." (Jeremiah 17:9)

The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the

time. (Genesis 6:5-6)

"But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'" (Matthew 15:17-20)

"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. (Matthew 15:8)

Although many people of faith are listed in the Bible, the statement is made by Paul the Apostle: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God..." This is the judgment that is given. There is no one with a pure heart. There is no one who loves God and obeys God with all his heart, soul, strength, and mind. That is, there was no one until Jesus. Jesus' purpose in being born into this world was not to just die. He came to show us the way to live. Not just now but forever. Everything that Jesus did, everything he said, every decision he made teaches us how to love God. Consider some of his sayings:

"The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I

always do what pleases him." John 8:29-30

"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Matthew 26:39

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me. John 5:30

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. John 4:34

In fact, the main reason that his death has any meaning is because his death was a result of his total love for and obedience to his Father. It was the ultimate victory over sin and disobedience. Jesus was tempted in every way that we are—he could have sinned—yet he did not. His love and obedience for his God was complete—even unto death. As Paul the Apostle wrote: "For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous." (Romans 5:1)

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Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on _ _ _ _ _ ?

About a thousand years before the time of Jesus Christ, there was a king ruling in the city of Jerusalem. His name was David. This is the same one who, as a boy, killed the enemy giant named Goliath with a small stone from a slingshot. Later he became the second king of Israel and ruled for 40 years. Why is this important? Because David was a man who received a very important promise from God. God promised King David that one of his descendants would rule over his kingdom forever:

"The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a

house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son.... Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." (2 Samuel 7:14-17 NIV)

This is an amazing promise but how could this possibly be? What

nation or kingdom has lasted forever? What person could rule forever? About 1,000 years after the promise was given to David, the answer to this was given to a young woman whose name was Mary: "You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:31-33 NIV) The angel of God told Mary

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Thy kingdom come

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that it would be her son Jesus who would be that son of David who would rule on David's throne forever.

All Israel was in expectation of a Messiah, an anointed one, a King who would fulfill this promise to restore the Kingdom of Israel. Jesus constantly talked about "the Kingdom" and the people to whom he spoke would understand it in the context of this promised king or Messiah. Most did not understand that King Jesus had a work to com-

plete in saving his people from their sins before he would become that king that they were expecting. His parables, however, constantly talk about a king or nobleman that must go away to "a far country" and then finally return as king and ruler.

Jesus has gone to "a far country" but he has promised to return to the earth as king. The apostles and disciples in the first century believed this: "*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed*

for you—even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets." (Peter the Apostle, circa 30 A.D., as found in the book of Acts.)

Many people have prayed the "Lord's Prayer" for many centuries. Think about what the prayer says: "*Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven....*" Yes, when Jesus comes in his kingdom, God's will will be done on earth.

BELIEF = ACTION

Just weeks after Jesus was crucified, his disciples were standing up in a crowd of people attending the Feast of Weeks festival in Jerusalem and saying some outrageous things. They insisted that this crucified Jesus was alive. That he had been resurrected from the dead. They were teaching that this Jesus is the promised Messiah and showed from the prophets that the Messiah would suffer, die, and be resurrected. On top of that, they pointed the finger at the crowds and said, "You, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross." The disciples did not say this to the Roman guards who actually hammered the nails, nor to the religious leaders who demanded his death through a mock trial, but to the crowds of just plain people.

The disciples made the points well: Jesus, as was prophesied by the prophets of old, suffered and died but the grave could not hold him—he was innocent. He did not deserve to die. So, his Father raised him from the dead to die no more. But the people were guilty of killing the Messiah. Finally Peter, one of the disciples declared: "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." It was at this point many of those listening were "cut to the

heart", that is, they truly believed Peter's words. They wanted to know what they should do. The answer came back: "repent and be baptized". (Acts 2)

Throughout the book of the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples of Jesus followed the command of their Lord: "*make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*" (Matthew 28)

True belief brings action. When you believe in Jesus, you will do what he commands. If you don't obey, then in reality, you don't truly believe. Jesus' brother James says the same thing with different words: "*In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*" (James 2) Jesus states the same thought in a little different way: "*If you love me, you will obey what I command.*" (John 14) The writer to the Hebrews in chapter 11 gives examples:

"By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family.

"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

"By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

So the command has been given: "repent and be baptized". Repentance requires understanding with the mind and the heart, the acknowledgement of wrongdoing, the humility to accept responsibility, and the desire to change. It says to God: you are just and right. I am wrong. Baptism is an act of obedience. It is the public announcement of a change of heart. It requires being covered by water. "*Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*" (Romans 6)

Belief equals action. Faith with love equals obedience. There is no other way. As Jesus said: "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." - John 14:21 NIV

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Daily Bible Readings for April, May and June

Day	APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
	Old Test	New Test/Psa	Old Test	New Test/Psa	Old Test	New Test/Psa
1	Deut 13,14	Mark 6	Judges 3,4	1 Corinth 11	Job 38,39	Psalm 59
2	Deut 15,16	Psalm 33,34	Judges 5,6	1 Corinth 12	Job 40-42	Luke 17
3	Deut 17,18	Mark 7	Judges 7,8	1 Corinth 13	I Sam 1. 2	Luke 18
4	Deut 19,20	Mark 8	Judges 9,10	Psalm 48	I Sam 3. 4	Psalm 60. 61
5	Deut 21,22	Mark 9	Judges 11,12	I Corinth 14	I Sam 5. 6	Luke 19
6	Deut 23,24	Psalm 35	Judges 13,14	I Carinth 15	I Sam 7. 8	Luke 20
7	Deut 25,26	Mark 10	Judges 15,16	Psalm 49	I Sam 9.10	Luke 21
8	Deut 27,28	Mark 11	Judges 17,18	I Corinth 16	I Sam 11. 12	Psalm 62. 63
9	Deut 29,30	Psalm 36,37	Judges 19,20	Psalm 50	I Sam 13. 14	Luke 22
10	Deut 31,32	Psalm 38,39	Judge 21 Ruth 1	Psalm 51. 52	I Sam 15. 16	Luke 23
11	Deut 33,34	Mark 12	Ruth 2-4	Luke 1	I Sam 17. 18	Luke 24
12	Provb 17,18	Mark 13	Provb 29,30	Luke 2	I Sam 19. 20	Psalm 64. 65
13	Provb 19,20	Mark 14	Provb 31	Luke 3	I Sam 21. 22	Psalm 66. 67
14	Provb 21,22	Mark 15	Job 1-3	Psalm 53	I Sam 23. 24	II Corinth 1
15	Joshua 1,2	Mark 16	Job 4,5	Luke 4	I Sam 25. 26	II Corinth 2
16	Joshua 3,4	Psalm 40,41	Job 6,7	Luke 5	I Sam 27. 28	II Corinth 3
17	Joshua 5,6	1 Corinth 1	Job 8,9	Luke 6	i Sam 29-31	Psalm 68
18	Joshua 7. 8	1 Corinth 2	Job 10,11	Psalm 54,55	Eccles 1. 2	Psalm 69
19	Joshua 9,10	1 Corinth 3	Job 12,13	Luke 7	Eccles 3. 4	II Corinth 4
20	Joshua 11,12	Psalm 42,43	Job 14,15	Luke 8	Eccles 5. 6	II Corinth 5
21	Joshua 13,14	1 Corinth 4	Job 16,17	Psalm 56	Eccles 7. 8	II Corinth 6
22	Joshua 15,16	1 Corinth 5	Job 18,19	Luke 9	Eccles 9.10	Psalm 70. 71
23	Joshua 17,18	Psalm 44	Job 20,21	Luke 10	Eccles 11. 12	II Corinth 7
24	Joshua 19,20	1 Corinth 6	Job 22,23	Luke 11	II Sam 1. 2	II Corinth 8
25	Joshua 21,22	1 Corinth 7	Job 24,25	Psalm 57	II Sam 3. 4	II Corinth 9
26	Joshua 23,24	1 Corinth 8	Job 26,27	Luke 12	II Sam 5. 6	II Corinth 10
27	Provb 23,24	Psalm 45	Job 28,29	Luke 13	II Sam 7. 8	Psalm 72
28	Provb 25,26	1 Corinth 9	Job 30,31	Psalm 58	II Sam 9. 10	Psalm 73
29	Provb 27,28	1 Corinth 10	Job 32,33	Luke 14	II Sam 11.12	II Corinth 11
30	Judges 1,2	Psalm 46. 47	Job 34,35	Luke 15	II Sam 13.14	II Corinth 12
31			Job 36,37	Luke 16		

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