

5-Day Devotional: Searching the Scriptures

PM Message by Bro. Mike Bentley – August 9, 2026

Based on the Theme: Holding Fast to the Word of God

Day 1: The Scriptures Point Us to Life

Reading: John 5:39; Psalm 119:105

The Scriptures are not merely ancient literature or a collection of moral suggestions. Jesus himself declared that they testify of him, and that within them men search for eternal life. This means every page, every passage, every command carries weight that reaches beyond this world. When we open our Bibles, we are not simply reading words written by men. We are encountering the testimony of God about his Son. Ask yourself today: do I treat my Bible reading as a routine, or as a genuine search for the living Christ?

Practical Application: Set aside a specific, uninterrupted time today to read Scripture with the deliberate intention of finding what it reveals about Jesus.

Day 2: The Berean Standard — Daily and Diligent

Reading: Acts 17:10-12; 2 Timothy 2:15

The believers in Berea were commended not for their church attendance or their enthusiasm, but for one specific habit: they searched the Scriptures daily to verify what they were being taught. This is a remarkable standard. They did not simply trust the preacher. They went to the source. In an age when religious voices compete loudly for attention across every platform imaginable, the Berean model is not outdated — it is urgently needed. Sound doctrine is not discovered by feeling or preference. It is found by those willing to search with diligence and readiness.

Practical Application: After your reading today, write down one teaching you have recently heard and search the Scriptures to confirm whether it aligns with God's Word.

Day 3: All Authority Belongs to Christ

Reading: Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 3:17

5-Day Devotional: Searching the Scriptures

Jesus declared that all authority in heaven and on earth had been given to him. Not some. Not a portion granted by a council or a tradition. All of it. This means that when we gather to worship, when we structure the work of the church, when we decide what to teach and how to live, the question is never what feels right to us. The question is always what has Christ commanded. His commission to make disciples and teach them to observe all that he commanded remains the only legitimate framework for the life of any Christian and any congregation.

Practical Application: Examine one area of your spiritual life today and ask honestly whether it is shaped by Christ's authority or by personal preference or cultural comfort.

Day 4: When the Word Is Doubted

Reading: Genesis 3:1-6; 1 Peter 5:8

The very first strategy our adversary employed against humanity was not a frontal assault. It was a question. Has God indeed said? Satan did not begin by denying God's existence. He began by casting doubt on God's Word. That pattern has never changed. Every generation faces voices that suggest Scripture is unreliable, outdated, or open to endless revision. The moment we entertain the idea that God did not really mean what he said, we stand in the same dangerous place as Eve stood in the garden. Sobriety and vigilance are not optional for the believer — they are commanded.

Practical Application: Identify one area where cultural pressure has caused you to question or soften what Scripture clearly teaches. Bring it before God in honest prayer today.

Day 5: The Conclusion of the Matter — Fear God and Keep His Commandments

Reading: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Solomon pursued everything the world could offer — wisdom, pleasure, wealth, achievement, and experience beyond what any ordinary person could accumulate in a lifetime. At the end of it all, his conclusion was not complicated. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. Paul echoed this urgency when he charged Timothy to preach the Word in season and out of season, warning that a time would come when people would reject sound doctrine in favor of teachers who told them only what they wanted to hear. That time is not coming. It is here. Hold fast to the Word.

Practical Application: Commit today to one specific, concrete habit that will strengthen your relationship with Scripture — whether daily reading, a structured study, or memorization — and share that commitment with another believer who will hold you accountable.