

# CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST



It's the missing word in the modern world. In fact, it's been replaced with the word, "**ENTITLEMENT.**" As in, "What can I get for free and what can you do for me?" It's about "what I deserve," "what you owe me," "what you should do for me," ad infinitum, ad nauseam. The days of doing whatever it takes, working hard, showing up, pioneering your own path, always giving your best no matter what, and wanting to make a difference have become distant memories of another day.

Never in my lifetime have I witnessed such a frenzy for freebies, a hustle for handouts and a craving for comfort, convenience and "cashing in" without it costing us anything.

We've been sold the lie for so long it sounds like the truth now. "Somebody, somewhere surely owes me something." People look for the easy way, the cheap way, and the lazy way. But most aren't interested in the right way or the hard way – which quite often are the same thing.

The Bible calls all of us to a different way ... a better way: **The way of DUTY.** **JESUS** told His disciples in [Luke 17:10 \(NIV\)](#), "So you also, when you have done everything, you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; **we have only done our duty.**'" As servants of Christ, what exactly is our duty? I know our culture couldn't care less, but as followers of Christ we should care about what our duty is in His Church. What should we be doing as faithful servants of the One Who said He "came not to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many?" ([Matthew 20:28](#))

**What are we supposed to be doing?**

**Fanny Crosby**, who was born blind, yet had greater insight into the things of God than most people who have ever lived, wrote these lines:

"Rescue the perishing, **DUTY DEMANDS IT**; strength for thy labor the Lord will provide.

Back to the narrow way, patiently win them; Tell the poor wanderer a Savior has died."

Is it our duty anymore to tell people about **JESUS** or has that become irrelevant and unnecessary since most people no longer believe in Hell or a judgment to come? Do the "marching orders of the Master" no longer matter? ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)) And if it's no longer **our** duty or responsibility, **whose is it?**

What about **worship? Prayer? Spending time in God's Word?** What about **giving faithfully** and **proportionately** ("as the Lord has blessed us" – [1 Corinthians 16:2](#)) **to our church?** What about **serving** in the Lord's church? Or connecting in a **small group?**

Aren't we supposed to do those things because we are *supposed* to do them? Or do we get a pass because of a global pandemic or something else? And you know there will always be "something else." Are we supposed to have a sense of duty, or has it become senseless to expect people to do what God says anymore?

One word separates a growing church from a dying church: **DUTY.** One word separates a faithful Christian from an unfaithful, backslidden Christian: **DUTY.** The world says, "**If it feels good, do it.**" No. A thousand times, **NO!! If God says it, do it!**

You know what will keep you on the right track when you no longer feel like doing what you know you ought to be doing? **DUTY.** When you no longer enjoy it, when your feelings get hurt, when someone disappoints you, when something happens you don't really agree with, when your friends quit and walk away, you name it. There's only one thing that will keep you on the field, in the game, giving it all you've got until the game is over: **DUTY.**

One thing kept **Noah** preaching repentance and building a boat when there wasn't a single convert or a single drop of rain in sight. One thing kept **Joseph** faithful in the midst of all his temptations and trials. One thing kept **Nehemiah** at the task of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem in the face of formidable opposition. One thing kept **John the Baptist** preaching passionately and fearlessly even when it meant certain death. One thing kept **JESUS** going all the way to Calvary's cross: **DUTY.** He said, "My food is to do the will of Him Who sent me and to finish His work" ([John 4:34](#)).

The Bible says, "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole **DUTY** of man" ([Ecclesiastes 12:13](#)).

It's time we recapture a sense of duty in the church and get back to doing what God has told us to do. And when we have done everything we were told to do, we should say, "We are unworthy servants; ... **we have only done our duty.**"

Blessings, *Pastor David*

# When the Truth Makes Enemies

## Read Galatians 4:12-16 (ESV)

*Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?*

## Reflect

*Have you ever been rejected because you spoke the truth?*

Sometimes people just don't want to hear the truth. In fact, many people today consider it more loving to affirm someone's lies and delusions than it is to tell them the truth. In our culture, offending someone is to be avoided at all costs and truth is relative. So, telling the absolute truth is a surefire way to make enemies. But that doesn't mean we should shy away from it.

Earlier in Galatians 4, we read that Paul wondered if he had labored for the Galatians in vain. In the above verses, Paul continued to get personal with them. You see, Paul and the Galatians had a history. When he first preached the Gospel to them, he was suffering from an illness. We don't know the specifics of that illness but we do know that whatever it was, it was bad enough that it could have given those in Galatia cause to be disgusted and repulsed by it. Paul even considered his physical ailment to be a trial or a burden to them.

And yet, despite this health issue, the Galatians welcomed him and cared for him. They received him as a messenger from God and recognized that he was a true apostle of Jesus Christ. They accepted his message of salvation by grace through faith in Christ. And out of gratitude, they were a blessing to him in return. The fact that Paul said they would have been willing to gouge out their eyes for him to use instead has led some scholars to believe that Paul's ailment may have affected his eyesight. Regardless, this detail demonstrates just how much the Galatians loved Paul. They were willing to sacrifice greatly for his health and well-being.

But when the Judaizers arrived on the scene, some in Galatia changed their tune. Instead of becoming like Paul, who gave up his legalism in exchange for the grace of Christ, many Galatians returned to the bondage of the law. They accepted the false teaching promoted by the Judaizers. Those who had embraced these false teachings went from loving and accepting Paul and the Gospel message he preached to rejecting him and considering him an enemy. How painful that must have been for him. What did he do to deserve such treatment? He told them the Gospel truth.

Friends, we have been warned that if we proclaim the truth of the Gospel, we will face rejection and hatred as well. Jesus faced it and said: "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you" (John 15:18). John experienced it and said, "Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you" (1 John 3:13). Peter experienced it and echoed John's message not to be surprised "at the fiery trial" but rather "rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings" (1 Peter 4:12-13). And we know that Paul experienced it, even by those who had once highly regarded him and considered him a dear friend.

But none of them stopped preaching the truth simply because of the cost—not Paul, not Peter, not John, and certainly not Jesus. They knew that when you love someone, you tell them the truth at all costs, especially when that truth has eternal significance. They told everyone what they needed to hear even if it wasn't what they wanted to hear because they cared for these people's souls. May we be like them and never shy away from the truth of the Gospel no matter the cost.

## Pray

*Jesus, you warned us that the world will hate us just as it hated you. It can be intimidating to speak the truth out loud in the face of rejection. Still, we know that you are the truth that the world needs to hear about. Give us the courage to never compromise the truth of the Gospel even if we make enemies by telling your truth. Amen.*

## Reveal

The truth has eternal significance. Who needs to hear the truth from you?

## March 2023

5	12	19	26
<b>Children's Church</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall
<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall
<b>Communion Message</b>	<b>Communion Message</b>	<b>Communion Message</b>	<b>Communion Message</b>
Mike Sparks	Kirk Nelson	David Hall	Guy Fishman
<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>
David Hall	David Hall	Sharon Henkel	Angela Hall
<b>Singers</b>	<b>Singers</b>	<b>Singers</b>	<b>Singers</b>
Angela Hall	Marcia Casey	Nancy Nelson	David Hall
Nancy Nelson	Mark Casey	Larry Heschke	
<b>PowerPoint</b>	<b>PowerPoint</b>	<b>PowerPoint</b>	<b>PowerPoint</b>
Ozzton Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson
<b>Sound</b>	<b>Sound</b>	<b>Sound</b>	<b>Sound</b>
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke
<b>Janatorial</b>	<b>Janatorial</b>	<b>Janatorial</b>	<b>Janatorial</b>
Nancy & Barry Nelson	Nancy & Barry Nelson	Nancy & Barry Nelson	Nancy & Barry Nelson
Marcia Nelson	Marcia Nelson	Marcia Nelson	Marcia Nelson

Date	Offering	Attendance
01/29/2023	\$1515.00	74
02/05/2023	\$20141.93	72
02/15/2023	\$2190.00	94
02/19/2023	\$1449.00	79
02/26/2023	\$2872.00	86



**Marty & Shari Eldredge**  
**(New Address)**  
**1115 15<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Davenport, IA 52722**

# March Celebrations

## March 1

Gavin M. (MCS Student)

## March 2

Dennis Ducommun  
Ralph Kaufman

## March 9

Derrick M. (MCS Staff)

## March 12

Robbie R. (MCS Staff)

## March 13

Colton Henkel

## March 15

Landon A. (MCS Student)

## March 20

Laura N. (MCS Staff)

## March 22

Danny Salter  
Brayden E. (MCS Student)

## March 23

Bryar Hodges (BB)

## March 27

Antonio P. (MCS Student)

## March 30

Twyla Schmillen

## March 31

Angela Hall



TIME TO SPRING FORWARD. ARE YOU READY?



**MARCH 13, 2022 AT 2AM**

## Quilt Batts

Quilting Guild

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month  
at the First Church of Christ

**7:00 p.m.**

Next Meeting is March 15th

## Boy Scout Troop 107

Meets Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

First Church of Christ



Boys in 5th - 12th grades are invited to join.  
For more information call (712) 225-2650

## NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Meets at First Church of Christ  
every Tuesday & Thursday

7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

If you struggle with addiction  
this is the place to be.



2023 Spring Sermon Series  
First Church of Christ

# Jesus

## Savior & Friend

March 5 – A Friend of the Sinful  
 March 12 – A Friend of the Lost  
 March 19 – A Friend of the Fearful  
 March 26 – A Friend of the Addicted  
 April 2 – A Friend of the Desperate

Nearly 2,000 years ago, a doctor named Luke wrote a letter in which he prioritized two things: a love for Christ and a love for the facts. He didn't want legends; he wanted truth. And so, Dr. Luke began to sort the truth and report the facts. The result is part letter, part research paper.

Join us each Sunday morning throughout 2023 as we explore Luke's Gospel and rediscover the truths of Christ's life, authority, and ultimate love for His people.

## New Minivan Purchased



**THANK YOU!** For your generosity in our Fall 2022 Harvest Offering event. Enough generous gifts were made to purchase the new minivan as was specified for the offering. Our new van is a 2021 Chrysler Pacifica.



# Easter Lilies

\$21.50 each

Make Checks Payable to **First Church of Christ**  
 In check memo please write **FLOWERS**

Orders Due by **March 7, 2022**

***Sign Up Sheet is Located in the Lobby***

# EASTER 2023

APRIL 2 - 9

## SUNDAY, APRIL 2

9:30 A.M.

Palm Sunday Worship Service

## FRIDAY, APRIL 7

7:00 P.M.

Good Friday Worship and Communion Service

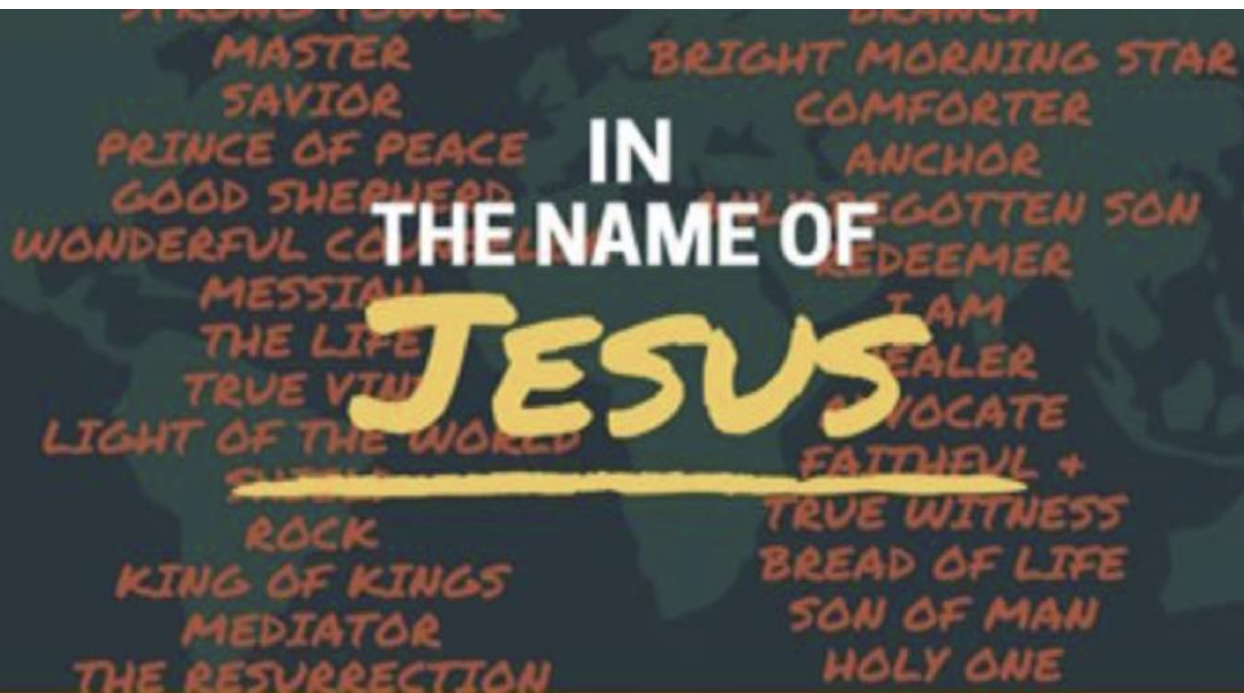
## SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Easter Sunrise Breakfast • 8:00 A.M.

Easter Worship Service • 9:30 A.M.

\*\*No Sunday School





## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Sermons Ala Carte

A Lenten Sermon Series

Presented by the Cherokee County Ministerial Association

Worship & Lunch at Noon Wednesdays During Lent

February 22<sup>nd</sup> – March 29<sup>th</sup>

Service: 12:05pm – 12:30pm

Lunch: 12:30pm – Cost \$5.00

Memorial Presbyterian Church

127 E Willow Street

**February 22**

“What’s in a Name?”

**Pastor Jonathan Caldwell**—

Memorial Presbyterian Church, Cherokee

**March 01**

“Jesus the Savior of the World”

**Pastor Mike Agnew**—

St. Paul’s Methodist Church, Cherokee

**March 08**

“Christ/Anointed One:

**Pastor Jonathan Riggert**—

Trinity Lutheran Church, Cherokee

**March 15**

“Atoning Sacrifice”

**Pastor Jeff Harris**—

First Baptist/Mount Olive Baptist Church,  
Cherokee

**March 22**

“Prince of Peace”

**Pastor David Hall**—

First Church of Christ

**March 29**

“Emmanuel”

**Pastor Tyler Stauffer**—

Oakdale Evangelical Free Church

**2023 Ecumenical Giving:**

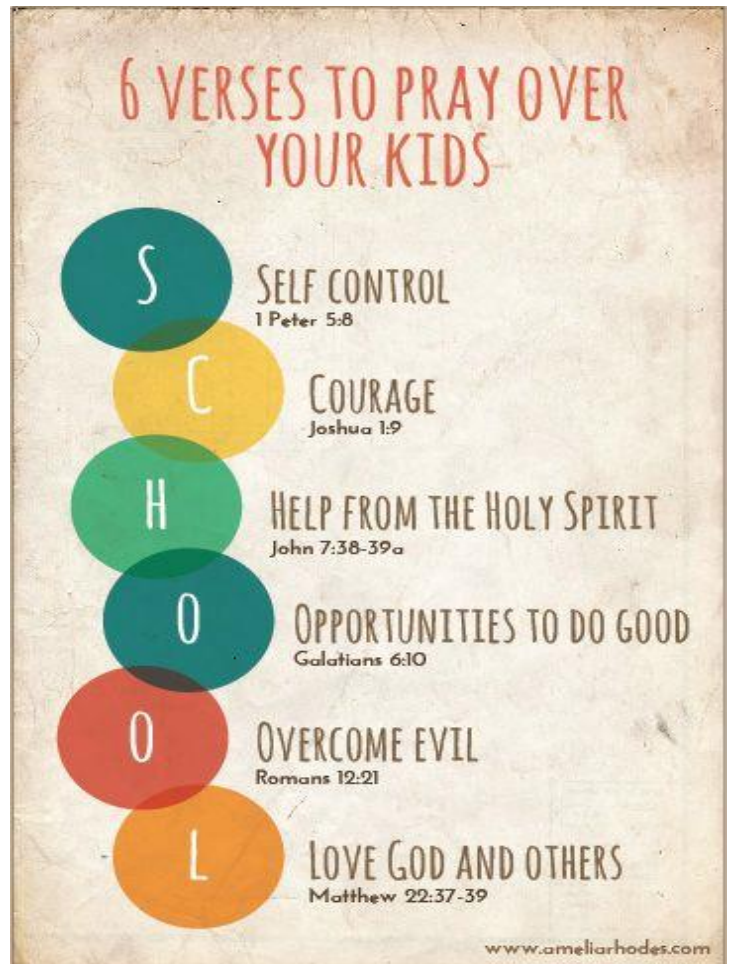
Crossroads of Western Iowa (formerly Cherokee County Work Services),  
C.A.P. Food Pantry, CAASA, Mid-Sioux, Cherokee Hospice, and CCMA

## My Mood

- Hopeful
- Anxious
- Courageous
- Peaceful
- Helpless
- Angry
- Forgiven
- Hurting
- Tired
- Strong
- Afraid
- Love
- Worry
- Guilt
- Joy
- Power
- Depressed
- Life

## God's Voice

- John 3:16
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Philippians 4:13
- Psalms 23:4
- Romans 8:28
- Psalms 23:1
- Psalms 23:6
- Psalms 23:5
- Psalms 23:3
- Psalms 4:6
- Matthew 12:20
- Psalms 37:8
- John 14:27
- 1 John 4:7
- Galatians 3:26
- John 15:14
- Psalms 18:31
- Matthew 11:28



We all want a faith that won't let us down in times of trouble or loss, uncertainty or fear. A faith that can pull us through the worst—and best—times in our lives. This is the kind of faith that James writes about. It is a faith that we must practice day by day. This exciting study on the teaching of James will help us grow a steadfast faith that can carry us through all the ups and downs of life.

Invite a friend and join us this, and each Tuesday morning!



# March Activities

- ❑ **March 1** - Sermons Ala Carte "Savior of the World" Pastor Mike Agnew  
12:05 p.m. @ Memorial Presbyterian
- ❑ **March 1** - Bible Buddies @ 6:30 p.m.
- ❑ **March 3** - Global Day of Prayer
- ❑ **March 4** - Men's Monthly Breakfast @ 8:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall
- ❑ **March 7** - Midweek Bible Study @ 10:30 a.m.
- ❑ **March 8** - Sermons Ala Carte "Christ Anointed One" Pastor Jonathan Riggert  
12:05 p.m. @ Memorial Presbyterian
- ❑ **March 8** - Bible Buddies @ 6:30 p.m.
- ❑ **March 9** - Homemakers 9:30 a.m.
- ❑ **March 12** - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- ❑ **March 14** - Midweek Bible Study @ 10:30 a.m.
- ❑ **March 15** - Sermons Ala Carte "Atoning Sacrifice" Pastor Jeff Harris  
12:05 p.m. @ Memorial Presbyterian
- ❑ **March 15** - Esther Circle @ 1:30 p.m.
- ❑ **March 18** - MCS Birthday Party @ 2 p.m.
- ❑ **March 21** - Midweek Bible Study @ 10:30 a.m.
- ❑ **March 22** - Sermons Ala Carte "Prince of Peace" Pastor David Hall  
12:05 p.m. @ Memorial Presbyterian
- ❑ **March 22** - Bible Buddies @ 6:30 p.m.
- ❑ **March 28** - Midweek Bible Study @ 10:30 a.m.
- ❑ **March 29** - Sermons Ala Carte "Emmanuel" Pastor Tyler Stauffer  
12:05 p.m. @ Memorial Presbyterian
- ❑ **March 29** - Bible Buddies @ 6:30 p.m.



# Chronological Bible Reading Plan

## March

Numbers 14-15; Psalm 90

Numbers 16-17

Numbers 18-20

Numbers 21-22

Numbers 23-25

Numbers 26-27

Numbers 28-30

Numbers 31-32

Numbers 33-34

Numbers 35-36

Deuteronomy 1-2

Deuteronomy 3-4

Deuteronomy 5-7

Deuteronomy 8-10

Deuteronomy 11-13

Deuteronomy 14-16

Deuteronomy 17-20

Deuteronomy 21-23

Deuteronomy 24-27

Deuteronomy 28-29

Deuteronomy 30-31

Deuteronomy 32-34, Psalm 91

Joshua 1-4

Joshua 5-8

Joshua 9-11

Joshua 12-15

Joshua 16-18

Joshua 19-21

Joshua 22-24

Judges 1-2

Judges 3-5

# Renewing my Mind

## 30-Day Bible Scripture CHALLENGE

<p><b>Day 1</b> Romans 8:28</p> <p>"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."</p>	<p><b>Day 2</b> Ephesians 3:20</p> <p>"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."</p>	<p><b>Day 3</b> Proverbs 3:5-6</p> <p>"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."</p>	<p><b>Day 4</b> 1 Corinthians 9:24</p> <p>"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it."</p>	<p><b>Day 5</b> Genesis 50:20</p> <p>"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."</p>	<p><b>Day 6</b> Isaiah 43:19</p> <p>"Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth, shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."</p>
<p><b>Day 7</b> Psalm 1:3</p> <p>"He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither, and whatever he does shall prosper."</p>	<p><b>Day 8</b> James 1:17</p> <p>"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."</p>	<p><b>Day 9</b> Luke 10:27</p> <p>"So he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind," and "your neighbor as yourself."</p>	<p><b>Day 10</b> Isaiah 40:31</p> <p>"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."</p>	<p><b>Day 11</b> Romans 12:2</p> <p>"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."</p>	<p><b>Day 12</b> John 10:10</p> <p>"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."</p>
<p><b>Day 13</b> Proverbs 23:7</p> <p>"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."</p>	<p><b>Day 14</b> James 1:22</p> <p>"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."</p>	<p><b>Day 15</b> Proverbs 19:21</p> <p>"There are many plans in a man's heart. Nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand."</p>	<p><b>Day 16</b> Ephesians 6:10</p> <p>"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might."</p>	<p><b>Day 17</b> Colossians 3:2</p> <p>"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."</p>	<p><b>Day 18</b> Hebrews 11:1</p> <p>"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."</p>
<p><b>Day 19</b> Proverbs 18:21</p> <p>"Death and life are in the power of the tongue. And those who love it will eat its fruit."</p>	<p><b>Day 20</b> Proverbs 4:7</p> <p>"Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding."</p>	<p><b>Day 21</b> Matthew 6:33</p> <p>"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."</p>	<p><b>Day 22</b> James 1:4</p> <p>"But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."</p>	<p><b>Day 23</b> 2 Corinthians 9:7</p> <p>"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."</p>	<p><b>Day 24</b> Jeremiah 29:11</p> <p>"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."</p>
<p><b>Day 25</b> Romans 8:1</p> <p>"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."</p>	<p><b>Day 26</b> Joshua 1:8</p> <p>"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."</p>	<p><b>Day 27</b> Hebrews 12:1</p> <p>"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..."</p>	<p><b>Day 28</b> Romans 8:5-6</p> <p>"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."</p>	<p><b>Day 29</b> Luke 6:38</p> <p>"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."</p>	<p><b>Day 30</b> Philippians 4:8</p> <p>"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."</p>