

**Walking in Christ's Light**  
**Daily Prayer Journal**  
**October 26-31, 2009**

*Growing our souls is a partnership with Christ.  
To enable your soul's growth, use this material with Christ as your guide.*

**Next Week's Sermon**

**Scripture: I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Matthew 25:1-13**

[www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+thessalonians+4:13-18](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+thessalonians+4:13-18)

[www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+25:1-13](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+25:1-13)

**Theme: Resurrection**

**Sermon: "Resurrection Matters"**

**Question: What difference does Jesus' resurrection make?**

**MONDAY** 10-26-09

**Read: Matthew 25:1-13** ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+25:1-13](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+25:1-13))

**Prayer:** God, my prayer is to grow in my sense of responsibility in all areas of my life—health, work, family, and church. I want to focus on what is important. I want to do the necessary things ahead of time to be ready. I want to be wise. I pray that You will help me as I seek to live a focused life. I pray in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** You can see today as full of God's glory or as empty time to be filled. The bridesmaids who were prepared saw time as filled with the joy of anticipation. The bridesmaids who were unprepared saw time as something to be endured, to be filled up with waiting. How you focus your life in relationship to God's gift of today is vital. Choose to see today as an opportunity to enjoy the fullness of God's presence in all you do. Choose to see today as an opportunity to work with Christ to make this world a little better place! Choose today to be ready to do whatever joyful work Christ brings to you! Be prepared! Be ready! Be open to celebrate Christ's presence in your life!

**Resolve:** I celebrate the fullness of God's time today.

**TUESDAY** 10-27-09

**Read: Psalm 78:1-7** ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+78:1-7](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+78:1-7))

**Prayer:** Lord God, my hope is in You. You alone can help me build a foundation to my life. You alone can help me face the dark hour of death with confidence. You alone are my hope for life now and life eternal. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** The Psalmist declares that hope is linked to God and God alone. (vs.7) Take an inventory of your hope. Is your hope in your financial portfolio? Family relationships? The church? Your job? Your skills? What do you need to do right now to be able to affirm that your life hope is in God? Choose today to make God the foundation of your life. Hope comes from God and God alone. When your life foundation is the solid rock of God, you have hope to overcome anything life might throw at you.

**Resolve:** My hope today is in God and God alone.

**WEDNESDAY** 10-28-09

**Read: I Thessalonians 4:13-18** ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+thessalonians+4:13-18](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+thessalonians+4:13-18))

**Prayer:** Eternal God, teach me to so value my life that I do not waste my time on this earth. Teach me to savor each moment of life, to love the little things of life, and to delight in the richness of Your creation. Gracious God, teach me to prepare for life's dark valleys and difficult days, that with prayer, study, and reflection I might be ready to greet You anytime whether in darkness or in light. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** "The Day of the Lord" is a universal declaration throughout Holy Scripture. Planet earth is moving toward God's day of judgment. God is "running the show." The admonitions from today's lesson are to live in such a way that you are prepared for Christ's return at any point during the day. Keep this challenge in the front of your mind today. Live today as if today were the "Day of the Lord." Celebrate the Risen Christ who is in your life helping you to prepare for God's judgment day.

**Resolve:** I will enjoy today because it is Christ's day!

**THURSDAY** **10-29-09**

**Read:** Joshua 24:1-3a and 14-25 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=joshua+24:1-3a](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=joshua+24:1-3a))

**Prayer:** Lord God, today I choose to serve You. Yesterday, I served You and failed to serve You. Today, I choose to do better. Thank You for the joyous opportunity of building a little piece of Your New Jerusalem. Thank You for forgiving me when I falter and fail. Thank You for being present in my life at all times and in all places. Thank You for choosing me to be in Your family and do Your work. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Joshua challenged the people of Israel. After all that the Israelites had gone through, they still were tempted to worship other gods. Joshua's challenge to them was to stay true, stay loyal, and stay focused upon God and God alone. Joshua's challenge is also yours today. Joshua stands before you and offers you a choice. Serve the One, True, Living God. Or, serve another god (financial security, job skills, family activities, material possessions, etc) and die. The choice for companionship with God or isolation from God is yours. God chooses for You. How do you choose today?

**Resolve:** I choose to serve the Living Lord God of the Universe today.

**FRIDAY** **10-30-09**

**Read:** Matthew 10:5-15 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+10:5-15](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+10:5-15))

**Prayer:** Loving God, I admit that too often I live on the surface of life. I am afraid of the depths. I am haunted by the knowledge that I have hurt others. I am harassed by the realization that my sense of priorities and my laziness have kept me from responding to Your Spirit and making a positive, creative difference in the world. I know that I miss the mark on a daily basis. Thank You for continuing to love me, forgive me, and teach me. Thank You for being present in my life even when I forget You are there. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** "Wise as a serpent, harmless as a dove," is Jesus' suggestion to live in the world. As Jesus' disciples we live in two worlds. We must live in the consumer oriented, individualized, secular hell of this world, while at the same time we are called by God to build up God's New Jerusalem on this earth. Jesus' plan for living this double world is summarized in the above phrase. Ponder Jesus' action plan as you walk through your life today. How can you grow more 'wise as a serpent'? How can you grow more 'harmless as the dove'? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you how to live Jesus' way today.

**Resolve:** I will be open to the Spirit's teaching me how to live today.

**SATURDAY** **10-31-09**

**Read:** Matthew 5:43-48 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+5:43-48](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+5:43-48))

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, I cannot love my enemies. On my own, I just stew about them. I am hurt by rejection. I am filled with frustration by thoughtless acts of others. I quickly judge people who judge others. Lord Jesus, I need Your presence in my life teaching me to love my enemies, especially the enemies within my heart. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** God is not going to wave a magic wand and make the world into the Garden of Eden. We human beings have created this mess by our arrogant rejection of God. The just and unjust have a place now in this world. God loves us all. Our challenge is to participate with God to grow God's New Jerusalem right where we live and breathe. God invites you to partnership. Join God today in building God's peace, joy, and love where you live.

**Resolve:** I am God's partner for peace today.