

## **DAILY READINGS**

**Monday, June 17, 2013**

**Epistle: Romans 12:4-5 and 15-21** – Brethren: Just as each of us has one body with many members, and not all the members have the same function, so too we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually members one of another.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same attitude toward all. Put away ambitious thoughts and associate with those who are lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Never repay injury with injury. See that your conduct is honorable in the eyes of all. If possible, live peaceably with everyone. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves; leave that to God's wrath, for it is written: "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay," says the Lord." But "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; by doing this you will heap burning coals upon his head." Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

**Gospel: Matthew 12:9-13** – Moving on from them, He went into their synagogue. And behold, there was a man there who had a withered hand. They questioned Him, "Is it lawful to cure on the Sabbath?" so that they might accuse Him. He said to them, "Which one of you who has a sheep that falls into a pit on the Sabbath will not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable a person is than a sheep. So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it was restored as sound as the other.

**Tuesday, June 18, 2013**

**Epistle: Romans 14:9-18** – Brethren: Christ died and came to life again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But you, how can you sit in judgment on your brother? Or you, how can you look down on your brother? We shall all have to appear before the judgment seat of God. It is written, "As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me and every tongue shall give praise to God."

Every one of us will have to give an account of himself before God. Therefore, we must no longer pass judgment on one another. Instead, you should resolve to put no stumbling block or hindrance in your brother's way. I know, with certainty, on the authority of the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself; it is only when a man thinks something unclean that it becomes so for him. If then, your brother feels remorse for the food he has eaten, you have ceased to follow the rule of love. You must not let the food you eat bring to ruin him for whom Christ died; neither may you allow your privilege to become an occasion for blasphemy. The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating or

drinking, but of justice, peace, and the joy that is given by the Holy Spirit. Whoever serves Christ in this way pleases God and wins the esteem of men.

**Gospel: Matthew 12:15-16; 22-30** – When Jesus realized this, He withdrew from that place. Many [people] followed Him and He cured them all, but He warned them not to make Him known.

Then they brought to Him a demoniac who was blind and mute. He cured the mute person so that he could speak and see. All the crowd was astounded and said, “Could this perhaps be the Son of David?” But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man drives out demons only by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons. But He knew what they were thinking and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and no town or house divided against itself will stand. And if Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself; how, then will his kingdom stand? And, if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. How can anyone enter a strong man’s house and steal his property, unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house. Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with me, scatters.”

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

**Epistle: Jude 1-10** – Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who have been called by God; who have found love in God the Father and have been guarded safely in Jesus Christ. May mercy, peace, and love be yours in ever greater measure.

I was already fully intent on writing you, beloved, about the salvation we share. But now I feel obliged to write and encourage you to fight hard for the faith delivered once for all to the saints. Certain individuals have recently wormed their way into your midst, godless types, long ago destined for the condemnation I shall describe. They pervert the gracious gift of our God to sexual excess and deny Jesus Christ, Our only Master and Lord.

I wish to remind you of certain things, even though you may already be very well aware of them. The Lord first rescued His people from the land of Egypt, but later destroyed those who refused to believe. There were angels, too, who did not keep to their own domain, who deserted their dwelling place. These the Lord has kept in perpetual bondage, shrouded in murky darkness against the judgment of the great day.

Sodom, Gomorrah, and the towns there abouts indulged in lust, just as those angels did; they practiced unnatural vice. They are set before us to dissuade us, as they undergo a punishment of eternal fire.

Similarly, these visionaries pollute the flesh; they spurn God's dominion and revile the angelic beings. Even the archangel, Michael, when his case with the devil was being judged --- a dispute over Moses' body --- did not venture to charge him with blasphemy. He simply said, "May the Lord punish you." These people, however, not only revile what they have no knowledge of, but are corrupted through the very things they know by instinct, like brute animals.

**Gospel: John 14. 21-24** – "Whoever has My commandments and observes them is the one who loves Me. And whoever loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him." Judas, not the Iscariot, said to Him, "Master, [then] what happened that You will reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, Whoever loves Me will keep My Word, and My Father will love him and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love Me does not keep My Words; yet, the word you hear is not Mine, but that of the Father, Who sent Me."

Thursday, June 20, 2013

**Epistle: Romans 15:17-29** – Brethren: This means I can take glory in Christ Jesus for the work I have done for God. I will not dare to speak of anything except what Christ has done through me to win the Gentiles to obedience by word and deed, with mighty signs and marvels, by the power of God's Spirit. As a result, I have completed preaching the Gospel of Christ from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyria. It has been a point of honor with me never to preach in places where Christ's Name was already known, for I did not want to build on a foundation laid by another, but rather to fulfill the words of Scripture, "They who received no word of Him will see Him, and they who have never heard will understand."

That is why I have so often been hindered from visiting you. Now, I have no more work to do in these regions and I continue to cherish the desire to visit you, which I have had for many years. As soon as I can set out for Spain, I hope to see you in passing; I trust that you will send me on my journey only after I had had the joy of being with you for a little while. Just now I am leaving for Jerusalem to bring assistance to the saints. Macedonia and Achaia have kindly decided to make a contribution for those in need among the saints in Jerusalem. They did so of their own accord, yet they are also under

obligation. For, if the Gentiles have shared in the spiritual blessings of the Jews, they ought to contribute to their temporal needs in return. When I have finished my task and have safely handed over this contribution to them, I shall set out for Spain, passing through your midst on the way. I am certain that, when I do visit you, I shall come with Christ's full blessing.

**Gospel: Matthew 12:46-13:3** – While He was still speaking to the crowds, His mother and His brothers appeared outside, wishing to speak with Him. Someone told Him, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, asking to speak with You.” But He said in reply to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother? Who are My brothers?” And, stretching out His Hand toward His disciples, He said, “Here are My mother and My brothers. For whoever does the will of My Heavenly Father is My brother, and sister, and mother.”

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into a boat and sat down and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And He spoke to them at length in parables.

*Friday, June 21, 2013*

**Epistle: Romans 16:1-16** – Brethren: I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deaconess of the church of Cenchreae. Please, welcome her in the Lord, as saints should. If she needs help in anything, give it to her, for she, herself, has been of help to many, including myself.

Give my greetings to Prisca and Aquila; they were my fellow workers in the service of Christ Jesus and even risked their lives for the sake of mine. Not only I, but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. Remember me also to the congregation that meets in their house. Greetings to my beloved, Epaenetus; he is the first offering that Asia made to Christ. My greetings to Mary, who has worked hard for you, and to Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen and fellow prisoners; they are outstanding apostles and they were in Christ even before I was. Greetings to Ampliatus, who is dear to me in the Lord; to Urbanus, our fellow worker in the service of Christ; and to my beloved Stachys. Greetings to Apelles, who proved himself in Christ's service, and to all who belong to the household of Aristobulus. Greetings to my kinsman, Herodion, and to the members of the household of Narcissus, who are in the Lord. Greetings, too, to Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who have worked hard for the Lord; and also to dear Persis, who has labored long in the Lord's service. Greetings to Rufus, a chosen servant of the Lord, and to his mother, who has been a mother to me, as well. Greetings to Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are

with them; to Philogus and Julia, to Nereus and his sister, to Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send you greetings.

**Gospel: Matthew 13:4-9** – “A sower went out to sow. And, as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep and, when the sun rose, it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But, some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear.”

*Saturday, June 22, 2013*

**Epistle: Romans 8:14-21** – Brethren: All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. You did not receive a spirit of slavery leading you back into fear, but a spirit of adoption through which we cry out, “Abba!” (that is, “Father”). The Spirit, Himself, gives witness with our spirit that we are children of God. But, if we are children, we are heirs, as well; heirs of God, heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with Him so as to be glorified with Him.

I consider the sufferings of the present to be as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed in us. Indeed, the whole created world eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God. Creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord, but by Him Who once subjected it; yet not without hope, because the world, itself, will be freed from its slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

**Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13** – As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, “Follow Me.” And he got up and followed Him. While He was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and His disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to His disciples. “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” He heard this and said, “Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Sunday, June 23, 2013

**Epistle: Romans 10:1-10** – Brethren, my heart’s desire, my prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. Indeed, I can testify that they are zealous for God though their zeal is unenlightened. Unaware of God’s justice and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the justice of God. Christ is the end of the law. Through Him, justice comes to everyone who believes. Moses writes of the justice that comes from the law, “The one who observes the law shall live by it.” But, of the justice that comes from faith, he says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who shall go up into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down), or ‘Who shall go down into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).” What is it he does say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith, which we preach). For, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Faith in the heart leads to justification, confession on the lips, to salvation.

**Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1** – When He came to the other side to the territory of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs, who were coming from the tombs, met Him. They were so savage that no one could travel by that road. They cried out, “What have You to do with us, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the appointed time?” Some distance away, a herd of many swine was feeding. The demons pleaded with Him, “If You drive us out, send us into the herd of swine.” And He said to them, “Go, then!” They came out and entered the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea where they drowned. The swineherds ran away and, when they came to the town, they reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. Thereupon, the whole town came out to meet Jesus and, when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their district. He entered a boat, made the crossing, and came into His own town.