August 25

Romans

Praise Be To God

Paul spoke very frankly to the Romans and he gives a reason to them why he could be so bold – Read: Romans 15:15, 16. We too, can and must speak boldly if we are filled with the Holy Spirit and are truly servants of God.

Paul’s goal after becoming a Christian was to preach the Gospel and as our study has shown that Paul was a great preacher, even today, centuries later, Paul’s teachings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ lives on!

Throughout this letter to the Romans, although addressed to a specific group, Paul gives us much food for thought. Human nature does not change, we sin and we need help, guidelines and open frankness to keep us on the straight and narrow is always needed!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Romans 15:13

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you O Lord, for Paul’s frankness and helping me to apply his guidelines to my life. Help me to have even a portion of his boldness in my witness of you.

August 26

Corinthians

The Lord’s Power

In Paul’s letter to the church at Corinth, he sends blessings in Christ’s name and then gets down to the business at hand, the divisions in the church and how they seem to be putting ministers above Christ- Read: I Corinthians 1:12,13.

The Reformation brought forth a whole new group of men to follow, Martin Luther and John Wesley to name only two, the members of these groups must be careful not to lose sight of Jesus in the quest to live up to the rules of their religions.

It’s the power of Christ’s death and resurrection that is the saving power- Read: I Corinthians 1:18.

It is the Holy Spirit that brings out the secret of God’s wisdom – Read I Corinthians 2:9, 10.

We must not be fooled into putting our faith in human wisdom and strength but in God’s.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Corinthians 1:30, 31

PRAYER THOUGHT: Praise be to you, O Lord, for your power and Wisdom, help me always to put my faith in you.

August 27

Corinthians

What about Marriage?

The Corinthians had questions about marriage, Paul was quite adamant about not marrying – Read: I Corinthians 7:1b. But does go on to concede that because of immorality it would be better to have your own spouse and be true to that spouse – Read: I Corinthians 7:2.

Another interesting topic is that of marriages between believers and nonbelievers and that the nonbeliever is acceptable to God because of the believer and so are the children of the marriage. It may be difficult for “mixed marriages” to survive and because of this Paul points out that there is a way out – Read: I Corinthians 7:15.

The nonbeliever must do the leaving and then the believer is free and at peace but Paul goes on to say – Read I Corinthians 7:16.

One of the purposes in marrying the person you are married to may be to bring them to Christ!

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Corinthians 7:14

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help all of us in our marriages today, O Lord, and especially those in “mixed marriages” that they will find peace together through you.

August 28

Hebrews

Faith

We have looked at faith before, believing in things unseen- Read: Hebrews 11:3.

Abel had faith, which made him make sacrifices pleasing to God.

Enoch’s faith let him pass straight from life here to life with God and because of this faith Enoch pleased God.

Noah’s faith led him to go against nature and build a boat in the desert without a cloud in the sky. His faith saved him and his family when the world was destroyed.

Abraham is also cited for his many acts of faith, he was called on by God to leave his homeland and by faith, he went not knowing the destination.

Our lives will be like Noah and Abraham, by putting our faith in the Lord, we will be saved for all eternity by our faith.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Hebrews 11:6

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to use these examples of faith to strengthen my own faith.

August 29

Creation

God’s Masterpiece

Have you ever wondered, ‘How the ocean stays put?’ or ‘Where all the stars came from?’ God made it all possible.

God started with nothing – Read: Genesis 1:2.

Our lives are nothing when God comes to us, but with His loving hand and infinite power, He can shape us, like he did the earth into useful pleasing objects.

God did not waste time each day was filled with creative activity: Read: Genesis 1:3-19. We see that light, dark, day, night, sea, sky, land, plants, greater light (sun), lesser light (moon), stars were all made and put into play as the make-up of the earth. How did God perceive his creation to be? (Genesis 1:10, 12, 18). The Good News Bible uses the word pleased with what he saw - Do we live lives that could be perceived by God as “good” or “pleasing” to God?

VERSE FOR TODAY: Psalm 148:5

PRAYER THOUGHT: Indeed, O Lord, Praise your Name for the earth, sun, moon and stars! Help me always to be mindful of you, the Creator!

August 30

Creation

The Rest of the Week

God had an empty sea and sky – Read: Genesis 1:20-25. God now had sea animals, land animal, plants and livestock.

The creation of humans – Read: Genesis 1:26, 27. This is one creation we should never cease to be thankful for – God created us!

God gave his new created beings responsibility – Read: Genesis 1:28.

God provided food for his creation, the animals and human beings as well.

In six days God created the world, blessed it and on the seventh day God rested from his work. We need a day of rest from our labors a day of special worship to the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 2:3

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord to set aside your special day and worship you, but also to remember you every day of the week and Praise your Name daily.

August 31

Creation

In the Garden

Adam and Eve were created special by God, they were not the first human beings on earth, but they were the first ones that could be called “God’s People”. God created Adam first, then from Adam’s rib Eve was created.

Eve was part of Adam; woman is part of man – Read Genesis 2:24, 25. This was God’s original plan, these two lived together without clothing and without embarrassment, and intimacy without embarrassment is to be part of our marriages too.

God planted a garden called Eden especially for these two special people – Read: Genesis 2:8. The garden was well watered and supplied all of their needs.

Adam and Eve lived in the garden in wedded bliss, in this garden, the closest thing to paradise on earth, that there ever has been or probably will ever be.

Our lives can be close to a “Garden of Eden” too if we put our faith and hope in the Lord!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 2:7

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, help me to always see the good around me and to bring the best to the surface.