



LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2011

Week 4

January 24—January 30, 2011

I. Adoration

(1) Invocation Prayer

“O my Savior let me not fall by little and little, or think myself able to bear the indulgence of any known sin because it seems so insignificant. Keep me from sinful beginnings, lest they lead me on to sorrowful endings.” In Jesus name. Amen. (Charles Haddon Spurgeon, 1834-92)

(2) Adoration through Psalm 56

(We'll use this Psalm, not for today's Bible reading, but for the sake of focusing our thoughts on God)

- Read slowly this passage at least three times and each day gather one thought about this psalm that points to God's character and translate it into a prayer of adoration.

II. Confession

Pause now and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you your sins and ask for forgiveness.

III. Thanksgiving

List, one by one, things for which you should give thanks.

IV. Scriptural Reflection:

As we begin a new year, we shall be focusing on the theme, “Being Remade in God's Image”, and continue our study of II Timothy and begin studying the book of Titus as well. Read slowly and reflectively the assigned passage twice at least and consider the questions below each day:

January 24

II Timothy 4: 1-8

- (1) As Paul either sensed or knew his death was near, as he looked at his life, he described himself as drink offering poured out. What does this mean, and why did he use such an image to describe his life?
- (2) Paul was able to face his death in obvious triumph as he said he had fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith. In each of these areas, do you agree with what he said and perhaps cite examples as proofs?
- (3) What about you? Can you honestly say the same in each of these areas should you die soon?
- (4) Paul was also confident that there was a crown of righteousness reserved for him. Why did he look forward to this crown? Do you look forward to the same? Why or why not? Whom did Paul say would receive the same award as his?
- (5) What marks the end-times, according to Paul? Do you see this happen in our time already?
- (6) In view of this, what was Paul's admonition to Timothy? What did he have to give him this charge with much emphasis in v.1?
- (7) What is the main message to you today?

January 25

II Timothy 4: 9-22

- (1) Although Paul survived the first trial in court and was spared the lion's mouth (4:17), he knew that his end was near (4:6). As he anticipated the next trial, he said, “The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.” What did he mean by that? Would he survive or not survive the evil attack?

- (2) Paul was facing direct persecution by the emperor, many of his former assistants left him, perhaps out of fear of association, but he singled out Demas. What reason did he give for Demas' desertion? Would fear of persecution amount to loving this world? Why or why not?
- (3) As Paul anticipated another trial and knew the likely outcome of it. What kinds of preparation did he do for his final days in vv.9-13 and why?
- (4) How would you prepare for your final days on earth?
- (5) Given Paul's status (probably as one of the ring leaders of the Christian sect that was made responsible for the fire in Rome), how could Paul fully expect both Timothy and Mark to come to his side? What does this have to say about Mark who once deserted Paul in Acts 15:37-38?
- (6) Were Paul's bitter words against Alexander justified? Why or why not?
- (7) Reflecting on the main messages of both I and II Timothy, how important are these two letters as far as the church of today is concerned?
- (8) What is the main message to you today?

January 26

Titus 1: 1-9

Paul had become quite a spiritual authority of the churches outside of Jerusalem, and many of the disciples he trained were sent by him to minister to churches in Asia Minor and Greece (as we read in the last chapter of II Timothy). It is believed that as Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy in Ephesus, he also wrote this letter to Titus whom he sent to minister in Crete.

- (1) Paul began this letter with an unusually lengthy introduction to himself, obviously for the sake of the believers in Crete:
 - a. What were the reasons he gave for God's choosing him as His servant and Apostle?
 - b. Why did Paul mention both faith and knowledge together? What was their relationship?
 - c. What would all these mean to the recipients of this letter in the church of Crete?
 - d. What do they mean to you today?
- (2) Besides Timothy, Paul now called Titus his true son. What

can you learn from Paul in this respect in being a minister of the gospel?

- (3) Paul reminded Titus that the reason he was left in Crete was to strengthen the church. Without reading further, what might come to your mind when it comes to the strengthening of the church?
- (4) But Paul quickly focused on the appointment of elders. What did it have to do with strengthening the church? Why is it so important?
- (5) Paul again gave a list of qualifications of an elder which is similar but includes things of a more spiritual nature. Again, the list begins with being blameless or beyond reproach. Why is it so important?
- (6) What has one's marriage and situation at home to do with being blameless?
- (7) As Paul continued to list the areas one has to be blameless, he includes the following negative and positive admonitions:

<u>Negatives:</u>	<u>Positives:</u>
Not overbearing	Be hospitable
Not quick-tempered	Loves what is good
Not given to drunkenness	Be self-controlled/ disciplined
Not violent	Be upright
Not pursuing dishonest gain	Be holy

 Reflect on each of the above, especially on its importance as it relates to an elder being a spiritual leader who has to encourage others "by sound doctrine".
- (8) What is the main message to you today?

January 27

Titus: 1: 10-16

Paul explained the need of appointing elders and also the reason for such stringent qualifications was the presence of false teachings and teachers. He launched some of the most severe attacks on these false teachers. Read them carefully:

- (1) What did Paul say were the serious harms done by these false teachers?
- (2) What were the reasons for their follies?
- (3) How did Paul describe their characters (i.e. who they were)?
- (4) How should we deal with them according to Paul?

- (5) Are these people beyond repentance? Why or why not?
- (6) How can we then discern both the false teachers, and their false teachings?
- (7) What is the main message to you today?

January 28

Titus 2: 1-8

Paul now turned to each age group in the church and gave some practical advice to Titus:

- (1) What did Paul highlight about the older men in the church and why?
- (2) What did Paul highlight about the older women in the church and why?
- (3) What did Paul highlight about the younger women in the church and why?
- (4) What did Paul highlight about the younger men in the church and why?
- (5) What was the underlining purpose of all of the above teachings? (See v.5)
- (6) Paul also gave direct advice to Titus himself:
 - a. In that he should preach sound doctrine. What is it?
 - b. And that he should show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech in his teaching. How is one to show each of these in one's teaching?
- (7) What is the main message to you today?

January 29

Titus 2: 9-15

- (1) What did Paul ask Christian slaves to do?
- (2) Were they reasonable? Why or why not?
- (3) What did Paul give as the reason for such teachings?
- (4) In what way should you apply to your life, especially if you are an employee or a subordinate?
- (5) The key teachings in this section may be summed up as admonishing us to (i) live like God's own people and thus (ii) be different from the world:
 - a. What is the world like that we should not be like them?
 - b. And how should Christ's purified people live that can mark us as different from the world?
 - c. Any live examples that come to your mind in each of the

cases?

- (6) What is the main message to you today?

January 30

Titus 3: 1-8

- (1) Many in authority are not "good" people, and those in Roman times were even worse: adulterous, abusive and ruthless. How then could Paul justify in teaching us to be obedient to them?
- (2) As an almost perfect Pharisee, Paul recounted his former life, seeing through the façade of pious sinners.
 - a. Is it also a fitting description of your former self? Do you still have any of these vices left in your life?
 - b. What reasons did he give for such a complete change in life?
 - c. How should it help us in relating to people around us that are yet to be saved?
- (3) In the beginning of this chapter, how did Paul admonish us to live and work among non-Christians? Can you think of examples how you might need to live out these teachings?
- (4) Although not all arguments concerning OT law are necessarily foolish, but any arguments related to them should automatically cause us to be on the alert as we do live in grace. How should we deal with people who are argumentative and divisive? Why?
- (5) What is the main message to you today?

V. Meditative Reflection

This week we shall continue to reflect on the ‘Nine Marks of a Healthy Church’, beginning with its and Introduction and Foreword.

January 24

Please refer to the Introduction, page 31, 1st paragraph starting with “There are....”

January 25

Please refer to the Introduction, page 31, 2nd paragraph.

January 26

Please refer to the Introduction, page 31, last paragraph.

January 27

Please refer to the Introduction, page 31, 2nd paragraph.

January 28

Please refer to the Introduction, page 32, last paragraph to the end of the Introduction.

January 29

Please refer to the Foreword, first 4 paragraphs.

January 30

Please refer to the page 9, Foreword, 5th paragraph starting with “It’s hard.....” to the beginning of page 10.

VI. A Time for Silence

You have mediated much today with your intellectual faculty today. Now have a moment of silence (the length is up to you, 5 or even 30 minutes), and ask God quietly, “Lord, is there any important message from you today that I might have missed? Show me, your servant is listening?”

VII. Supplication

Use the following chart to cover people and ministries that you want to remember before the Lord:

	Your family	Other people	Church Ministries	Other Ministries	City & World	Others
Sunday						
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wed						
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						

VII. Benediction

“Grant, O Lord God, that what we have heard with our ears and sung with our lips, we may believe in our hearts and practice in our live; for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen” (Eric Milner-White, 1884-1964)