



LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2011

Week 5

January 31—February 6, 2011

I. Adoration

(1) Invocation Prayer

“Good Jesus, as you have graciously allowed me here to drink in the sweetness of your word, so at the last, I pray, you will bring me into your presence, that I may listen to your voice which is the source of all wisdom, and watch your face for ever.” In Jesus name. Amen. (The Venerable Bede, circa 700 AD)

(2) Adoration through Psalm 57

(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 As we embark on the Nine Marks of a Healthy Church, we shall finish with the book Titus and begin using Psalm 119 to consider the 1st Mark, being “Expositional Preaching”. Read slowly and reflectively the assigned passage twice at least and consider the questions below each day:

January 31

Titus 3: 9-15

- (1) By mistake, I mistyped last week's January 30 devotion to end in verse 8, which should be verse 11. In any case, if you have not reflected on vv. 9-11, re-consider this question again: “Although not all arguments concerning OT law are necessarily foolish, but any arguments related to it should automatically cause us to be on the alert as we do live under grace. How should we deal with people who are bent on arguing about OT law and/or are divisive?”
- (2) Paul was likely writing this letter to Titus between his first and 2nd imprisonment, from the city of Nicopolis on the west coast of ancient Greece where he intended to spend the winter. He intended to send Artemas or Tychicus to Crete to relieve Titus so that he could join him in Nicopolis. How does it speak to you about being able to relieve those who serve in the church from time to time? Why is relieving someone from service necessary sometimes?
- (3) Paul urged Titus to supply Zenas and Apollos with everything they needed on the way. Both were ministers of the gospel. How should the church aid other ministers of the gospel who may not belong to their congregation? Does our church aid such ministers of the gospel? Why or why not?
- (4) It appeared that the belief in the soon return of Christ has a negative impact not only on the church of Thessalonica (see II Thessalonians 3:10), but also among the believers in Crete. There is an increasing trend in North America of early

retirement. How should believers avoid leading “unproductive lives” under this circumstance?

- (5) Briefly go through what you have learned from this letter, and summarize what might be the most important message to you.

February 1

Psalm 119: 1-8 **Aleph(א)**

As we consider the first mark of a healthy church (according to Mark Dever)—expositional preaching, we shall read and meditate on Psalm 119. We all know that the theme of Psalm 119 is the Word of God and as an acrostic poem, the verse of each stanza begin with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet, as noted beneath each of the 22 sections.

One of the most important keys to understanding Psalms is to understand the circumstances under which the psalmist felt compelled to write. Some psalms have superscriptions that give us the answer, but some (like Psalm 199) do not. It is helpful to see what prompted the psalmist to write each of this section, in order to properly understand these Word inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is with this in mind that the following reflective questions are set.

- (1) Read carefully these verses, as least twice, and see under what circumstances or conditions did the psalmist write these words?
- (2) What aspect of the Word of God was being emphasized?
- (3) How can you apply it to your life?
- (4) What is the main message to you today?

(Note: If I say that the theme of this section is: “The desire to stay on course”, what do you think?)

Pick one verse and memorize it.

February 2

Psalm 119: 9-16 **Beth(ב)**

- (1) Read carefully these verses, as least twice, and see under what circumstances or conditions did the psalmist write these words?
- (2) What aspect of the Word of God was being emphasized?

- (3) How can you apply it to your life?

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

(Note: If I say that the theme of this section is: “Exhortation to stay pure”, what do you think?)

Pick one verse and memorize it.

February 3

Psalm 119: 17-24 **Gimel(ג)**

- (1) Read carefully these verses, as least twice, and see under what circumstances or conditions did the psalmist write these words?
- (2) What aspect of the Word of God was being emphasized?
- (3) How can you apply it to your life?
- (4) What is the main message to you today?

(Note: If I say that the theme of this section is: “When being bad-mouthed?” what do you think?)

Pick one verse and memorize it.

February 4

Psalm 119: 25-32 **Daleth(ד)**

- (1) Read carefully these verses, as least twice, and see under what circumstances or conditions did the psalmist write these words?
- (2) What aspect of the Word of God was being emphasized?
- (3) How can you apply it to your life?
- (4) What is the main message to you today?

(Note: If I say that the theme of this section is: “How to be free from despair?” what do you think?)

Pick one verse and memorize it.

February 5

Psalm 119: 33-40 **He(ה)**

- (1) Read carefully these verses, as least twice, and see under what circumstances or conditions did the psalmist write these words?
- (2) What aspect of the Word of God was being emphasized?
- (3) How can you apply it to your life?
- (4) What is the main message to you today?

(Note: If I say that the theme of this section is: “How to set our hearts right?”, what do you think?)
Pick one verse and memorize it.

February 6

Psalm 119: 41-48

Waw(1)

- (1) Read carefully these verses, as least twice, and see under what circumstances or conditions did the psalmist write these words?
- (2) What aspect of the Word of God was being emphasized?
- (3) How can you apply it to your life?
- (4) What is the main message to you today?

(Note: If I say that the theme of this section is: “When you are taunted”, what do you think?)

Pick one verse and memorize it.

V. Meditative Reflection

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

MARK

ONE

Expositional Preaching

February 1

Please refer to the page 35 to the beginning of page 36.

February 2

Please refer to the page 36, the paragraph beginning with “And what...” to the last complete paragraph on page 36.

February 3

Please refer to the last paragraph on page 36, the paragraph beginning with “And what...” to the 3rd paragraph on page 37 beginning with “The preacher....”

February 4

Please refer to the last 2nd last paragraph on page 37 to the 3rd paragraph on page 37 beginning with “So, what do you think? Are you....”

February 5

Please refer to the last 2nd last paragraph on page 37 to the 3rd paragraph on page 38 beginning with “So, what do you think? Are you....”

February 6

Please refer to the last 2nd last paragraph on page 38 beginning with “And so I began...” to the end of the section, the paragraph on page 39 beginning with “Of course, there is.....”

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

“May the power of your love, Lord Christ, fiery and sweet, so absorb our hearts as to withdraw them from all that is under heaven; grant that we may be ready to die for love of your love, as you died for love of our love. Amen” (Francis of Assisi, 1181/2-1226)