



LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2011

Week 8

February 21—February 27, 2011

I. Adoration

(1) Invocation Prayer

“O Lord, heavenly Father, in whom is the fullness of light and wisdom, enlighten our minds by your Holy Spirit, and give us grace to receive your Word with reverence and humility, without which no one can understand your truth. For Christ’s sake. Amen.” (John Calvin, 1509-1564)

(2) Adoration through Psalm 60

(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 consider the first Mark of a Healthy Church, Expository Preaching, we shall be finishing with the reading of Psalm 119 this week, supplemented by other selected passages that remind us of the significance of reading and obeying the Word of God. Read slowly and reflectively the assigned passage twice at least and consider the questions below each day:

February 21

Psalm 119: 161-168

Shin ן

- (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: “Why I love your Law”, what do you think?)

Pick one verse and memorize it.

February 22

Psalm 119: 169-176

Taw ן

- (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: almost every verse begins with “may” which expresses the longings of the psalmist. What about you? What are your longings? Write them down too beginning with “may” in each of your longings.)

Pick one verse and memorize it.

February 23**Psalm 19: 1-6**

- (1) Read carefully these verses, as least twice, and see what might have prompted David to write this psalm.
(Note that this portion of the psalm displays the feature of Hebraic parallelism in that the same or similar ideas are being repeated in the same verse)
- (2) V.1: according to David, as he observes the skies (and heavens) how do they serve the Creator God? How so?
- (3) V.2: What aspects of their testimonies does David allude to in this verse?
- (4) V.3: Obviously creation does not speak with voices or languages, how then can their knowledge be passed on to men?
- (5) V.4: There are three kinds of response that we have learned from astronauts who have stepped into space:
 - a. One Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin laughed and asked, “Don’t see any God up here”.
 - b. One American astronaut “senses” an unusual union with nature, and has dedicated the rest of his life in search of oneness with nature (apart from the Creator God).
 - c. One American astronaut, Buzz Aldrin, could not help but read out Psalm 8 in recognition and praise of the God inside his space ship.
 They all saw the same awesome skies (and universe), how do you account for their very different responses?
- (6) Vv. 5-6 David now turns to focus on the sun: what, in particular, does the sun appeal to David?
- (7) What is the main message to you today?

February 24**Psalm 19: 7-14**

- (1) Read carefully these verses, as least twice, and see why does David’s observation of the sun make him think of the Word of God?
- (2) In what ways might the sun and the Word of God be similar or comparable in vv. 7-9? In what ways does the Word of God excel the sun? List them out one by one.
- (3) Can you say from the bottom of your heart v.10? Why or why not?

- (4) Vv. 11-13: What do these verses highlight as one of the most important functions of the Word of God? How may you allow the Word of God to function properly in this respect?
- (5) Memorize v.14 and write it down as your prayer today.
- (6) What is the main message to you today?

February 25**Deuteronomy 27: 1-10**

(Note: The Hebrew title of the book is *Debarim*, literally, *Words*. So fittingly, as we consider the importance of the exposition of God’s Word in His church, we shall meditate on Moses’ reiteration of God’s Word as the basis of blessings and curses, before his death.)

- (1) The command is obviously given by Moses, and yet the elders are included as the givers as well. Why would Moses include the elders in this instance?
- (2) Moses reminds them of the significances of their crossing of the Jordan River. What do they include?
- (3) Back in Exodus 3:8, God promised to lead them into a land of milk and honey. How long ago was that (Numbers 14:33)? Why was the delay in God’s promise? Has God kept his promise in your life?
- (4) V.9 also highlights another significant aspect of crossing the Jordan and that is, “You have now (or today) become the people of the Lord your God.” What might the relationship between inheriting the land and being God’s people be?
- (5) At this important juncture, what does Moses command them to do?
- (6) What is the significance of erecting stones and having God’s Word written on it? How should it apply to you and the church today?
- (7) What is the significance of erecting an altar, making fellowship offerings and rejoicing before the Lord at this juncture?
- (8) Before all these, Moses commands them, “Be silent...and listen.” Why does he so command?
- (9) What is the main message to you today and to the church, as His people?

February 26**James 1: 19-25**

Note: The book of James can be read rather disjointedly if we do not understand its background. 1: 1-4, 2:1-13 and 4:1-11 provide clues to its background in that, as dispersed Jewish Christians, the believers were facing persecution externally and infighting internally. What made it worse was the secular influence of materialism. In the midst of all these, James reminds them of the significance of the Word of God and our attitude toward it.

- (1) When you are angry, especially over something that you see as injustice, what is your usual reaction to it and how will you deal with it?
- (2) What does James advise us to do in vv.19-20 and why?
- (3) Now James turns his attention to our own soul. What is the best way of getting rid of our filth and evil? How does it echo Psalm 119:9-11?
- (4) How often do you look at a mirror? Why do you look at it and for how long?
- (5) In v.25, James urges us to look at God's Word with a very different attitude. How different should it be?
- (6) How can you apply it even now?
- (7) What is the main message to you today?

February 27**Ecclesiastes 12: 9-14**

Ecclesiastes is one the favorite books of most Christians because it contains great wisdom that we can apply to our lives. Read carefully these final verses of the "Teacher", as least twice.

- (1) The Teacher explains how he has come to be wise and been able to impart knowledge in vv.9-10. What does he tell us about his approach in finding wisdom? List the steps one by one.
- (2) How can you learn from his approach?
- (3) How does the Teacher attribute the source of all his teachings?
- (4) Why does he describe such words of wisdom as "goats" and "embedded nails"? How then shall you respond to advice that might hurt you like goats or nails?

- (5) Many have a tendency to be teachers or like to be consulted by others, or even publish books and articles. What kind of warning does the teacher give in v.12 in this respect and why?
- (6) What is the whole duty of man? How then does it speak to your attitude or habit of reading God's Word?
- (7) The Teachers reminds us that "God will bring every deed into judgment." Have you taken this warning seriously? Why or why not?
- (8) 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

M A R K O N E
Expositional Preaching

February 21

Please read page 51, second paragraph beginning with “*This is what the Lord Jesus taught, ...*” ending with page 52 “*...refreshing us, reshaping us .*”

February 22

Please read page 52, first paragraph beginning with “*That brings us to...*” ending with the third paragraph “*The preacher.....but its own reflection.*”

February 23

Please read page 52, the last paragraph beginning with “*That’s not the way it should be.....*” Ending with the first paragraph on page 53, “*All of this is important.... by His Word.*”

February 24

Please read page 53, from the second paragraph beginning with “*This is Why Paul told Timothy*” to the end of the third paragraph “*Paul told Timothy.... who need it for their souls.*”

February 25

Please read page 53, from the last paragraph “*There are today some criticisms.....*” to the end of the second paragraph on page 54 “*But we’re not there yet.... we rely on God’s Word.*”

February 26

Please read page 54, from the third paragraph beginning with “*What does all this mean*” to the end of the fourth paragraph “*God’s Word is.....to be evangelical ignore God’s Word.*”

February 27

Please read the last paragraph page 54 “*Are you in a job.... and heed it.*”

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

“Father, we thank you for all those men and women who toiled and suffered and died in order to give us the Bible in our own language. We pray for all those who are working now to translate the Bible for the first time. Give them patience, skill and wisdom that they may present your Word in all its fullness and power. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen” (Author Unknown)