



LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2011

Week 9

February 28—March 6, 2011

I. Adoration

(1) Invocation Prayer

O Lord, “You cause my heart to soar like an eagle, you teach my feet to conquer like a deer. All I survey shall echo with Your praise, and Lord, I know that *I* must know You here.” For Christ’s sake. Amen. (From *Celtic Daily Prayer*, p. 318)

(2) Adoration through Psalm 61

(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:

We are just finishing with considering the first Mark of a Healthy Church in February, and shall embark on the second mark, Biblical Theology. This may sound a bit intimidating, but as you read this chapter (3) of the book, you will come to understand that it is in fact very practical. We have selected passages from the Scripture that tie in with the nuances of each major points of the chapter, beginning with its introduction and the first of the five words about God: A Creating God. Read slowly and reflectively the assigned passage twice at least and consider the questions below each day:

February 28

Revelation 22: 10-21

Theme: Expository Preaching

As the last passage of the entire Bible, its importance cannot be over-emphasized. Although it was the angel who spoke, but the words were that of the Lord Jesus. And, as this closes not only the Book of Revelation, but that of the whole Scripture, the final words are equally applicable to the entire canon of the Bible.

- (1) Compare v.10 with Daniel12:4. What is being contrasted here and what are its implications?
- (2) V.11 appears to be one of the marks of the end-time. What is the message here?
- (3) And how should we understand it in view of vv. 12-13?
- (4) What is the main difference between being inside and being outside the gate of the city? How can we wash our robes? (See Revelation 7:13-14)
- (5) The Lord emphasizes that the testimony is for “the churches”. What does He mean? Why then would He highlight that He is the Root, the Offspring of David and the bright Morning Star? (See Isaiah 11:1, 9:7; Revelation 2:28 and Numbers 24:17)
- (6) The last word of exhortation from the Holy Spirit is, “Come...take the free gift of the water of life.” How important is this last word?
- (7) Vv.17-18 closes what a very stern warning. Why is it necessary to do so?

- (8) The Lord Himself closes with this last word, “Yes, I am coming soon.” What does it mean to you and can you say with John, from the bottom of your heart, “Come Lord Jesus.”
- (9) What is the main message for you today?

Biblical Theology

March 1

Isaiah 40: 18-31

Theme: Who God is to you

- (1) Vv. 18-19 challenges us to compare God with idols:
 - a. What differences are being highlighted here between God and idols?
 - b. What is the purpose of crafting idols?
 - c. It is really common sense that idols are crafted by our own hands. Why then would people of old and people of today still worship idols?
 - d. Now that we worship God instead of idols, what should mark the two kinds of worship?
- (2) V.21 appears to indicate that the worship of our Creator God is not only from days of old, but something we should have no problem continuing. But the fact is many today do not acknowledge our Creator God. What might be the reasons?
- (3) Vv.22-24 tell of the supreme reign of God over all people and rulers:
 - a. What does v.22 suggest to you about the amazing truth of the Scripture when you realize that it was written over 2,700 years ago that the earth is a circle (or a globe)?
 - b. When we consider some notorious kings and rulers of former generations, how will you react to the political turmoil and upheavals unfolding before our eyes in view of vv.22-24?
- (4) When Isaiah wrote v.26, how much did he know about the universe? How much do you know about the universe today? Does v.26 still hold true and cause you to say “amen” to v.25?
- (5) The above verses remind us of God’s greatness over idols and human rulers which is demonstrated in his marvelous creation. But what does He mean to you personally?

- (6) Compare your answer to vv. 27-31. How similar or different is your answer and why?
- (7) What is the main message to you today?

March 2

Romans 1: 21-32

Theme: People choose what they want to believe

- (1) Vv.21-23 appears to speak to idol worshippers only. Do you think it equally applies to those in the world that do not worship visible idols? Why?
- (2) We often say that the world today is a sex-craze world. What kind of a “lie” has the world bought into that has resulted in such sexual licentiousness? (v.v.24-25)
- (3) Vv. 26-27 is one of the clearest and strongest indictments against homosexual behavior in the Bible. What insight can you gain from these two verses?
- (4) What is the meaning of these words that they “received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion”?
- (5) Vv.28-32 depicts a life and a world that does not acknowledge God. It does not necessarily mean that they do not believe that there is a “god”, but what kind of a “god” have they created for themselves?
- (6) What is the main message to you today?

March 3

Ephesians 4: 11-16

Theme: Upholding God’s Word in the church

- (1) What is the image used here to depict the church?
- (2) According the passage, can we pick and choose what role we play in the body of Christ? Why or why not?
- (3) What is the common goal of each in serving in the body of Christ?
- (4) How, in your opinion, can we achieve unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God? (See v.15)
- (5) How important is it that we do attain such unity?
- (6) How important is it that Christ is the “Head” of this body and how does He function as the “Head”?
- (7) What is the main message to you today?

March 4

Psalm 78: 1-8

Theme: God at work in Biblical history

- (1) Do you think it is meaningful for us to study history in general? Why?
- (2) Have you ever thought of the Old Testament as a history book, a history book for God's people? If it is meaningful to study history in general, why is it even more important to study the history as recorded in the Old Testament?
- (3) How did the Psalmist come to know the "things of old"?
- (4) What in particular do these "things of old" reveal to us?
- (5) What did the Psalmist see as his duty as he learned of the "things of old"?
- (6) What is his ultimate purpose for passing on such knowledge?
- (7) What is the main message to you today and to the church, as His people?

March 5

Daniel 4: 28-37

Theme: How to describe God?

- (1) From vv. 28-33, what do you know about the character of Nebuchadnezzar?
- (2) Where did he learn about the God of Israel and do you think he believed in Him prior to this incident? (It will be helpful for you to scan through the previous chapters)
- (3) Arrogant and ruthless leaders are common in human history. Why do you think God chose to humble Nebuchadnezzar?
- (4) In this particular incident, what had Nebuchadnezzar lost, both tangibly and intangibly speaking?
- (5) Through this experience, what had Nebuchadnezzar learn about who God is? Try to consider this verse by verse:
 - a. V. 34:
 - b. V. 35
 - c. V.37
- (6) How was his life changed according to his new understanding of God?
- (7) Do you agree with what Nebuchadnezzar knew about God? What is there to add to your understanding of God?
- (8) How has your understanding of God changed your life?

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

A Creating God

March 6

Genesis 1: 1-31

Theme: The Bible as history

- (1) Try to read this chapter through slowly but non-stop once, not with a view so much to analyze and understand, but like watching a National Geographic video, as if you were there at creation, to appreciate the beauty and majesty of creation. Can you jot down what catches your imagination most?
- (2) The Bible never even attempts to prove God as the creator, but simply makes such a claim. Can you understand why?
- (3) As much as creation is being presented in a poetic genre, it is nonetheless taken by biblical writers as history. Can you compare this creation record in the Bible with those that you might have read in your or other culture? What might be the main differences?
- (4) Read John 1: 1-3 (and perhaps Proverbs 8: 22-31 as well). What insight might you gain about creation?
- (5) Repetition is often used as a literary tool to show the readers what might be the emphases. Underline words and phrases that are being repeated in the chapter. What then are the emphases of this creation history so recorded?
- (6) 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’, continuing with

MARK ONE: Expository Preaching

February 28

Please read page 55, from the second paragraph starting with “So many people” to the end of the page.

March 1

MARK TWO: Biblical Theology

Please read the first four paragraphs of page 57, starting with “I had made a statement.....” to “.....about an invisible being?”

Question for reflection:

“Why expand any energy at all over what various people believe about an invisible being?” What is your answer?

March 2

Please read the last paragraph of Page 57, beginning with “I can understand.....” to the second paragraph of Page 58, ending with “..... what they desire to be true.”

Question for reflection:

“Today people believe to be true simply what they desire to be true.” Is this statement true? Is it true of you?

March 3

Please read the third paragraph of Page 58 starting with “Long-held Christian beliefs.....” to the end of the page ending with “..... important are religious beliefs.”

Question for reflection:

“Does it matter to you if what you said or sang in church was true?” What is your answer?

March 4

Please read from the page 59 beginning with “To the best of my knowledge.....” to the end of the third paragraph ending with “.....doesn’t oppress – it liberates!”

Question for reflection:

Karl Popper denies that history has any meaning. How will you respond to him, especially concerning the history as recorded in the Old Testament?

March 5

Please read from the last paragraph of page 59 beginning with “In the previous chapter.....” to the third paragraph on page 60 ending with “.....things were not true.”

Question for reflection:

The author thinks of five words to describe who God is. What are the five words? If it is you, what would you list to describe who God is?

March 6

Please read from the section “The God of the Bible is a Creating God” on page 60 to the second paragraph on page 60 ending with “.....the Tower of Babel.”

Question for reflection:

Why is it important to understand that the Bible is a book “full of history”?

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

“O Love, whose lordly hand has bridled my desires, and raised my hunger and my thirst to dignity and pride, let not the strong in me and the constant, eat the bread and drink the wine that tempt my weaker self. Let me rather starve and let my heart parch with thirst, and let me die and perish, ere’ I stretch my hand to a cup you did not fill, or a bowl you did not bless.” Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Khalil Gibran, 1883-1931)