



LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2011

Week 10
March 7-13, 2011

I. Adoration

(1) Invocation Prayer

“Almighty God and Father, help us *to be still* in your presence, that we may know ourselves to be your people, and you to be our God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (From *New Every Morning*, Italics added)

(2) Adoration through Psalm 62

(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 shall continue to consider the second mark, Biblical Theology. We have selected passages from the Scripture that tie in with the nuances of each major points of the chapter. Read slowly and reflectively the assigned passage twice at least and consider the questions below each day:

God is a Creating God

March 7

Hebrews 1: 1-14

Theme: God reveals Himself to us

- (1) Before God revealed himself in Jesus Christ, how did He reveal Himself to the world? What was His purpose?
- (2) Why did He choose to reveal himself in the last days through His Son?
- (3) The author of Hebrews goes on to describe who Jesus is to us, which includes the following: (Reflect on each, asking (1) why would the author make such an emphasis, and (2) what insight can you gain into who Jesus is?)
 - a. Appointed heir of all things
 - b. Through whom He made the universe
 - c. The radiance of God's glory
 - d. The exact representation of His being
 - e. Sustainer of all things by His powerful word
- (4) What then is the purpose of Jesus' incarnation?
- (5) What do you know about angels and their role in God's kingdom?
- (6) The author goes into great length proving the superiority of Christ over the angels which includes the following (reflect on how God speaks to us through His Son):
 - a. Vv.5-6: Jesus is the Son, the object of worship
 - b. V.8: He is God who reigns forever
 - c. V.9: He loves righteousness and hates wickedness
 - d. V.10: He is the Creator Lord
 - e. V.11-12: He is above creation, unchanging and everlasting
 - f. V.13: He is victorious over all His enemies.
- (7) What is the main message for you today?

March 8**I Corinthians 15: 12-19****Theme: Doctrine of Resurrection**

- (1) Can you think of any orthodox basic Biblical doctrines that are being challenged today?
- (2) It appears that in Paul's days, the doctrine of resurrection was being challenged not by non-believers, but by "some of you", meaning Christians among the church of Corinth.
 - a. Why would they not believe in resurrection?
 - b. What then was their purpose of being a Christian?
- (3) V.13 appears to indicate that they might have believed in Christ's resurrection, but they did not believe in their resurrection. If so, what then would be the purpose of Christ's own resurrection? What then, to these skeptics, was the meaning of salvation?
- (4) If Christ has not risen, when will happen to our faith?
- (5) Paul makes it plain, their main apostolic mission is that of bearing witness to Christ's resurrection (as command in Acts 1:8). Since you and I have not seen the resurrected Christ, to what then can we bear witness?
- (6) How important is Christ's resurrection and your own resurrection to you?
- (7) "If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men." Why is that? Are you then living for this life or the next?
- (8) What is the main message to you today?

March 9**Romans 9: 14-29****Theme: God is sovereign**

- (1) Read v.14 & v.19, and in your own words, rephrase this hypothetical challenge. What ultimately is this challenge about?
- (2) Try to define God's sovereignty based on vv.15-16.
- (3) Vv.17-18 gives an example of God's sovereignty in the case of Pharaoh in that God "hardened" the heart of Pharaoh who heard the same word from God as did Moses, Aaron and the people of Israel. Using the analogy of the sun which can melt wax, but harden clay at the same time, what would you

say contributes to the hardening—the heat of the sun or the material itself?

- (4) What do you think about Paul's argument in vv.20-12? How can you apply it to yourself?
- (5) How does Paul explain why so much evil appears to have been tolerated by God in v.22?
- (6) In vv.23-26, Paul quotes from some OT passages to indicate God's choosing of Israel (Jacob over Esau, Moses' Israel over Pharaoh's Egypt) is not entirely exclusive. God's salvation is intended for all peoples. What then does it say about God's sovereignty?
- (7) What is the fate of the God's "chosen people" according to Paul in vv.27-29
- (8) What is the main message to you today?

God is a Holy God**March 10****Isaiah 6: 1-8****Theme: The Holy God**

- (1) When did God reveal Himself to Isaiah? Is there any significance about the timing?
- (2) How did Isaiah describe the Lord in v.1. Can you sketch it out on a piece of paper?
- (3) Isaiah also gave us details about the seraphs (angels).
 - a. Obviously all they need would be two wings to fly. What is the significance of the other two pairs of wings?
 - b. From their praises, what can you learn about the Lord?
 - c. From the entire picture, what can you learn about God's holiness?
- (4) What was Isaiah's immediate response to what he saw and why?
- (5) When was the last time you had a sense of God's holiness? Did it cause you to see your sins or sinfulness?
- (6) How were Isaiah's guilt taken away and his sin atoned for? What lesson can you learn about atonement?
- (7) What was the ultimate purpose of God's appearing to Isaiah?
- (8) God did not really ask Isaiah, except to reveal his heart in v.8.
 - a. Do you think this still reveals the heart of God today?

- b. What might be your answer to His question?
 - c. Who qualifies to be sent?
- (9) What is the main message to you today?

March 11 **Ephesians 2: 1-10**

Theme: The dilemma of God's holiness

- (1) The first part of the chapter (vv.1-3) depicts who we were before our conversion (which is a picture of all non-believers).
 - a. What is meant by being "dead" in transgressions and sins?
 - b. According to vv.2-3, who or what really controls such a person who is spiritually dead?
 - c. How much was it true of your life in the past?
 - d. How much is it still true of your life?
 - e. What should be the consequence of such a "life"?
- (2) What changes have taken place in your life? How can you account for such changes?
- (3) How does v.6 describe our present life? How true is it of your life?
- (4) Recount your conversion experience and see how fitting are verses 8-9?
- (5) What is God's purpose in saving us according to v.10? Have you ever thought of it? How then should you live in light of v.10?
- (6) What is the main message to you today and to the church, as His people?

March 12 **I Corinthians 11: 23-34**

Theme: The Ultimate Sacrifice to the Holy God

- (1) V.25 calls the Lord's Supper a remembrance of a "new covenant".
 - a. Why is it called a covenant?
 - b. In what sense is it new?
 - c. Why is this covenant sealed with blood? (See Leviticus 17:11)
- (2) The Lord' Supper was instituted at the Passover Feast. What was its significance in terms of its occasion?

- (3) Why did Paul highlight that it was night Jesus was betrayed?
- (4) Two symbols were used at the supper: (a) The bread which symbolized his body, and (b) the wine which symbolized his blood.
 - a. What are we to remember as we eat of the bread?
 - b. What are we to remember as we drink of the wine?
- (5) Read carefully v.24 & v.25. What did Jesus command us to remember, the merit of His actions or Himself? What might be the difference between the two?
- (6) V.26 teaches us another aspect of the Lord's Supper and that is it is a "proclamation" (the same word used throughout the Acts to denote the proclamation of the gospel). What does the Lord's Supper proclaim?
- (7) What is meant by eating and drinking in an "unworthy manner"?
- (8) Why would such an attitude bring upon "judgment" (v.29)?
- (9) What is the main message to you today?

March 13 **Hosea 13:1-3; 14: 1-8**

Theme: A Different Kind of Sacrifice

- (1) Ephraim, because of its leadership role in the Divided Kingdom, was used to represent Israel, the northern tribes. What, according to the prophet contributed to the "death" of the powerful Ephraim? What kind of death was it?
- (2) V.2 describes how they sinned more and more. What makes their sin more serious than before?
- (3) Politically, the northern kingdom built altars as alternate worship sites to Jerusalem to prevent the people from re-integrating back to the southern kingdom. But this had paved ways to rampant idol worship eventually.
 - a. As much as they had a long history of Yahweh worship with firmly laid-down teaching and laws from Moses, why did they choose to worship idols instead?
 - b. What made idol worship far more attractive than Yahweh worship?
- (4) What is the punishment or result of their idol worship, according to v.3?

- (5) From the verses in chapter 14, can you highlight the main differences
- a. between the worship of Yahweh and the worship of idols, and
 - b. between Yahweh and idols?
- (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 TWO: Biblical Theology

March 7

Please read page 61, from the third paragraph starting with “Then God calls Abraham.....” to the second last paragraph ending with “.....of what He is like.”

Question for reflection:

The author says the OT gives us not some disembodied theology about God. What does he mean by that, and do you agree with him?

March 8

Please read the last paragraph of page 61, starting with “Many of you know.....” to the second paragraph of page 62 ending with “.....a mark of a healthy church.”

Question for reflection:

“We must come to terms even with the doctrine that may be difficult or even potentially divisive...” what doctrine comes to your mind? What about the doctrine of “hell”?

March 9

Please read the third paragraph of Page 62, beginning with “One thing that quickly.....” to the end of the page.

Question for reflection:

The author has in mind the doctrine of God being “an electing God” as a doctrine we may not fully understand and is undeniably taught in the Bible. How does this doctrine “affect how we understand God”?

March 10

THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS A HOLY GOD

Please read Page 63 starting with “The Bible also clearly.....” to the end of the third paragraph ending with “..... having a relationship with us.”

Question for reflection:

What is the relationship between God’s holiness and his covenantal relationship with us?

March 11

Please read from the second last paragraph of page 63 beginning with “God’s passion for holiness,.....” to the end of the second of paragraph of page 64 ending with “.....providing a way of reconciliation.”

Question for reflection:

*“God’s passion for holiness, however, causes a problem...”
What is that problem?*

March 12

Please read from the third paragraph of page 64 beginning with “The idea of sacrifice.....” to the second last paragraph ending with “.....to God’s prescriptions.

Question for reflection:

*“The object of this sacrifice was clearly God’s satisfaction.”
What satisfaction?*

March 13

Please read from the last paragraph of page 64 beginning with “There was an important distinction.....” to the first paragraph on page 65 ending with “.....and forgiveness are costly.”

Question for reflection:

“There was an important distinction between biblical sacrifices and other ancient sacrifices.” What is it?

(Here I differ with the author in that, the ultimate goal of God’s receiving our sacrifice is more than appeasement, but restoration of fellowship, as epitomized by the “Fellowship Offering”. What do you think?

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 none of God’s wonderful works keep silence, night or morning. Bright stars, high mountains, the depths of the seas, sources of rushing rivers; may all these break into song as we sing to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May all the angels in the heavens reply: Amen! Amen! Amen! Power, praise, honor, eternal glory to God, the only Giver of grace. Amen! Amen! Amen!”
(Third-century hymn)