



LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2011

Week 12

March 21-27, 2011

I. Adoration

(1) Invocation Prayer

“O Lord, whose mercy reaches to the heavens, whose faithfulness knows no end; let the greatness of your love be known to us, that we may worship you with wonder, joy and thanksgiving.” In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (From *New Every Morning*)

(2) Adoration through Psalm 64

(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. (As our reflection coincides with Lent, these selections happen to speak mostly of God's love manifested in Jesus Christ, and can also be used to usher you into our Lent meditation.) Read slowly and reflectively the assigned passage twice at least and consider the questions below each day:

A Loving God (Continued...)

March 21

Philippians 2: 1-11

Theme: What Love is it!

- (1) What is the context of this passage? (Refer to 1:27)
- (2) What kind of a picture is being painted in verse 1 as far as a church is concerned?
- (3) What are meant by each of the admonitions in v.2? Which are the hardest to do?
- (4) Paul admonishes us to have the mind of Christ in v.5. In each of the verses from vv.6-8, describe the different kind of love that is exhibited in Christ:
 - a. Did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, even though He, in very nature, is God
 - b. Being made in human likeness
 - c. Made Himself nothing, taking on the nature of a slave
 - d. Being found in appearance as a man
 - e. Humbled and obeyed to death
 - f. Even death on a cross
- (5) With the above in mind, try to apply the life of Christ to each of the admonitions in vv.3-4.
- (6) What is the main message for you today?

March 22

Acts 2: 22-36

Theme: The God of Promise

- (1) V.22: How did Jesus prove Himself to be accredited by God?
- (2) Peter emphasizes to his hearers that the death, suffering and resurrection of Jesus happened with the foreknowledge of

God and with His set purpose. How does Psalm 16:8-11 substantiate the claim of Peter? (See Peter's explanation from vv.29-31).

- (3) Is Peter's argument convincing? Why or why not?
- (4) What does Peter's use of Psalm 16 help you understand the OT prophecies about the Messiah?
- (5) What does Peter's quotation of Psalm 110:1 prove?
- (6) David wrote his psalms some 1,000 years before Christ. They finally came to pass. Why did God wait so long to fulfill what He has promised?
- (7) The Scripture also writes about Jesus' second coming and it has yet to come to pass. What might be the reasons? (If you cannot think of any, try to look up Matthew 24:14 and Romans 11:25-27).
- (8) What is the main message to you today?

March 23

Hosea 11: 1-11

Theme: The God who woos us

- (1) This wonderful passage can be divided into
 - a. God's lament (vv.1-4)
 - b. God's wrath revealed (vv.5-7)
 - c. God's amazing love (vv.8-11)
- (2) Of all the nations, why did God choose to call Israel? Why then has He called you?
- (3) What was Israel's response to God's call and why?
- (4) Ephraim (as previously explained) represents the North Kingdom of Israel. What kind of pictures were painted of His love for Ephraim in v.3 and v.4 respectively? And what was Ephraim's response?
- (5) Are both pictures applicable to you? How so?
- (6) What will be the consequences of their rebellion described in vv.5-7? What might be the most tragic consequence? Why?
- (7) How did God change His mind, and did He explain why?
- (8) Reflect on the sins of Israel and Ephraim again. What can you say about God's love? What can you say about God's love for you?

- (9) What is the main message to you today and how can you apply it to your life?

A Sovereign Lord

March 24

Genesis 50: 15-21

Theme: His Will will be Done

- (1) How did Joseph treat his brothers before his father's death? (See chapter 45)
- (2) Why did they doubt Joseph after their father's death?
- (3) Do you think their father really said these words of v.17?
- (4) Why did Joseph weep?
- (5) How did the brothers show their repentance?
- (6) Joseph almost died, and ended up as a slave himself, and though he enjoyed prosperity for a time, he again ended up in jail. Yet, how did he interpret all these calamities in his life?
- (7) For Joseph to be able to so interpret his life, what was his secret?
- (8) Spend some time reflecting on your own life. How would you interpret things that happened in your life, especially those times of disappointments?
- (9) What is the main message to you today?

March 25

Isaiah 65: 17-25

Theme: All Things being Put Right (I)

This passage opens with the declaration of the arrival of the new heavens and the new earth. Dispensationalists would interpret the section after v.17 as referring to the "Kingdom Age" or Millennium; others see it as a metaphor for the restoration of God's original intent of creation, finally realized in the actual new heavens and the new earth. Irrespective of your view, let's reflect on it through the theme of "all things being put right".

- (1) What are the former things that are no more and will not be remembered?
- (2) What constitutes the "newness" of the heavens and the earth now?
- (3) What is being restored in this new creation according to v.18?

- (4) What normally is the occasion for our crying and weeping? With this in mind, how would you interpret v.20?
- (5) Compare the fate of the Israelites in the Old Testament with the promises in vv.21-23. What have been restored?
- (6) What is being made new in v.24?
- (7) What is being restored in v.25?
- (8) In a word, what is this newness in the New Heavens and New Earth?
- (9) What is the main message to you today?

March 26

Revelation 21: 1-5

Theme: All Things being Put Right (II)

- (1) “The first heaven and the first earth had passed away”. Look up 2 Peter 3:10-13 to see how they would pass away. Why do they need to pass away? (The sea is believed to be a symbol of chaos and anti-God force)
- (2) What is this new Holy City? (See vv.9-10) Why is it being described as a bride? Whose bride is she? How is she so described?
- (3) Based on vv.1-2, what has been put right or restored?
- (4) Based on v.3, what has not been restored? (Look up Exodus 19:5-6 & I Peter 2:9)
- (5) What is meant by the “old order” in v.4 and what is its mark? What is being restored now and how?
- (6) In this short section, the “throne” is mentioned twice already. What is the significance of it?
- (7) “I am making everything new.” Based on today’s and yesterday’s reflection, list out what “everything” might include that will be made new.
- (8) What is the main message to you today?

March 27

Psalm 136

Theme: Who God Is

This is a psalm known for its refrain: “His love endures forever.” Each refrain is in response to a specific attribute or work of the Lord. Let’s reflect on them one by one, and see if you respond likewise, as the Psalmist did.

- (1) V.1 “For He is good”: describe how good is He, based especially on your latest encounter with Him.
- (2) Vv.2-3 He is “the God of gods” and “the Lord of lords”: what does it mean?
- (3) V.4 Why does the psalmist say, “He alone”?
- (4) Vv.5-9 speak of His creation. What does the psalmist highlight and why would he respond with “His love endures forever”?
- (5) In vv.10-20 the psalmist recounts God’s deliverance of Israel from Egypt: what were being highlighted here that particularly evoke the psalmist’s response?
- (6) Which aspects of God’s love are reflected in vv. 21-24?
- (7) The psalmist ends what God has done in v.25 a little differently from the preceding verses. What might be the message here?
- (8) Who is God in v.26?
- (9) Do all the above cause you to give thanks to God and respond with the same refrain?

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 21

Please read from the last paragraph on page 68, starting with “This is what is written.....” to the third paragraph on page 69 ending with “.....even death on a cross! (Phil. 2:6-8).”

Question for reflection:

The author quotes from both Isaiah 53 and Philippians 2 to highlight the love of God. Can you sum up what kind of love it is being portrayed by the two passages respectively?

March 22

Please read from the third paragraph on page 69, starting with “On the third day.....” to the end of the page ending with “.....He continues to keep those promises.”

Question for reflection:

After quoting Acts 2, the author says, “He (Jesus) continues to keep those promises.” What might be the implications of this statement to you?

March 23

Please read from page 70, beginning with “What does it mean to become.....” to the end of the third paragraph ending with “The God of the Bible is a God of amazing love!”

Question for reflection:

“If we are dead in our sins and transgressions, how do we all of a sudden repent and believe?” What is your answer?

March 24

Please read from the section “THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS A SOVEREIGN GOD” to the first paragraph on page 71 ending with “..... His covenant people to creation itself.”

Question for reflection:

“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10). Have you ever wondered what that means?

March 25

Please read from the second paragraph on page 71 beginning with “We find this hope at the very end.....” to the third paragraph ending with the “.....but because this is what God has revealed.”

Question for reflection:

The hope of the whole world being put right is an OT prophetic tradition, and “(t)he book of Revelation picks up (this) tradition, but with some changes.” What are these changes?

March 26

Please read from the second last paragraph on page 71 beginning with “In our waiting time.....” to the first paragraph on page 72 ending with “.....Bible sovereignly keeps them.”

Question for reflection:

This kind of biblical theology (the sovereignty of God) is practical. It makes a difference.” What might this difference be? “

March 27

Please read from the second paragraph on page 71 beginning with “Do you see the importance.....” to end of the second last paragraph ending with “.....is how we understand everything else.”

Question for reflection:

“How He reveals about Himself is how we understand everything else.” How true is this statement in terms of God being a Creating, Holy, Faithful, Loving and Sovereign God?

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

“Honor and praise be unto you, O Lord our God, for all your tender mercies again bestowed upon us throughout another week...through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Amen! (John Knox, 1505-1572)