

FOLLOW JESUS

Margaret Pleasant Douroux

**Follow Jesus, take no chance of getting lost
Follow Jesus, there'll be deserts you'll have to
cross**

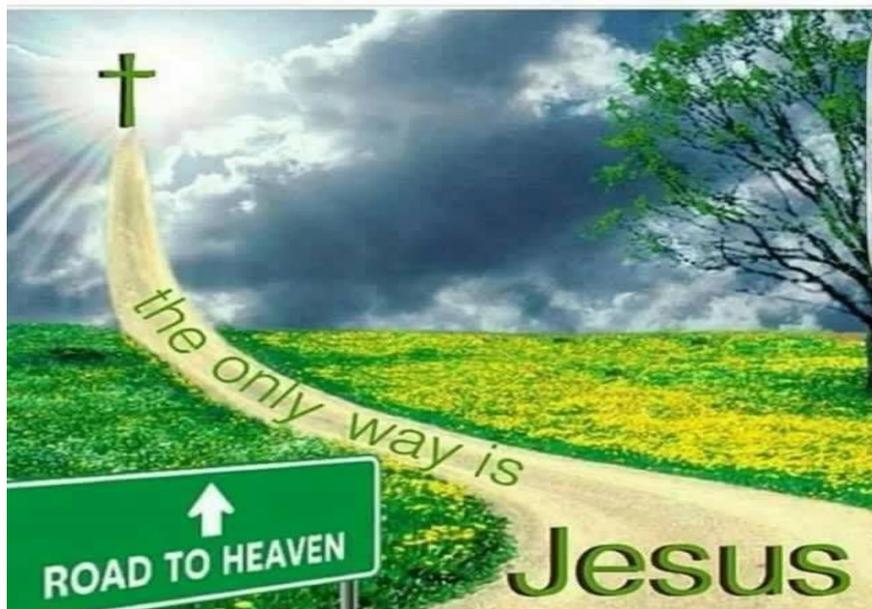
**Follow Jesus, He's got a safe mountain plan
And if Jesus can't take you to the top, there's
nobody else that can!**

**Don't you worry if you cannot see
Learn to trust Him and to follow His feet
Don't you worry if it's day or night
He is brighter than the brightest light
And if Jesus can't take you to the top, there's
nobody else that can!**

**Don't you worry when you need Him most
He will give you the Holy Ghost
He will fill your heart with fire
And He'll give you a holy desire
And if Jesus can't take you to the top, there's
nobody else that can!**

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FOLLOW JESUS: HE IS THE WAY!



THIRTY-ONE DAY DEVOTIONAL FOCUS FOR 2022

*Saturday, January 1, 2022—Monday, January 31, 2022
Every Thursday from 6:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. is our day to fast and pray*

CHURCH OF CHRIST (HOLINESS) U.S.A.

Headquarters: Jackson, Mississippi

Bishop Vernon E. Kennebrew, Senior Bishop



Isaiah 30:21 (NKJV)

“Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it...’”

John 14:6 (NKJV)

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

The Scripture in Isaiah reminds us that the children were rebellious. They were disobedient, lived by their own plans, and did not ask God for His advice. They told lies and did not trust God. They depended on their money instead of God’s power and rejected the Word of God. They did not hear or heed the law of the LORD. Their leaders did not want to hear God’s truth, they wanted to hear pleasing words from false prophets. They wanted to hear sermons that would not interfere with their comfort and the way they lived. That is exactly the way some people are today. They do not listen to ministers who preach the true gospel of Jesus Christ. They make plans and never ask God for His help. When we repent of our sins, surrender completely to God, He will be gracious and have mercy on us. We must return to God and keep our faith in Him, and trust Him, we will receive His blessings. God’s grace is His favor toward us that is why He blesses us. We must learn to listen to His voice saying, ***“This is the way, walk in it.”*** His Holy Spirit will teach us to follow and obey His voice so we will go in the right path.

As we begin our walk into 2022, lets walk slowly and follow Jesus so we can be led by Him. **HE is the way.** He will lead us in the path of righteousness and show us the way. His way is safe, He knows where the dangerous spots are, and He protects us. His way is always the right way. Jesus is the truth, the revelation of God. He reveals and communicates the divine truth of God to us as we follow Him. Sometimes the way is not a straight path, but we must continue to follow Him. Sometime the way can be around a dangerous curve, down through the valley, high on top of a mountain, on a bumpy, rough road full of potholes, or on smooth highway,

but He is the way, and His way is always perfect. When He speaks the truth to us, and we obey Him, there is always a blessing for us. Jesus is the life. He communicates with us to lead and show us the way in which we should walk. He knows where all the secure places are, what to do, which way to turn, when to stop and when to keep going.

Psalm 84:11 tells us, ***“For the LORD GOD is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.”***

Psalm 37:3 states, ***“Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness.”*** In other words, keep trusting in the LORD, obey Him and do what is right in His eyes by obeying His commandments. Keep your heart and mind fixed on His promises and feast on His faithfulness. God has never broken a promise to us, and He will never ever disappoint us.

FASTING

Fasting is a spiritual discipline taught to believers in God. Jesus expects us as believers to fast. It means to voluntarily reduce or eliminate your intake of food for a specific time and purpose. You can also fast anything that keeps you from God's presence like social media, television, videos, and social events. Fasting develops spiritual strength including being strong in resisting temptation and showing humility.

With fasting you must:

Meditate on the Scriptures

Spend time in prayer

Spend time devoted only to God.

Fasting helps you to get close to God so He can give you power to break the chains that bind you. The main purpose of a fast is to take the focus off of self and put the focus on God. Fasting brings power in your life and gives you spiritual victory. Fasting helps you to desperately depend on God. The Bible tells us in **Matthew 6:17-18**, ***“But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to***

men to be fasting but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

WEEK 1—EXAMINE YOURSELF

Saturday, January 1, 2022

Scripture Reading: Psalm 26:2-3 (NLT)

“Put me on trial, LORD, and cross-examine me. Test my motives and my heart. For I am always aware of your unfailing love, and I have lived according to your truth.”

As we begin this new year of 2022, let us remember we need to be examined for a spiritual health check. It is an easy task and since we cannot truthfully examine ourselves, we must take some specific time with the LORD and ask Him to give us a thorough spiritual examination. The walk through the year of 2022 has not been made known to us; only God knows. So go before the throne of grace with a sincere humble heart and ask God to put you on trial, scan your heart, your soul, and your mind, and examine you. Ask the LORD to do a thorough check of your heart thoughts, your desires, your motives, your plans, and your footsteps to see if you are walking in the ways of righteousness following Him. Let the LORD give you the results of the examination and if you are **not** spiritually healthy 100%, His Holy Spirit will help you reach that goal. If you are already spiritually healthy 100% His Holy Spirit will help you to stay 100% spiritually healthy...**PRAY.**

Sunday, January 2, 2022

Scripture Reading: Psalm 51:9—11 (KJV)

“Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.”

After hearing the results of your examination, you should make the decision to be completely spiritually healthy. Seek

God completely asking Him to lead you and help you become spiritually healthy. There are some changes that need to take place in your heart and life. Do not be fearful or afraid, ask the LORD to take anything that is hidden in you that no one else knows about. Confess it all because when He forgives, He forgets. As you forgive yourself ask God to lead you in His paths of righteousness so you can begin working on being 100% spiritually healthy. Let the LORD know you want to be close to Him. **James 4:8a**, *tells us, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."* Keep a strong desire to follow Jesus...**PRAY.**

Monday, January 3, 2022

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Forgiveness is the choice to release others from an offense and love them through your transformed spirit. Since God has forgiven, cleansed, and washed you in His own blood; we must also forgive others. If you are having difficulty forgiving your brother or sister then you need to stop and call on Almighty God for help. Ask the LORD to show you how to let go of your hurt and anger as you pray about the situation daily. Then when you see or think about that person God will give you a strong love for them.

Use these five steps to forgiveness prayerfully:

1—Reflect on the situation; 2—Put yourself in the other persons place; 3—Choose to learn from this experience; 4—Let go of the hurt; and 5—Remember how God forgave you. Pray daily for God to forgive you and be reconciled to your sibling, whomever it is. **Do not start or go through 2022 carrying unforgiveness in your heart...PRAY.**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:21—24 (NKJV)

"And the son said to him, Father I have sinned against

heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son. But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry."

This is truly a forgiving father who loved his son. He watched and waited faithfully for his son to return home to him. Even before his son could speak a word, his father showed his love and compassion for him. This is what happens when we walk away from God. He waits patiently for our return and shows us His love and compassion with open arms. We as believers in Christ should thank God for His forgiveness and love that He always gives to us when we fail Him. He is a faithful God and always cares and protects us welcoming us back to Him when we seek Him sincerely. **PRAY.**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022

Scripture Readings: John 14:6-7 (NKJV)

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life'."

1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV)

"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."

Jesus is the only way to the Father, and He is also the truth and the life. As truth, He is the revelation of God. As life, He is the communicator of God to us. There is only one God, the only true and living God and He desires all of humanity to be saved. All our prayers should be directed to Him in the name of Jesus. Our Mediator, Jesus Christ, has the full nature of God and the full nature of man, and is the only way to God because He gave His life a ransom for all. **PRAY.**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022

Scripture Readings: Psalm 32:8 (NKJV)

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye."

Psalm 143:10 (NKJV)

“Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead in the land of uprightness.”

Since Jesus is the only way to the Father, we need His help by depending on Him to teach us the way. We need to be intentional to obey His commands and be committed to Him. The Lord says in our text for today that He will instruct you and teach you. We should not come to Him with a stubborn spirit thinking that we can do it without His help. The Lord loves us and wants us to respond promptly to Him, He never forces us to do His will. He also said He will guide us with His eye. When He sees us going in the wrong direction and we are confused, we have the privilege to come boldly to His throne of Grace, seek Him with a sincere heart and He will show us the way. Obedience to God always bring blessings. **PRAY.**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2022

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.”

In yesterday’s thought the text stated, *‘the LORD will instruct, teach, and guide you.’* It is up to you to make up your mind to trust God completely. No matter your age you must learn to depend on God to help you. Do not be ashamed or afraid to seek God in every way in all that you do. Remind yourself that He is the way and knows the way and the will for your life and is more than willing to help you when you seek Him daily. **PRAY.**

SATURDAY, January 8, 2022

Scripture Readings: 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)

“If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land.”

1 John 1:8-9 (NKJV)

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

This has been a week of being spiritually examined by the LORD and we must remember to repent every day. God is more than willing to respond to us when we ask for forgiveness. We need to become humbly before the Lord, pray, ask for His help and heal us. He will hear us when we call on Him sincerely. We are deceiving ourselves when we say we have no sin because **Romans 3:23** tells us, ***“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*** **STOP NOW** before we go further in this New Year and confess all your wrongs that showed up in the examination and let God have His way in your life. Ask the LORD to keep you spiritually healthy and strong. Every evening get a check-up, so you can thank God for His goodness to you. **PRAY.**

WEEK II—SPEND TIME IN THE WORD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021

Scripture Readings: 2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God...”

2 Peter 3:18 (NKJV)

“But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Perhaps you have already made your resolutions for the New Year but one of them should be to grow closer to God. You can do this by devoting more time to study His Word. Spending time in God’s presence in prayer, meditation and reading His Word will grow you spiritually. You must be diligent to present yourself approved to God. After the test, the light of Jesus Christ should shine so bright that others will know you are walking with God’s approval in your life. When you hunger and thirst for God’s Word you will be filled. You will be grounded, secure and strong in your faith. **PRAY.**

Monday, January 10, 2022

Scripture Readings: Psalm 119:9—11 (NKJV)

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments. Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”

Hebrews 4:12—13 (NKJV)

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

Be thankful the LORD allowed us to live and have a personal copy of His Word, the Bible, in your home. God’s Word will daily keep us clean if we read and live in it. It will teach you how to live a holy sanctified life. God has graciously pointed out the right path for us to follow. His word is the measuring stick and Jesus will use it to judge us.

God’s Word is alive and active penetrating the innermost parts of us as well as the thoughts and intents of our hearts. His Word distinguishes what is natural and what is spiritual, as well as our thoughts (reflections) and intents (insights) of a believer’s heart. We are completely exposed and defenseless before the living God. You must be willing to give up every effort of your self-righteousness; submit your innermost thoughts, and desires to God so He can remove your tough attitude. Allow the LORD to expose your heart to His healing grace and thank Him in the name of Jesus. **PRAY.**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022

Scripture Readings: Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Psalm 119:130 (NKJV)

“The entrance of Your Words give light; it gives understanding to the simple.”

As we learn to devote our time in reading the Bible it lightens our way because Jesus is the way. It lights our path to keep us from stumbling and falling. As God speaks to us, it becomes light and understanding. It guides us for living a life of righteousness. It helps us understand that God will lead us in paths of righteousness. Ask the Lord to teach and guide you the way He wants you to go. Believe God’s Word and be a living example of Him.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022

Scripture Readings: James 4:7—8 (NKJV)

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

Psalm 73:28 (NKJV)

“But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Your works.”

We are living in perilous times, and this is a suitable time to stop and have a personal retreat with the Lord. Even Jesus took time to spend with His Father. **Mark 1:35 tells us, “Now in the morning having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.”** Even now, we need to go to a quiet place alone to be with God. We need time to meditate how great, good, and powerful God is and to have fellowship with Him. We are God’s children, and we need to have a close personal relationship with Him. He will give us power to resist the devil because we need God increasingly each day we live. He has the power and authority over our lives. We must abandon our selfish pride, self-righteousness and arrogant ways and cling to Jesus. Make plans to spend more time with the Lord and ask God to help you every day so you will stay on the right track by following Him. Remember your heart’s desire is to be spiritually and emotionally healthy. **PRAY.**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV)

“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”

Obedience is especially important in the life of a Christian. If we are disobedient, we will have to answer to God. God’s Word tells us in **1 Samuel 15:22-23**, ***“...Behold to obey is better than sacrifice...For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry because you have rejected the word of the LORD.”*** Think about it, obedience pleases God. Obedience has benefits and blessings. Always obey God and obey those who have rule over you and pray a special prayer for your spiritual leader every day. **PRAY.**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2022

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 10:6 (NKJV)

“Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.”

If we want to be blessed, we must learn to obey the commandments of the Lord. When the Lord leads us in the paths of righteousness, He knows what is best for us. Living a holy, righteous life is His will for each of us and we should be thankful. When we continue to do evil works intentionally and cover it up, remember that God sees and hears everything we do and say. Make a good habit to be honest in your heart and obey and work harmoniously with your spiritual leader and your brothers and sisters in Christ. Always speak the truth, live the truth, and share the truth with others. **PRAY.**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2022

Scripture: Proverbs 10: 29 (NKJV)

“The way of the LORD is strength for the upright, but destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.”

When we decide to follow the way of the Lord, it is a stronghold for those who keep His commandments. God's path is a refuge for the believer. Many people see the way of the Lord differently. The LORD's way is always right, and we build our faith on it. We have no need to be fearful or afraid when we know and trust the LORD. However, all who practice iniquity only see terror and destruction because they do evil. Destruction waits for the workers of iniquity. We need to keep a fervent desire to live and follow Jesus. He lights the way when the road is long and dark. He will keep us from falling in the traps the devil has laid down for us. Live so you can be an example and point others to Christ. **PRAY.**

WEEK III—SEEK THE LORD IN PRAYER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022

Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NKJV)

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth,”

We must be obedient to the word of God and give thanks to Him for this privilege to pray for kings and all that are in authority. Leaders have a lot of decisions to make and when we pray for them the Lord will give them the wisdom to do what is right. We as believers in the body of Christ must pray sincerely for our bishops, pastors, ministers, missionaries, evangelist and all who are in authority. We should also remember our city, county, state, and the officials in our nation. **PRAY.**

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2022

Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and

supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be known unto God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Prayer should be a daily routine that is followed by all believers. When we wake up in the morning the first person we speak to should be the LORD. We should come to Him with thanksgiving and praise. We should commit the day to Him to be lead and guided in the ways of righteousness. We must completely trust in the LORD for all that will happen during the day. Since He already knows all we need to make it through the day ask for his protection, favor, and wisdom. Keep your mind stayed on Him for His peace. God cares and loves us, and He is concerned about what is going on in our lives. **PRAY.**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022

Scripture Reading: Psalm 116:1-2 (NKJV)

“I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my supplications, because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.”

Each of us has different amounts of energy and various other resources. Sometimes our limited resource of energy seems to disappear in the air. Yet God’s will for us is to keep praying no matter what happens. We should always be thankful and some days it seems impossible. God knows all about our busy schedule, so He made communicating with Him quite simple. Finding time to pray should not be an issue because we are told in **1 Thessalonians 5:16**, ***“Pray without ceasing,”*** The LORD bends down His ear to us which enables Him to hear the simplest whisper of prayer. Just think of where we would be and what would happen if the LORD did not hear our prayers. We know that God loves and cares about us and make it a good habit to find time to pray. **PRAY.**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:20 (NKJV)

“Give thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We should take the most of every opportunity to do good to others. Many times, things are not good or easy to accomplish but we can choose how we will respond. We are to give thanks to God for all things and share our testimonies as to how God answered our prayers. We do not take enough time to thank God in our prayers. We usually just ask for what we need or what we want. But I believe that we should thank God always for all things, then thank Him for all things publicly. Always trust God completely when you pray for others and yourself. **PRAY.**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV)

“Pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

There are many things going on in our lives today that we need to keep covered in prayer. We are to always pray for each other, our children, grandchildren, and our families. As believers in Christ and in the power of prayer, we should always pray passionately in the Spirit as we intercede for others. This verse mentions supplication—praying humbly and earnestly to God; being watchful and we will not be led into temptation. We must keep on praying despite how hard or difficult the problems. **Romans 8:28 tells us, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”** At times it seems that it takes all our strength and faith to keep praying, trusting, and believing God. We know His word is true and we believe He will work things for out for our good and His glory. God knows exactly what to do and we must not worry but leave it in His hands because He is our heavenly Father. **PRAY.**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:26-27 (NKJV)

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

Our prayer life should be full of comfort and joy knowing the LORD helps us when we pray. When we are burdened or there are family members in need of special prayer, His help is available for us. There are times when we do not know how to pray for them or even what to say but we can thank God the Holy Spirit comes to our aid. Our knowledge is limited, and we have no idea how to pray for certain situations, but God’s Holy Spirit steps in and prays for us and through us because He is always praying in harmony with God’s will. The Father knows all our hearts and can use us to be effective in the lives of those we pray for—even when we do not know how we should pray. **PRAY.**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2022

Scripture Reading: Psalm 103:1-2 (NKJV)

“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”

When we bless the LORD, we are giving Him personal praise from our hearts. To bless the LORD means to delight His heart with our expressions of love and gratitude for all He is and for all He does. True praise comes from a thankful heart that is sincere and desires to glorify and please the LORD. All that is within me—everything God made in me physically is focused on the LORD, including my heart, soul, mind, and strength (**Mark 12:28-31**). When we say this, it also means we are prepared (*willing*) to obey His will after our praise has

ended. This is a call for us to be totally committed to God.
PRAY.

WEEK IV—LOVE ONE ANOTHER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022

Scripture Reading: John 3:16-17 (NKJV)

God loved the world.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

God’s love is not limited or restricted to anyone—nation, kindred, or tongue, nor is it restricted to any spiritual elite. When the scripture says that He loved the world that included all creation. God loved us before the foundation of the world and gave His only unique Son as a gift. Now everyone who believes in Him will never perish but will experience eternal life. Our friends and family members who do not believe in Him is walking in darkness and we should be concerned about their salvation. God is willing to shine the light of His truth in the hearts of our loved ones so they too can believe and experience this impressive love of God. **1 John 1:9 tells us, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** Jesus did not come to judge or condemn the world but to be our Savior and save us from our sins. We must believe that God loves us. **PRAY.**

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022

We must love God.

Scripture Readings: Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NKJV)

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

Matthew 22: 37-38 (NKJV)

“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.”

In the book of Deuteronomy, chapter six the first word in the fourth verse is ‘hear’ which is a command for the people to respond properly to God. This is for them to listen, obey, and pay special attention to what has been said. It is the same in the world today. We must have a relationship with the true and living God by listening and obeying Him. The LORD has done remarkable things for us, and we are glad. We are to respond to God’s love by being devoted to Him. When we choose God, we are choosing life. We must love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, which represents our whole person. When we say the LORD is One, it means the LORD alone. There is only one God, and we must love Him. **PRAY.**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022

Scripture Reading: John 13:34-35 (NKJV)

Love one another

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

This command to love was new because Jesus gave it a new standard. Moses said, ***“Love your neighbor as yourself”*** (Leviticus 19:18). Jesus said, the new standard is ***“as I have loved you.”*** Jesus gave His disciples an example of love that we are to follow in (John 13:1—17).

When we love as Jesus desires us to love, unbelievers will recognize us by our deeds of love for one another. **PRAY.**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

Scripture Reading: 1 John 2:9-10 (NKJV)

“He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the

light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.”

When we love our brothers (*fellow believers*), we will live without stumbling. When we hate others, we are opposing the teachings of Christ. Hating others causes blindness and causes us to lose the way, and our sense of direction. Loving others is a command from God not a suggestion. God is love; He is the source of all love, He loved us first.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022

Scriptures: Matthew 5:43-44 (NKJV)

“You have heard that it was said ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.”

It would be remarkable to live in a world without hate, bad attitudes, and gossip. Jesus said during His time on earth, ***“Love your enemies.”*** We must love them with the same love that Jesus loved us. We should have extra-ordinary love for others.

Ephesians 4:32 (NJKV), ***“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”***

We are being reminded to be kind, tenderhearted, and to forgive one another as we have been forgiven. If you do not know how to forgive, ask the Lord to teach and show you how to do it.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2022

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:14 (NKJV)

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

We are living under the law of Christ. Living in Christ empowers us to love others which is the fulfillment of the law. We should recognize that we love ourselves and we

should love others just as genuinely and sincerely as we love ourselves. Love is of God because God is love and has no respect of persons. Allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart and tear it down, pull it out, and cleanse your heart of all discrimination, dismiss every thought, and help you see others as children of God. Then love your neighbor as yourself.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2022

Scripture Readings: 1 John 4:10—11 (NKJV)

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

God loved us first and sent His only Son, Jesus, to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. And if God thought enough of us to love us before the foundation and creation of the world, we ought to love one another.

1 John 4:20-21 (NKJV)

“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar, for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.”

When we love God there is no need to be fearful or afraid because there is no fear in love; perfect love casts out fear, it drives fear away. People who say they love others and do not love them are phony. The strong powerful commandment God gave us that we should never forget is, **he who loves God loves his brother also.**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022

Scripture Reading: Psalm 34: 15-16 (NKJV)

“The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the remembrance of the from the earth.”

This Psalm is one that contains praise, encouragement, help, and concern for believers. The instructions are given only to believers who are called the righteous. This righteousness is not a result of what man has done, but because of what the LORD has done for him. God credits righteousness to the believer that trusts Him. It is written that Abraham believed, and that it (*his faith*) was counted to him for righteousness. So, to us who in simple faith have trusted the Word of God for our salvation, it is written that ***“The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.”*** The eyes of the LORD symbolize or show His care and protection for us as His children. We must live by faith trusting the LORD to guide us, care for us, and help us do the right thing. We have nothing to fear because His eyes are upon us, and His ears are opened to our prayers. God’s face is against those who do evil to us. God hears the prayers of the righteous.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022

Scripture Reading: Psalm 145:17-18 (NKJV)

“The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.”

This is the last day in the month of January and God is good to us. Everyday this month we have spent time with the LORD in special devotion JESUS IS THE WAY. This devotion was an encouragement for us to continue to follow Jesus all through the year because His way is perfect.

Our LORD is righteous and holy in all He does. His way is always the right way, His thoughts are always pure, His actions are perfectly and personally designed for each one of us. Whatever He does for us is filled with love and kindness. Our whole-hearted desire is to draw closer to God.

Our text states, ***“The LORD is near to all who call upon Him,”*** and all who call upon Him in truth. When we cry

out to Him, He hears us, and saves us. Call upon God in the name of Jesus because He is the way, the truth, and the life. The LORD will give you new insight and understanding of how close you are to Him.

Since this is the last day of January do not stop having your special time with the LORD. Spend as much time as you can giving thanks to the LORD every day. You will grow spiritually and be blessed as you continue each day to draw closer to the LORD.