



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

September 18, 2022

The Choice

Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." —Daniel 3:15-18

This is war. Up until now, it hasn't really seemed like it, but now it's undeniable that our world is in conflict with the God we serve. And the most important thing in war is being on the right side. No matter how cloudy issues may seem as lies are told and deception spreads, God's Word makes it very clear which side is good, which is evil, and which side will win. It's time for God's people to choose.

Christians worship the One True God. All other gods are false gods who lead to sin, death, and eternal destruction in hell. Jesus Christ redeems all who believe in Him, by His blood, shed on the cross for our sins. We don't worship the earth, pleasure, any human, or anything else. Jesus Christ is Lord.

History echoes with demands to worship false gods rather than the One True God. These demands clearly violate God's express will, "*You shall have no other gods before me. ... for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments* (Exodus 20:2, 5b-6). God alone deserves our worship.

The world is opposed to God the Father and Jesus His Son. Our world opposes our God, and we must choose one over the other. *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever* (1st John 2:15-17).

God's command comes with His promise to punish disobedience and reward obedience, which requires that we trust God's goodness and faithfulness to His Word. *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him* (Hebrews 11:6). Or, as David says, *Taste and see that the LORD is good* (Psalm 34:8).

When God's people were in exile, the king commanded everyone to bow down and worship a massive gold statue and *all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.* (Daniel 3:7b). Those who obeyed the king disobeyed God. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego obeyed God, risking the flames and defying the king.

God honored their faith, delivered them from death, and accompanied them in the flames. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose the right side of the conflict—God's side. Faith in God frees us from the fear of death. *When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting*" (1st Corinthians 15:54-55)?

The greatest example of divine deliverance is Christ, who rose from the dead after dying for our sins. In the Old Testament, God's covenant with His people Israel, the LORD miraculously delivered His people from trouble to demonstrate that He is the One True God. In the New Testament, God's covenant with His people the Church, God delivers His people through death, by the resurrection power of Jesus.

God is weaning His people from this world and preparing us to live with Him forever in the next. In Christ, we live free from the power of sin and the fear of death. To the praise of God's glory!

Continued Daily Bible Reading

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bible in 1 Year	2 nd Chronicles 13-15	2 nd Chronicles 16-18	2 nd Chronicles 19-21	2 nd Chronicles 22-24	2 nd Chronicles 25-27	2 nd Chronicles 28-30	2 nd Chronicles 31-33
Year 1	Job 5	Job 6	Job 7	Job 8	Job 9	Job 10	Job 11
Year 2	Isaiah 4	Isaiah 5	Isaiah 6	Isaiah 7	Isaiah 8	Isaiah 9	Isaiah 10
Year 3	Ezekiel 13	Ezekiel 14	Ezekiel 15	Ezekiel 16	Ezekiel 17	Ezekiel 18	Ezekiel 19

Prayer for Our Time

Bill H.R. 8404 has passed in the house and will go to the US Senate for a vote in September. It will codify into law the 2015 Supreme Court decision that imposed same-sex marriage on the United States. As Christians, we need to pray that this unbiblical bill will Not Pass in the United States Senate and become the law of the land.

Daily Prayer

Sunday (Church): Pray that Northpoint will reach out more and more to our community and grow by adding the new believers to our body.

Monday (Home and Family): Pray for your church family (friends and prospective friends at Northpoint) to grow in faith and develop Christ-like character.

Tuesday (Job/School): Pray for the success of your workplace or the school you attend. Pray for God's abundant blessing and a clear awareness that all blessings flow from Him.

Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community): Pray for Northpoint Church to thrive and be an influence for Christ in our community and beyond.

Thursday (Our Nation): Pray for revival to continue breaking out in the Church throughout the entire world, honoring Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

Friday (The World): Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, during a time of continuing trouble and opposition. Ask God to lead His chosen people to honor their Messiah.

Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing): Rejoice! The Lord reigns! He is working out His perfect will in all things and cares about your every need.

Prayer for Our Leaders

Pray for Northpoint's leaders of to do God's work God's way, through God's power working through them.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Tony Chute, Taylor Mendoza, Tamene Menna, Terilyn Brown, Steve Dahlgren, and Amber McEwen.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Woody Armstrong, Steve Flood, Craig Hawkins, Perry Schaefer, and Vinoj Zechariah.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, John Cordill, Colin Cordill, Megan Cordill, Laura Flood, Noah Gauderman, Nolan Golightly, Carolee Jefferson, Nick Juarez, Cade MacRitchie, Sam Nguyen, Lauren Sanner, Corie Saunders, Dani Tiqui, Micah Valdez, Tyler Van Horssen, Christina Vasquez, and Holli Worthington.

Life in Christ

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. –Titus 2:14