



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

January 15, 2023

### Truth to Tell

*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." ... "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." –John 8:31b-32*

We're living through an age of deception. Dark money funds our political campaigns. Political promises inspire votes without guiding the convictions of those who make them. Advertising, news, people, and plans are marketed with slogans and glittery ideals, but little scrutiny evaluates the veracity of their claims or likelihood of their genuineness.

So people do as they wish with little sense of accountability. Truth is nothing more than what you can get people to believe, and it's verified by how well it sells. Since *there is nothing new under the sun* (Ecclesiastes 1:9), we can be sure that the dynamics of today's world find parallels in the pages of Scripture.

Jesus spoke much about truth, so He irritated a lot of people—especially religious leaders who claimed truth as their exclusive domain. So one day, they approached Him in the temple (Matthew 21:23-27) and asked, *By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?*

Jesus replied to their question with a question of His own. *The baptism of John, where does it come from?* But rather than answer by saying what they considered to be the truth, they debated which answer would give them the results they wanted, reasoning,

*"If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."*

The religious leaders had no concept of what truth actually is, and so they had no capacity for comprehending it. That embarrassing fact was now on display for all to see. Embarrassments like this led them to crucify the Savior. Encounters like this are the staple of public and private discourse today.

Truth is a matter of what is, not a matter of what works, and we've forgotten that fact these days. That's why deception has such currency and lies are pronounced with such bald-faced confidence. The area in which the Church needs to shine is in this area of truth—not words that "resonate" or have the desired effect, but words that are demonstrably true.

The world needs to see, hear, and understand eternal truth, so it can distinguish true from false and know what matters eternally. But fighting deception at every turn is more than a matter of chasing down and attacking every lie as it comes up, like a game of Whack-a-Mole. We—the Church—are called to believe, live, and proclaim God's truth from God's Word.

*The household of God ... is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:15b-16).*

So, live and tell the truth of who Jesus is—God, the Son, crucified as a Sacrifice for sin, risen and coming again, the only hope there is in this dark world. And never forget His promise—*Behold, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age* (Matthew 28:20b).

To the praise of God's glory.

## Continued Daily Bible Reading

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Bible in 1 Year</b>	Genesis 46-48	Genesis 49-50; Matthew 1	Matthew 2-4	Matthew 5-7	Matthew 8-10	Matthew 11-13	Matthew 14-16
<b>Year 1</b>	Genesis 15	Genesis 16	Genesis 17	Genesis 18	Genesis 19	Genesis 20	Genesis 21
<b>Year 2</b>	Joshua 15	Joshua 16-17	Joshua 18	Joshua 19	Joshua 20	Joshua 21	Joshua 22
<b>Year 3</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Chronicles 24	1 <sup>st</sup> Chronicles 25	1 <sup>st</sup> Chronicles 26	1 <sup>st</sup> Chronicles 27	1 <sup>st</sup> Chronicles 28	1 <sup>st</sup> Chronicles 29	Mark 1

## Praying According to God's Word

As a pillar and buttress of the truth, the Church testifies about Jesus, who *is the way, and the truth, and the life* (John 14:6). God's Word gives us truth to live by, stand on, be cleansed by, and proclaim as the light in the darkness. Like a doctor's honest diagnosis, God's truth may not make us popular, but it is what the world needs. And God will make it effective. Jesus was ...

- *manifested in the flesh*: Pray for a true appreciation of who Jesus really is—God incarnate.
- *vindicated by the Spirit*: Pray to operate as Christ did: by divine power and not by human ability.
- *seen by angels*: Ask God to reveal the unimaginable glory of His Son, Jesus, through His Church.
- *proclaimed among the nations*: Pray that we'll effectively proclaim Jesus as Lord to the world around us.
- *believed on in the world*: Ask God to move hearts to trust in Christ as Savior.
- *taken up in glory*: Rejoice that Jesus reigns from heaven and will return to rule the earth.

## Daily Prayer

**Sunday (Church)**: Ask God to make the truth of His Word clear to Tim East and Steve Flood and to strengthen their faith as they walk with Him daily. Pray for God's protection and guidance.

**Monday (Home and Family)**: Pray for God's eternal blessing for your extended family: uncles, aunts, cousins, and their families.

**Tuesday (Job/School)**: Pray for Christ to reveal Himself through you to your fellow students or those you serve through your job.

**Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community)**: Pray for spiritual, physical, and emotional safety for local community workers, city leaders, teachers, police and fire departments.

**Thursday (Our Nation)**: Ask God to use His blessings on our nation to serve others and glorify Himself, so that our wealth and freedom help build His kingdom.

**Friday (The World)**: Ask God to protect and build His Church in Middle East and to establish liberty, stability, and peace in that region.

**Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing)**: Thank God for your family and friends. They are special gifts from God to you.

## Prayer for Our Leaders

Ask God to give our leaders continued insights into the truth of God's Word.

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

## Who Christ Is

*Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* —Philippians 2:5-11