

CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH CHRIST

PSALM 119:33-40 NIV // ROMANS 13:5-14 NIV



MONDAY 9/11/23

Psalm 119:33-40/// Teach me Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end.

Romans 13:5-14/// 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. 6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

REFLECTION This week's devotion invites us to see the many ways God teaches us how to live in our society. The most important thing for us to know is God is sovereign and governs our lives. All of humanity thinks anything goes, rather than seeking God's wisdom. The Holy Spirit therefore instills this desire, and we should always keep it in mind. We need never cease to aspire to advancement in our society. As Christians we accept that the Spirit of God gives us understanding from which we are to be guided by his "invisible hand" to the proper knowledge of the law. When we beat against these laws which God has established (taxes, etc.) we do ourselves a disservice. It is best to live with a clear conscience and in an orderly fashion. The right of authority over us has been given to people we trust and who have integrity. If we do not trust our leaders we are to vote them out of office. When we fail to do so, we give up the right to properly govern. Every society changes over time to reflect its beliefs of justice. God established just laws to govern humanity in order to live in harmony with one another. For a social system to be effective we must trust those laws and respect them. When laws are counter to God's laws the society no longer lives under freedom, but under authoritarianism. God has established a plan for all of humanity to live in harmony until the Last Day when Christ returns. The Body of Christ is to be law abiding and a reflection of God's grace in the world. We do this by sharing God's wisdom in how we live and love others.

PRAYER Lord God continue to teach me how to live with more joy because of the laws you have installed; they are good, wise and just. For your ways are the right ways for us to live. In Jesus Name Amen

TUESDAY 9/12/23

Psalm 119:33-40/// 34 Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

Romans 13:5-14/// 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. 8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

REFLECTION I find it difficult sometimes to communicate what it means to live out God's decrees. When I was young and foolish, I willingly broke the law of God. I would ignore it or pretend it did not affect me emotionally or spiritually. I intentionally disregarded God's wisdom that preserves us all. Being obedient to God is not something a sinful person desires. When we ask God to bless us with his wisdom it means we are naturally blinded by our sin to receive such wisdom. Being in the natural born state of the flesh God's decrees are quite foreign to us and seemingly impossible to keep. People of the flesh only admire the wisdom that looks well to their own interests. We are, by nature, void of true understanding of God's grace until the fear of God prevails in our hearts and minds. There upon we surrender entirely to God's direction. At the same time that the fear of God's glory surrounds us he grants us a special gift, which none of us are able to obtain by our own power. Human knowledge and wisdom cannot be adequate to have a relationship with God Almighty. As we grow in faith we learn the law is there to protect us. It readily cautions us to be careful when making decisions. For example have you ever owed someone money? If we cannot pay it back we feel the sting of guilt. We broke our promise to pay them back. This rightly causes an uncomfortable situation causing an increase in anxiety and frustration. We face the same similar guilt when we try to love God, our Lord. We cannot pay the debt of our sin. We are ashamed and hide from the only one who can help us. So what are we to do? The first step is surrendering to God our lives by accepting Jesus Christ. When we do, we accept the love of God for us. We love God actively when we obey His decrees and surrender ourselves to be more honest, more forgiving and offer compassion and mercy to others.

PRAYER Heavenly Father please give me a deeper understanding of your wisdom so I might learn to forgive those who have caused me anger and emotional and physical pain. I want to keep your laws and obey them but I need your help. In Jesus Name Amen.

WEDNESDAY 9/13/23

Psalm 119:33-40/// 35 Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. 36 Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.

Romans 13:5-14/// 9 The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

REFLECTION When we ask God to direct our path it means we are also willing to take personal responsibility for our faith.

The “secular cultural church” believes when a person becomes a Christian they do not have to change in their desires or wants. As a Christian we find the Spirit us helping us be transformed into God’s sons and daughters. For us not to “want to stop sinning” is an abomination against God’s gospel message of grace. Cheap grace, cheap love and a cheap Jesus would mean Jesus would not have surrendered and sacrificed His body to pay the price of our sin. Salvation is not cheap! Redemption does not rest on our simple emotions and inspiring feelings. God’s decree requires of us to change and obey his commands. So if we continually and blatantly sin we are not obeying what God requires of us. Nor are we living as though we are saved by His grace.

PRAYER I pray Lord Jesus to help me walk the path of your instructions. Help me to find joy and delight in doing your will. Guide my heart and mind toward your grace and not toward selfish gain. In Jesus Name Amen.



THURSDAY 9/14/23

Psalm 119:33-40/// 37 Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared.

Romans 13:5-14/// 11 And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

REFLECTION To wake from our slumber is a way of saying God’s Spirit has come upon the earth. We are to be awoken to His love. Calvin writes, “The rays of celestial life had begun to shine on us as it were at the dawn “. We are to be awakened, in order to be witnesses of God’s love in Jesus Christ. We stand in the sight of God and of Christ, the true son of righteousness. He graciously invites us into His presence. Verse 11 “And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come to wake up from our slumber.” So let us all cast aside whatever belongs to the night and the works of darkness. Peel back the curtain of our own darkness and let it be exposed to the eternal light of God’s forgiveness. Let us present ourselves to holy and living sacrifices willing to shine the light of God’s truth and wisdom. Let us leap with joy as we walk in God’s eternal glow. Taking up our cross and following Him is another way of saying take responsibility for growth of faith. When we do, we obtain the mind and heart of Christ. Then all our relationships change for the better. In every case when a person is “born from above” they put on the mind of Christ.

PRAYER Heavenly Father guide me today by your Spirit so my eyes and ears may see how to bless others. Help me to turn away from worthless things and guide me as to preserve my life according to your Word. In Jesus Name Amen.

FRIDAY 9/15/23

Psalm 119:33-40/// 39 Take away the disgrace I dread, for your laws are good.

Romans 13:5-14/// 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

REFLECTION There is a Bible passages that says: 1 Corinthians 13:11 “When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.” Each of us who has become a Christian started out with a childlike mind about God. In those early years of faith we really only have the essence of faith in Christ. As we mature in study and prayer we grow deeper into our relationship with God and joyfully discover God’s desires astound us. Everyone’s faith needs to be nurtured every day. This devotion is written so everyone has a way of exercising our spirit by daily exposure to God’s Word. When we set aside time to be with God it naturally causes us to run from the darkness that surrounds us. Let’s be willing to behave “decently” which means not to be “juvenile” Christians.

PRAYER Forgive me of my sin Lord Jesus for I say things over and over again out of frustration and anger. Help me to catch myself for I do not want to live a life of dread. For your laws are good and they guide me to love others. In Jesus Name Amen.



SATURDAY 9/16/23

Psalm 119:33-40/// 40 How I long for your precepts! In your righteousness preserve my life.

Romans 13:5-14/// 4 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

REFLECTION Each day we ought to put on the crown of Christ and in the evening take the crown off to rest. The idea of a crown illustrates clothing ourselves as a child of a King. By doing so we have a visual image of our place in the world and are cautious about gratifying the needs of the flesh. As Christians we preserve our joy and gladness by living within the bounds of God’s precepts. These precepts are like fences to hold us back from hurting ourselves and damaging out relationships with one another. When I see a Christian wearing their crown I see goodness and compassion, love and mercy. When I see people doing their best to honor God their lives reflect it. I hear people’s stories of life and their willingness to walk with others in times of trouble. When it gets dark outside, Christians put on their crowns and glow brightly.

PRAYER God Almighty, you have created me perfect through your Son, my Lord Jesus. Help me to share His love by clothing me with your mercy and compassion. Give me a heart of forgiveness so I might be a light of joy to those with whom I live, work, and play. Let my crown glow before others. For your decrees are true and right and they preserve my life. In Jesus Name Amen



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