

GLORY DAYS*PSALM 145:1-8 BUL VS 1-5 ESV // PHILIPPIANS 1:3-18-30 ESV***MONDAY 9/25/23**

PSALM 145:1-8/// 1. I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6; 18-30/// 3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. 18 Yes, and I will rejoice, 19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, 20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

REFLECTION This week's devotion is going to speak to the importance and need for Christians to work in partnership with Christ and each other. St Paul reminds us God has started a great work in us and this work will be completed only on the day His Son returns to earth. What a day that will be! St Paul loves to affirm his fellow Christians who walk with him in faith and hope. He acknowledges the Spirit of Christ is working in him and it shows. Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (ESV) Let's accept the precept that all things in our lives contribute to the advancement of God's redemptive plan, even though it may seem the whole world is conspiring for the destruction of Christianity. Let us be confident in the Lord Jesus who willingly gives answers to our prayers. The goodness of God shines brightly in all our dark places freeing us from the burden of sin. Let us accept the Spirit of Jesus Christ which has been poured out upon us. After faith comes cherished hope. We have hope, knowing we are in Christ and are being held by God's promises. Romans 5:3-5 "3-5 There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!" (Message Bible).

PRAYER Praise you Lord Jesus! I heap praises to my God the Father for your willingness to sacrifice for my sins. You are my King. Blessed is your name that is above all names. In Jesus Name, Amen

TUESDAY 9/26/23

Psalms 145:1-8 // 3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

Philippians 1:3-6; 18-30 // 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.

REFLECTION This passage might be difficult to understand because of the verse "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain." This runs contrary to the world view of life. The Bible teaches that the life of a Christian is to live eternally. We ought to keep our eye more on the blessings to come than blessings today. The truth is we will all die in the flesh. That is the penalty of sin. Being a "born from above Christian" means we have been raised to new life in Christ. God's grace is poured upon us and death no longer has its sting. Christ is the complete focus here. We can now declare confidently, if we are alive or dead we are in Him. Having Christ as a part of us we can look forward to the glory day's ahead. Christ blessings alone makes us joyful. Let us be of assurance Christ is with us. Whether we live or die, we are in a holy state. St Paul desired to live promoting the glory of Christ. It is a privilege, in this life, is to serve others in Christ's name. As far as St. Paul is concerned it is far better for him to be with Christ.

PRAYER How great thou art Lord Jesus. You are to be greatly praised for giving new life out of a dead life. I pray you will continue to help me, not only live this message, but share the beauty of this message. In Jesus Name, Amen.

WEDNESDAY 9/27/23

Psalm 145:1-8/// 4 One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
Philippians 1:3-6; 18-30/// 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

REFLECTION St Paul shows us how much love for Christ shines in his heart. He is no longer thinking about earthly advantages, but spiritual benefits he will receive upon entering heaven. There is a famous song by Bruce Springsteen called 'Glory Days'. It is about two guys talking about the glory days of the past. Truth is, as a Christian, our glory days are not about looking backwards, but looking to the future of being with Christ. When we embrace this truth it sets us free. Christ delivers us from the bondage of sin and death. Now we live looking forward to the glory days of eternity. John 14:1-4 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.



2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going." Take a moment and meditate on these words. As we come into His presence let us turn our minds upward towards His glory. John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

PRAYER From one generation to another generation you have been faithful to your people O God; your redeeming plan of salvation is amazing and beautiful. Help me to live by it and proclaim it wherever I am. Send your Spirit of truth upon me today so I too may participate in your mighty acts. In Jesus Name, Amen.

THURSDAY 9/28/23

Psalm 145:1-8 // 5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6; 18-30 // 24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and continue with you all for your progress and joy 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. 26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

REFLECTION There is a true statement that states every Christian is important to every other Christian because we are all related to Jesus Christ. We worship together, break bread together, pray and study together, giving us a very special kind of life. We all have the same love of Christ in us. He is not concerned about when God will take him home. For now he will be a benefit and blessing to others by offering Christ's love. For "in Christ" means to have a very close and bonding relationship. This holy connection is to be glorified by giving the glory to God alone. 1 Corinthians 1:13 "Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord." We are to trust the aid of the Spirit who perseveres in our lives. We can look forward to having glory days by respecting the resurrection of the flesh. We all are subject to the power of God's providence..Romans 6:4 "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

PRAYER Lord Jesus you are filled with a glorious splendor and majestic beauty. You are God's only Son whose marvelous works have captured my heart, mind and soul. Give to me Lord your peace and assurance of your love for me. In Jesus Name, Amen.

FRIDAY 9/29/23

PSALM 145:1-8/// 6 They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6; 18-30/// 27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel. 28 And not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

REFLECTION Paul is writing to the church in Rome to give them encouragement, but more importantly to reach out to them and say “stand firm in the faith.” “Stand in one spirit” is one of the most excellent principles of our Church. This means to preserve the true doctrines of our faith. In every church, leaders need to know their Bibles, and pray and grow in Christ every day. This helps keep a sound state of the church. Paul’s desire was to make them aware of strange doctrines creeping into the church. To battle against this invasion we combine unity in spirit with unity of heart, meaning our soul. When putting these two terms together we have a power to fight successfully. The spirit, stands for understanding God’s principles; the soul stands for our will. Then, as now, our opponents are exactly the same. They are people who blatantly defy the existence of God, and desire to create a society void of Jesus Christ. So, yes, we need to “stand firm” for Jesus Christ as God’s Son. Yes, we need “to stand firm” for Christ who rose from the dead on Easter morning. Yes, we need “to stand firm” like the Roman church by having the same mind of Christ. Yes, we need “to stand firm” by having the same Spirit of Christ. We do that by standing side by side with all our fellow Christian brothers and sisters firmly and confidently standing for the Kingdom. Christians every day face the tyranny of hate and division. St Peter wrote this later in his life. 1 Peter 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

PRAYER Heavenly Father help me to live my life today worthy of the Good News! May I readily accept we are one in spirit, one in the same mind, and you are willing to walk with me every day. O God how can I not sing of your mighty act of raising the dead. You are awesome! In Jesus Name, Amen

SATURDAY 9/30/23

PSALM 145:1-8/// 7 They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. 8 The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6;18-30/// 29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

REFLECTION God rewards us when the gifts of grace assigned to us are used in the right way. We are all undeserving of this grace. Still, God freely gives it through Christ. When we understand this our faith remains firm even when we face persecutions. The precepts of God’s grace are too high for any of us to attain by ourselves. Without the help of the Holy Spirit we miss the understanding God’s “one way” love. As we yield to receive God’s grace we discover a new inner strength of faith far above your own understanding. St Paul is reminding us there is no reason why we should feel troubled when conflict surrounds us. Christ is our provider and protector.

PRAYER My Lord, your abundant goodness is true and right and I will sing aloud of your righteousness. You are my Lord who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Praise you! In Jesus Name, Amen.



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