

Bible Teaching Program
Daily verses

September 2012

September 1

We are children through new life in Christ; we are sons by adoption.

Romans 8:15b '...but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.'

Adoption is the Greek word 'huiiothesia' which come from two Greek words 'huios' meaning 'son' and 'thesis' meaning 'to set in place'. Adoption refers to our standing in Christ. We are children through new life in Christ; we are sons by adoption. We have not only received life in Christ, we have been given the right of inheritance. We are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Our relationship with God is more than a forgiven sinner; we are sons and daughters of the living God. In Christ we have been lifted from the depths of our sin to the heights of royalty.

September 2

Christ is the treasure who dwells in earthen vessels.

2 Corinthians 4:7 'But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God, and not of us.'

Christ is the treasure who dwells in earthen vessels. His perfection is seen in our imperfection. His power moves mightily through our inability. His strength upholds us in our weakness. His greatness is revealed in our hopelessness. He fills our heart with love that the world can never understand; peace that the world cannot give; and joy it can never take away. When we have this treasure then it is not ourselves but Jesus Christ who is glorified through us.

September 3

The greatest love.

Romans 8:32 'He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?'

In Christ, the greatest gift has already been given. The greatest love has already been shown. The love of God towards us was not because of our goodness but because of His goodness. He did not love us because of who we are but because of who He is. It is only when we experience His love that we can begin to appreciate the greatness of His love towards us. When we receive new life in Christ then His love towards us will never end; it will never fail; and it will never let us go.

September 4

The cross separates us from everything that would condemn us.

Galatians 2:20 'I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me.'

The cross separates us from everything that would condemn us. The old is gone; crucified with Christ. The sinless Son of God took our sin; our condemnation; and was judged in our place on the cross. Yet the grave could not hold Him. He arose from the dead and all who trust fully in Him are united with His life. In Him we are a completely new creation; risen with Christ; and His life dwells in us. We have nothing to fear when we belong to Jesus. Nothing can separate us from His love. Our sin is paid for; our condemnation is removed; Christ is our life.

September 5

The glory that shall be revealed is the life of Christ in us.

Romans 8:18, 'For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.'

The glory that shall be revealed is the life of Christ in us. His life is seen in His people right now through the fruit of the Spirit. His love shows the beauty of His character in contrast to the self-seeking nature of the world. His peace stands in contrast to the anxiety of a world without Christ. His joy stands in contrast to a world that can only find temporary happiness in things that do not last. When Jesus returns then the same glory that dwells within His people will be able to shine in our outward appearance.

September 6

An abundant entrance.

2 Peter 1:11 'For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.'

New life in Christ is the gift of God. How we live does not determine our eternal destiny; we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ alone. But how we live does reflect the extent of our love for Christ. An abundant entrance into heaven is the prize of all who love the Lord Jesus Christ. On that day we will see the enduring gold of His life in us; the priceless value of having lived our life for His glory; and the immense wonder that our life though so insignificant could bring honour to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

September 7

Only in Christ Jesus can we find certainty in an uncertain world.

Revelation 21:4 'And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.'

Only in Christ Jesus can we find certainty in an uncertain world. We know we have eternal life because Christ lives in us. We are not like the world. Our trust is not in the prosperity of the world. We can endure the trial because Christ is with us. We can look beyond the tears because we have a glorious future in Christ. Our life has meaning because Christ has overcome for us. We do not trust in fables. We know we shall be with Him forever.

September 8

Steadfast and immovable.

1 Corinthians 15:58 'be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.'

A steadfast person must remain focused at all times. We need to keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus. Serving Christ is the greatest privilege; the highest honour; and the most rewarding work. We will not be disappointed; the work we do for Christ is never in vain. If we allow ourselves to be swayed by the opinions of others then we can become sidetracked and easily discouraged. Our heart must be immovable so that nothing can move us away from the work of the Lord. There is no greater joy than the joy of serving Jesus.

September 9

God used the greatest enemy of mankind to become the greatest blessing of mankind.

Hebrews 2:14 'Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;'

Death is mankind's greatest enemy. Yet if there was no death there could be no salvation. The way of salvation was opened for us through the death of the Son of God on the cross. God used the greatest enemy of mankind to become the greatest blessing of mankind. The Lord is able to bring blessing out of adversity; and great joy out of sorrow. We need never fear when Christ is our life; He will work all things for our good.

September 10

Looking unto Jesus.

Hebrews 12:2 'Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.'

The Greek word 'aphoran' is translated in this verse as 'looking'. It literally means 'to look away from'. It is only when we look away from the pleasures of sin and turn away from the pull of self-centred lusts that we can focus our attention upon Jesus. He is the initiator and the completer of our faith. His love for us joyfully gave all to save us. He unites us with His life so that we can joyfully live our life for Him.

September 11

Fellowship in the gospel.

Philippians 1:5 'For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;'

Fellowship in the body of Christ involves everyday issues. The believers had fervent love for one another; they knew they were the disciples of Christ. They were one family in Christ; united by the life of Christ dwelling in them. They were one team; working together. They had a responsibility to be involved in spreading the message of the gospel. They desired to build one another up in Christ. They prayed for one another. They cared for one another. They gave with cheerful generosity. Their love, unity, and humility set an example for other believers to follow. Fellowship in the gospel is more than meeting together.

September 12

True Christianity.

Colossians 1:27 'To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.'

True Christianity is not the way we dress or wear our hair; it is not the music we listen to or the food we eat; it is not keeping rules and laws; it is the life of Christ in us. It is who we are and not what we do that determines whether or not we are in Christ. Religion cannot produce new life; the Church has no power to save. New life is freely given through faith in Christ alone. When Christ lives in us then His life will be seen in our attitude, our words; and in everything we do.

September 13

One body in Christ, ministering together.

1 Corinthians 12:7 'But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.'

The word profit is the Greek word 'sumphero' which literally means to 'carry together'. We are one body in Christ, called to build one another up in Christ. We have different roles to fulfill, but when Christ is our life then we are one body in Christ. There is no distinction between clergy and laity. All believers are priests unto God. We minister Christ together: His life; His word; His power. We bring the offerings of a heart filled with thanksgiving and praise; a life filled with love for the Lord Jesus Christ; and a mind set to obey His word and to walk in His ways.

September 14

The beauty of Jesus in the eyes of a worshipper.

Song of Solomon 5:16 'His mouth is most sweet: yes, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.'

Song of Solomon is written for worshippers. It expresses our love for the Lord Jesus Christ. His words bring joy and gladness. The sweetness of His mouth is only known by those who walk in His truth. His loveliness is beyond comparison. He loved us when we were lost and without hope. He looked beyond our unworthiness; took away our unrighteousness; removed our condemnation; and clothed us in the garment of His righteousness. He is more than our Saviour; He is our Beloved. He loved us so that can love Him. What a wonderful Friend we have in Jesus.

September 15

A living sacrifice.

Romans 12:1 'I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.'

Jesus Christ has done all for us. The only response we can rightly make is to worship with our life. We can do nothing to earn His favour. We can never make ourselves worthy. But we can give our life as an offering of love to express our love for Him. We worship Him by keeping ourselves pure from the defilement of the world; we worship by letting His love be seen in everything we do; and we worship as we grow in truth and in Christ.

September 16

Eternal life is a gift.

Romans 6:23 'For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.'

We can do nothing to deserve eternal life. Life is given freely; it is never earned. Eternal life is the gift of God. It is the life of Christ in us; it is union with Him. We know we have eternal life because Jesus gives the freedom to do His will; peace to rest in His care and trust in His promises; joy that delights

in His goodness and looks for His return; and love that fills our innermost being so that His love can be seen in our home; our work, and everywhere we go. It is this love that shows we belong to Jesus.

September 17

He is our anchor that will never fail.

Hebrews 6:19 'Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast,'

All who trust in Christ will never be disappointed. He has accomplished everything for us. He is our anchor that will never fail. We stand in His victory. Sin could not condemn Him; death could not hold Him. He brought us through judgment into everlasting life. In Him all the promises of God are our possession. They will never fail. He is the only foundation that will never be destroyed. In Christ alone we are secure. The world can never know peace that only Jesus gives. His riches no one can ever take away.

September 18

The joy of the disciples was in serving Jesus.

Acts 13:52 'And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.'

The joy of the disciples was in serving Jesus. Opposition could not stop them rejoicing. The love of Christ was their only motivation. They cared for nothing except to be in His will. They feared no one because the Lord was with them. They knew His power working in them was greater than the power of the enemy. They were filled with joy, not because of pleasant and favourable circumstances but because they were the ambassadors of Christ. The joy of the Lord gave them strength to face difficult circumstances. When the world sees this joy in the church then people will want to hear about Jesus.

September 19

True worship.

John 4:23-24 'But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.'

New Testament worship is not led by musicians. We worship with our life and not just with our lips. Worship is a lifestyle involving every area of our life. True worship requires obedience to His word; the love of Christ dwelling in us; and the joy of the Holy Spirit filling our hearts. The Holy Spirit will lead us higher in worship as we grow in Christ and desire to know Him more.

September 20

Effectual prayer comes out of worship in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 4:31 'And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.'

Effectual prayer comes out of worship in the Holy Spirit. We will see prayer answered to the extent that we worship. It can be hard to get believers to come to prayer meetings. Sometimes people attend prayer meetings regularly but their commitment is in attending the prayer meeting. God will not move just because we are committed to the prayer meeting. We need to worship through prayer. When our prayer meeting is the place of worshipful prayer in the Holy Spirit then we will see God move in mighty power on behalf of His people.

September 21

The world will only see the kingdom of God through our lives.

John 3:3 'Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'

The world will only see the kingdom of God through our lives. We are the evidence of the kingdom of God. The gospel must be preached by our words; seen by our lives; and confirmed in the hearts and minds of others by the Holy Spirit. When self sits enthroned in our life then the kingdom of this world is seen. When Christ reigns as Lord then righteousness; peace; and joy will be seen. The world cannot see the kingdom of God but it can recognize the power of God working in the lives of His people.

September 22

The whole counsel of God is always double-edged.

Acts 20:27 'For I have not held back to make known unto you all the counsel of God.'

The whole counsel of God is always double-edged. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ will lead us into His truth. If we have no love for the word of God then we have not experienced the grace of God. The mercy of God will lead us from sin to righteousness. If we have no desire to live a righteous life then it is because we have not received the mercy of God. The love of God will never deny the justice of God. We can only become the recipients of the love of God by receiving the free gift of justification through faith in Jesus Christ alone.