

Daily Verses

April 2012

April 1

Meekness, humility, and love.

Matthew 21:5 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your King comes unto you, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.'

It is with meekness, humility, and love that God's kingdom is established.
Jesus did not fight with the weapons of the world.
The admiration of the crowds faded when He stood alone;
but His love for His people never fades.
His followers become like Him.
They do not fight with anger, hatred, or pride;
love for the King is their only motivation.
When the admiration of the crowd fades away
their love for Christ still continues to increase;
humility leads them to worship;
and meekness leads them to serve.

April 2

Harvesting the wheat.

John 12:24 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone: but if it die, it brings forth much fruit.'

Jesus did not seek to find the religious;
He came to seek those who were lost.
His death took away our sin;
His resurrected life brought forth a harvest of new life.
The presence of God does not dwell in buildings;
the life of Christ dwells in His people.
There is a harvest to be brought in;
a harvest of new life in Christ.
All who will receive Him are part of the harvest.
He does not send His people with a message of condemnation;
He sends us with the message of new life in Jesus.

April 3

The religious leaders envied Jesus.

Mark 15:10 'For he knew that the chief priests had delivered Him for envy.'

The religious leaders envied Jesus because He had wisdom they could not answer;
authority they could not control;

power they could not deny;
boldness they could not overcome;
and truth they could not silence.
He could draw the crowds with His teaching;
and was the defender of those who the religious leaders
regarded as unworthy of the grace of God.
He made disciples out of unlearned and ignorant men;
brought joy and gladness to those considered as outcasts of society;
and was not afraid to expose the hypocrisy
of those who used religion to promote themselves.

April 4

Sifting the wheat.

Luke 22:31 'And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:'

The Lord will never allow us to be tested beyond our growth in Him.
The things we consider our strengths can be our greatest weaknesses.
It is only in the trial that the worthless things in our life
can be separated from the precious wheat of new life in Christ.
Our achievements are not the things the Lord treasures most.
He desires to see the beauty of His character formed in us.
Our failures can become our biggest stepping stones
because they allow the Lord to separate the chaff from the wheat in our life.

April 5

The will of the Father was the way of the Son.

Luke 22:42 '...not My will, but thine, be done.'

The gift of God in Jesus is beyond comprehension.
It was the Father's love that sent His Son.
It was the love of the Son for the Father that willingly obeyed.
The barrier of sin could be broken no other way.
In Gethsemane the will of the Father was the way of the Son.
He held back nothing so that we could be redeemed.
At Calvary the way of the cross became the path to life.
The grave could not hold Him.
He arose for us so that we in Him could be made completely new.
He ascended for us so that we can be seated with Him in heavenly places.
Jesus will return and all who belong to Him will be with Him forever.

He became...

He is the Son of God yet He became Man.
He is holy yet He became sin.

He is eternal life yet He died for us.
He is love yet He became the object of hate.
He is the Mighty God yet He hung in shame and disgrace.
He is peace yet the wrath of God came upon Him.
He is faithful yet He was forsaken.
He is our King; our Saviour; our Friend.
He is the Resurrection and the Life; death could not hold Him.
He is the sinless Son of God; sin could not condemn Him.
He is the great I AM; no power could overcome Him.
He is our Redeemer; our Lord; and our God.

April 6

It is finished.

John 19:30 'He said, It is finished:'

The price was paid;
the victory was won.
Jesus died to wipe away our sin.
The way into the presence of God was opened for us.
We are justified in Him;
made righteous in Him;
a new creation in Him.
It is Christ alone who saves;
Christ alone who justifies.
It is by faith in Christ alone we are righteous.

April 7

Buried with Christ; Risen with Christ.

Romans 6:5 'For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection:'

Our sin is crucified with Christ.
Our guilt and condemnation is buried with Christ.
We are made completely new in Him;
His life is within us;
His love fills us with joy;
when He returns we shall be like Him.

April 8

Did not dare to believe for joy.

Luke 24:41 '...while they still did not believe for joy, and wondered,'

The presence of the risen Jesus filled the disciples with ecstatic joy.

They did not dare to believe because His resurrection brought victory out of defeat;
meaning out of confusion;
purpose out of despair;
and life out of death.
It is by our joy people see He lives in us.

April 9

The resurrected life of Christ dwells within His people.

Colossians 3:1 'If you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God.'

The resurrected life of Christ dwells within His people.
If we do not have His life then we do not have His salvation.
The evidence that we are born again is holiness.
The death of Christ cannot be separated from His resurrection.
Christ died for our sin; He rose again so that we can be united with His life.
Holiness is not achieved; it is received freely in Christ.
Eternal life is union with Christ.
It means He is both Saviour and Lord.
There is no halfway house; salvation in Jesus Christ brings new life.
If we have His life then we must choose daily to let His life be seen in us.

April 10

In Christ is everything we need.

Hebrews 7:25 'Therefore He is able also to save to the uttermost those who come to God by Him, seeing He ever lives to make intercession for them.'

In Christ is everything we need.
He finished the work.
He has separated us from our sin;
reconciled us to God;
united us with His life;
and made us one with the family of God.
We have no need of priest or sacrifice.
Christ alone is our High Priest.
He died for us.
The eternal God is our representative.
We are justified in Him;
righteous in Him;
and by His power we are being changed daily into His likeness.
It is with a heart of love that we joyfully yield our life
as an offering of thanksgiving for His wonderful love towards us.

April 11

You follow Me.

John 21:21-22 'Peter seeing him said to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus said to him ...what is that to you? You follow Me.'

Following the Lord is the way of discipleship.
It is a personal walk;
a personal relationship;
and we have a personal responsibility to be faithful
in fulfilling the work we are called to do.
The Lord uses us in different ways.
We have different personalities.
He puts a greater love in our heart for those He calls us to reach.
If we serve the Lord joyfully in our daily life
then the light of the gospel will shine through us
wherever we are and in whatever we do.
Our life is important because we represent the King.

April 12

In Christ our life has meaning; direction; and responsibility.

Ephesians 2:10 'For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.'

We are created for a purpose.
In Christ Jesus our life has meaning; direction; and responsibility.
He gives us new life freely so we can be His people.
He gives joy so we can serve the Lord with gladness.
He gives us His word so we can walk in His ways.
He lifts us so we can lift others.
He strengthens us so we can stand under pressure.
He gives good works to do
so that the love of Christ will be seen in us.

April 13

Rejoicing in hope.

Romans 12:12 'Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;'

In Christ we have a hope that is certain.
It is not the hope of ignorance; superstition; or vain thinking.
It is a blessed hope; a glorious hope; a steadfast hope; a living hope.
Truth is the foundation of our hope.
The promises of God are the inheritance of our hope.
It is the hope of assurance; experience; and relationship.
We rejoice because our hope can never be taken away.
Jesus Christ alone is our hope.

When we know Jesus as our Saviour and Lord
then this hope is written upon our heart
that one day we shall see Him face to face.

April 14

The word of Christ.

Colossians 3:16 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.'

The desire to know and understand scripture
is a natural part of the Christian life.
It is meat and drink to all who have received new life in Christ.
As we grow in Christ then scripture becomes more precious;
more exciting; and even more wonderful
because the life of Christ dwells in us.
When scripture fills our heart;
and our love for Christ is expressed through praise and thanksgiving
then we are able to teach and encourage others.

April 15

Fellow workers in Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:24 'Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers of your joy: for by faith you stand.'

It is with humility and love that we help each other;
we are one body in Christ.
It is with faithfulness and diligence we serve one another;
we are workers together in Christ.
It is with the word of God, prayer, and by example
that we build one another up;
we stand by faith in Christ alone.
The church that Jesus builds is a living body and not an institution;
it is a family and not a hierarchy;
it worships in spirit and in truth not by rituals or ceremonies;
it is a new creation and not bound by a law it cannot keep.

April 16

Put off the old, put on the new.

1 Peter 2:1 'Therefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking,'

When Christ is our life we must choose to walk in the new life He gives.

It is necessary to put off the old in order to put on the new.
If we seek revenge, we cannot put on the love of Christ.
If we retain bitterness, we cannot put on forgiveness.
Freedom in Christ is the freedom to live above criticism;
to love those who have done us wrong;
and to lay aside the need to defend ourselves.
It is freedom to be the servant of the King;
to be part of the family of the God;
and to be the temple where the Spirit of God can dwell.

April 17

The Christian life is a growing process.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 'And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly;'

It is not by our efforts we are holy; we grow in new life.
We are forgiven because Christ died for us;
we are holy because Christ lives in us.
The Christian life is a growing process.
We learn as children to put on Christ;
to trust in His provision;
and to walk in obedience to His will.
It is His life that works in us;
His power that strengthens us;
and His word that cleanses us in our daily life.
As we grow in grace His righteousness will be our inward joy,
and His love will be our outward expression.

April 18

The gospel is the power of God.

Romans 1:16 'For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes;'

The gospel is not sentimental words; it is the power of God.
It is not an argument to be debated;
it is the power of God to be experienced.
It has the power to bring new life to all who will trust in Jesus;
it will remove the condemnation of sin;
it separates us from the guilt of our sin;
it reconciles us to God;
and unites us with the family of God.
We need never be ashamed of the gospel.
There is no person the gospel cannot lift; no life it cannot change;
and there is nobody who does not need to hear its message.

April 19

New Wine

Luke 5:39 'No man also having drunk old wine straightway desires new: for he says, The old is better.'

The old can keep us from ever tasting the new.
Those who trust in the antiquity of religion
will never know the freedom of new life in Christ.
Those who have a love for doctrine but neglect their love for Christ
will never know the joy of being filled with new wine.
Those who trust in works and seek to earn forgiveness
will never experience the peace that comes through faith in Christ alone.
The new wine is given to those who trust in Jesus and no other;
who love Him above all other;
and desire Him more than any other.

April 20

Abba Father

Romans 8:15 'For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.'

In Christ we are more than forgiven; more than justified;
more than set free from sin; more than reconciled to God;
more than a people blessed of God.
We are part of the household of God; we are family with God;
joint heirs with Christ; children of the King.
There is nothing the Lord has withheld from those who love Him.
We belong to Him; we are His children; His Spirit dwells within us.
We can be fearless even in hard and difficult times
because our heart can cry, Abba Father.

April 21

The pride of life

1 John 2:16 'For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.'

The pride of life is the greatest enemy of the gospel.
It is destructive;
persecution can never destroy the church
but the pride of life is the deadly enemy within the church.
It is defensive;
it regards those who grow in Christ and love His word
as threats instead of blessings.
It is deceptive;
religion is built upon it, and

those who claim to deny it are filled with it.
The only antidote for pride is love for Christ.
The more we love Him; the more we will love His people.

April 22

Our responsibility to stay away from sin

2 Timothy 2:19 'Nevertheless the foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knows those who are His. And, Let every one who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.'

Our foundation is Christ; He saves; He keeps; He provides.
When we trust in Christ, we are owned of God;
we belong to Him; we are His people; His name is upon our life.
The Lord provides the armour we need to stand against the devil;
He keeps us from excessive temptation;
but it is our responsibility to stay away from sin;
to keep His word on our heart;
and to be faithful in serving Him.

April 23

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 building up of a big church;
it is the life of Christ dwelling in His people.
The life of Christ should never be hidden.
Organised religion is built upon appearances;
it hides the light of the gospel;
and brings people into the bondage of a sacramental system
that elevates the power of the priest over the people.
The world does not need organised religion;
it needs new life in Jesus.

April 24

We are accepted in Christ and on no other basis.

Galatians 2:6 'But of those who seemed to be something, (whatever they were, it makes no difference to me: God accepts no man's person:)'

We are accepted in Christ and on no other basis.
The gospel has no respect of persons.
The worst sinner who trusts in Jesus,
even at the last moment of his or her life,

will find forgiveness, peace, and joy in being reconciled to God.
The good living person who trusts in his or her good works
can never be accepted by God on that basis.
It is on Christ and Christ alone we stand.
When we know the joy of salvation
then thankfulness will fill our heart
for all the Lord has done for us.

April 25

Justification is the incredible gift of God.

Romans 5:1 'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:'

Justification is the incredible gift of God.
It means there is no longer any record of any sin against us.
We are reconciled to God; righteous in Christ; and made completely new.
The peace we experience through justification
is the peace of being in right relationship with God.
It is peace that comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone.
The person who seeks to find peace through works will never find it.
The justified person will do good works
because he or she has peace with God.

April 26

Legalism; morality; and religion cannot produce righteousness.

Matthew 5:20 'For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.'

Legalism; morality; and religion cannot produce righteousness.
Christ alone is our righteousness.
His righteousness is credited to us by faith alone.
We are declared righteous through His death on the cross;
we are made righteous through His resurrected life dwelling in us.
It is not our righteousness but His.
In Christ we are set free from the failure of trying to be righteous;
we are brought into the freedom of being righteous
through new life in Jesus.

April 27

The riches of His mercy cannot be drawn from the poverty of our efforts.

Ephesians 2:4 'But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us,'

The riches of His mercy are our inheritance in Christ.
The wisdom of God alone could plan it;
the love of God alone could make it happen;
the grace of God alone could make it available;
and faith in Christ alone makes it possible to receive it.
It cannot be bought at any price;
cannot be earned by any work;
it removes all human effort;
demolishes pride in self righteousness;
and puts everyone on the same level.
God delights to show mercy;
He will not hesitate to show mercy;
His mercy is freely given;
but the riches of His mercy
cannot be drawn from the poverty of our efforts.

April 28

Repentance is the blessing of God.

*2 Corinthians 7:10 'For godly sorrow works repentance to salvation not to be repented of:
but the sorrow of the world works death.'*

Repentance means to change our thinking.
It sees the door of opportunity is wide open; undeserved and freely given.
It looks at sin and says 'no more'.
It looks to Christ and says 'I will arise'.
Sin can only hold us if we remain where we are.
Repentance is the blessing of God.
It is the doorway to freedom;
the path to new life;
the bringing of a new day;
a new beginning.
There is a new start in Christ; new life in Jesus.
It begins with repentance
and without it we can never enter into the blessings
that are ours through faith in Christ Jesus.

April 29

Common Sense and love.

Romans 15:2 'Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.'

The foundation of our faith is immovable.
Standards of righteousness cannot be lowered.
But common sense and love will guard us from making non essentials
into matters of dissension.
Pride never yields; but the love of Christ is willing to yield

on all matters that do not challenge the foundation of our faith or lower the standard of righteousness.

When the love of Christ motivates our actions then we can yield on many issues; there is wonderful freedom in Christ.

We grow in Christ and we must be willing to let the life of Christ grow in others.

April 30

Carefree yet diligent; generous yet trustworthy; hospitable yet prioritizing responsibility.

2 Corinthians 9:8 'And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:'

The Christian life is joyous because the love of Christ motivates our actions.

We are to be carefree yet diligent in all things;

generous yet trustworthy;

hospitable yet prioritising our responsibility.

The Lord gives wisdom so we know what to do and how to do it;

He helps us in our daily life so we are able to help others;

and He gives us the freedom to do all things joyfully.

The Lord stands with us in hard times

so that out of hardship comes opportunity

to let Christ be seen in us.