

“Faithful Stewardship of Earthly Gifts”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 54:4-5, 1-3, 7

Behold, God is my / helper;*
 the Lord is with those who up- / hold my life.
 He will repay my enemies for their / evil.*
 Cut them off / in Your truth.
 Save me, O God, / by Your name,*
 and vindicate me / by Your strength.
 Hear my / prayer, O God;*
 give ear to the words / of my mouth.
 For strangers have risen up a- / gainst me,*
 they have not set God be- / fore them.
 He has delivered me out of all / trouble;*
 and my eye has seen its desire upon my / enemies.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Luke 16:9

“And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.”

7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
One Thing's Needful; Lord, This Treasure

TLH 366, LSB 536

Johann H. Schroeder



1. One thing's needful; Lord this treasure
 Teach me highly to regard;
 All else, though it first give pleasure,
 Is a yoke that presses hard.
 Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striv-
 ing,
 No true, lasting happiness ever deriving.
 The gain of this one thing all loss can requite
 And teach me in all things to find true de-
 light.

6. Wilt thou find this one thing needful,
 Turn from all created things^s
 Unto Jesus and be heedful
 Of the blessed joy He brings.
 For where God and Man both in one are united,
 With God's perfect fullness the heart is de-
 lighted;
 There, there is the worthiest lot and the best,
 My One and my All and my Joy and my Rest.

1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
 In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED
 I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our
 Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
 under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died
 and was buried. He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the
 dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at
 the right hand of God, the Father
 Almighty. From thence He will come to
 judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
 Christian church, the communion of
 saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
 resurrection of the body, and the life
 everlasting. Amen.

3 PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER
 Our Father, who art in
 heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth as it
 is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily
 bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who
 trespass against us;
 and lead us not into
 temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom and
 the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. I thank You, my
 heavenly Father, through Jesus
 Christ, Your dear Son, that You
 have kept me this night from all
 harm and danger; and I pray that
 You would keep me this day also
 from sin and every evil, that all my
 doings and life may please You.
 For into Your hands I commend
 myself, my body and soul, and all
 things. Let Your holy angel be with
 me, that the evil foe may have no
 power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank you, my
 heavenly Father, through Jesus
 Christ, Your dear Son, that You
 have graciously kept me this day;
 and I pray that You would forgive
 me all my sins where I have done
 wrong, and graciously keep me this
 night. For into Your hands, I
 commend myself, my body and
 soul, and all things. Let Your holy
 angel be with me, that the evil foe
 may have no power over me. Amen.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of August 1-7, 2021

THEME OF THE WEEK: Faithful Stewardship of Earthly Gifts

We are strangers in this world. Even though the dark night of sin and sorrow presses in on us, the Lord's Word shows us the way out of this valley of death to our fatherland of light and life. His Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105). Like the saints who have gone before us, we desire "a better country, that is, a heavenly one" (Hebrews 11:6). There we will reign alongside Christ as members of the royal household, adopted by grace (2 Timothy 2:12). What is this world to us? Instead of hoarding this world's treasures, we generously and liberally use them to aid our heavenward journey and to aid journeys of our neighbors.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:1-9 "Shrewd"

With nothing to lose, you are free to use what you have in service to what you love. You do not hold anything back because you know what is coming next. This is the unrighteous manager's lesson. His master's money means nothing to him anymore. He uses the resources that he has to prepare a future place for himself. In the same way, we should use our failing mammon wisely where it matters, to support the ministry of the eternally saving Word. God be praised that Christ has prepared eternal dwellings for you and all the saints. Why not pay your pastor? Why not support a seminarian? The Christians God saves through your generosity will receive into their joyous presence. *Grant me a generous heart to support the ministry of Your Word, O Lord. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:65-72 (TETH) "Good for Me"

We have these preconceptions of what the Bible says that cause our eyes to scan the text without actually reading it. Too often we miss the Holy Spirit's depth, riches, and wisdom. Take, for instance, this surprising statement from our reading, "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your Word." Affliction is good and helps us keep the Law? That doesn't seem right, especially since our society has taught us to worship bodily satisfaction and comfort. And that is the problem. Our flesh is so steeped in idolatry that it needs denial and discipline so the saint can "keep the Word" by fearing God and learning to love eternal treasures. God be praised for afflictions that discipline and bless us. *Grant me patience to bear the cross, O Lord. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 10:6-13 "Examples for Us"

A house divided cannot stand (Mark 3:25). The same is true of the human heart. We have this idea that we can serve two masters, both the priorities of the world and our heavenly Father. We are tempted to divide our time on Sundays so the kids can play with their traveling sports team, assuming they will catch up on Catechism and church stuff later. It is not that we are shouting that we hate God. It is just hard to fit church into the list of other priorities. Remember Israel. Remember their folly. Their hearts were divided over sexuality, the desire for Egyptian comfort, and for better leaders. Because they devoted themselves to the world and their flesh, they could not enter the promised land. *Unite my heart to fear Your name and forgive me for Christ's sake. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 "Yours, O Lord..."

When David prays at the end of his life, you can tell that by much suffering and affliction, he has gained true wisdom and godly desire. What precious gifts! He gained wisdom to see that all things belong to God and we have nothing apart from His merciful generosity. He also gained godly desire to give all things back to the God from whom they came, both his soul in death and his treasure in building the temple from which God would preach the Gospel to His people. Such wisdom and godly desire are hard for the flesh to accept which is why we should pray for a life full of years so that our hearts would be prepared like David's to give to God what belongs to Him and to desire to depart this life in saving faith and peace. *Grant me wisdom, O Lord. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:32-48 "Like Men Who Are Waiting"

Whether you are a mother, father, husband, wife, son, daughter, or worker, Jesus has given you things to do. According to your calling as Christian, you are to hear the Word and believe it. According to your calling as parent, you are to bring your kids up in the Lord's Word and feed them sometimes. According to your calling as pastor, you are to preach the Word boldly and without fear. If you are a son or daughter, obey. Jesus calls us blessed if He finds us working when He comes back on the Last Day. But woe to us if we give in to sloth and abuse. Thanks be to God! The Lord provides the wakefulness of faith to watch for His coming, to be about our duties, and to receive His return with joy. *Grant me wakefulness to wait with faith and hope, O Lord. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:3-14 "The Aim of Our Charge"

Besides positively speaking the truth, pastors must also identify and fight back against error. If human wisdom is allowed to drown out the Spirit's, then Gospel is invariably turned to Law, grace to works, and Christ into another law-giver. That is why we stick to the pure doctrine handed down to us from the prophets and evangelists which Christ calls His own Word (Luke 10:16) and the foundation for your saving faith and the whole church (Matthew 7:24; 16:18). If the pastor is faithful, three things happen. Love pours out from good hearts. Consciences become good by resting in the knowledge of Christ's atoning sacrifice. The saints gain a sincere faith that holds fast to Christ alone. *Preserve Your saving Word among us, O Lord. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139 "You Know"

This psalm is a prayer to the Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer of the saints. Knowing God is everywhere and involved in everything can create two distinct reactions depending on the state of one's conscience. If your conscience is bad, troubled by guilt and shame, God's presence is terrifying. He brings judgment and wrath. But if your conscience is good, put at peace by the knowledge of Jesus' sufficient sacrifice and His intercession for us with the Father, then God's presence is comfort and help. God be praised! Through baptism we have inherited the sonship from God, not wrath and destruction. God's presence, because he has been reconciled to us through His Son's blood, only gives joy and peace. *Lead me in the way everlasting! Amen.*

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