

Bible Reading — Week 5

You may have noticed in last week's list (and continuing in this week's list) that there are *not* 51 verses per day — some days will actually be a little *less than* fifty-one and some days will be a little *more*.

I had used a Bible program to make the automatic divisions for the first three weeks, then I noticed how often we'd be stopping the day's reading right smack dab in the middle of a wonderful context! This is unacceptable; so to remedy this I'm using the Bible program *as a basic guide* and either cutting back or extending the reading to fit contexts. —Jamey

- Sunday | Mark 9:30 – 10:31
- Monday | Mark 10:32 – 11:26
- Tuesday | Mark 11:27 – 12:44
- Wednesday | Mark 13:1 – 14:11
- Thursday | Mark 14:12-65
- Friday | Mark 14:66 – 15:47
- Saturday | Mark 16:1 – Luke 1:38

Thank you to **KEVIN HEATON** and **JERAD BLACK** for preaching here in my place while we're in Huntsville, Alabama. Today I am finishing a weekend gospel meeting with the Chapman Acres congregation. Roger Blackwelder is their preacher.

Beginning Next Sunday

Northeast Church of Christ • High Springs on Highway 340 • **JOHN ZELLNER** is doing the preaching Monday – Wednesday @ 7:30 PM.

Birthdays

Amy Henderson (*Monday*) • Don Foley (*Tuesday*) • Essielene Henderson (*Tuesday*)

Church of Christ

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in beautiful Chiefland, Florida
PO Box 2539, Chiefland FL 32644 • (352) 493-1242

THINGS REVEALED

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

— Colossians 3:1-2 —

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ELDERS Buddy Johnson • Devoise Lord

DEACONS Tony Beach • H.C. Henderson • Jerry Smith

PREACHER Jamey Hinds

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Our Attitude Toward the Lost

By Rick Liggin

What is your attitude toward the lost toward those separated from God because of their sin? As Christians, we are in hot pursuit of right-eousness (2 Tim. 2:22); we “abhor what is evil” and “cling to what is good” (Rom. 12:9). Our attitude toward sin is that we “hate every false way,” no matter what form it takes (Psa. 119:104). And to be quite honest, this approach to sin — which, frankly, is the right approach — sometimes affects the way we feel about those engrossed in sin. We get to where we not only despise the sin, but we also despise the sinner.



This clearly was the attitude of the self-righteous Jew in Jesus' day. The Pharisees were particularly bad about trusting "in themselves that they were righteous," while they "despised others" (Lk. 18:9). You can almost hear the contempt in their voices as they referred to certain "types" as "tax-gatherers and sinners" (Lk. 15:1-2; cf. 7:39).

Is that the way *we* see sinners? Oh, we may not be self-righteous like the hypocritical Pharisees, but do we sometimes look down our noses at those who are drowning in sin? Hopefully not! But what should our attitude be toward the lost? As with almost everything for the Christian, the answer lies in the example of our Lord.

I am so amazed at the attitude Jesus manifested toward those who were lost. On at least two different occasions, Jesus looked out over a multitude of lost people and yet He did not see them as rebellious, vile sinners, deserving of eternal damnation. That certainly may have been what they really were, but that definitely is not the way Jesus saw them! Instead, the text says that, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd" (Matt. 9:36; cf. Mk. 6:34). He saw them, not as despicable sinners who were getting their "just deserts," but as people weighed down with the heavy burden of sin; as folks who were beat up and scared; as frightened sheep without direction and lost, hopelessly lost.

Now *that's* the way you and I ought to see sinners! We ought to feel compassion for them and be sympathetic toward

their condition because, after all, *we too are sinners!* Forgiven, yes, but sinners, none-the-less. And that compassion ought to move us to respond to them in exactly the same way Jesus did. He didn't back away from them in disgust or turn from them apathetically. Instead, "He began to teach them many things" (Mk. 6:34).

Man, how impressive is that! No scolding! No saying, "I told you so!" No beating them down further when they were already as low as it gets. Just teaching and giving them what they needed to lift them up and out of their distress and out of their lost and undone condition. Folks, when you and I begin to see sinners the way Jesus did, maybe then we too will begin to teach. Maybe then, we too will hunger for lost souls and make diligent efforts to spread the message of salvation.

It is for this very reason that you and I need to adopt the same attitude that Jesus had toward sinners — not just because it's the right way to think — but also because it is the attitude that will help motivate us to greater evangelistic efforts (Matt. 28:18-20). And after all, isn't that why Jesus came to earth in the first place — "to seek and to save that which was lost" (cf. Lk. 19:10)? You know it is! And thank God He did, for without that attitude without His kind compassion and loving care we would all still be lost hopelessly lost!

Via Think on These Things,

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