



A different format this week: an opening prayer; bible readings with reflection pointers; some suggestions for hymns and Paul's prayer to Ephesus (and Leeds) to finish with. Expect to meet God as you worship in your home.

A gathering prayer:

Lord, you once met a woman by a well at lunchtime*. Your conversation broke many social and religious barriers {man/woman..rabbi /Samaritan}. Topics covered included a drink (and living water), where to worship and how to worship and the knowledge you had of her lifestyle. After meeting you she went and told her friends, bringing them back to meet you personally.

In the quiet of my home may I meet with you today, talk with you and realise your complete knowledge of me. May I worship in 'spirit and in truth'.... show me your all - encompassing love for me and forgive me when I put up barriers between myself and you. May I be given the words to share you with others, just like the woman at the well. Amen. {*}John chapter 4}

Psalm 1:v 1-2 {in various versions}: to be happy /joyful and blessed you must NOT:

Walk in step with the wicked; walk in the ruts of those 'blind-as-bats' or walk in the counsel of the wicked (following their advice and counsel).

Stand in the way that sinners take; stand with the good-for-nothings; stand in the path of sinners; follow the example of sinners.

Sit in the company of mockers; take your seat among the know-it-alls; sit in the seat of scoffers; sit down to rest in the seat of scoffers /ridiculers or join those who have no use for God.

*So the 'happy /joyful/blessed' delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it by day and night (v3). They are **rooted** (well watered by a flowing stream) rather than **rootless** (like chaff)..*

It would seem that it matters where you walk, stand and sit. I reckon that is all of us; most of the day; apart from when we are asleep in bed.

Read the whole Psalm to get the contrast between the *righteous* and the *wicked*.

So it seems that meditating on God's word is important.

PSALM 119 mentions scripture in 171 of its 176 verses. It is the 'bible' Psalm. We may be unaware that there are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet and this Psalm is an acrostic; having 22 units of 8 verses each as it portrays our relationship with the word of God. Its key sentence is in v 105 "your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

*Look up verses 14, 72 and 127 to see how valuable God's word is.

*Look up 144,151,156 and 160 (nearness, truth and life).

*Look up verses 1,3,5,30,32,33,35,45,59,101,102, 104 and 118 and see the references to paths /ways and the right direction to travel in your life.

*I haven't enough space to list the verses that talk of meditating, observing, seeking, learning from, being taught by and speaking to others of God's word. *Take time to read it through slowly: it would be difficult to miss the point that God's word is important for your very life.*

*If you don't understand your car you can buy a 'Haynes Manual'.

*'Microsoft Word for Dummies' may help you work your computer better.

*The 'Idiots Guides' series to..... claims to make things simple.

***Timothy** writes about the bible (his second letter, chapter 3 v 16-17) " All scripture is God-breathed{given by divine inspiration} and is profitable for instruction, for conviction{of sin}, for correction{of error and restoration to obedience}, for training in righteousness{learning to live in conformity to God's will both publically and privately- behaving honourably with personal integrity and moral courage}: so the *person following* God may be complete and proficient, outfitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work. (Amplified version).

John 6 v 68/69: **Simon Peter** answered "Lord, to whom shall we go? You {alone} have the words of eternal life {you are our only hope}."

Jesus {John 6 v 68/69} “ It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh conveys no benefit{is of no account}.The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life (providing eternal life}”.

A very big, WOW, ‘sending prayer’ from Paul to Leeds via Ephesus.{Ephesians 3 v 14-21}

(*) Each one of NINE parts to Paul’s prayer for YOU and your family

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, *he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his spirit, and that *Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, *as you are being rooted {as in Psalm 1} and grounded in love.

I pray that you may *have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to *know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be *filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him *who by the power at work within us *is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,

***to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. AMEN.**

Hymns:

Break, thou the bread of life H+Ps 467 StF 153

Your words to me are life and health H+Ps 482 StF 164

May the mind of Christ my saviour H+Ps 739 StF 504

Worship should always contain:

PRAISE

{I say "thank you"}

CONFESSION

{I say "sorry"}

GOD'S WORD

{ God speaks to us through the bible} and

RESPONSE

{so what?.....so what do I say or do now?}

Have a good week:

*strengthened in your faith, rooted in his love, knowing /exploring the
bigness of God, fully filled up with his love and realising his power can
accomplish more than we ever imagined.*

Keep reading the textbook or you don't know

just how good this can be!!