

Bible Teaching Program

Daily verses

November 2012

November 1

The kingdom of God is seen by the life of Christ in us.

Romans 14:17 'For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.'

The kingdom of God is seen to be in us by the life of Christ working in us.

We know we are citizens of His kingdom because His Spirit dwells in us.

The fact we are Christians is not seen by what we eat or do not eat; or what we drink or do not drink.

It is seen by the fruit of His Spirit working in our life.

What we are on the inside will be seen on the outside.

When Christ is our righteousness then peace will be our constant companion; and joy will be our possession.

There is freedom in Christ.

November 2

Love your enemies; the antidote to extremism.

Matthew 5:44 'But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you, and persecute you;'

Whatever the Lord asks His people to do,

He will also give the strength to do it.

When Christ is our life then we can love those who wrong us because His love in us is supernatural.

It is the antidote to extremism and the guard against wrong reactions.

It is the path of reconciliation and the doorway to peace.

If we choose to let His love control our actions then our joy will remain.

If we seek revenge then the satisfaction we acquire will not last and only regret will remain in our heart.

November 3

The Lamb is the Shepherd.

Revelation 7:17 'For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them to living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

The Lamb is the Shepherd.

Humility reached down to us; love lifted us.

Jesus gave Himself for us so that we can be His people.

There is no other Shepherd like Jesus.

He leads us in the way of life.
He fills us with His peace.
He feeds us with His word.
He fills us with His Spirit.
He hears the prayers of His people.
He will bring joy out of sadness and will wipe away our tears.
Rulers may hold power for a moment but Jesus will reign for ever.

November 4

The life of the vine is in the branches.

John 15:1 'I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.'

The life of the vine is in the branches.
Religion cannot produce life; and works alone cannot produce fruit.
Christ is the true vine.
He gives life to all who receive Him.
Fruitfulness is produced by growth.
We grow in Christ through His word;
through experience; and through fellowship.
The circumstances of our life are the pruning shears in the Father's hand.
He will make fruitfulness abound in our life.
It is this fruit that the Father delights in.
It is this fruit that enables the character of Jesus to be seen in us.
When His love, His joy, and His peace abound in us
then people will want to know more about Jesus.

November 5

Anger towards sin must be controlled by love.

Ephesians 4:26 'Be angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:'

Anger towards sin must be controlled by love.
If anger is kept in our heart
then it will hold our thoughts in its grasp.
If we react in anger then sin will control us.
If we let love control our anger
then we will master our emotions;
we will find the freedom to move on with our life;
it will allow the Holy Spirit to bring conviction
upon those who wrong us;
and it will let others see that Christ is alive in us.
The Lord is our peace and our joy.
He watches over us.
We are free to pray for those who wrong us
because He is our defender.

November 6

It is our reliance upon His strength that endures.

Hebrews 10:36 'For you have need of endurance, that, after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.'

It is not our strength that must endure;
it is our reliance upon His strength working in us that endures.
The Christian life requires character; steadfastness; and determination.
Character is formed by the fruit of the Spirit growing in us;
steadfastness is produced by His power working in us;
and discipleship requires determination
to know His word and to walk in His ways.
It is not easy to take the pressure;
or to remain steadfast in the midst of opposition;
but the reality of our faith will only be seen by endurance.
It is because Christ lives in us that we know we can endure.

November 7

Humility will have faith in Christ alone.

1 Peter 5:6 'Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.'

There is a danger that self-reliance will fill our heart with pride
and the need of our heart can remain covered over by temporal prosperity.
If we humble ourselves
then we will be kept from the deception of our own heart.
Humility enables us to see the depth of our need
and helps us recognise our inability to lift ourselves.
Pride looks to our own efforts but humility looks to Christ.
The Lord allows us to be humbled so that He can lift us.
In Christ humility becomes the path to greatness.
Humility will have faith in Christ alone
and trusts in the greatness of His provision.

November 8

Increasing in knowledge; growing in new life; moving into greater experience in Christ.

Hebrews 6:1 'Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection;'

The Christian life is more than forgiveness from sin and eternal life.
We must never let go of the basic principles of our faith
but having entered into them we should be increasing in knowledge;
growing in new life;

and moving into a greater depth of experience in Christ.
We need to be diligent to read and understand scripture
so that we know who we are in Christ
and all He has done for us;
we need to ensure we continue to grow in Him
so the truth of the gospel is evident in our daily life;
and having received new life we should always desire to know Him more.

November 9

The Christian life is not a debate over words.

2 Timothy 2:14 'Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, to the destruction of the hearers.'

The Christian life is always productive; it is not a debate over words.
In Christ we are brought into right relationship with God;
we receive new life that gives power to live for Him;
we have faith that enables us to overcome in every situation;
and we have assurance because the Holy Spirit dwells in us.
The greatest evidence of the truth of the gospel is the life of Christ
dwelling in the hearts and lives of His people.
We declare the truth of the gospel by His peace;
His life, His love, and His power in our lives.

November 10

We are called to remembrance.

Luke 22:19 'And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me.'

We remember all that Jesus Christ has done for us
because our faith is in Christ alone.
Conceit is replaced by thankfulness
because without Him we were lost and without hope;
pride is replaced by humility
because the Son of God gave Himself for us;
despondency is changed to joy
because we stand not in our righteousness but in the righteousness of Christ;
despair is turned to wonder
because of His great love towards us;
and the concerns of a self-centred life are removed
because we are one body in Christ.

November 11

Our fight is to remain steadfast in the freedom we have in Christ.

Galatians 5:1 'Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.'

In Christ we are brought into the freedom of new life.
We do not fight to gain our freedom;
our fight is to remain steadfast in the freedom we have.
We must put on Christ so we are not drawn into the bondage of self-effort.
His righteousness sets us free from the bondage of trying to be righteous.
His love sets us free from the bondage of trying to keep the law.
His Spirit sets us free from the bondage of trying to overcome selfish desire.
The armour of God is given to us so we can stand in the freedom we have in Christ.

November 12

The importance of the hour in which we live.

Romans 13:11 'And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.'

We need always to keep in mind the importance of the hour in which we live.
Jesus will return.
Each day draws us closer to His appearing.
Our daily life is filled with opportunities
to show our treasure is in Christ and not in the world.
Everything we do can be a testimony of who we are in Christ.
It is more important to let Christ be seen in us
than to gain great wealth or respect.
The joy we have in serving Jesus
is the greatest testimony of our love for Him.
It will one day be our greatest triumph.

November 13

It is by a life of worship that love for Christ is clearly seen.

John 9:38 'And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped Him.'

When we have experienced the power of the gospel in our life
then our response should be worship.
True worship is more than words; worship involves our entire life.
It is the expression of a heart filled with the love of Christ.
When we give ourselves in worship
then obedience to His word is no longer a duty
but the outworking of His love in us.
Our worship will be seen by our love for one another;
by our concern for those who do not know Christ;
by our love for His word;
and by our desire to know Him more.
It is by a life of worship that our love for Christ is clearly seen.

November 14

The purpose of the church is to be light in the world.

Revelation 2:1 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands;'

The church is the living body of Christ; it is not surrounded by walls.

The church is the people and not an institution.

It is Christ dwelling in the midst of His people.

The purpose of the church is to be light in the world.

The light of the gospel will be hid if we are side-tracked by other things.

Our need is to let Christ and His word shine in our lives.

Christ is the foundation of the church;

He is the life of the church;

He is the purpose of the church;

and He must be the desire of the church.

November 15

The love of Christ is the only rightful motivation of the church.

Revelation 2:4 'Nevertheless I have somewhat against you, because you have left your first love.'

The love of Christ is the only rightful motivation of the church.

We can become so occupied with the activities of the Christian life that they overshadow our love for Christ.

We then become hard because

we have a determination not built upon the love of Christ.

He must always be our first love.

When Christ is in our heart then love; faith; and hope are evident in our life.

The love of Christ working through us;

a living faith trusting in His protection and provision;

and hope making us steadfast in every situation and circumstance.

Our certain hope is that we shall see Jesus and we shall be with Him forever.

November 16

Partakers of Christ and not just followers of Christ.

Revelation 2:7 'He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches; To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.'

The tree of life is Christ.

Christianity is union with Christ.

We only know Him through experiential knowledge.

The Holy Spirit enables us to be partakers of Christ

and not just followers of Christ.

Doctrinal truth can lead us to Christ

but Christianity is more than doctrine.
It is new life.
Defending doctrinal truth against error is not enough.
Acceptance of the truth of the gospel is not enough.
We must experience Him.
If we love His word then we will desire His presence in our life.

November 17

We are not to be timid, cowardly; or fearful.

2 Timothy 1:7 'For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.'

In Christ we can be courageous in every circumstance.
We can be confident in uncertain times.
We can speak with authority when there seems nowhere to turn.
We can have boldness in the face of hostile opposition.
We are not to be timid, cowardly; or fearful.
We trust not in our strength but in the Lord's.
His word is our mighty fortress.
He gives us power to do His will;
He fills our heart with His love
so we need never react in a wrong manner;
and He gives us wisdom and understanding
so we need never be afraid of the things we may face.

November 18

We can trust in His works and walk in His ways.

Revelation 15:3 'And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Your works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Your ways, You King of saints.'

His works on our behalf are mighty.
He did the impossible for us.
In Christ the unjustifiable are justified:
the unrighteous are made righteous:
the sinner is made a child of the living God:
and those dead in the bondage of sin
are brought into the freedom of eternal life.
His ways are perfect.
He leads us in righteousness.
He puts His Spirit within us
so that we can be the people He has created us to be.
We can trust in His works and walk in His ways.

November 19

The fear of the Lord is a righteous fear that draws us to Christ.

Revelation 15:4 'Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? for You only are holy: for all nations shall come and worship before You; for Your judgments are made manifest.'

The fear of the Lord is a righteous fear that draws us to Christ.
It removes the glamour of sinful pleasures and reveals the ugliness of sin.
It stands in awe of the holiness of God
and desires His character to be seen in us.
It brings joy because the life of Christ dwells within His people.
It is with the love of Christ we are able to worship Him.
We put on Christ so our life reflects the beauty of His holiness;
and our life becomes a living sacrifice through which His glory shines.

November 20

Blessed; reviled; persecuted; falsely spoken against.

Matthew 5:11 'Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.'

It is not for Christians to revile; persecute; or speak falsely against others.
We are blessed and we carry this blessing to all who will receive Christ.
If we elevate ourselves and seek our own desires
then the world will recognise itself in us.
If we love Christ more than the pleasures of the world
then it will see we are different.
We will be reviled when faithfulness to Christ
means more than the prosperity of the world;
we will be persecuted when truth
means more than friendship with the world;
and we will be falsely spoken against
when obedience to Christ means more than personal advantage.

November 21

We do not seek persecution but we rejoice in it.

Matthew 5:12 'Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets who were before you.'

Persecution associates us with those who have been mighty for Christ.
We do not seek persecution
but we rejoice in it because we serve the Lord Jesus Christ.
Our joy sets us free from concern regarding the hostility of others.
Love for Christ is everything.
We are free to bless those who curse us;

free to love those who hate us;
and free to pray for those who would injure us.
The shame we suffer now will be as jewels when we see Jesus.
He is the eternal Son of God
yet He gladly suffered the hatred of man
because of His love for us.

November 22

Love, the character of Christ revealed through the life of the Christian.

1 John 4:7 'Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God.'

The evidence of new life in Christ is His love dwelling in us.
It is supernatural love.
It is the character of Christ revealed through the life of the Christian.
We are able to distinguish genuine faith by this love.
It is pure and holy.
It is righteous and has no selfish ambition.
It does not seek recognition from the world.
It seeks only to do His will and to obey His word.
The more we grow in the Christian life,
the more His love will be seen working in us.
It reveals His hand upon our life;
and shows we belong to Jesus.

November 23

Supernatural joy that can only be known by experience.

1 John 1:4 'And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.'

The joy of the Christian is in Christ and Christ alone.
We rejoice because He is eternal life.
We are united with Him.
His life dwells in us.
Our joy is in His word and all He has done for us.
We rejoice because He is our righteousness.
All that we are is in Him.
Our joy is in His presence with us.
We can endure hardship because His power works in us.
We can rest in Him because we trust in His promises;
His purpose; and His provision.
Our joy is that we shall see Jesus.
He fills us with supernatural joy.
It is the joy that can only be known by experience.

November 24

Peace that rests in Christ

2 Thessalonians 1:2 'Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.'

We have peace with God because we are a new creation in Christ.
We have peace with one another because His love fills our heart and mind.
We have peace with ourselves because
His grace lifted us; His grace keeps us; and His grace leads us on.
The world cannot know this peace.
It is peace that rests in Christ;
trusts in His promises;
and depends upon His care and provision.
It will keep us from the anxieties and fears of the world.
When Christ is our life
then His peace is able to keep us from making wrong decisions.
It is our possession in Christ; we must put it on daily.

November 25

Diligence is the hallmark of faith.

2 Peter 1:5 'And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;'

Diligence is the hallmark of faith.
We trust in the finished work of Jesus alone for salvation
and because of this we are diligent to let His life be seen in us.
There are many who confess Christ
but seek only the temporal blessings of health; wealth; and happiness.
The evidence that a person has experienced salvation in Jesus Christ
is diligence to put on Christ and to grow in Him.
We put on Christ by walking in new life
and by not allowing any place in our life for wrongful and selfish desires.
We grow in Christ through knowledge of the scriptures;
by obeying His will;
and through Christian fellowship.

November 26

Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit that grows in us.

2 Peter 1:6 'And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;'

Self-control is an essential part of the life of faith.
It has nothing to do with willpower
or human ability that achieves great acts of self-denial.
Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit.
It grows in us as we learn to walk in new life.

It is not achieved by our efforts; it is His power not ours.
Self-control lets the love of Christ control all our actions.
In Christ we have freedom to be sons and daughters of the living God.
Self-control enables us to stand in the freedom He gives.
It sets us free from the power of every habit
that does not glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

November 27

It is necessary to continuously remind ourselves of scripture and to obey it.

2 Peter 1:12 'Therefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though you know them, and be established in the present truth.'

It was grace alone that brought us into new life in Christ
but it is our responsibility to walk in the new life He gives.
It is necessary to continuously remind ourselves of scripture and to obey it.
We must continuously forgive those who hurt us;
we must continuously let His love be seen in us;
we must continuously keep ourselves
from the destructive pleasures of a sinful nature.
It is not enough to have forgiven yesterday;
we must continue to forgive today.
In Christ we have all we need to overcome but we must put it on daily.

November 28

Scripture is only words until the light of the gospel shines within us.

2 Peter 1:19 'We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto you do well that you take heed, as unto a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.'

Scripture is only words until the light of the gospel shines within us.
Our eyes must be opened so the words can come alive in our heart,
and theory becomes our living experience.
It is like the day dawning so we can enter into the reality of scripture.
We may know that we are a new creation in Christ;
the temple of the Holy Spirit;
the dwelling place of the living God;
but when the reality of this truth burns within us
then it will revolutionise our life.

November 29

Watchful, steadfast, courageous, and strong.

1 Corinthians 16:13 'Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.'

Being watchful means taking care so that the affections of our heart are not side-tracked by the attractions of the world. It means being careful to keep our heart filled with the love of Christ and fixing our mind upon His word. We stand fast in the faith by standing upon Christ and all He has done for us. Christ alone is the rock of our salvation. He gives us the boldness to live for Him and the strength to do His will. If we trust in our own ability then we will be discouraged and fail. But when we trust in His strength then He will keep us from discouragement and we shall never fail.

November 30

We all have a ministry to fulfil.

Colossians 4:17 'And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you fulfil it.'

The words spoken to Archippus can be applied to all who have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. We all have a ministry to fulfil. Everything we do is important because we are linked together as one body in Christ. It is our responsibility to stand in the right place, fulfilling our ministry, and not trying to stand in the place of someone else. Humility and love are essential ingredients for a successful ministry. Humility will keep us from elevating ourselves and from not appreciating the importance of others. Love will keep us from wrong motivations. Our love for Christ is seen by faithfulness and diligence.

Stephen Dulwich