

PRAY EVERY DAY August 15, 2021 Resource

Imitating God from Ephesians 5:1-2 (NRSV)

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians from Ephesians 3:14-21 (NRSV)

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 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 glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2021 Challenge (Genesis to Revelation)

August 16: Jeremiah 14 - 17

August 20: Jeremiah 30 - 31

August 17: Jeremiah 18 - 22

August 21: Jeremiah 32 - 34

August 18: Jeremiah 23 - 25

August 22: Jeremiah 35 - 37

August 19: Jeremiah 26 - 29

Small Group or personal study

Read Ephesians 5:15-20

- Verses 15-16 encourage us to live wisely “making the most of the time, because the days are evil.” Rather than retreating or giving in to evil, there are all kinds of opportunities in God to love like Jesus loves (vv. 1-2). How can you make the most of some of your time today to love God and love your neighbor?
- Verse 17 says to “understand what the will of the Lord is.” What are some of the things you already know about what Jesus did and directed disciples to do? What is one of those things Jesus would have you understand and do at this time in your life?
- We are also encouraged to “be filled with the Holy Spirit”. What things have been filling your life and time (thinking, tasks, words, music, recreation, desires)? How are you making space to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- Verse 19 says “sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts.” That is more than just singing a tune, but includes singing praise to Jesus our hearts. Choose a hymn or song of faith to listen to and sing today. Choose one for this week to be a theme song for you or choose a different song each day. This is one way of “making the most of the time” by singing praise to God.
- Verse 20 gives a special challenge and opportunity of “giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” As God gives good things, as Jesus Christ loves us today, and as the Holy Spirit is right where we are there is something to give thanks for in all places and times. Giving thanks shines a light on how near is God, good gifts, and the holy. Take a few minutes to give thanks for the blessings God gives and for how God’s presence, providence, and grace are with you now.

Spend time in silence
Prayer for others and yourself
The Lord's Prayer

Share the Love of Jesus because It's All about Relationships

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share it this week in small group for support and prayer.

A Blessing from Ephesians 6:23-24 (NRSV)

Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.