

## *Good News Daily*

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### **Sunday, April 11**

John 14:1-7 *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (v.6 NIV)

This is one of my favorite Scripture verses of all time. It answers the question about how many make it to the Father and how do they do it. Let's read verse 6 again. It does not say all, or many, or some, or a few; but it *does* say none—that is no one except through Jesus. That's correct, none—not one, zip, zilch, zero—except through Jesus. He is the only one who is perfect, an atoning sacrifice, justifying, who lovingly died for your sins and mine past, present, and future.

That means you must believe in his incarnation, crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. Then to top it all off, he's coming back for us to take us to heaven to live with him, the Father, and Holy Spirit eternally. Your life may not have been the easiest in this life, but it is only temporary. The best is yet to be and the retirement plan is out of this world. The next time you are in a funk, ponder that.

Isaiah 43:8-13; Psalms 146, 147; 1 Peter 2:2-10

### **Monday, April 12**

1 John 1:1-10 *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* (vv.8-9)

What does it mean to be without sin? Just to eliminate doubt up front, none of us are without sin. If we were, why did Jesus have to die such brutal death? To "have sin" means to be guilty of sinful acts. We have all sinned and will do so again.

If we confess our sins, an honest acknowledgment of one's sins is a prerequisite for forgiveness. God is faithful to His promises when He forgives His people, and He is also just when doing so because He sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for sins.

When God forgives people, He no longer holds their sins against them; He cancels their debt. It's not about who we are. It's about what He has done. It's not about what we have done. It's about who He is.

So, are we sinners because we sin? Or do we sin because we are sinners? Ponder that.

Daniel 1:1-21; Psalms 1, 2, 3; John 17:1-11

### **Tuesday, April 13**

1 John 2:1-11 *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.* (vv.1-2)

John reminded his readers of the Old Testament concept. Exodus and Leviticus are replete with atonement sacrifices for various sins. There are many examples that foreshadow the coming of Jesus, who is the ultimate atonement for sin—not just your sins and mine, but for the whole world.

If Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for the whole world, does that mean everyone spends eternity with him? I say no. If everyone spends eternity with him, why did he have to die as the atoning sacrifice? Jesus is the personal Savior. "No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). God the Father has no grandchildren. There is no corporate plan for salvation. Ponder that.

Daniel 2:1-16; Psalms 5, 6; John 17:12-19

### **Wednesday, April 14**

Psalm 119:1-24 *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, LORD; teach me your decrees.* (vv.11-12)

Psalm 119 is both the longest psalm and the longest chapter in the Bible. We are drowning in a sea of impurity. Everywhere we look we find temptations to lead impure lives.

Here is a question that troubles us all. How do you stay pure in a filthy environment? We cannot do this on our own, but must have counsel and strength more dynamic than the tempting influences around us. Where do we find that strength and wisdom? You are correct—by reading God’s word and doing what it says. Keeping God’s word in our heart is a deterrent to sin. We must also put God’s word to work in our lives, making it a vital guide in everything we do.

Most of us chafe under rules, for we think they restrict us from doing what we want. At first glance, then, it may seem strange to hear the psalmist talk of rejoicing in following God’s statutes as much as great riches. But God’s laws were to free us to be all He wants us to be. They restrict us from doing what might cripple us and keep us from being our best. God’s guidelines help us to follow His path and avoid paths that lead to destruction. Ponder that.

Daniel 2:17-30; 1 John 2:12-17; John 17:20-26

#### **Thursday, April 15**

1 John 2:18-29 *Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.* (vv.22-23)

All antichrists are liars. But not all liars are antichrists. Apparently, the antichrists in John’s day were claiming faith in God while denying and opposing Christ. To do so is firmly impossible, John says. Because Jesus is God’s Son and the Messiah, to deny Christ is to reject God’s way of revealing Himself to the world. A person who accepts Christ as God’s Son, however, accepts God as the Father at the same time.

The two are one at the same time. The two are one and cannot be separated. Many cultists today call themselves Christians, but they deny that Jesus is divine. We must expose these heresies and oppose their teachings so that weak believers among such teachings will not succumb to their teachings. Ponder that.

Daniel 2:31-49; Psalm 18:1-20; Luke 3:1-14

#### **Friday, April 16**

1 John 3:1-10 *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.* (v.1)

As believers, our self-worth is based on the fact that God loves us and calls us His children. We are His children *now*, not just some time in the distant future. Knowing that we are His children should encourage us to live as Jesus did.

The Christian life is a process called sanctification—becoming more and more like Christ. This will not happen fully until we see him face to face, but knowing that it is our ultimate destiny should motivate us to purify ourselves. To purify means to keep morally straight, free from the corruption of sin. Ponder that.

Daniel 3:1-18; Psalms 16, 17; Luke 3:15-22

#### **Saturday, April 17**

Luke 4:1-13 *Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.* (vv.1-2)

Temptations will often come after a high point in our spiritual lives or ministries. The devil that tempted Adam and Eve also tempted Jesus in the desert. Satan is a real being, a created but fallen angel. He constantly fights against God and Jesus and those who follow and obey them.

Knowing and obeying God’s word is an effective weapon against temptations. Temptations are not sins. Sin enters in when we follow through with the action. The only offensive weapon in the Christian arsenal is Scripture, God’s word. Jesus used Scripture to counter Satan’s attacks and we can too.

But, to it effectively we must have faith in God's promises. Satan also knows Scripture and is adept at twisting it to suit his purposes. Obeying Scripture is more important than simply having a verse to quote, so read them daily and apply them in your life. Then your sword will always be sharp. Ponder that.

Daniel 3:19-30; Psalms 20, 21; 1 John 3:11-18

*by Richard Mead*

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