



20-DAY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE ABOUT BELIEVERS:

“Praying for Fellow Believers”

Gleanings from select scripture passages in the Books of Ephesians and Colossians

by Dr. Ken Harmon



WRITER'S BIO

Dr. Ken Harmon retired from FBC Newberry after serving the church for 30 years. He is trained in the Revitalization/Replanting process of the North American Mission Board, SBC, and is actively pursued by churches seeking a great interim pastor. He is a key member of the Revitalization Team of the Lexington Baptist Association (SC).

20-DAY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE ABOUT BELIEVERS:
"Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

Day 7 Knowledge and Discernment
Ken Harmon

Read Philippians 1:9

"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, . . ."

The knowledge here refers first to knowledge about God. We know about God because of what the Bible teaches us about Him. We also know about God from our experiences with Him. We do not understand much about God until we have experienced God's forgiveness of our sins and His making each of us his child. Then we understand the depth of God's love.

If you have experienced the love of God, you can then show God's love to others. How do you see others? Do you see them through the eyes of God's love or through the eyes of jealousy, envy, or anger? If you have experienced the love of God through the mercy and grace He has given you, then you see others through the eyes of love and extend to them mercy and grace.

We are also to love with discernment. If you really love someone, you try to understand them. We should be informed about their real needs, their desires, and their feelings, opinions, and concerns. Think about the different ways Jesus loved people. He expressed His love to the leper by touching the "untouchable," to shunned Zacchaeus by eating with Him, to the woman caught in adultery by not condemning her and advising her to sin no more, and to the hungry multitude by feeding them. We should always be willing to show abounding, discerning love toward others.

Prayer

Pray that the members of your congregation, yourself included, will abound in an understanding, sympathetic, and accepting love for each other.

20-DAY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE ABOUT BELIEVERS:
"Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

Day 8 Approve What is Excellent
Ken Harmon

Read Philippians 1:10a

"... so that you may approve what is excellent, ..."

Yesterday we thought of discernment in relationship to people. We are to discern their real needs so that we can love them effectively. Today we are thinking about discerning value in ideas and behaviors. Though we are not to be judgmental of people, we are to judge ideas and behaviors. Some ideas and behaviors are valuable, and some are not. Some are good and some bad, some true and some false, some add to life, and some take away. We are to confirm, test, and make sure something is true, moral, and beneficial.

Paul reminds us to approve what is excellent. The Greek phrase translated "approve what is excellent" can mean "to prove by testing the things that differ." You cannot approve what is excellent unless you can distinguish the things that differ. The idea is to be able to distinguish what is vital. Sometimes the believers in Philippi had quarrels with each other. More than likely, as was true in the church at Corinth, they were quarreling over inconsequential matters. Paul is giving a call to approve what is excellent, what really matters.

Does your church experience quarrel that really do not matter? Many do. Churches quarrel over the color of carpet, who should clean up after a social, and even Christmas decorations. Things that do not matter a bit to a lost world or even to the Lord Jesus.

Prayer

Pray that you and your fellow believers will not get caught up in inconsequential arguments that hinder both the work and the fellowship of the church. Pray that instead there will be approval of what is excellent in Christ's eyes.

20-DAY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE ABOUT BELIEVERS:
"Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

Day 9

Be Pure and Blameless

Ken Harmon

Read Philippians 1:10

"... be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ..."

There had once been gold in the area of Philippi. Since other metals can be alloyed with gold, the value of an object made with gold can vary according to the actual amount of gold in the object. Pure gold is highly valuable.

As believers, our lives are to be pure. We want pure air to breath, pure water to drink, pure food to eat. Why, then, do we fill our minds and lives with what is impure, sinful, and polluting? The Bible depicts the church as the bride of Christ. Yet sometimes we flirt with other gods and engage in immoral behaviors. Would you want your intended mate to be impure?

We are also to be blameless. If we are honest with ourselves, that seems almost impossible, because we know we are not without fault. Remember that we are made blameless before God because we have accepted Jesus as our Savior. See Colossians 1:22. Now consider Philippians 2:14-15, "Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ...". To be blameless do not grumble or dispute with others, causing disruption in the fellowship of the church.

Remember, we are living in light of the day of Christ, that is, His return. When He comes back, He should find us ready for the marriage supper of the Lamb and living in harmony with one another.

Prayer

Pray that you and your fellow church members will be pure for Christ and blameless in our relationships with one another.

20-DAY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE ABOUT BELIEVERS:
"Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

Day 14

Fully Pleasing to Jesus

Ken Harmon

Read Colossians 1:10a

"... fully pleasing to Him: ..."

In John 8:29b Jesus said, "I always do the things that are pleasing to Him [God the Father]." He set the example for us. Paul told us in Ephesians 5:10, "try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord." In 2 Corinthians 5:9 he said, "we make it our aim to please Him."

As I am writing this it is only three weeks since my wife died. God gave us 51 wonderful years together. She was truly the Proverbs 31 wife who was "far more precious than rubies." Because I loved her, it was my goal to please her. Because she loved me, it was her goal to please me. If we love Jesus, it will be our goal to please him.

What does pleasing Jesus involve? Using the Bible, you could probably make your own list. In the ESV translation of Colossians 1:10 there is a colon after the phrase "fully pleasing to Him." I think Paul was suggesting it pleases God to do the things he listed next: bearing fruit in every good work, increasing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with God's might, having endurance, patience, and joy, and giving thanks to God.

In 1 Timothy 2:1-3 Paul says that praying is pleasing in God's sight. Keep praying for your fellow church members as you continue through this guide, for that is surely pleasing to our good and gracious God.

Prayer

Pray that you and your fellow church members will make it your goal to please Jesus.

20-DAY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE ABOUT BELIEVERS:
"Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

Day 17 Strengthened with God's Power
Ken Harmon

Read Colossians 1:11

"... strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, ..."

You may have seen a Soap Box Derby on TV. It is a youth racing program. The cars race downhill since they are completely unpowered, relying on gravity to move. Contrast that with the Indianapolis 500 or NASCAR races. The cars that race in them have hundreds of horsepower.

Even after we become believers, Satan wants us to spend our lives coasting down-hill. But following the Lord Jesus is an up-hill race. Where do we get the power to live in a way that pleases him and bears fruit for him?

Here is the good news—God supplies the power. Ephesians 1:19-20 tells us that Jesus' followers have "the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe according to the working of His great might that He worked in Christ when He raised Him for the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ..."

Just think, we have resurrection power! The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is able to make us alive together with Christ and empower us to live triumphantly for Him. No longer do we need to slowly coast downhill. We have race-car-engine power to enable us to live lives that count for Christ, both in the church and in the world.

Prayer

Pray first that you will open yourself to the power of God in every part of your life. Ask that those in church with you will open themselves to God's power. Imagine what a church full of empowered believers would be like.

20-DAY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE ABOUT BELIEVERS:
"Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

Day 20

Joy

Ken Harmon

Read Colossians 1:11b-12b

" . . . with joy; giving thanks to the Father, . . . "

A boy was visiting his grandfather. His grandfather was known as a very religious man, and was strict, rigid, and dour. After being in his presence awhile, the boy wandered out to the barn and the first animal he saw was a long-faced mule. The boy said, "I see you have grandpa's religion too."

Too many church members see their religion as a burdensome obligation rather than the joyful experience the Bible shows it to be. Look at a concordance and be amazed at how many times the Bible speaks of joy or being joyful.

Here are just a few examples: "In your presence there is fullness of joy," Psalm 16:11; "God my exceeding joy," Psalm 43:4; "reap with shouts of joy," Psalm 126:5; For the ransomed of the Lord, "Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads," Isaiah 35:10; Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" John 15:11; Paul said to the Thessalonian Christians, "You are our glory and joy" 1 Thessalonians 2:20; and Peter said, "Though you do not see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible" 1 Peter 1:8. Even when we are filled with sorrow, Jesus reminds us our sorrow will be turned into joy (John 16:20), and that we can even rejoice in persecution (Luke 6:23).

Look around you in a worship service and evaluate the amount of joy you see. Examine your own life; how much joy is there?

Prayer

Pray that your life, the lives of your church family, and your whole church will be filled with joy.