

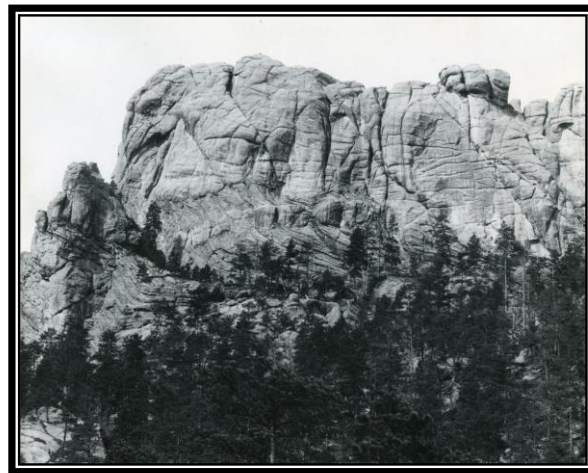
# The Means of Grace



November 15, 2020

Did you ever wonder what Mount Rushmore looked like before they carved those great faces into the mountain and turned it into a national monument? Well, they say that prior to it becoming a monument its beauty was... *unprecedented*.

Yes, that is an all-time great dad joke, and about the only joy that the word “*unprecedented*” gives me these days. For 2020 the word *unprecedented* has to be one of the most overused and misused words of the year. I hear the phrase “*in these unprecedented times*” used multiple times every day. Now, we might like to think that we are enduring something that no generation has ever had to endure before... but nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, past generations might consider us using such a phrase somewhat insulting considering what they really did have to endure.



You see, we aren’t living *unprecedented* times. Challenging times? Certainly. But what we are experiencing now is by no means *unprecedented*. Believe it or not, past generations have had to endure far worse pandemics, epidemics, contested elections, natural disasters, political unrest, wars and rumors of wars, famines, diseases, and persecution. In fact, it’s all been happening to every generation since the moment that the Lord Jesus ascended into heaven and clouds hid him. In that moment the disciples were left standing on a mountaintop staring into the sky... *waiting for Jesus to come back*. “Come quickly Lord Jesus!” But really, that was just the beginning of the end times. In fact, looking into the sky, praying that prayer, and waiting for Jesus to return is the very definition of the end times. And since that time every generation has seen it all, and through it all the gospel has been and will continued to be proclaimed to every generation until the Lord returns.

Now, that day will be the very definition of “*unprecedented!*” What we will see on that day will be unlike anything that generation or any generation before has ever seen. The Last Day. Judgment Day. John writes, ***“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth... I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem coming out of heaven... and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men. And he will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’” And He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”*** The new heaven and the new earth -- our new home that Jesus is preparing for us, is going to be a place of beauty and peace the likes of which this world has never known. That’s the definition of “*unprecedented!*”

So yes, 2020 has been difficult and challenging but unless the Lord returns it’s not *unprecedented*. So let’s continue to pray, “*come quickly Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory!*”

# THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

## Sunday November 15, 2020

~~8:30 AM Adult Bible Study in person~~ NEXT CLASS WILL BE NOV 21, 2020

9:30 AM Worship Service in person

and livestream [grace-wels.net/worship](http://grace-wels.net/worship) or [facebook.com/GraceWELS](https://facebook.com/GraceWELS)

OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH-

7610 NE FREMONT

PORTLAND, OREGON 97213

OR online at: [bit.ly/GracePortland](http://bit.ly/GracePortland)

## Monday November 16, 2020

Pastor in office

## Tuesday November 17, 2020

8:00 AM Confirmation Class

6:30 PM Board of Education

Pastor in office

## Wednesday November 18, 2020

8:00 AM Confirmation Class

9:00 AM Member Meeting

6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class – This We Believe

## Thursday November 19, 2020

Pastor in office

8:00 AM Confirmation Class

## Friday November 20, 2020

Pastor in office

8:00 AM Confirmation Class

## Saturday November 21, 2020

Pastor in office-Sermon Preparation

## Sunday November 22, 2020

8:30 AM Adult Bible Study in person

9:30 AM Worship Service in person

and livestream [grace-wels.net/worship](http://grace-wels.net/worship) or [facebook.com/GraceWELS](https://facebook.com/GraceWELS)

Baptism – Everett Buntrock

OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH- 7610 NE FREMONT PORTLAND, OREGON 97213



**Spence Brisso** – was called home to heaven's glory last week. We praise our gracious God for freeing him from earthly suffering and welcoming him into eternal glory. A memorial service is scheduled for Spence at Willamette National Cemetery this Wednesday.

**Nancy Evans** – Nancy will be having a full knee replacement surgery this week. We entrust her to our gracious Lord's care and protection and ask for successful surgery and a quick recovery.

**Cheri Lockhart** – Cheri is at Holiday Park Rehab Center. If you'd like to send a card to encourage her please send to her home address. 3120 NE 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. Portland, OR 97212

**Dorothy Elsasser** continues to be cared for at Whitewood Gardens and would love a card to encourage her! 2027 SE 174<sup>th</sup> Ave. Portland, OR 97233

**Todd Hafner**, the brother of Tyler Hafner, remains on a ventilator. Cards to encourage the Hafners can be mailed to: 16315 SE Rhone St. Portland, OR 97236

A landscape photograph showing a sunset or sunrise over a mountain range. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is a bright, glowing orb on the right side. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of mountains are visible, with three crosses standing on a ridge to the left.

# SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

**In Person & Live Streamed on Facebook  
Starts Sunday, October 11th  
8:30 – 9:15 AM Grace Church**

A landscape photograph of a green field with a line of trees in the distance. A soft rainbow is visible in the sky above the trees. The overall tone is peaceful and hopeful.

**GOD'S FAITHFULNESS**  
**ENDURES** *Forever*

**Bible History Lessons  
With Applications  
From Luther's Catechism**



## ***Sunday School Lessons for Remote Learning***

Attention Parents! In light of current challenges related to classroom gathering, our church is introducing a new approach to Sunday school!

This year Sunday School lessons will be taught by experienced WELS teachers and will be available free via YouTube. The engaging and age appropriate Lesson Videos will tie to printed Student Lessons that our church will provide to you at no cost. This new approach presents an easy yet meaningful way for you to encourage your child's faith in Christ.

Each week, you will receive an email from Pastor containing all the lessons and the YouTube links. Simply print the appropriate lesson and click on the appropriate You Tube link for your child and bring Sunday School into your home!

Each week we will also feature a book of the bible. In the announcements we will include the book from the previous week and the new book feature for this week.

We will also include the YouTube link for the previous week's Chapel Chat from Grace School with Pastor Bitter or Mr. Eternick.

May God bless your child as we together continue to share His love with the next generation!

Pastor Bitter

# I SAMUEL

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #9



AUTHOR: SAMUEL, NATHAN, GAD,



WRITTEN: AROUND  
900 BC

**Covering the time period of 1150 BC - 1000 BC**

9

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIM TO FAME:** Samuel's mother, Hannah, dedicated her young son to the work of the Lord. Samuel grew up to become one of Israel's great prophets and led God's people through very troubled times. The two books of Samuel tell the story of this great leader who anointed the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Samuel's mother gives him to the priests to raise.
- Samuel hears God's voice as a boy.
- Samuel anoints David as future king.
- David kills Goliath.
- Saul calls on a witch to bring the prophet Samuel back to life and speak to him.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

The LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at how tall he is, because I have rejected him. For the LORD does not look at things the way man does. For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Sam. 16:7

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Armies, the God of the ranks of Israel, whom you have defied. 1 Sam. 17:45

## Important Points about the Book:

- 1 Samuel contains the stories of Samuel the prophet, King Saul, and King David's trials before he was king.
- Prior to Samuel, the people of Israel had been in tribes, held loosely together. But God transformed them into a unified nation under one form of government in this part of their history. First Samuel focuses on the establishment of Israel as a nation.
- The people demanded a king because all the surrounding nations had one, and they were giving in to peer pressure.
- The first king was Saul, and the second king was David. This book covers mostly the prophet Samuel growing up, King Saul's good and bad adventures, and his chasing down David to try to kill him. The book ends with the death of Saul.



A proposal from builder Rick Reynolds to purchase the properties next to our school has been submitted for our review. Please look for special meetings in the coming weeks to discuss this matter with the congregation before we present it to the voters.

## Opportunities to give....

### THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

In the current COVID-19 environment, there will be no food collection at church. Instead Mary& Martha are asking for donations to a cash fund which will be given to the Food Bank. A collection basket is located on the Check In table as you enter church and will be available through Nov. 25. If you have any questions please see Joanne Twomey .



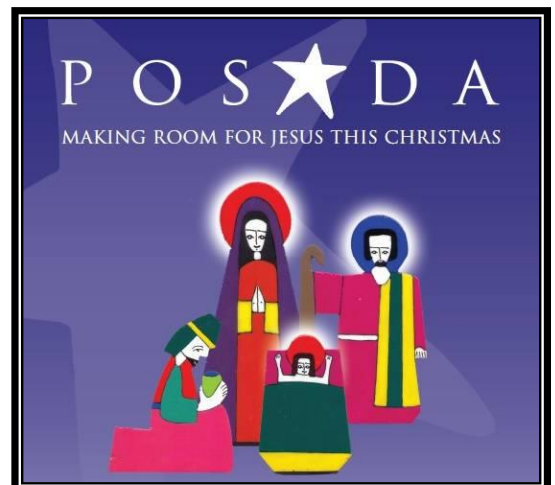
**Wednesday, November 25, 2020 - 7:00 PM**

In-person worship service

and livestreamed at [grace-wels.net/worship](https://grace-wels.net/worship) or [facebook.com/GraceWELS](https://facebook.com/GraceWELS)

### December 12<sup>th</sup> - Posada

We are not sure how or if we will be able to have a Posada this year... but discussion and planning will begin soon. Saturday, December 12 is the date we had selected to have our annual Posada. If you would like to be part of the discussion and planning, please contact Pastor Bitter or Juan Garcia.



### **Pastor Bitter call news:**

On October 18, following worship, Pastor Bitter received a call to serve as an outreach pastor in Sparta, WI. Below is the call acknowledgement letter that was sent to Sparta this week. Members and friends of Grace are welcome to give their thoughts to Pastor Bitter on our ministry at Grace and asked to lift him up in prayer as he deliberates these calls.

October 20, 2020  
St. John Lutheran Church  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)  
419 Jefferson Ave.  
Sparta, WI 54656  
Phone: (608) 269-4966



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest! This past Sunday afternoon, October 18th, the Lord of the Church extended a Divine Call to me through your congregation to serve as the Outreach Pastor for St. John Lutheran Church in Sparta, WI. I am humbled to receive your Call and grateful for the opportunity to consider how my gifts may best serve the kingdom of God in Sparta!

I look forward to speaking with your leaders and I would welcome the opportunity to speak with anyone from St. John who would like contact me. My contact information is below – call, email, text. In addition, I will be speaking with the leaders and members of Grace, here in Portland, Oregon where I am currently serving.

As I prayerfully consider where to serve the Lord, I ask that you please keep me and my family in your prayers, as well as God's people here in Portland, OR. Please be assured that St. John Church & School are in my prayers and in the prayers of the members of Grace as well.

As with many of our pastors, I grew up in the Midwest (Oakfield, Wisconsin) and served at Grace, Le Sueur, MN for the first 8 years of my ministry. However, over the past 16 years I have become very familiar with life on the West Coast and living in a large urban city like Portland. Obviously, Portland and Sparta have many differences... and at the same time some similarities. In the city, I love the multicultural opportunities that are all around us. I love the world mission field that exists in every neighborhood. Life in this city forces me to think about what it means to be a Christian as I come into daily contact with people who don't look, think, or believe like I do. Yet, when I think of each of them as a precious soul to be won for Jesus, I have to leave behind whatever attitudes I might have about people who aren't like me and see them for who they are, blood bought souls who God loved so much he sent his Son to save! On a daily basis the city, (be it Portland or Sparta) forces me to think about the question posed to Jonah "Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

At Grace in Portland I have many responsibilities. As a pastor at Grace Church we care for about 300 souls of our members each day. At our school I assist with the responsibilities for 120 students Preschool – 8th grade and teach confirmation classes to 5-8 graders. In our district I serve as the Circuit Pastor for Oregon. I also have served as the spiritual advisor for the PNW WELS Kingdom Workers RMT. All this work brings me great joy!

In addition to the ministry at Grace I'm also a husband and a father. I've serve as a pastor for the past 24 years and for the past 27 years God has bless me with a loving a supportive wife, Kimberly, and 5 children who bring joy into our lives every day. Our oldest son, Tyler, is 25 and lives close to Portland and works in construction and window installation. Our oldest daughter, Mikayla, is 24 and is recently married and moved to Arkansas where she works as a veterinary tech/supervisor. Our middle son, Noah, is 22 and lives and works close to Portland and exploring career opportunities in power management and aviation. Our youngest son, Josiah, is 19 and lives at home and works close to Portland and is planning to attend community college while exploring career opportunities in power management and aviation. And our youngest daughter, Rebekah, is 14 and is a Freshman in high school in Gladstone, Oregon.

I wanted to share a little information with you about my family as I acknowledge this call because that dynamic also plays a large part in deliberating a call. We all ask that you would lift us up in your prayers over the next few weeks. I am confident that the Lord will lead me to a decision that will be a blessing to his kingdom and will, above all, bring him glory.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me by extending to me this Divine Call. May our gracious Lord continue to richly bless you as we serve him day by day.

Yours in Christ Our Savior,  
Thad Bitter



# The Eagle Message Grace Lutheran School DECLARE His PRAISES

**NOVEMBER 10, 2020**

## Krispy Kreme Doughnut Fundraiser

Do you want to help Grace Lutheran School while eating delicious Krispy Kreme Doughnuts?!?! Then place your order for Krispy Kreme Doughnut certificates on the **attached** form! **Each certificate is redeemable for one dozen original glazed doughnuts.** Cost is \$12.00 per certificate. All orders must be turned in, with payment, by **November 24, 2020**. Certificates will be available by November 30, 2020! Completed orders can be brought to school, placed in the school mail slot, or mailed to the school. Please pay with exact cash, or checks made payable to: *Working Eagles*. Contact the school office (503) 777-8628 or [kraklow@grace-wels.net](mailto:kraklow@grace-wels.net) with any questions.

**Thank you everyone for doing daily health checks, keeping your children home when necessary and following guidelines for our cities, counties and states, so that we can continue to enjoy the blessing of being able to attend school in person.**

## Thanksgiving Vacation

There will be **NO CLASSES Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, November 25 – 27**, as we take time to thank our gracious Lord for all the blessings he has given us.

## Chapel Chat

Check out Mr. Eternick's Chapel Chat from Nov. 4, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-rN8PZVxiE>

## Bottle & Can Collection

We have a special opportunity to raise even more funds in the coming months - drop off your filled **Blue Bags** between **November 15 and December 1** for our school to receive a **20% match** from the **BottleDrop** organization!! Since we started this fundraiser we have collected **\$883.70!!** You can pick up **Collection Bags** when you come to school. Fill the bags with OR deposit containers. Plastic, aluminum, & glass go in the same bag. (please fill bags only halfway with glass bottles – thanks).

**LAWN MOWER FOR SCHOOL!** With a generous donation we were able to purchase another riding lawn mower for the school property! Thank you! If you'd like to come and "test it out" while the mower deck happens to be down and the blade is cutting grass... please speak with Justin Eternick.





Do you want to help Grace Lutheran School while eating delicious Krispy Kreme Doughnuts?!?!

Then place your order for Krispy Kreme Doughnut certificates on the form below! **Each certificate is redeemable for ONE DOZEN original glazed doughnuts.**

Cost is \$12.00 per certificate. **All orders must be turned in, with payment, by November 24, 2020.** Certificates will be available by November 30, 2020!

Completed orders can be brought to school, placed in the school mail slot, or mailed to the school. Please pay with *exact* cash, or checks made payable to ***Working Eagles***

Contact the school office 503-777-8628 or [jaternick@grace-wels.net](mailto:jaternick@grace-wels.net) with any questions.

**X** \_\_\_\_\_ **complete and return the bottom of this form by 11/24/20** \_\_\_\_\_

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of doughnut certificates ordered at \$12.00 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Order total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$12 x number of certificates ordered)

Payment enclosed: Exact Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

Check: \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to ***Working Eagles***)



**ONLINE GROUP STUDY**

**6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**WEDNESDAYS**

An invitation and link will be sent to your email.  
If you don't get an email with an invite and link please call  
Pastor Bitter at 503-290-6316.

## 2021 Prayer Calendar

### WELS Mission Journeys

This full color 8 1/2" x 11" calendar includes:

- Monthly Mission Article
- Monthly Bible Passage
- Missionary Contact Information
- Prayer Requests

### 2021 Prayer Calendar

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Shipped to: ( ) Home ( ) Church

Shipping Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

#### Prayer Calendar

Number of copies: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 plus shipping)

TOTAL COST: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Shipping Costs

When enclosing payment with your order, please include shipping costs, using the following table. We reserve the right to bill for actual shipping costs when the charges exceed the schedule.

Merchandise Total	Shipping
\$10	\$5
\$20	\$9
\$30-\$50	\$12
\$60-\$200	\$15
Over \$200	Contact Central Office

LWMS Central Office • 11200 W Greenfield Avenue • West Allis, WI 53214  
www.lwms.org • centraloffice@lwms.org

#### 2021 LWMS PRAYER CALENDAR USES

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:11

#### Monthly Mission Article

- Use it as a monthly bulletin insert.
- Use the information for a church newsletter article.

#### Monthly Bible Passage

- Memorize the passage and ponder it in your heart.
- Include it with the monthly bulletin insert and/or church newsletter article.

#### Missionary Information (Missionary birthdays, anniversaries, emails, and addresses)

- Send birthday, holiday, and encouragement cards to mission workers and their families. Get your church groups involved with this!
- Pray with your congregation and individually for mission congregations.
- Become familiar with WELS mission fields and missionaries.

#### Calendar Pages

- Place the calendar where you will see it often throughout the day and be reminded to pray.
- Jot down daily prayer reminders as you learn of specific needs. Pray for unbelievers and those hearing the gospel for the first time.

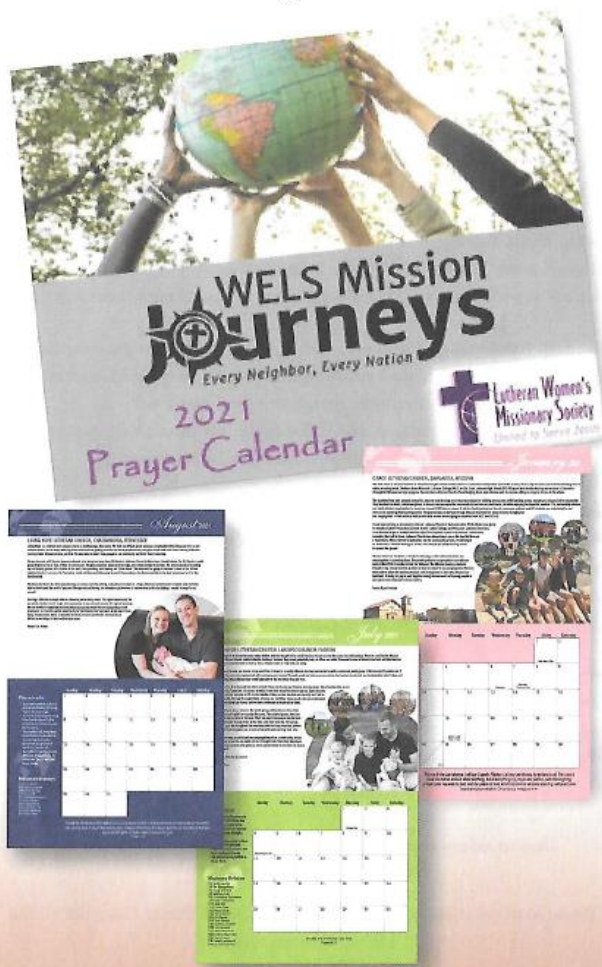
#### General

- Give it as a gift to teachers, pastors, shut-ins, and friends.
- Include it in care packages to college students and military members.
- Pray to be a strong and faithful LWMS member.

Due to safety concerns the calendar information cannot be reproduced on any website.

Please send other ideas of how to use the LWMS Prayer Calendar to the LWMS Central Office.

# LWMS Prayer Calendar



#### 2021 LWMS Prayer Calendar

Have you ever wondered what being a home or world missionary is like? As LWMS mission-minded women, we pray for our missionaries, we encourage them, and we support them with our gifts, cards, and financial gifts. But, as you send that support, have you ever really tried to put yourself into the missionary's situation? The 2021 LWMS Prayer Calendar features groups who have done just that.

Focusing on the relatively new Mission Journeys program, the LWMS 2021 Prayer Calendar features 12 different mission locations where volunteers became "lay missionaries," helping the established missionary and his congregation reach out to communities with the life-giving gospel. From Tennessee to East Asia, from Florida to Colorado, from California to Ukraine and locations in between, you have the opportunity to read all about Mission Journeys experiences. It is our prayer that by reading these inspiring articles, you may decide to use your God-given talents on a mission journey of your own!

In addition to the monthly articles, the authors have submitted photos of their specific Mission Journeys teams, included prayer requests that relate to their articles, and provided Bible passages that have been an inspiration to them. You will also find a listing of the missionary birthdays for each month, which allows you to remember them on those special days with cards, letters, or gifts. On the back pages of the calendar you will also find more contact information for all WELS home and world missionaries.

The calendars make wonderful gifts for the called workers in your congregation, your congregation's prayer group, shut-ins, friends, relatives, and anyone who has a love for missions. They also make great door prizes at women's events and Christmas parties. Be creative in using them!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ORDER ONE, PLEASE CONTACT  
FAYE RUTSTEIN @fayzelady@comcast.net

# Devotional Thoughts for Saints Triumphant 2020

**Sunday**                Isaiah 65:17-19

- What does verse 17 tell us about heaven and our being there?
- What does verse 18 tell us about the feelings of people who will inhabit heaven?
- How will God feel about the heavenly Jerusalem and its inhabitants?
- What will be absent in heaven? How will this affect our joy?

**Monday**            Isaiah 65:20-23

- This is a dual picture of the post exilic time and also of heaven.
- Pick out some of the characteristic of each.
- Both pictures involve repentance.
- How does repentance affect the atmosphere of both pictures?
- According to verse 23 what is the key to these idyllic pictures?

**Tuesday**          Isaiah 65:24-25

- What precious promise does God give us in v. 24?
- What are the characteristics of the picture presented in v. 25?
- Why is the serpent singled out in a negative way?
- Describe the atmosphere we can expect in heaven?
- What influence will the "serpent" have in heaven?

**Wednesday** 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

- What are the precious gifts which are ours for which Paul thanks God?
- How do we come to share in the glory of Jesus Christ? V., 14
- What is Paul's prayer on our behalf? Vv 15-17

**Thursday**        2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

- What prayer does Paul request of his people?
- For whom might we speak a similar prayer?
- What do you think Paul had commanded them to do? v. 4
- Who will seek to hinder them? V. 3
- How does v. 5 apply to us today?
- What will God's love prompt us to do every day?

**Friday**             Luke 20:27-33

- What teaching which Jesus taught did the Sadducees challenge? What problem might they have had with this doctrine? Is it the same today? Explain.
- Describe the law which was followed in their illustration. What was their point?
- Whom do people today leave out of the picture when rationalizing against the resurrection? Why is this such a glaring omission?

**Saturday**        Luke 20:34-38

- What is Jesus' point in verses 34-35? Why won't marriage matter in heaven?
- What makes heaven so special according to v. 36?
- What evidence from the OT does Jesus point out to prove the resurrection?
- How does vs 38 assure us of the certainty of the resurrection and eternal life in heaven?