

CHRIST THE LOVER OF OUR SOULS

WEEK 8

October 25 – October 31

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“Although He [Jesus] existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Philippians 2:6-8

BOOK READING

Roberts, pp. 57-66

Quotation for Meditation

“When Christ ceases to fill the heart with satisfaction, our souls will go in silent search of other lovers” (p. 57).

M’CHEYNE BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Oct 25	2 Ki 6	1 Tim 3	Dan 10	Ps 119: 1-24
Oct 26	2 Ki 7	1 Tim 4	Dan 11	Ps 119: 25-48
Oct 27	2 Ki 8	1 Tim 5	Dan 12	Ps 119: 49-72
Oct 28	2 Ki 9	1 Tim 6	Hos 1	Ps 119: 73-96
Oct 29	2 Ki 10	2 Tim 1	Hos 2	Ps 119: 97-120
Oct 30	2 Ki 11	2 Tim 2	Hos 3	Ps 119: 121-144
Oct 31	2 Ki 12	2 Tim 3	Hos 4	Ps 119: 145-176

PERSONAL REFLECTION

GOD'S LOYAL LOVE IN MY TIGHT PLACES

HOMER CHINN

Nearly 20 years ago, God allowed some devastating trials to enter my family when my wife said she wanted a divorce. I was led to believe that the papers she had served on me meant that I had to leave the home. So I packed a suitcase and went to a motel. The cheapest motel I could find was one hundred-sixty dollars a week. I was then ordered to pay my wife \$700 per month, unallocated support. A few months earlier, God had led me to enroll my two daughters at Hampton Park Christian School – the cost being \$700-800 a month. On a side note, when one is going through a divorce, neither spouse is allowed to touch any money that one has in the bank – whether that be checking, savings etc. Furthermore, if I had been late on my support payment, my wife could have made me pay through the court; and if I had been late, the court could put me in jail and I would lose my job. Would you say God put me in a tight place?

“But God” had placed me in brother John Detwiler’s Sunday School class where I knew that he and the class were praying for me. God was also teaching me to pray like I’d never prayed before. Furthermore, I read in a book by E. M. Bounds that while God is the God that can move mountains, it is prayer that moves Him to move those mountains. It was during these years I really came to appreciate my church family because I knew they were people of prayer and that they were praying for my family. I really believed the Lord wanted my two girls in a Christian school and therefore, I did not want to take them out although the finances were not there. After living in motels for three weeks, God led Pastor Tipton my way one day and he asked me if I knew about the mission Paul Keck ran for men off the streets who were trying to turn their lives around. I asked Paul about it and he said he had one room left and it was only \$30 a week. I took it and for four months lived with two other men who used to be drug addicts before they made professions of faith.

For several months, I was only allowed to see my children every other weekend. I went through seven rolls of toilet paper during those times of prayer, weeping over being away from my family and begging God to save my wife and to protect my children. It was the nearest thing to Hell

I'd ever been through. On the weekends when I had my children, I could not keep them at the mission so I either rented a motel or took them camping up at Pleasant Ridge Park. But my children never complained and God used that in my life.

Then at nearly five months into our separation, my lawyer mentioned that a guardian ad litem was going to stop by and interview me to see what living situation was best for the children. He mentioned that it was important for me to have a place of my own as proof that I could take care of them if I was granted custody. My heart sank at the task I had been given – within approximately four weeks, I needed to find a place to rent which I could afford, in a good, safe neighborhood [because I left every morning for work at 4:30AM] and fill it with furniture and make it a presentable home.

But God again heard and answered prayer. Troy Manning gave me a list of houses, apartments, and trailers for rent that he had gathered from the University. One of the last things on the list was a two-bedroom trailer in a mobile home park. I called and went to look at it the same day. I was honest with the man and told him a little of what I was going through. He knocked \$50 a month off the rent and did not make me sign a lease. Furthermore, the trash pickup and water bill were included in the rent. Additionally, the trailer already had a refrigerator, stove, washer and dryer as well as a couch that made a nice bed. I felt like shouting! I called my mom in order to calm her fears. She asked me what I was going to do for furniture. I assured her that the Lord would provide somehow. She called me back the next day and mentioned that my sister had some furniture in her basement and that I was welcomed to it if I came and picked it up. Well, I loaded up the children and went to Tennessee. Her son even had a covered trailer that he let me borrow. She gave me a bed, chest of drawers, kitchen table and chairs as well as a vacuum – just enough stuff to set up a house in the trailer. Mom told me to come by and she would give me some plates, glasses and some pots and pans. We traveled back on July 3 and set up house.

Now, I know what you may be wondering, especially if you've been keeping up with all my expenses. How did you have the money to pay for all of that? Well God allowed my overtime at work to explode. Furthermore, one day my boss called me in the office for my evaluation and he gave me twice the amount that year in a raise, than I had ever been given while working at Honeywell Aerospace for 31 ½ years. All these things God was doing were like tent stakes that drove my feet of faith to

the ground. Psalm 4:5 and 1 Samuel 12:24 are two of my favorite life verses. Still to this day, my heart gets full to overflowing when I reflect back on what great things He hath done for me. God answered still further prayers by giving me custody of my two daughters. A man at work said I was a fool for trying. I went back to him one day and told him "with man it is impossible, but with God it is not"!