

Prayer & Study Guide

First United Methodist Church, Sallisaw – Daily Scripture Readings 2/16/14

Prayer - Use this prayer to begin your time with God each day.

Lord Jesus, we are bombarded with financial wisdom, but our debts keep rising, our spending accelerates, and we keep feeling the pressure to live for the moment and spend more. You say that our life is not about our possessions. You call us to find contentment in Your blessings and to make our relationship with You the center of our lives. Teach us to hear Your voice, and bless us as we work and use our money in ways that will honor and bless You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Monday – Read Proverbs 12:11, 13:4, 14:23; & II Thessalonians 3:10. Work is a gift. God created us to work. In fact, work is the way God provides for us. This is the reason why the writer of *Proverbs* teaches us, *Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper*. In many ways, our work through our job or school becomes the way that we grow to be the people that God is shaping us to be. Our work is also the way that we partner with God as we join in the ministry of Jesus Christ. *Deuteronomy 28:12* tells us that when we are obedient to God, *The LORD will open up for you his own well-stocked storehouse, the heavens, providing your land with rain at just the right time and blessing all your work*. Spend some time thanking God for the work God has given you, and then ask God to bless your work.

Tuesday – Read Proverbs 21:20. *Precious treasure remains in the house of the wise, but the fool devours it.* John Wesley said, “Earn all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can.” For Wesley, earning all you can was about being disciplined in the way we spend our money. We live in an age of easy credit. We have been trained to think that we can buy now and pay later. In fact, our culture trains us to be consumers who consume all kinds of products. One of the keys to putting God first in our lives is to learn to live beneath our means rather than above our means. The millionaire next door usually drives an old car because he or she has learned how to save and how to control spending. When was the last time you saved money to make a purchase? Ask God to help you take the time to make a budget and live by it.

Wednesday – Read Proverbs 22:6-7. Generosity is something that we have to learn. One of the reasons we focus on the topic of faith and money for four weeks every year is that we want to train our children and youth how to use money wisely. *Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.* The misuse of credit cards is one of the easiest ways for many people to fall deeply into debt. *The rich rule over the poor, and the debtor is slave to the lender.* Living in debt can cause great strain and pressure in our lives. Debt and money problems is the number one cause of divorce for people who have been married less than seven years. We offer *Financial Peace University* to help people learn how to dig out of debt and handle money in a way that pleases God. Pray for God help with your finances.

Thursday – Read Proverbs 13:11. There are easily a half-dozen proverbs that say, “Stay a country-mile away from get-rich-quick schemes.” It’s not God’s way. Spend some time thinking about how casinos and the lottery oppress and prey upon the poor. Do you gamble away the resources that God has given you to use to do good in the world, to feed your family, and to educate your children? Consider this: The odds are in your favor that you are more likely to get hit by lightning four times than you are to win the lottery. Pray for God to help you grow in contentment.

Friday – Read Proverbs 22:1-4, 9. *The Book of Proverbs* offers us wisdom for living blessed lives. At the heart of these wisdom sayings is a relationship with God. As we talk about putting God first it is important for us to remember that all blessing come from God. Money has a godlike power that tempts us to worship money and stuff rather than God. *Proverbs* reminds us that our relationship with God is more important than accumulating great wealth. God blesses us when we humbly worship and serve the Lord. If you would like to learn more about Financial Wisdom, consider joining our *Financial Peace University* class this Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Spend some time praying about how you can grow to handle money wisely as a result of putting God first in your life.

Saturday – Read I Timothy 6:6-10. We do not talk much about contentment in our culture; rather, we talk about gaining more and more and more. Contentment is the ability to be satisfied with the blessings you have received from God. We are more likely to find contentment when we focus on our relationship with God and our relationships with our family and friends. One of the greatest disciplines we can learn is to decipher between our needs and our wants. God has promised to provide for our needs. Pursuing great riches rather than pursuing our relationship with God can lead to ruin and destruction. Money is neither good nor bad, but the love of money is the root of all evil. Pray about how God is calling you to use money in a way that will glorify and please God.

Money, Work, & Debt

Dr. Trevor Smith

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon

Prayer List

New & Short Term Requests*

- Janice Mattox, at the top of the kidney transplant list.
- Glenda Bellamy, surgery for aortic aneurism. June Rolston's sister.
- Jean Duty, mass on pancreas, undergoing tests.
- The Family of Norma Treat.
- Thank you for prayers for Dean Trimble. No surgery is needed; awaiting clearance for kidney surgery.
- Skip Duty, awaiting test results to determine diagnosis of brain mass. Judy Blair's friend.
- Judy Branham, infant granddaughter of Judy Blair, has a serious respiratory infection.
- Barbara Jones awaiting MRI results on her shoulder. Her foot pain is improving.
- Leon Fitzsimmons is recovering from eye surgery but has the flu and a sinus infection that has lingered for weeks.
- Jimmie Lou Whitekiller, multiple myeloma.
- The Family of Margie Riddle.
- Sandy Wisley, friend of Brenda Johnson.
- Steve Nelson, prostate cancer. Linda Bickel's brother.
- Lou Rogers, cancer is back.
- Evelyn Rogers, healing from a fall.
- Cindy Lattimore, healing from the shingles.
- Teshena Sequichie, on life support in Tulsa. Pray for her and family.
- JoAnna Rogers having voice problems.
- John Snow hospitalized in stable condition.
- Bernadette Nicely is hospitalized with severe diabetes.
- Gene Glander is recovering in rehab from a broken leg. Robert Glander's father.
- Maddox Mayo's uncle, Tim has lung cancer.
- Brian Mattingly, colon cancer.
- Jordynn. Ruthann Gacey's 3-month-old great-granddaughter who is having respiratory problems.

Hospitalized/ Continuing Treatment

Shirley Robins, radiation. James Robins' grandmother

On-Going Needs

Pris Bartram	Gary Griffin
Freida Cooke	Barry Walden
Kogi Christians	Richard Hawkins
Troy Williams	Lindsey Jones
Kyle Martin McGowan	Leon Fitzsimmons
Dayla Seal	Dean Trimble

Our Service People

*Names on this list will remain for three weeks

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