

July 1

Baptism

Psalm

*Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord; give praise, O servants of the Lord,
you that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.*

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing to his name, for he is gracious.

Psalm 135:1-3

Meditation

Your hearts were sprinkled from evil consciences, when your bodies were washed in the cleansing water. Then into the kingdom of Jesus you entered. The King of righteousness, of peace and joy, extended his scepter over you, and sanctified in state and in your whole person, you rejoiced in the Lord with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Being washed, you were sanctified, as well as acquitted.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 237-238

Scripture

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 8:35-39

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I rejoice as one who is baptized, washed, forgiven, and sanctified.
May I show that joy to all around me this day.

July 2

The Spirit of Adoption

Psalm

*I call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to me;
give ear to my voice when I call to you.
Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.*
Psalm 141:1-2

Meditation

Hearing the gospel will not save; obeying the gospel will not save, only as the means of leading us to the Savior, who alone does save us from our sins by his Spirit. He sheds abroad his love into our hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto us—that perfect love of God, which casteth out tormenting fear. It is the Spirit of love, of power, and of a sound mind.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1844), 261

Scripture

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Romans 8:14-17

Prayer

Father, I thank you that through your Spirit I am your beloved child. Cast fear out of my life today

July 3

Mercy

Psalm

*When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.*
Psalm 104:29-30

Meditation

He is merciful to all the unthankful the poor as well as the rich and grateful receiver. What can induce him thus to act? What but infinite benevolence? He does not hope nor expect to receive a compensation for these favors. If he did, we are too poor to give it. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father is merciful.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 50

Scripture

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:40-43

Prayer

Lord Jesus, have mercy on me a sinner! Accept me into paradise with you as you did the criminal on the cross.

July 4

Peace

Psalm

*He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.
He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.*

Psalm 147:14-15

Meditation

But the children of God, all his children, are the children of peace. They have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ—they have the peace of God ruling in them, and this leads them to live in peace with all, and to cause them to make peace among all as far as their influence extends, and to labor to put down wrath, strife and division in the world.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 232-233

Scripture

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Romans 5:1-5

Prayer

Almighty God, you have given me peace through the Lord Jesus Christ. This day, make me a peacemaker.

July 5

The Cross

Psalm

*Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and his anointed, saying,
"Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us."*

Psalm 2:1-3

Meditation

Ought it not to be sacredly remembered by all who serve God in the gospel that "the cross of Christ" is that power which is to "slay" the natural "enmity" of the sinner's heart to God and to his law? With what holy reverence, then, ought Christ and him crucified to be preached to the world! What solemn themes are these! Ought they not be bathed in "many tears" by him whose sacred office it is to announce them?

Walter Scott, *The Messiahship* 182

Scripture

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

Luke 23:44-47

Prayer

With holy reverence, with tears, and with awe, I contemplate the cross of Christ today. Lord Jesus, you have given yourself for the world! Live in me, so I may bear your cross this day.

July 6

Love of God

Psalm

*But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house,
I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you.*

Psalm 5:7

Meditation

We may not love as God loves, who is infinite in love as well as in wisdom and in power; but we may love as humans can love, who are so limited and feeble in all their capacities. And when one loves the Lord with all the heart and mind and soul and strength, one renders the least return that may be offered and the greatest that can be demanded.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 14

Scripture

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35-39

Prayer

God of love, today may I focus less on my hardships and more on your infinite love. May I ever be convinced of that love, through Christ.

July 7

The Presence of God

Psalm

*The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High uttered his voice.
And he sent out his arrows, and scattered them;
he flashed forth lightnings, and routed them.
Then the channels of the sea were seen,
and the foundations of the world were laid bare at your rebuke,
O Lord, at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.*

Psalm 18:13-15

Meditation

No one would think of going into the presence of an earthly king or potentate, to seek a favor, without proper preparation of ones apparel, and a clear and distinct understanding of the request one was to make. Do we not oftentimes treat God with less respect, carrying into his presence sins unrepented of, hearts ungrateful for his daily mercies and mind's preoccupied with worldly thoughts and cares, having only a vague and indistinct idea of the favors we need?

J.H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 58

Scripture

At that time, too, I entreated the Lord, saying: "O Lord God, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your might; what god in heaven or on earth can perform deeds and mighty acts like yours!"

Deuteronomy 3:23-24

Prayer

Almighty God, I stand in awe of your power and glory! You have only begun to show me your greatness and might. Open my eyes to see your great deeds this day.

July 8

Seeing Jesus

Psalm

Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

Psalm 119:18

Meditation

All that love, mercy, grace, faithfulness, truth, power, benevolence, we see in Jesus, in his works, in his words, in his tears, in his sufferings, in his death and resurrection, is the true character of God manifested in the flesh—like a mirror, he presents the true image of the invisible God—the true form of God in all his divinity; for the fullness of it dwells in him; the full exhibition of the truth as it is in Jesus.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 47

Scripture

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24:30-35

Prayer

Lord Jesus, open my eyes so I can see you this day and in you see the amazing love of God.

July 9

The Holy Sprit

Psalm

*You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Psalm 16:11

Meditation

The Holy Spirit is the divine agent in our illumination, our spiritual quickening through faith, our penitence—in a word, in the whole process of bringing us to God. That is a fact to be everywhere and always recognized and emphasized. The failure to do this is sure to lead to superficial and legalistic views on the whole question of our conversion and salvation.

J.H. Garrison, *The Holy Spirit*, 64

Scripture

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Acts 10:44-48

Prayer

Father, thank you for bringing me to new birth through the work of the Holy Spirit. Fill me with your Spirit this day so I may bear fruit for you.

July 10

Following Jesus

Psalm

*I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.*

Psalm 116:1-2

Meditation

So when one believes on the Savior, goes for him, and devotes himself to him, one goes for all he taught, whether one understands it or not. One is then a Christian—a disciple of Christ, and nothing else. It is the concentration, the embodiment of all Christianity in a person, a living and glorious person.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 50

Scripture

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Mark 1:16-20

Prayer

Jesus, this day make me a disciple, a follower, and a Christian. May I follow you wherever you go.

July 11

Be Strong

Psalm

*The Lord has been mindful of us; he will bless us;
he will bless the house of Israel;
he will bless the house of Aaron;
he will bless those who fear the Lord, both small and great.*

Psalm 115:12-13

Meditation

It would, also, serve to develop, mold, and perfect our Christian character, by the frequent and systematic exercise of all our moral and religious faculties.

This is essential to the proper development and discipline of both head and heart. It is the means ordained by God for educating our whole spiritual nature, and making it subservient to the Divine will.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 528

Scripture

“Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:7-9

Prayer

Father, let me meditate on your ways this day so I may be strong and courageous.

July 12

Psalm

*To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.*

Psalm 25:1-2

Meditation

We are brought into this world without any desire or volition of our own, and those who are responsible for our support and comfort while we are helpless. In acknowledging Himself to be our Father—the Father of our spirits—God commits Himself to our care and support when we are helpless, and this does not apply to childhood simply, but to youth and even down to old age, if we commit ourselves, in well doing to his care.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 29

Scripture

Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Since he would not be persuaded, we remained silent except to say, "The Lord's will be done."

Acts 21:13-14

Prayer

Loving Father, I place my life in your hands. May I daily surrender to your will, not my own.

July 13

Faith

Psalm

*But as for me, I walk in my integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.
My foot stands on level ground;
in the great congregation I will bless the Lord.*
Psalm 26:11-12

Meditation

Any belief, then, that does not terminate in our personal confidence in Jesus as the Christ, and to induce trustful submission to him, is not faith unfeigned; but a dead faith, and cannot save the soul.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 53

Scripture

Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Mark 2:3-5

Prayer

Lord Jesus, increase my faith! May I trust in you, your goodness and power, so my sins will be forgiven.

July 14

Prayer and Praise

Psalm

*But it is for you, O Lord, that I wait;
it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.
For I pray, "Only do not let them rejoice over me,
those who boast against me when my foot slips."*

Psalm 38:15-16

Meditation

Brothers and sisters, let us cultivate in our hearts more and more the spirit of prayer; let us pray without ceasing; let us in everything give thanks; let us often retire with our blessed Redeemer, to spend a few moments, at least, if not whole nights, in prayer to our Heavenly Father. In this way we shall be happier in life, more triumphant in death, and better prepared to join the general assembly and church of the first-born whose names are written in heaven, and who cease not day or night to worship God.

Robert Milligan, *A Brief Treatise on Prayer*, 54

Scripture

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever.

Amen.

Romans 11:33-36

Prayer

O God who is beyond my wisdom, knowledge, and imagination, I give you praise this day. May all the glory be yours!

July 15

Led by the Spirit

Psalm

*Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.*
Psalm 37:7

Meditation

Then they received the Holy Spirit of promise, whereby they were sealed unto for the day of redemption. They were prepared as blank paper, not to be inscribed with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. So evident is the inscription, that it is known and read of all. This is designed of God for the good of all. For the manifestation of the Spirit is given to or for all that all may be profited. This inscription written by the Spirit of God on the fleshly table of the heart is that strong bias in the Christian to holiness.

BartonW. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 366

Scripture

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 13:1-3

Prayer

Lord Jesus, open the ears of my heart so I may hear your Spirit today. Holy Spirit, lead me into holiness.

July 16

Deliverance by God

Psalm

*Blessed be the Lord,
for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me
when I was beset as a city under siege.*

Psalm 31:21

Meditation

We have given no time to meditation or to self-examination. We have been too slothful, mentally, to make an effort to fix in our minds, clearly, the essential truths on which prayer is based: God is. He is a Person. He is here. He has promised to hear me when I call on him. He cannot lie. He loves to give good gifts to his needy children. He has heard and answered prayer. He has answered my prayers. He has invited me to ask him for what I need.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 57

Scripture

Those twelve stones, which they had taken out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal, saying to the Israelites, "When your children ask their parents in time to come, 'What do these stones mean?' then you shall let your children know, 'Israel crossed over the Jordan here on dry ground.' 23For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you crossed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we crossed over, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, and so that you may fear the Lord your God forever."

Joshua 4:20-24

Prayer

Lord God, as you delivered Israel over the Jordan, so may I rely on you through prayer to deliver me this day from every evil.

July 17

The Family of Jesus

Psalm

*By day the Lord commands his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.*

Psalm 42:8

Meditation

They are adopted into the family of God; made sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty, children of God, and heirs—joint heirs—with Christ. They have an Advocate in the heavens, through whom their persons and prayers are accepted. They all know the Lord. “All thy children shall be taught of God.” The Holy Spirit of God writes the law of God upon their hearts, and inscribes it upon their understanding; so that they need not teach everyone his fellow citizen to know the Lord, “for they all know him, from the least to the greatest.” They are sanctified through the truth—separated and consecrated to God.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 156

Scripture

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

Mark 3:31-35

Prayer

Lord God, you have made me your beloved child, adopted into your family.

Lord Jesus, you are my brother! May I do the will of our Father.

July 18

Eternal Reward

Psalm

*For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.
O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.*
Psalm 84:10-12

Meditation

Those who loved him here will love him there, and will be like him; for they shall see him as he is. They shall need no light of the sun, nor any artificial light; for the Lord God and the Lamb shall be the light of the holy city. In effable bliss, inexpressible happiness, and joys that shall never end, they shall bask forever and ever.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 478

Scripture

*Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.'
His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'*
Matthew 25:20-21

Prayer

Father, may I put my trust in you and so be a faithful servant, so I might be with your forever!

July 19

Reformation of the Heart

Psalm

*If we had forgotten the name of our God,
or spread out our hands to a strange god,
would not God discover this?
For he knows the secrets of the heart.*

Psalm 44:20-21

Meditation

We need practical, heart searching truth, more than the speculative and philosophic doctrines of the age in which we live. We need a greater reformation of the heart, than of the head, in order to grow up into Christ Jesus, and be as he was, and still is—in order that we may be profitable to the unbelieving world, and at last obtain the eternal inheritance of the saints in light.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 180

Scripture

For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, 'I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the word of the Lord; and as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers.

Acts 13:47-48

Prayer

Lord, reform my heart so I may praise your name and bring your light to all around me.

July 20

Glory of Jesus

Psalm

God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

Psalm 47:8

Meditation

Could we ascend to the summit of glory and the universe, whether the stupendous and unparalleled miracles of his glorification and the Apocalyptic worship would impel us to go—could we, like the blessed Lord, enshrined in glory which no one can see, look down from the eternal throne, and behold the principalities, dominations, and powers of the universe, and the universe itself laid at our feet, we might, if our souls did not expire under the greatness of the scene, acquire, perhaps, some adequate idea of the boundless, ineffable, and otherwise incomprehensible and eternal greatness, grandeur, and glory to which our Lord was elevated when his Almighty Father set him at his own right hand in the heavens.

Walter Scott, *The Messiahship*, 218

Scripture

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Romans 14:10-12

Prayer

Lord Jesus, may I bow the knee to you today, as all eventually will bow. Let my tongue give you all praise this day!

July 21

Miracles of Jesus

Psalm

But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me.

Psalm 49:15

Meditation

There is, therefore, an amazing concatenation of miracles drawn out in the gospel to keep before the public the person of whom it was said, "Behold my Son;" miracle after miracle follows each other in rapid succession, surprisingly diversified in manner, kind, and form, till the mighty chain terminates in that amazing wonder of his resurrection from the dead—a miracle, which, for its transcendent peculiarities, the apostle (Eph. 1:19) singles out as affording the most illustrious display of the mighty power of God.

Walter Scott, *The Gospel Restored*, 180

Scripture

A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Mark 4:37-41

Prayer

Jesus, my teacher, grant this day that I might trust in your power over all the forces that threaten me. Keep me from fear. Increase my faith.

July 22

Grace

Psalm

"Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.

Psalm 50:5-6

Meditation

The Messiah is a gift, sacrifice is a gift, justification is a gift, the Holy Spirit is a gift, eternal life is a gift, and even the means of our personal sanctification is a gift from God. Truly, we are saved by grace. We are only asked to accept a sacrifice which God has provided for our sins, and then the pardon of them, and to open the doors of our hearts, that the Spirit of God may come in and make its abode in us. God has provided all these blessings for us, and only requires us to accept of them freely, without any price or idea of merit on our part. But he asks us to receive them cordially, and to give up our hearts to him.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 34

Scripture

Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

Acts 15:10-11

Prayer

God of love, you have saved me by your grace. Open my heart to receive your grace this day.

July 23

Led by the Spirit

Psalm

*Save me, O God, by your name, and vindicate me by your might.
Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.*

Psalm 54:1-2

Meditation

The great secret of church government and organization has almost been overlooked. It is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in each believer, and member of the church. The fruits of this Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, fidelity, and temperance; against such there is no law. Such a church as is composed of such members, is easily governed by the law of Christ.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1844), 119

Scripture

I myself feel confident about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. Nevertheless on some points I have written to you rather boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:14-16

Prayer

Holy God, pour your Holy Spirit into my heart today, so he will bear fruit in my life. Through the Spirit may I instruct and be instructed by my brothers and sisters.

July 24

God's Blessings

Psalm

*I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love
and your faithfulness;*

*for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.
On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.*

Psalm 138:1-3

Meditation

God our Father measures his blessings out to us on a liberal scale. What is his measure? Let us see! The merchant measures cloth by the yard, wheat by the bushel, sugar by the pound. A yard, a bushel, or a pound is a purely arbitrary arrangement, but when once agreed upon, all must abide by it. The Lord has established from his standpoint a standard of measurement by which he bestows his blessings on those who trust him: "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ" (Eph. 4: 7). What does this mean? Evidently that having given his Son, the best he had, he is willing to measure out all his gifts with the same liberal rule.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 108-109

Scripture

"And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one thing has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you; all have come to pass for you, not one of them has failed.

Joshua 23:14

Prayer

Generous Father, you have overwhelmed me with blessings. None of your promises fail.

July 25

Family of God

Psalm

*How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.*

Psalm 84:1-2

Meditation

The Church of Christ is a family, and all its members are related to each other as brothers and sisters. And hence they should ever cherish for each other feelings of the most tender love and affection.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 477

Scripture

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Romans 12:9-16

Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach me how to love my brothers and sisters. Show me how to love the world as you love it, even blessing those who make life hard for me.

July 26

Obedience

Psalm

*My vows to you I must perform, O God; I will render thank offerings to you.
For you have delivered my soul from death, and my feet from falling,
so that I may walk before God in the light of life.*

Psalm 56:12-13

Meditation

Righteousness is both inward and outward conformity to the law of God.
Inward righteousness is to love God with all the heart, mind, and strength, and
our neighbor as ourselves. Outward righteousness is to keep his commandments,
and to do to others as we would they should do unto us.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 289-290

Scripture

*Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen
the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the
foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel."
The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey."*

Joshua 24:22-24

Prayer

Lord God, give me a heart and a will to obey you this day. May my obedience
be both inward and outward, that I might truly love You and my neighbor.

July 27

The Heart

Psalm

*Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.
From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint.
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I;
for you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.*
Psalm 61:1-3

Meditation

The faith of the Gospel is not, as we have shown, a mere logical assent of the understanding to the truth of the proposition that "Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God;" but it is a living, active, fruit-bearing principle, while, while it has its root in the understanding, at the same time pervades the heart; and through the heart it influences the will; and through the will it controls the life.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 467

Scripture

On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Acts 16:13-15

Prayer

God of love, may I trust in you with my whole heart. May I show my faith, as Lydia did, through hospitality.

July 28

Ascension

Psalm

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.*

Psalm 72:18-19

Meditation

Jesus did not, it is true, baptize in the Holy Spirit during his earthly ministry. He was preparing the way for such work in the future. He was, by his life, by his teaching, by his works, and most of all by his death and resurrection from the dead, and his ascension to the right hand of God, making possible that faith in himself and in his Father, on the part of his disciples which would prepare them for receiving the Holy Spirit.

J.H. Garrison, *The Holy Spirit*, 112-113

Scripture

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Acts 1:8-11

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of your Spirit.

July 29

Purity of Heart

Psalm

*Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"
But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!*
Psalm 70:4-5

Meditation

The pure in heart are those who ardently desire to do good, are aiming and striving to do good; who hunger and thirst after righteousness. They purpose good in their hearts, intend or design good. Their meditations are good, pure, and holy.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 283-284

Scripture

And he said, "It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Mark 7:20-23

Prayer

Lord Jesus, purify my heart this day. May no evil intentions enter or come from my heart.

July 30

Resurrection

Psalm

*Do not let the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up,
or the Pit close its mouth over me.*

Psalm 69:15

Meditation

We shall die no more. But Messiah's own resurrection is the great turning point; this was as clearly predicted in the Old Testament as was the general resurrection, and, therefore, it is only on the fact that God has fulfilled his promise to the Messiah that we his people and disciples can hope to be raised.

Walter Scott, *The Gospel Restored*, 563

Scripture

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Matthew 28:5-9

Prayer

Father, you vindicated Jesus through the resurrection. Increase my faith in my own resurrection so not even death can separate me from you.

July 31

Reign of Christ

Psalm

*Make vows to the Lord your God, and perform them;
let all who are around him bring gifts to the one who is awesome,
who cuts off the spirit of princes, who inspires fear in the kings of the earth.*

Psalm 76:11-12

Meditation

Their laws and government were changed at last by God himself; he having appointed his Son, Jesus Christ, Lord of all: him we are now to hear and him to obey. He is Lord not only of the Jews but also of the Gentiles, of all nations. Our government is a pure monarchy; Jesus being appointed Lord of all, the only law-giver of the world. While he reigned and ruled alone in the first centuries of the world, religion in her loveliest forms dwelt on earth.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 124

Scripture

From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Acts 17:26-28

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are king of all the earth! Reign in my heart and in the hearts of all your offspring today.