

May 1

Following Christ

Psalm

*Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.*

Psalm 30:4-5

Meditation

It was not merely in what we usually call great and important matters that Christ followed the will of his Father, but also in even the most minute and circumstantial events of his life.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 246

Scripture

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Colossians 3:1-4

Prayer

God of joy, hide my life in Christ today. May I seek the things above, die to myself, and live for you. Lord Jesus, come quickly and take me to be with you in glory.

May 2

Obedience

Psalm

*But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.*

Psalm 103:17-18

Meditation

Let us hear his sayings and do them, that he may liken us to wise people; let us keep his commandments, that we may enter in through the gate into the city, and have the right to the tree of life.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 2, 53-54

Scripture

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.”

Matthew 7:24-25

Prayer

Father, give me a heart of faith that will hear and obey your commandments. Lead me on the path of your covenant and your steadfast love, so I may share in your wisdom.

May 3

Idolatry

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 40:20-21

Meditation

The history of Israel and of all other nations that have fallen into idolatry proves beyond a doubt that idolatry is only another name for degeneration, degradation, and wretchedness.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 24

Scripture

The Lord said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"

Exodus 32:7-8

Prayer

Holy God, I live in a world of degeneration, degradation, and wretchedness. I confess that I am too much a part of that world. Keep me from idols—greed, power, pleasure, self—and turn my heart to worship you only.

May 4

Lord Jesus

Psalm

*Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever.
Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity;
you love righteousness and hate wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness
beyond your companions.*

Psalm 45:6-7

Meditation

He is now the Lord of hosts: legions of angels, the armies of the skies, are given to him—for what? That he might be able to do all for us that our condition needs. It was for us he became a Prophet, for us he became a Priest, for us he has been made Lord of Hosts, King of the Universe, Judge and avenger of all. He is Lord of life, Lord of the Spirit, Lord of all.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 51

Scripture

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:19-20

Prayer

Lord Jesus, be Lord of my life today. May I praise you as the fullness of God, Prophet, Priest, and King.

May 5

Money

Psalm

*Do not be afraid when some become rich, when the wealth of their houses increases.
For when they die they will carry nothing away; their wealth will not go down after them.*

Psalm 49:16-17

Meditation

Our Lord's example was certainly given for our imitation. He could have commanded the wealth of the universe; but he became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. The foxes had holes, the birds of the air had nests, but the Son of Man had not where to lay his head. His example was a veto against covetousness, and a rich ministry.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 369

Scripture

If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Luke 6:29-31

Prayer

God who gives all good gifts, may I trust you this day for daily bread. Free me From greed and covetousness. May I give freely to others as you have given tome.

May 6

The Word of God

Psalm

But to the wicked God says:

*“What right have you to recite my statutes, or take my covenant on your lips?
For you hate discipline, and you cast my words behind you.*

Psalm 50:16-17

Meditation

The faith of the child of God is not in humans, in the traditions, doctrines, and commandments of humans; nor in succession of human officers, churches, or ordinances, but in God, Christ, and the eternal Spirit, as revealed to us in the Scriptures.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 2, 53

Scripture

We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God’s word, which is also at work in you believers.

1 Thessalonians 1:13

Prayer

Father, may I listen to your words in Scripture to increase my faith in the Word made flesh. Give me the discipline to keep your words ever before me.

May 7

Truth

Psalm

*You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

Psalm 51:6-7

Meditation

With what ardent desire, then, should the soul seek this ever-living and lifegiving truth. With what readiness should it part with all that earth holds dear to secure the possession of this inestimable boon. And with what earnestness should it devote its powers and energies to the discovery and appreciation of that truth which is at once its light and life, its peace, its glory, and its joy.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 68

Scripture

Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

Matthew 5:37

Prayer

God of truth, implant your truth in my inner being. May I speak truth, think truth, and live truth. May Jesus who is the Truth live in me this day.

May 8

The Glory of the Lord

Psalm

*All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.*

Psalm 138:4-5

Meditation

The human mind staggers at the thought of God. In the hour of solitude I contemplate Him until with heart over burdened and hand upon my mouth, I bow my head in the dust. O the greatness, the awfulness, the mystery of God; O the littleness, the weakness, the ignorance of humanity!

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 25

Scripture

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

Exodus 40:34-35

Prayer

Lord, I fall before you in awe of your glory. What words can tell your greatness. I contemplate you in silence, for there are no words that can describe you. May your glory fill me this day.

May 9

Worldliness

Psalm

*He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord has them in derision.
Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,
"I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill."*

Psalm 2:4-6

Meditation

The God of this world has blinded the eyes of professed Christians and is fast leading them deceived into their ranks into captivity—into bondage and death. Christians are virtually forsaking the government and laws of heaven, to prop up and sustain the governments and laws of humanity, whether ecclesiastical or political.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1844), 226-227

Scripture

Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Matthew 7:13-14

Prayer

Father, lead me this day away from the easy path of conformity to this world.
Give me clean hands and a pure heart.

May 10

Prayer

Psalm

*Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;
and to you shall vows be performed,
O you who answer prayer!
To you all flesh shall come.*

Psalm 65:1-2

Meditation

An hour in the closet may, therefore, do more to rectify and strengthen our religious impressions and moral faculties than many days of ordinary service in the public congregation.

Robert Milligan, *A Brief Treatise on Prayer*, 16

Scripture

But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 6:6-8

Prayer

God of love, strengthen my resolve to search for you with my whole heart.
Give me the discipline to regularly spend time alone with you, knowing that you hear and answer.

May 11

Alone with God

Psalm

*For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.*

*He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.*

Psalm 62:1-2

Meditation

O the quiet holy joy of the silent hour, when the soul is alone with God! Have you learned to love it, dear reader? If not, you have yet to attain to one of the purest and sweetest pleasures possible to the Christian in this life.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 21

Scripture

For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

Prayer

My Lord and God, thank you for the joy of time spent alone with you. May I be shaped in that time into the image of Jesus, so I can faithfully wait on him and encourage others to do so.

May 12

The Poor

Psalm

*For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.
He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.*

Psalm 72:12-13

Meditation

I think that sometimes in our great anxiety for the future of those about us that we forget that they have a present life. I would not hear less about the hereafter, but I would hear more of the present, the realities of food and raiment and shelter for those whose souls are no more precious in the sight of their Creator than their bodies!

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 171

Scripture

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:9-10

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you bring good news to the poor. Give me a heart of love to give freely to those in need.

May 13

Mount Zion

Psalm

*O God, why do you cast us off for ever?
Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?
Remember your congregation, which you acquired long ago,
which you redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage.
Remember Mount Zion, where you came to dwell.*

Psalm 74:1-2

Meditation

Thus commenced the reign of Heaven, on the day of Pentecost, in the person of the Messiah, the Son of God, and the anointed Monarch of the universe. Under him his people, saved from their sins, have received a kingdom which cannot be shaken or removed.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 171

Scripture

*For to this end Christ died and lived again,
so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
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.'*

Romans 14:9-11

Prayer

Lord, may I bow the knee to you this day. Rule in my heart as you reign over all.

May 14

Judging Others

Psalm

Praise the Lord!

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord,
or declare all his praise?
Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.*

Psalm 106:1-3

Meditation

We are also persuaded that as no one can be judged for a brother or sister, so no one can judge for a brother or sister: but that everyone must be allowed to judge, as everyone must bear his or her own judgment, and must give account to God.

Thomas Campbell, *The Declaration and Address*

Scripture

Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another.

Romans 14:13

Prayer

Lord God, you judge with righteous judgment. Help me not to judge my brothers and sisters, but to treat them the way I want to be treated.

May 15

Love of Neighbor

Psalm

*I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.*

Wait for the Lord;

be strong, and let your heart take courage;

wait for the Lord!

Psalm 27:13-14

Meditation

It is here within these sacred precincts that we should realize that divine spiritual unity which can be preserved only by the bond of peace. Partakers of one bread, we are one body. Animated by one spirit, cheered by one hope, led by one Lord, sustained by one God and Father of all, it is here we should ever feel the eternal ties which bind us to each other.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 92

Scripture

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor.

Romans 15:1-2

Prayer

Jesus, my brother, open my eyes to the needs of my brothers, sisters, and neighbors. May I this day please them and not myself.

May 16

The Mystery of Our Religion

Psalm

*Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.*

Psalm 96:7-8

Meditation

By this human nature he is our brother; bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. He can approach the Father as a Son, and approach us as our brother. He loves the Father, and he also loves us.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 2, 322-323

Scripture

*Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great:
He was revealed in flesh,
vindicated in spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among Gentiles,
believed in throughout the world,
taken up in glory.*

1 Timothy 3:16

Prayer

God of glory, you took on our flesh in Jesus! Thank-you for this amazing gift of revelation!

May 17

Overcoming Temptation

Psalm

*But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.*

*Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.*

Psalm 80:17-18

Meditation

In personal holiness, then, justice and the love of God, we have the outline of true character. With these we can hopefully wait the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Walter Scott, *The Messiahship*, 338

Scripture

Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. No one, when tempted, should say, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death. Do not be deceived, my beloved.

James 1:12-16

Prayer

Holy God, make me holy this day through the power of your Holy Spirit in me. Give me the power of overcoming temptation by calling on your name.

May 18

God's Gifts

Psalm

*He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.
In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all night long with a fiery light.
He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
He made streams come out of the rock, and caused waters to flow down like rivers.*

Psalm 78:13-16

Meditation

These all seem to have sprung up instantly, in a state of perfection, at the command of God. Islands and continents, which, on the subsiding of the waters, seemed naked and barren as the flinty rock, were now adorned with all manner of trees, and fruits, and flowers. This is another fine illustration of the sublime and beautiful.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 29

Scripture

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

James 1:17-18

Prayer

Loving Creator, may I bask in the warmth of your good gifts this day. Make me ever thankful.

May 19

Confession

Psalm

*I hate the double-minded, but I love your law.
You are my hiding-place and my shield;
I hope in your word.
Go away from me, you evildoers,
that I may keep the commandments of my God.*
Psalm 119:113-114

Meditation

Holiness is wholeness. It is completeness, as relates to our ethical nature. It is spiritual sanity. It is moral health and soundness. It is our normal condition—that for which we were created. Sin is the abnormal, the destructive thing, that like an insidious poison has corrupted the fountains of our being and pouted all the streams of human life.

J.H. Garrison, *The Holy Spirit*, 168

Scripture

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

James 5:13-16

Prayer

Father, have mercy on me a sinner! May I confess to you and to others so I may know your healing.

May 20

Jesus and Humanity

Psalm

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?*

Psalm 8:3-4

Meditation

What a wonderful thought, that he, who was rich with the Father in heaven, should have become poor, that we, through his poverty, should be made rich! This our Lord did—become so poor that he had not where to lay his head, and that, too, when those he came to bless had plenty, and not only would not bestow anything for his support, but despised and rejected him.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 387

Scripture

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters

Hebrews 2:10-11

Prayer

God of love, you so loved the world that you gave your Son! You think so highly of humanity, that you became one of us! Brother Jesus, may I show your love to all those around me.

May 21

The Transfiguration

Psalm

*You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.'*

Psalm 91:1-2

Meditation

But when our meditations overleap the negative, and by the Transfiguration ascend into the positive of eternal life, all is sunshine, unclouded glory, and eternal day. The problem of humanity is solved. Humans are immortal; and the principle end of our existence is "to glorify God and to enjoy him forever."

Walter Scott, *The Messiahship*, 249

Scripture

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him.

Luke 9:28-30

Prayer

Lord Jesus, may I this day meditate on your glory. Reveal yourself to me as you did to those disciples, so I may praise you alone.

May 22

God Hears

Psalm

*Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.
Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!*

Psalm 90:15-17

Meditation

What of the lessons of redemption? Does God hear us? He heard his people in olden times. No one who believes the Bible disputes or doubts this, but does He hear us and hear us now? I want to emphasize the two words. Us! Now!!

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 19

Scripture

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 5:7-10

Prayer

O Lord, hear my cry! Increase my trust that you indeed hear my prayers as you heard the cries of Jesus.

May 23

Grace

Psalm

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

Psalm 66:16

Meditation

Grace is a perfection of God. It is the beginning and ending of our salvation.

From it bursts forth the ten thousand gifts to us—temporal and spiritual—
called the gifts of grace, so often found in the scriptures.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 296

Scripture

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ephesians 2:4-10

Prayer

God of grace, open my heart to the amazing gifts of grace you have for me today. May I share your grace with others through the good works you have prepared for me to do.

May 24

Dedication

Psalm

*How long, O Lord? Will you hide yourself forever?
How long will your wrath burn like fire?
Remember how short my time is—
for what vanity you have created all mortals.*

Psalm 89:46-47

Meditation

One who lives for self has not yet learned the alphabet of Christianity. What an all-controlling influence, then, must the fact of real discipleship of Christ exert over the whole area of one's life, in all its aims and activities. Christ enthroned in the heart must be the regnant force in our lives, if we are indeed his disciples.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 65

Scripture

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:57-62

Prayer

Lord Jesus, forgive my feeble attempts to follow you. May I forsake all and follow you wherever you go, even to the cross!

May 25

Hope

Psalm

*If the Lord had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.
When I thought, "My foot is slipping," your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up.
When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.*

Psalm 94:17-19

Meditation

Glory, honor, immortality, eternal life, and full and free salvation are by him offered to the world, on the condition that they believe in and obey the Savior. O glorious hope! And such is the hope, which the good and gracious God has set before the ruined world subjected by him to death.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1844), 157

Scripture

We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 6:19-20

Prayer

God of love, in the trials of life, in the daily sameness of life, give me hope.

May 26

The Power of Christ

Psalm

*With my mouth I will give great thanks to the Lord;
I will praise him in the midst of the throng.
For he stands at the right hand of the needy,
to save them from those who would condemn them to death.*

Psalm 109:30-31

Meditation

With an ineffable sweetness of spirit he opened the human understanding or shut the heart; he could create bread, blast a tree, subdue a colt, open the blind eyes, unstop the deaf ears, unloose the dumb tongue, or recall the dead; create fish, provide a meal, or vanish from supper, discern the thoughts of the heart, detect the traitor, read his treason, and foretell his fate. These are some of his doings, but the full thunder of his power what heart can comprehend?

Walter Scott, *The Messiahship*, 258

Scripture

At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Luke 10:21-22

Prayer

Lord Jesus, whose hand worked wonders, open my eyes to your power in me today.

May 27

Redemption

Psalm

*For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.
So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.
He gave them the lands of the nations,
and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,
that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the Lord!*
Psalm 105:42-45

Meditation

O, that every one of us had a heart like that of our Redeemer, and that our lives corresponded in all possible respects with his life! Then, indeed, would the wilderness and solitary parts of the earth soon be glad, and the deserts would rejoice and blossom as the rose.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 250

Scripture

Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

Hebrews 7:26

Prayer

Jesus, my Priest, intercede for me! May I in turn intercede for others in your holy name.

May 28

Our Shepherd

Psalm

*Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.*

*Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;
hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.*

*Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress;
he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.*

Psalm 107:2-7

Meditation

As the sheep never lies down in the green and tender grass until its wants are fully met and it is perfectly content, what a striking and beautiful picture this is of the soul's peace and contentment in Christ. Faithful and tender shepherd that he is, he will not desert us, though we walk through the valley and shadow of death.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 32

Scripture

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Ezekiel 34:23-24

Prayer

Jesus, great Shepherd of the sheep, guide me this day with your firm and tender hand.

May 29

Redemption

Psalm

*I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,
and I will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.*

Psalm 108:3-4

Meditation

I do not mean to say that the problem of redemption was then fully and perfectly understood. By no means. It is not even yet so understood. And it will, in all probability, require an eternity to trace out and comprehend all the effects of the blood of Christ on the government of God and the interests of humanity.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 232

Scripture

For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

Hebrews 9:13-14

Prayer

Loving God, what a sacrifice you gave for me on the cross! This day make my conscience pure so I can serve you in love.

May 30

Theme: The Comforter

Psalm

*I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.*
Psalm 145:1-3

Meditation

Notice, too, that this Comforter and personal helper who Jesus promised to send was not simply with them, as heretofore, but in them. Another contrast is, that while Jesus' presence with them was brief, this other Comforter was to abide with them forever.

J. H. Garrison, *The Holy Spirit*, 115

Scripture

I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.
John 14:25-28

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for being in me through your Holy Spirit. May your Spirit guide and comfort me this day.

May 31

New Creation

Psalm

*By this I know that you are pleased with me; because my enemy has not triumphed over me.
But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.*

Psalm 41:11-12

Meditation

We need something more to make us happy than mere admission into a place of happiness. We must be regenerated, made new creatures, or we could not be happy among the happy, in heaven itself. Turn, then, to the Lord, enter the covenant, and live forever. Come with Christ, become conformed to him and made inexpressibly happy in him now and prepared to enjoy him forever and ever.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 303-304

Scripture

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since

God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Prayer

Creator God, you have made me anew. Make me an ambassador with the message of reconciliation.