

The book cover features a solid orange background on the left side. The right side is decorated with a series of horizontal, wavy bands in alternating green and orange colors. The title 'Everyday Life' is printed in white, bold, sans-serif font on a green band. The publisher's logo 'sgm' is located in the bottom right corner, enclosed in a white rounded rectangle.

Everyday Life

sgm

Everyday life

**In the words of the
Holy Bible**

*Let your manner of life be worthy
of the Gospel of Christ
(Philippians 1 : 27)*

Personal life

- 1 Eating and drinking, 15
- 2 Clothing, 17
- 3 Cleanliness, 18
- 4 Conversation, 19
- 5 Suffering and sickness, 21

Social life

- 6 Liberty, 24
- 7 Employment, 25
- 8 Masters and employers, 27

Scripture Gift Mission

Radstock House,
Eccleston Street,
London SW1W 9LZ

This book consists of quotations from the Holy Bible—the Word of God, arranged under suitable headings. You are earnestly recommended to obtain and to read the Bible for yourself, for it is the revelation of God to all mankind.

Contents

Prologue:

What man is there who desires life? *page 5*

Home life

- 1 Daily worship in the home, 7
- 2 Marriage, 8
- 3 Chastity, 11
- 4 Parents and children, 13

Personal life

- 1 Eating and drinking, 15
- 2 Clothing, 17
- 3 Cleanliness, 18
- 4 Conversation, 19
- 5 Suffering and sickness, 21

Social life

- 1 Those in authority, 24
- 2 Work and employment, 25
- 3 Managers and employers, 27
- 4 Money and possessions, 28
- 5 Debt and interest, 31
- 6 Lawsuits, 32
- 7 Enemies, 33
- 8 Giving and hospitality, 34
- 9 Persecution for what is right, 36

Religious life

- 1 True worship, 39
- 2 The Church, 39
- 3 The Lord's Day, 42
- 4 False worship: Idolatry, 43
- 5 Magic and fortune-telling, 44

Epilogue:

Death—the gateway to the larger life, 46

Prologue**What man is there who desires life?**

Psalm 34 : 12

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God rests upon him.

And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. (John 3 : 16, 36 John 17 : 3)

God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men. (Romans 5 : 8, 18)

The love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. (2 Corinthians 5 : 14, 15)

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2 : 20)

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these things are yours and abound, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1 : 3-8)

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. (Titus 3 : 4-7)

For by grace you have been saved through faith: and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2 : 8-10)

The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6 : 23)

Home life

*Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.
(Psalm 127 : 1)*

1

Daily worship in the home

Daily Bible reading

Seek and read from the book of the LORD. (Isaiah 34 : 16)

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119 : 105)

They (the people of Berea) received the word with all eagerness, examining the scriptures daily. (Acts 17 : 11)

The sacred writings are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3 : 15-17)

For further study: Joshua 1 : 8 Psalm 119 : 9-18, 130, 160 Colossians 3 : 16

Daily prayer and praise

I will extol thee, my God and King, and bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day I will bless thee, and praise thy name for ever and ever. (Psalm 145 : 1, 2)

Daniel got down upon his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God. (Daniel 6 : 10)

In the morning, a great while before day, Jesus rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed. (Mark 1 : 35)

Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father. (Ephesians 5 : 18-20)

Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another. (Hebrews 10 : 25)

For further study: Psalm 51 : 15 Psalm 147 : 1
Proverbs 15 : 8 Daniel 6 Luke 2 : 37 Luke 11 : 1
Acts 10 : 2, 30 Philippians 4 : 6-8

2

Marriage

Ordained by God for this life

The LORD God said: It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him. Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh. (Genesis 2 : 18, 24)

The Lord Jesus said: Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this reason a man shall leave his

father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one? So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder. (Matthew 19 : 4-6)

For further study: Matthew 19 : 7-12 Luke 20 : 27-36

Choosing a partner

Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? (2 Corinthians 6 : 14, 15)

A good wife is the crown of her husband. A prudent wife is from the LORD. (Proverbs 12 : 4 Proverbs 19 : 14)

The girl's consent should be obtained

They called Rebekah, and said to her, Will you go with this man? She said, I will go. (Genesis 24 : 58)

Behaviour of husband and wife

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. (Ephesians 5 : 25, 28)

The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not rule over her own body, but the husband does; likewise the husband does not rule over his own body, but the wife does. Do not refuse one another except perhaps by agreement for a season, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, lest Satan tempt you through lack of self-control. (1 Corinthians 7 : 3-5)

*

You wives, be submissive to your husbands, so that some, though they do not obey the word, may be won without a word by the behaviour of their wives, when they see your reverent and chaste behaviour. (1 Peter 3 : 1, 2)

Likewise you husbands, live considerately with your wives, bestowing honour on the woman as the weaker sex, since you are joint heirs of the grace of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered. (1 Peter 3 : 7)

For further study: Colossians 3 : 18-21

The help that older women can give

Older women are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be sensible, chaste, domestic, kind, and submissive to their husbands. (Titus 2 : 3-5)

Concerning widows

A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. If the husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 7 : 39)

God said: You shall not afflict any widow or orphan. (Exodus 22 : 22)

I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against those who oppress the widow and the orphan. (Malachi 3 : 5)

For further study: Genesis 24 Proverbs 31 : 10-31
Mark 10 : 11, 12 John 2 : 1-11 1 Corinthians 7 : 12-16
Galatians 3 : 27, 28 1 Timothy 5 : 8

3

Chastity

The Lord Jesus said: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (Matthew 5 : 8)

Rejoice in the wife of your youth. For the lips of a loose woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death. (Proverbs 5 : 18, 3-5)

Let marriage be held in honour among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for God will judge the immoral and adulterous. (Hebrews 13 : 4)

The Lord Jesus said: Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a man. (Matthew 15 : 19, 20)

He also said: Every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. (Matthew 5 : 28, 29)

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Do you not know that he who joins

himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6 : 9, 10, 15-20)

Let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (Romans 13 : 13, 14)

Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (Galatians 6 : 7, 8)

For further study: Genesis 39 2 Samuel 11 and 12
Proverbs 6 : 23-33 Proverbs 7 Proverbs 9 : 13-18
Mark 6 : 17-28 Colossians 3 : 5

Separation and divorce

The Lord Jesus said: Whoever divorces his wife and marries another, commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery. (Mark 10 : 11, 12)

The Apostle Paul wrote: To the married I give charge, not I but the Lord, that the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, let her remain single or else be reconciled to her husband)—and that the husband should not divorce his wife. (1 Corinthians 7 : 10, 11)

For further study: Matthew 19 : 3-9

4

Parents and children

*Lo, sons are a heritage from the Lord,
the fruit of the womb a reward.
(Psalm 127 : 3)*

The training of children

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22 : 6)

God said: You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul; and you shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deuteronomy 11 : 18, 19)

The Lord Jesus said: Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. (Matthew 18 : 5, 6)

He also said: Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them. (Mark 10 : 14, 16)

He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him. (Proverbs 13 : 24)

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6 : 4)

The sons of Eli had no regard for the LORD. The sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the LORD. Then the LORD said, Behold . . . I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. (1 Samuel 2 : 12, 17 1 Samuel 3 : 11, 13)

Behaviour of children

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honour your father and mother, that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. (Ephesians 6 : 1-3)

For further study: Exodus 2 : 1-10 Numbers 27 : 8-11
Joshua 24 : 15 1 Samuel 1 Job 1 : 5 Psalm 78 : 1-8
Psalm 144 : 12-15 Proverbs 17 : 6 Proverbs 20 : 11
Proverbs 29 : 15, 17 Mark 10 : 13-16 Luke 2 : 41-52
2 Timothy 1 : 5 2 Timothy 3 : 15

Personal life

In all your ways acknowledge Him.
(Proverbs 3 : 6)

1

Eating and drinking

God is the giver

O LORD my God, thou art very great! Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth. (Psalm 104 : 1, 14)

Our Father who art in heaven . . . give us this day our daily bread. (Matthew 6 : 9, 11)

The Lord Jesus said: Do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be of anxious mind. For all the nations of the world seek these things; and your Father knows that you need them. (Luke 12 : 29, 30)

For further study: Psalm 65 : 9-13

What we may eat

The Lord Jesus said: Whatever goes into a man from outside cannot defile him, since it enters, not his heart but his stomach. (Thus he declared all foods clean.) (Mark 7 : 18, 19)

Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you

are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. (But if someone says to you, This has been offered in sacrifice, then out of consideration for the man who informed you, and for conscience' sake—I mean his conscience, not yours—do not eat it.) So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10 : 25, 27, 28, 31)

Drunkenness

Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who tarry long over wine, those who go to try mixed wine.

Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. At the last it bites like a serpent. (Proverbs 23 : 29-32)

Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5 : 18)

Let the time that is past suffice for doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you do not now join them in the same wild profligacy, and they abuse you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. (1 Peter 4 : 3-5)

For further study: Proverbs 23 : 20, 21
Isaiah 5 : 11, 12, 22, 23 1 Corinthians 5 : 9-11
Galatians 5 : 19-21

Fasting

God said: Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the

yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him. (Isaiah 58 : 6, 7)

The Lord Jesus said: When you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6 : 16-18)

Giving thanks before meals

God created (food) to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. Everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving. (1 Timothy 4 : 3, 4)

Paul urged them all to take some food, and he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat. (Acts 27 : 33, 35)

For further study: Exodus 16 Exodus 17 : 1-7
1 Kings 17 : 1-16 Psalm 104 : 10-28 Psalm 111 : 5
Psalm 145 : 15, 16 Daniel 1 : 5, 8-16 Matthew 9 : 10
Mark 8 : 1-21 Luke 12 : 22-26 Luke 15 : 2
John 6 : 1-13 Acts 11 : 1-18 1 Corinthians 5 : 11
1 Corinthians 8 : 4-13

2

Clothing

The LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins, and clothed them. (Genesis 3 : 21)

The Lord Jesus said: Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass which is alive in the field today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O men of little faith? (Luke 12 : 27, 28)

Let not yours be the outward adorning with braiding of hair, decoration of gold, and wearing of robes, but let it be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. (1 Peter 3 : 3, 4)

For further study: Deuteronomy 22 : 5
Matthew 6 : 25-34 1 Timothy 2 : 8-10

3

Cleanliness

The LORD said to Moses, Go to the people and consecrate them and let them wash their garments, for the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. (Exodus 19 : 10, 11)

The Levites washed their clothes, and after that went in to do their service in the tent of meeting. (Numbers 8 : 21, 22)

Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, Put away the foreign gods that are among you, and purify yourselves, and change your garments; then let us arise and go up to Bethel, that I may make there an altar to the God who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone. (Genesis 35 : 2, 3)

Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you.
(1 Corinthians 6 : 19)

Since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10 : 19, 22)

For further study: 1 Corinthians 3 : 16, 17

4

Conversation

Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD, keep watch over the door of my lips! (Psalm 141 : 3)

Our words reveal our hearts

The Lord Jesus said: Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment men will render account for every careless word they utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. (Matthew 12 : 34-37)

If anyone thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this man's religion is vain. If anyone makes no mistakes in what he says

he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body also. (James 1 : 26 James 3 : 2)

For further study: James 3 : 3-12

How we should speak

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain. (Exodus 20 : 7)

The Lord Jesus said: Do not swear at all. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'. Judge not, that you be not judged. (Matthew 5 : 34, 37 Matthew 7 : 1)

You shall not utter a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man, to be a malicious witness. (Exodus 23 : 1)

Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. (James 1 : 19)

A good wife opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. (Proverbs 31 : 10, 26)

For further study: Malachi 3 : 16 Ephesians 4 : 25
Colossians 4 : 6 1 Peter 3 : 10

Concerning abuse and bad language

Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, with all malice. (Ephesians 4 : 29, 31)

Immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is fitting among saints. Let there be no filthiness, nor silly talk, nor

levity, which are not fitting; but instead let there be thanksgiving. (Ephesians 5 : 3, 4)

Do not lie to one another. (Colossians 3 : 9)

You shall not go up and down as a slanderer. (Leviticus 19 : 16)

For further study: Exodus 4 : 10-12 Proverbs 6 : 16-19
Proverbs 15 : 1-8 Proverbs 16 : 27, 28
Proverbs 26 : 18-28 James 4 : 11-17 1 Peter 2 : 21-23

5

Suffering and sickness

Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. (1 Peter 2 : 21)

Pain and sickness came into the world because of sin

Sin came into the world through one man and death through sin. (Romans 5 : 12)

The whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Romans 8 : 22, 23)

Christ Himself trod the pathway of suffering

Christ, although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him. (Hebrews 5 : 8, 9)

He was a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. (Isaiah 53 : 3)

God strengthens His people when in trouble

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46 : 1)

Thus says the LORD, he who created you, Fear not, for I have redeemed you. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned. (Isaiah 43 : 1, 2)

Blessed be the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. (2 Corinthians 1 : 3-5)

As your days, so shall your strength be. The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. (Deuteronomy 33 : 25, 27)

God brings blessing out of trouble

We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him. (Romans 8 : 28)

Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1 : 2-4)

For the Christian, suffering is only temporary

This slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. (2 Corinthians 4 : 17)

The Apostle John wrote: I saw a new heaven and a new earth. And I heard a great voice from the throne saying, Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away. (Revelation 21 : 1, 3, 4)

For further study: 2 Kings 5 : 1-19 Psalm 91
Psalm 103 : 1-4 Psalm 142 Proverbs 3 : 11, 12 Isaiah 38
Mark 2 : 1-12 and many miracles of the Lord Jesus Christ.
John 16 : 20-22 Acts 3 : 1-10 2 Corinthians 12 : 7-10
Philippians 3 : 7-10 1 Peter 4 : 12-19 1 Peter 5 : 10

Social life

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5 : 16)

1

Those in authority

In the State

The Lord Jesus said: Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. (Matthew 22 : 21)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Pay all of them their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due. (Romans 13 : 1-3, 7)

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way.

This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour. (1 Timothy 2 : 1-3)

In the Church

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. (Hebrews 13 : 7)

Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls. (Hebrews 13 : 17)

For further study: 1 Samuel 24 1 Samuel 26
2 Samuel 15-18 Psalm 72 : 1-4 1 Peter 2 : 13-18

2

Work and employment

It is God's will that men should work

The LORD God took the man (Adam) and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. (Genesis 2 : 15)

The LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. (Genesis 3 : 23)

Many who heard Jesus were astonished, saying, Is not this the carpenter? (Mark 6 : 2, 3)

Aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands. (1 Thessalonians 4 : 11)

The Apostle Paul wrote: We gave you this command: If any one will not work, let him not eat. For

we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work in quietness and to earn their own living. (2 Thessalonians 3 : 10-12)

He also said: You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak. (Acts 20 : 34, 35)

How work should be done

Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you are serving the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3 : 22-24)

Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brethren; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their service are believers and beloved. (1 Timothy 6 : 2)

Bid slaves to be submissive to their masters and to give satisfaction in every respect; they are not to be refractory, nor to pilfer, but to show entire and true fidelity, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour. (Titus 2 : 9, 10)

The Lord Jesus said: He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. (Luke 16 : 10)

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Colossians 3 : 17)

For further study: Genesis 39 : 1-6 Genesis 41 : 38-41
Psalm 90 : 17 Proverbs 6 : 6-11
Proverbs 24 : 30-34 Ecclesiastes 9 : 10
Ecclesiastes 10 : 18 Ecclesiastes 12 : 14 Acts 18 : 3
1 Corinthians 3 : 9 Ephesians 4 : 28

3

Managers and employers

Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. Masters, forbear threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him. (Colossians 4 : 1 Ephesians 6 : 9)

You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy. You shall give him his hire on the day he earns it, before the sun goes down (for he is poor, and sets his heart upon it). (Deuteronomy 24 : 14, 15)

I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against those who oppress the hireling in his wages, says the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 3 : 5)

Woe to him who makes his neighbour serve him for nothing, and does not give him his wages. (Jeremiah 22 : 13)

A more excellent way

The Lord Jesus said: Let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. I am among you as one who serves. (Luke 22 : 26, 27)

Have this mind among yourselves, which you have in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2 : 5-7)

For further study: Matthew 23 : 10-12
Mark 10 : 42-44 Luke 7 : 2-10 John 13 : 1-17
Philemon 8-22

4

Money and possessions

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8 : 9)

Honesty

You shall not steal. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbour's. (Exodus 20 : 15, 17)

You shall not remove your neighbour's landmark. (Deuteronomy 19 : 14)

You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measures of length or weight or quantity. You shall have just balances, just weights: I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 19 : 35, 36)

God said: He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands, lest they hold a bribe, he will dwell on the heights; his place of defence will be the fortresses of rocks; his bread will be given him, his water will be sure. (Isaiah 33 : 15, 16)

If a man steals, he shall make restitution. When a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed over, or lets his beast loose and it feeds in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best in his own field and in his own vineyard. For every breach of trust, he whom God shall condemn shall pay double to his neighbour. (Exodus 22 : 1, 5, 9)

Zacchaeus said to the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold. And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house. (Luke 19 : 8, 9)

We should not set our hearts on money

The Lord Jesus said: Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. You cannot serve God and mammon (money). (Matthew 6 : 19-21, 24)

The Apostle Paul wrote: There is great gain in godliness with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world; but if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and hurtful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced their hearts with many pangs. (1 Timothy 6 : 6-10)

We should not worry about the future

The Lord Jesus said: Do not be anxious about

your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. (Matthew 6 : 25, 32, 33)

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4 : 6, 7)

Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you. (1 Peter 5 : 7)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (Psalm 23 : 1)

Warning

The Lord Jesus said: Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. And he told them a parable, saying, The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops? And he said, I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry. But God said to him, Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things

you have prepared, whose will they be? So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. (Luke 12 : 15-21)

For further study: Deuteronomy 8 : 11-18
Deuteronomy 16 : 18-20 Deuteronomy 25 : 13-16
Joshua 7 1 Kings 21 2 Kings 5 : 20-27 2 Kings 12 : 15
Psalm 37 : 21-26 Proverbs 15 : 16, 17 Proverbs 30 : 7-9
Matthew 19 : 16-26 Luke 3 : 14 Hebrews 13 : 5
James 2 : 1-9 James 5 : 1-6

5

Debt and interest

Owe no one anything, except to love one another. (Romans 13 : 8)

If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not exact interest from him. (Exodus 22 : 25)

O LORD, who shall sojourn in thy tent? Who shall dwell on thy holy hill? He who walks blamelessly, and does what is right, and speaks truth from his heart; who does not put out his money at interest, and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved. (Psalm 15 : 1, 2, 5)

The wicked borrows, and cannot pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives. (Psalm 37 : 21)

For further study: Exodus 22 : 1-15
Deuteronomy 24 : 10-15 Matthew 18 : 23-34

6

Lawsuits

Lawsuits are to be avoided

The Lord Jesus said: When you pray, say: Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive every one who is indebted to us. (Luke 11 : 2, 4)

He also said: If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile. (Matthew 18 : 15-17)

He also said: Take heed to yourselves; if your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him; and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, and says, I repent, you must forgive him. (Luke 17 : 3, 4)

The Apostle Paul wrote: When one of you has a grievance against a brother, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? Can it be that there is no man among you wise enough to decide between members of the brotherhood, but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? To have lawsuits at all with one another is defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? (1 Corinthians 6 : 1, 5-7)

Our conduct in lawsuits and disputes

The Lord Jesus said: If any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well. (Matthew 5 : 40)

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. (Exodus 20 : 16)

You shall not be partial in judgment; you shall hear the small and the great alike; you shall not be afraid of the face of man, for the judgment is God's. (Deuteronomy 1 : 17)

For further study: Deuteronomy 17 : 8-11
2 Chronicles 19 : 4-11 Matthew 6 : 14, 15
Romans 13 : 1-10

7

Enemies

They crucified Jesus. And he said, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. (Luke 23 : 33, 34)

The Lord Jesus said: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also. (Luke 6 : 27-29)

He also said: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Matthew 5 : 9)

The Apostle Peter wrote: Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return;

when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he trusted to him who judges justly. (1 Peter 2 : 21, 23)

The Apostle Paul wrote: Repay no one evil for evil. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all. Never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. No, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink. Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12 : 17-21)

Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles. Do not say, I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done. (Proverbs 24 : 17, 29)

If you meet your enemy's ox or his ass going astray, you shall bring it back to him. If you see the ass of one who hates you lying under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving him with it, you shall help him to lift it up. (Exodus 23 : 4, 5)

For further study: Genesis 37 : 18-28 Genesis 45 : 1-8
1 Samuel 24 1 Samuel 26 Acts 7 : 54-60
1 Corinthians 13 : 4-7

8

Giving and hospitality

How to give

The Lord Jesus said: You received without pay, give without pay. And he said: When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbours, lest they

also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just. (Matthew 10 : 8 Luke 14 : 12-14)

For further study: Matthew 6 : 1-4
2 Corinthians 9 : 6-15 Hebrews 13 : 2

Giving to God

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. (Haggai 2 : 8)

They (God's people) shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed; every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which he has given you. (Deuteronomy 16 : 16, 17)

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury; and he saw a poor widow put in two copper coins. And he said, Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she had. (Luke 21 : 1-4)

For further study: 1 Chronicles 29 : 6-14

God's blessing on givers

The Apostle Paul said: In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20 : 35)

Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the

windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. (Malachi 3 : 10)

One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. A liberal man will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. (Proverbs 11 : 24, 25)

Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back. (Luke 6 : 38)

For further study: Proverbs 11 : 26
Matthew 25 : 31-40 1 Corinthians 13 : 3
2 Corinthians 8 : 1-12

9

Persecution for what is right

Our example

The Lord Jesus said: A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you. (John 15 : 20)

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done

no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. (Isaiah 53 : 7-9)

The Lord Jesus said to his disciples: They will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be a time for you to bear testimony. Settle it therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Luke 21 : 12-15 Matthew 10 : 20, 28)

He also said: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. (Matthew 5 : 10-12 Matthew 10 : 22)

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. (Romans 12 : 14)

The Apostle Peter wrote: If you are reproached for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a wrongdoer, or a mischief-maker; yet if

one suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but under that name let him glorify God. (1 Peter 4 : 14-16)

The Apostle Paul wrote: The Lord said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12 : 9, 10)

The Lord Jesus said: I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. (John 16 : 33)

For further study: Acts 4 : 1-31 Philippians 1 : 29
1 Peter 2 : 19-23 1 Peter 3 : 14-18

Religious life

1

True worship

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4 : 24)

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. (Psalm 51 : 17)

Through Christ then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. (Hebrews 13 : 15)

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. (Hebrews 13 : 16)

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1 : 27)

For further study: Psalm 4 : 5 Psalm 54 : 6
Romans 12 : 1, 2

2

The Church

It is Christ's alone

The Lord Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is

that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15 : 5)

God has put all things under Christ's feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fulness of him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1 : 22, 23)

When one says, I belong to Paul, and another, I belong to Apollos, are you not merely men? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. So let no one boast of men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future, all are yours; and you are Christ's; and Christ is God's. (1 Corinthians 3 : 4-7, 21-23)

For further study: Ephesians 4 : 1-16

It is holy

In Christ Jesus the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2 : 21, 22)

It is one in fellowship

I therefore beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all,

who is above all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4 : 1, 3-6)

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3 : 27, 28)

By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12 : 13)

It is one in service

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together. (1 Corinthians 12 : 4-6, 12, 13)

It is apostolic

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2 : 42)

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the corner-stone. (Ephesians 2 : 19, 20)

Christ's gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and

teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. (Ephesians 4 : 11-13)

For further study: 1 Corinthians 12 : 28

3

The Lord's Day

It was the day on which the Lord Jesus rose from the dead

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise. (Luke 24 : 1-7)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, Peace be with you. When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. (John 20 : 19, 20)

It was the day on which the Christians met together

On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the morrow. (Acts 20 : 7)

The Apostle Paul wrote: On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that contributions need not be made when I come. (1 Corinthians 16 : 2)

For further study: Mark 1 : 21-34 Luke 13 : 10-17
Revelation 1 : 9, 10

4

False worship: Idolatry

God said: You shall not make for yourself a graven image: you shall not bow down to them or serve them. (Exodus 20 : 4, 5)

The Lord Jesus said: You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve. (Matthew 4 : 10)

The Apostle Paul said: We ought not to think that the Deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, a representation by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent. (Acts 17 : 29, 30)

What pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. (1 Corinthians 10 : 20)

The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they

Speak not, they have eyes, but they see not, they have ears, but they hear not, nor is there any breath in their mouths. (Psalm 135 : 15-17)

As for sorcerers, and idolaters, their lot shall be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone. (Revelation 21 : 8)

We are the temple of the living God; as God said,
I will live in them and move among them,
And I will be their God, and they shall be my
people.

Therefore come out from them, and be separate
from them, says the Lord,
And touch nothing unclean;
Then I will welcome you,
And I will be a father to you,
And you shall be my sons and daughters.

(2 Corinthians 6 : 16-18)

For further study: Exodus 32 Isaiah 44 : 6-19
Jeremiah 10 : 1-16 Acts 19 : 23-41
Revelation 22 : 14, 15

5

Magic and fortune-telling

The diviners see lies; the dreamers tell false dreams, and give empty consolation. (Zechariah 10 : 2)

Thus says the LORD of hosts, Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams which they dream, for it is a lie which they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them. (Jeremiah 29 : 8, 9)

What God thinks and does about such practices

Do not turn to mediums or wizards; do not seek them out, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God. If a person turns to mediums and wizards, I will set my face against that person, and will cut him off from among his people. (Leviticus 19 : 31 Leviticus 20 : 6)

There shall not be found among you anyone who practises divination, a soothsayer, or an augur, or a sorcerer, or a charmer, or a medium, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. (Deuteronomy 18 : 10-12)

Saul died for his unfaithfulness; he was unfaithful to the LORD in that he did not keep the command of the LORD, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance, and did not seek guidance from the LORD. Therefore the LORD slew him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse. (1 Chronicles 10 : 13, 14)

For further study: Numbers 23 : 23 1 Samuel 28 : 3-25
2 Chronicles 33 : 1-13 Nehemiah 13 : 2 Acts 8 : 9-24
Acts 13 : 4-12 Acts 16 : 16-18 Acts 19 : 11-20

Epilogue

Death—the gateway to the larger life

Christ's victory over death

The risen Lord Jesus said: Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one; I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death. (Revelation 1 : 17, 18)

Our victory over death through Christ

The Lord Jesus said: I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. (John 11 : 25, 26)

Forever with the Lord

Do not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4 : 13, 14, 16, 17)

For I am sure that neither death, nor life . . . will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8 : 38, 39)

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me. (Psalm 23 : 4)

For further study: Job 1 : 21 John 11 : 1-44
Acts 2 : 24 1 Corinthians 15 : 20-26, 54-57
2 Corinthians 5 : 1-8 2 Timothy 1 : 10

As he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct. (1 Peter 1 : 15)

To him who orders his way aright I will show the salvation of God. (Psalm 50 : 23)

As your days, so shall your strength be. (Deuteronomy 33 : 25)