



Important Passages

(Part 2)

To Know and Live

For Pastors, Teachers, and All Believers

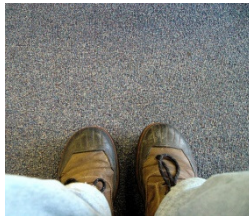
Sunday, 2/1/15 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 2/2/15 at 7 PM

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: We *were* dead in our sins and facing a horrible eternity, **but God has made us alive in Christ!** We are now free from the condemning power of sin, *but we are not free to do whatever!* Therefore, today, we dive into part 2 of our current series: Important Passages to Know and Live for Pastors, Teachers, and All Believers!

7: Our Accountability to God:

For Everyone:

⇒ In this section Paul was on trial; his accusers said he was stirring “up riots among all the Jews throughout the world...” Then Paul denied the charges and told why they could not be true: ^{NIV} **Acts 24:15** “...there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.” ¹⁶ So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man. // So Paul, knowing about the coming resurrection – that he would have to stand before God, always attempted to do what was right “before God and man.”



⇒ Paul also reminded the Christians in Rome that ^{NAS} **Romans 14:12** ...each one of us shall give account of himself to God. // Through Jesus our sins are forgiven – *praise God*, but still we will give an account; therefore, let us live *now* so that we are not ashamed *on that day!*

For Pastors and Bible Teachers: These passages guide my work as your pastor:

- ⇒ With these words Paul described his ministry to the Christians in Thessalonica: ^{NIV} **1 Thessalonians 2:4** ...we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. // I believe that God has called me to serve here at Bethlehem. My *first priority* is to *please God*; in doing so, *I believe that you will be blessed!*
- ⇒ ^{ESV} **James 3:1** Not many of you should become [Bible] teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. // Teachers can ♦rightly teach their students—to *their benefit* **OR** ♦wrongly teach them—to *their harm*. Wrong teaching is serious; Paul wrote in Galatians 1: “If anyone is preaching [thus teaching] to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed [thus separated from Christ, eternally condemned]” (v. 8 ESV). So, knowing that God is going to judge me more strictly, I try to judge myself more strictly *by doing my best to rightly teach His Holy Word by saying whatever God says – not more, not less!*
- ⇒ The final chapter of Hebrews is filled with God-pleasing advice; these words, *in verse 17*, are directed to church members: ^{NAS} **Hebrews 13:17** Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you. // So there is much advice for church members in that verse, *but I am focusing on what it says to me as a leader*: My job is to “keep watch over your souls...” How is that done? As I follow this passage: ^{NAS} **2 Timothy 4:2** “preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.” My part is to “preach the word,” but you also have a part: To gather, hear,

understand, believe, and apply the word. When you do such things, *I have joy and you are blessed!*

8: Some Ways We Live as Believers:

- ⇒ Life in Christ does *not* need to be complicated: ^{NAS} **Micah 6:8** He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God? // So those words provide a good pattern for us:
- Do what is right, *thus what agrees with the Bible!*
 - Love showing kindness to others, *even as God has shown great kindness to us!*
 - Humbly follow God's will for our lives, *knowing He has a plan for us and believing that His plan is best!*
- ⇒ Even though Paul addressed these words to Timothy, a “man of God,” a pastor, *they are good words for all of us* whom God has made holy in His sight through Jesus: ^{NAS} **1 Timothy 6:11** But flee from these things [such as the love of money, v. 10], you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. // Let us pursue:
- Righteousness – by ever-trusting in Jesus!
 - Godliness – by imitating God.
 - Faith – by going God's way, even when it doesn't make sense.
 - Love – by taking action to help others.
 - Perseverance – by never giving up on God and His Word.
 - Gentleness – by being considerate to all people.

9: An Important Order:

^{NAS} **Ezra 7:10** For Ezra had set his heart to



- ⇒ study the law of the LORD, and to
- ⇒ practice it, and to
- ⇒ teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.
- // Note the order: set > study > practice > teach. Also, *no variation in that order will work*; for example:
- Those who study *without having their hearts set on receiving from God* will not benefit.
 - Those who teach *without first practicing, thus living God's Word* are trying to peddle a product that they are not familiar with.

Therefore, **let us all be effective Christians**, *whether we do formal teaching or not*, by +desiring to benefit from the Bible, +studying the Bible, +living the Bible, and +sharing the Bible with others!

Conclusion: And all God's people said: **Amen!**

Some ways to apply today's sermon:

1. Remember, a day is coming when we must give an account of ourselves to God; so let us live now so that we are not ashamed then!
2. Do your part responsibly by faithfully gathering to hear, understand, believe, and apply God's Word.
3. Follow this order: set > study > practice > teach!
 - a. Teachers – be faithful!
 - b. Parents – you are responsible to teach your children!
 - c. Everyone – ➔ attend a Bible class every week and ➔ volunteer once each month to read a Bible story to the children in our childcare center (call Tricia, 440-884-0430 to schedule)!

Receive a brochure next week which contains all the passages in this series!

CONNECT WITH US ➔ Website: BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
Podcast: Benefit from the Bible | Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230