

**Pray:** You would not allow pride to keep you from reflecting on the statutes of God.

## Monday 5/19

**Read:** The thought life of the disobedient might also be something quite different. The problem might lie in the object of their thoughts. Just as someone might say "you are what you eat", she might also say "you are what you think".

**Application:** Consider **Philippians 4:8**. In **John 17:17** the Bible refers to the word of God as the truth. It is not insignificant that **Philippians 4:8** begins with the statement "**whatever is true**". Thinking about the truth found in God's word is the foundation for the way we respond in word and deed.

**Pray:** Your thoughts would be brought in line with the thoughts of God.

## Tuesday 5/20

**Read:** Every word found in the Bible comes directly from the mouth of God. It is the source of your life as a Christian. It would be no exaggeration to call God's word the life blood of your existence.

**Application:** **John 17:17** tells you Jesus called upon God to use his word to sanctify you. Jesus prayed that the word of God would be the tool for setting you apart for his service. Just as it is necessary to eat in order to sustain your physical life, it is necessary to draw on the word of God for your spiritual life (**Matthew 4:4**).

**Pray:** That you would as eagerly partake of the word of God for your spiritual life as you do food for your physical life.

## Wednesday 5/21

**Read:** Another key word in **Philippians 4:8** is the word "pure". When something is pure it is perfect, free from anything that taints. That aptly describes the truth found in God's word, the cornerstone of your Christian walk.

**Application:** In **Psalms 51:10** David implores God to keep his heart pure. To maintain a steadfast spirit within him. Purity flows from remaining in the truth. Do not depart from it. In the first part of **Psalms 119:9** the rhetorical question is raised, "how can a man keep his way pure"? The second half of the verse answers the question, "**by living according to your (his) word**".

**Pray:** The purity of God's word would flow into and out of your heart.

## Thursday 5/22

**Read:** Perhaps we have jumped ahead in our discussion. The topic of concern in **Zephaniah 3:6-8** continues to be God's judgment. There is a storm brewing. God's promise to punish all who continue in their disobedience still rings loudly.

**Application:** There is a storm surrounding you. A storm that is real. A storm that will destroy you. At the center of this storm is sin. But this storm has been well warned. Its presence should not surprise you. The storm has been identified. So has the harbor that protects you from the consequences of the storm of sin.

**Pray:** You would turn away from sin and turn to the word of God for protection.

## Friday 5/23

**Read:** I recently heard someone speak of Christian hope in the context of wishful thinking, stating what the Bible taught cannot really be expected to happen. What a pitiful understanding of God's promises.

**Application:** This worldly view of hope is not the Christian definition of hope. **Hebrews 11:1** describes the Christian faith as "**being sure of what we hope for**". God has promised you many things in the Bible and you do well to lay your hopes on these promises. The Christian hope is one of expectation that God will do all that his word says he will do.

**Pray:** Your faith would continue to rest steadfastly on the promises God has made in his word.

## Saturday 5/24

**Read:** In **Zephaniah 3:9-13** we encounter a dramatic reversal. God turns to words of hope as he describes the purification that will come upon his people. How they will be brought into conformity to his word.

**Application:** Reflect upon some of the words found in this section of scripture. "**Restore...pure language...serve him...worshippers...not be ashamed...meek and humble.**" These are the gifts God will bestow upon his people. The people he will save from his wrath.

**Pray:** Thanking God for the grace and mercy he shows anyone who calls upon the name of Christ.

## Amazing Grace!

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil  
a life of joy and peace.

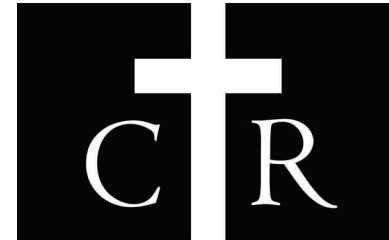
When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we've first begun.

Words: John Newton, Music: Traditional American melody  
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## Taking Gathered Worship Home

Zephaniah-The Day of the Lord

Week of May 18, 2008



CHRIST *the*  
REDEEMER

■ PRESBYTERIAN ■

**T**he word of God continues to admonish Jerusalem by turning its attention back to the nations. God reminds the Israelites of the fate that has already befallen its disobedient neighbors, those who have been cut off and devastated. Again, God provides an escape. That escape is the instruction found in his word. However, instead of grasping the hope found in God's word the nations continued on their path to destruction. The darkest hours were falling upon those who continued to live outside of God's statutes.

**Reading this week from Zephaniah 3:6-8**

### Sunday 5/18

**Read:** Why would an individual, a city or a nation remain disobedient in the face of such a great warning? It is easy to reflect upon their incredulous reaction and wonder what were they thinking. Some might even wonder if they were thinking at all.

**Application:** The thoughts of the disobedient are introspective. Read **Proverbs 14:12**. Man has a propensity for thinking his ways are better. They envision all the answers can be found in themselves. Such pride is indeed the way that leads to death.