

Sunday, October 17

Orwell Bible Church – Daily Devotional

October 11–17, 2021 – www.orwellbible.org

Song of Solomon 6—*The young couple expresses their delight in each other.*

☞ Verse 8 either refers to all such women in the kingdom or to Solomon's.

Items for Prayer

- Andy, Sharon, Jeff, Katie, and Trent Rupert- Calvary Baptist of Willard—Pray for safety for Andy as he drives for work and pray that he will be able to have a good ministry/work balance.
- Christ-likeness at home and “work,” Col 3:18–4:1
- Not judge by externals, Jas 2:1; 2 Cor 5:16
- Persevering faithfulness in perilous times, Revelation 2–3; 21:7

“For all things are for your sakes,
that grace, having spread through the
many, may cause thanksgiving to
abound to the glory of God.”

2 Corinthians 4:15

Equipping the church,
Evangelizing the lost,
and **Entering** our building,
Acts 19:10

Hymn of the Week: Upward I Lift Mine Eyes

Tune: Rejoice the Lord is King

Upward I lift mine eyes,
From God is all my aid;
The God who built the skies,
And earth and nature made,
God is the Tower
To which I fly;
His grace is nigh
In every hour.

No burning heats by day,
Nor blasts of evening air,
Shall take my health away,
If God be with me there.
Thou art my Sun,
And Thou my Shade,
To guard my head
By night or noon.

My feet shall never slide
And fall in fatal snares,
Since God, my Guard and Guide,
Defends me from my fears.
Those wakeful eyes
That never sleep
Shall Israel keep
When dangers rise.

Hast Thou not given Thy word
To save my soul from death?
And I can trust my Lord
To keep my mortal breath.
I'll go and come,
Nor fear to die,
Till from on high
Thou call me home.

Core values are fundamental beliefs that guide and direct what we do. Our third core value is, “We value this body of Christ, and so we will love one another and protect its purity”

Many professing Christians view “church” as a commodity they must shop around for. They evaluate a “church” based on what it will do for them; does it meet their needs; do the “worship” services “lead them into the presence of God;” what kind of programs are there for children, teenagers, singles, young marrieds, middle-agers, empty-nesters, senior citizens, widows, etc. etc. How sadly self-centered is this perspective!

A church is a *body* of believers. God gifts and equips each part of the body to minister to one another. Essential to this is loving one another and protecting its purity. A church that loves one another does so fervently, genuinely, and humble. It meets pressing needs, shares burdens and cares, patiently endures, ministers and serves one another, and forgives faults.

The church must also protect its purity, and this involves mutual discipline and watch-care. There must be loving, wise, gentle, and kind admonishment (Matt 18:15-17; Gal 6:1-2; Heb 3:13; 10:24-25) so that Satan cannot divide or take advantage of opportunities to spoil Christ's Bride.

Saturday, October 16

Fundamental Christian Truth for Monday-Wednesday:

73) How does the church make disciples?

The church must proclaim the gospel to unbelievers, urging immediate repentance and faith. The church then baptizes and adds new believers to its membership and teaches them to obey the Word through worship, public and private instruction, exhortation, and discipline. Matt 28:19-20; Acts 2:41; 14:21-23; Col 3:16; 2 Thess 3:14
(Key terms: *evangelism, baptism, church membership*)

- ➔ The “how” of making disciples is not left up to our ingenuity or imagination!
- ➔ We learn how from Jesus’ command (Matt 28:19-20), the church’s practice under the direction of Jesus’ disciples (Acts 2:41; 14:21-23), and his teaching through the disciples (Col 3:16; 2 Thess 3:14).
- ➔ Central—essential—to making disciples is Christ’s body, the church, specifically *local* or *individual* churches. Disciples will not be Christ’s disciples (believing, obeying, and bearing fruit) apart from the local church.

Monday, October 11

Ecclesiastes 12—*Youth should live life controlled by their Creator God and in light of life’s fragility.*

- ☞ The figures in verse 6 emphasize how fragile life is.
- ☞ How should you live life (vv. 13–14)? What does this look like?

Items for Prayer

- Mike and Marie Brunk- South Africa—Pray for a couple of dicey situations in South Africa for wisdom for all involved to solve them in a Christlike manner.
- Satan and wicked spiritual forces, Mark 4:15; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2; 6:12, 18
- Sinful hearts of the lost, Rom 3:10–18; 2 Cor 4:3–4; Eph 4:18–19
- Our own struggles with sin, Matt 26:41; Rom 7:13–25

Song of Solomon 5—*The bride describes how she hates being separated (vv. 1-8) and describes her husband’s appearance (vv. 9-16)*

- ☞ Would you describe someone you didn’t know like this (vv. 10ff)? Why? What motivates these comparisons?

Items for Prayer

- Mark and Bekah Perry- Chile—Praise the Lord his grace in physical health and strength.
- False teachers spreading error in the name of Christ, 1 Tim 4:1–3; 2 John 7
- Selfless, sacrificial love for all Christians, Acts 6:1
- Tendency to be “now” oriented rather than Christ and eternity, Matt 6:33; 2 Tim 4:1

Friday, October 15

Song of Solomon 4—*The bridegroom describes the beauty of the bride.*

- ☞ In Bible times lovers would often call each other “brother” or “sister” (vv. 9-10, 12).
- ☞ Verse 12 describes how she has kept herself pure for her husband and him alone.
- ☞ It is clear that they love and enjoy each other—and that’s how it should be, within the marriage bond (see also Prov 5:15-16; 9:17-18; 20:17).

Items for Prayer

- Daniel, Rosamma, Dany, Merlin, and David Kumar- India—Pray for our spiritual growth and that we may be an example to others.
- Always increasing Christ-likeness of Christians, Col 1:9–11; Heb 5:12–14; 2 Pet 1:5–11
- Governing authorities, Acts 5:29; 1 Tim 2:1–6
- Christians’ worship, 1 Cor 14:24–25

Tuesday, October 12

Song of Solomon 1—*Solomon and his bride express their love for one another.*

- ☞ Throughout this book there are three different speakers, Solomon, his bride, and a chorus. You can tell who is speaking by *what* they say (for example, in 2:2 it is obvious who is talking) and the personal pronouns used (for example, the chorus usually has “we”).
- ☞ How do poetic comparisons help describe human feelings?

Items for Prayer

- Jeremy, Caroline, Isobel, William, Priscilla, and Hudson Dion- Papua New Guinea--Praise the Lord for the evidences of the Lord’s work in believers’ lives
- Boldness in the face of opposition and resistance, Acts 4:29; Eph 6:19
- Fear of and love for Christ, 2 Cor 5:11, 14
- Selflessness, Luke 9:23–26

Wednesday, October 13

Song of Solomon 2—*The bride expresses her admiration and longing for Solomon.*

- ☞ Spring time is when love often blossoms (1–13). Think about it—when do most couples have their weddings?
- ☞ What does verse 16a tell and teach you about the exclusiveness of the marriage bond?

Items for Prayer

- Charlie and Bo Frink- New Zealand—Pray for our spiritual growth and strength.
- We will always be “going,” Matt 28:19; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47–49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8
- Salvation of souls, 2 Thess 3:1
- Faithfulness, 1 Cor 1:18

Fundamental Christian Truth for Thursday-Friday:

74) What is missions?

Missions refers to the church’s efforts to make disciples, resulting in new churches. Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 14:21-23

- ➔ Christ’s church must think of “missions” as simply doing elsewhere what they are (or should be!) already doing at “home.”
- ➔ This means taking the gospel to the lost who haven’t heard it, baptizing and forming them into their own body of believers (local church), helping them mature through teaching and discipline, and having their own leadership.
- ➔ The process of “missions” should be like a repeating cycle—what is done in one place is then repeated in other places, which then is repeated elsewhere.
- ➔ If something is called “missions” that doesn’t involve this process, it’s not missions!

Thursday, October 14

Song of Solomon 3—*The bride longs for her betrothed, and their wedding procession is described.*

- ☞ What part of the bride is said to love Solomon (vv. 1-4)? Marital love involves one’s entire person; it is not merely physical.
- ☞ What is the primary emotion on wedding days (v. 11)? Where is that emotion rooted?

Items for Prayer

- Tim, Cristina, Andres, Ruth, and Patricia Goossen- Argentina—Pray for continued and complete healing and for safety as we travel.
- Open doors, Col 4:3
- Spirit-led, dependent, and empowered (tendency to follow our sin nature), Gal 5:16
- Always content in Christ, Phil 4:11-13