

# ***THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD***



***DAILY READINGS FROM JOHN'S GOSPEL***

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# DAY 1

## The Word

**Read** John Chapter 1, verses 1 – 28.

**Remember** Make a start in understanding Jesus by seeing that he is fully God. He was already there in the beginning as the eternal Word. He was with God the Father in eternity and was one with him as his Divine Son. At the creation of the universe "all things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made."<sup>1</sup> The same Jesus is truly man. There is no shortfall as though he just appeared to be a man. He really was and is man. John says: "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." This is a great mystery but Jesus Christ is both God and man "in two distinct natures, and one person forever."<sup>2</sup>

**Respond** Thomas shows you how to confess Jesus, the man: "My Lord and my God."

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<sup>1</sup> The Holy Spirit is also God. "There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. (1 John 5.7) It is a mystery how the *three* persons are *one* God.

<sup>2</sup> Shorter Catechism Question 21

## DAY 2

### The Lamb

**Read** John Chapter 1, verses 29 – 51.

**Remember** When John the Baptist wanted his disciples to follow Jesus; he wanted them to follow Jesus as “the Lamb.” What he meant by this is clear from verse 29 where John refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The Jews were used to a sacrificed lamb and the Passover lamb. In both cases the lamb was killed. This is because the wages of sin is death and the lamb died as the substitute for the sinner and in the place of the sinner. However, the blood of animals cannot take away sin and these sacrificed lambs represented Jesus as the Lamb of God. As *the* Lamb, Jesus, by his death, really did deal with the guilt of sin so that all who believe upon him might be forgiven and saved. John the Baptist knew that it was no good his disciples just following Jesus as a teacher. They must follow him as the Lamb.

**Respond** Ask God to help you to know Jesus as the Lamb of God and to depend upon him by faith for forgiveness and salvation.

## DAY 3

### The Lord

**Read** John 2, verses 1 – 12.

**Remember** The disciples had to come to know Jesus as their Lord. They knew him as a kind and wise teacher but they needed to understand that he was the Son of God come into this world as a man. It was not enough that they should follow him as Master; they had to know him as their Lord. One of the ways in which the Lord showed that he was God was by his miracles. These were signs of who he was. Later the disciples would work miracles in the name of Jesus Christ, but Jesus worked these signs in his own name and by his own power. At the marriage feast he did what is impossible for men, he turned the water into wine. By this beginning of his miracles Jesus showed “his glory” and “his disciples believed on him.” More and more, by his miracles, Jesus would show that he could answer to every need.

**Respond** Recognize the power of Jesus, praise him for his magnificent glory and trust him as the almighty provider for your needs.

## DAY 4

### The Zealot

**Read** John Chapter 2, verses 13 – 25.

**Remember** Jesus showed his zeal for the things of God. Turn to Psalm 69, verse 9 and you will see that this had been prophesied about him 1000 years before he came. Jesus was not a political zealot, using religious things as an excuse for fighting against the occupying forces of the Roman Empire. He was concerned that the place of God's worship should be kept pure from worldly ways. He could not have the Temple turned into a marketplace. He did not, however, see the Temple built by men as the final stage of God's plan but spoke of his own body as the temple. Though he would be crucified and killed, his body would not be destroyed so as not to be raised again. David (Psalm 16.10) predicted this. There the Messiah said that his soul would not be left in hell and that God would not "suffer his Holy One to see corruption." His body would not corrupt but be raised.

**Respond** Rest in Jesus as the resurrection and the life and worship God with fervent zeal.

## DAY 5

### The Master

**Read** John Chapter 3, verses 1 – 13.

**Remember** Jesus Christ is the supreme teacher. Nicodemus was right to call him a teacher from God but he did not understand the full meaning of what he was saying. Nobody can understand the truth about Jesus as the great prophet and teacher sent by God until he or she is born again. This is not some physical rebirth by returning to the womb a second time. This is a spiritual rebirth. It takes place when God the Holy Spirit enters a person's heart and changes it. The person is then a spiritually minded person and can understand the spiritual things of God's kingdom. Nicodemus was a very intelligent man and a very learned man but he had not even begun in spiritual things. We are all the same; we cannot *see* the kingdom of God or *enter* into it until God the Holy Spirit has spiritually changed our hearts.

**Respond** You must ask yourself the question: Have I been born again? If you have not, you must pray to God for this spiritual rebirth. You cannot be saved without it.

## DAY 6

### The Gift

**Read** John Chapter 3, verses 14 – 21.

**Remember** Nicodemus would be familiar with God's instruction to Moses to make a metal serpent and set it up on a pole (Numbers 21.8) Any Israelite, bitten by one of the fiery serpents, had to look on the serpent Moses set up and he was saved instead of dying. Jesus, likewise, was lifted up in his crucifixion so that any sinner looking to him and believing upon him is saved from everlasting death. As the crucified one, he is the gift of God's love. He was given up to the accursed death of the cross, so that the curse of the law, and the death it brings, might pass from those who believe in him. Jesus came as the Saviour of Jews and of Gentiles. It makes no difference where you come from, you can be sure that God has given Jesus as Saviour for your nationality too. "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (Verse 16)

**Respond** Take the gift, receive the Saviour in faith.

## DAY 7

### The Bridegroom

**Read** John Chapter 3, verses 22 – 36.

**Remember** At a wedding you expect to see the bride and the bridegroom and the best man or “friend of the bridegroom.” We tend to think of the bride as the most important person. John the Baptist could not have agreed with that. For him the bridegroom was the most important person and the bride belonged to him. The bride would be happy because she belonged to the bridegroom. She was his and he was her Beloved. The friend of the bridegroom would not want to outshine the bridegroom; the wedding was the bridegroom’s day. You can read in Psalm 45 about the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings taking his church to himself as his bride. In Matthew 22 you can read the parable of the marriage of the king’s son. God has arranged for it at the end of time and now he sends out his Gospel ministers “into the highways” of life to “bid to the marriage.”

**Respond** God sends the invitation to the wedding. Be sure to be there through faith in Jesus. Believe today.

## DAY 8

### The Giver of Eternal Life

**Read** John Chapter 4, verses 1 – 26.

**Remember** Jesus as a man could be thirsty. Jesus as God is the well of everlasting life. The Samaritan woman was surprised that a Jew should ask her for a drink “for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.” Jesus does not discriminate against anyone but offers everlasting life to everyone who will receive the water of life from him. Whatever the differences of social class or skin colour it makes no difference to Jesus. What mattered to him was that this woman recognized her sin and so he told her to bring her husband. This brought to her mind that she was sinfully living in fornication, outside of marriage. At this point she would rather talk about worship. But even regarding this, Jesus would have her see her ignorance. Her worship was only a form; she did not worship God in spirit. The only answer for her sin was Jesus the Messiah.

**Respond** See that you are a sinner too, unfit for God, and rest upon Jesus, the Messiah for forgiveness.

## DAY 9

### The Saviour of the World

**Read** John Chapter 4, verses 27 - 54

**Remember** Jesus delights to save sinners. It was his meat and drink to do the work that his Father had given to him. At harvest time the fields are ready to be reaped and in these days of God's undeserved kindness the fields "are white already to harvest." Gospel preachers are sent as reapers to gather in the sheaves, not corn but sinners in need of salvation. You might feel despised or you might actually be despised, just like the Samaritans were by the Jews; but look at what they realized about the Lord Jesus Christ. This salvation that he was preaching was not only for the Jews nor was it only for the Samaritans. The message of salvation comes to every nation and tongue. It is the same message: *Whoever* calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Many of these Samaritans believed. "We know" they said "that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the World."

**Respond** Believe in the Lord Jesus that you might know that he is the Saviour of the World.

## DAY 10

### The Judge

**Read** John Chapter 5.

**Remember** Men condemned Jesus. He did not fit their religious ideas. The Pharisees felt themselves good enough for God by keeping their own rules and regulations. They were sure that God approved of *them*. Jesus, however, was sure that God approved of *him*, loved *him* and had committed all judgement to *him* so that all people should honour Christ as the Son of God. It is those who hear his word and believe upon Jesus Christ that have everlasting life and escape condemnation and everlasting death. Life is in Christ and all authority and power is given to him. At his command the dead will come out of their graves at the final resurrection and be blessed or damned. Lest we should doubt these things, Jesus mentioned the witnesses to his own position as Son, Saviour and Judge. There was the witness of the Baptist, his own works, his heavenly Father, the Bible and Moses.

**Respond** Whatever others say, *you* escape from condemnation *now* by trusting Jesus.

## DAY 11

### The Bread of Life

**Read** John Chapter 6

**Remember** We must not be content with an unspiritual view of Jesus Christ. Those he fed with the loaves of bread were filled *physically* but they did not “see” the *spiritual* meaning of the miracle. Jesus urged them to look beyond the physical feeding to seek the spiritual food he gives. This food endures to everlasting life. It is Jesus Christ himself who is the true bread who came down from heaven and gives life to the world. So he said of himself: “I am the bread of life.” Those who come to him will never hunger and those who believe on him will never thirst. It was a great miracle that God fed the Israelites with manna in the wilderness but they still died. The living bread by which we can live forever is Jesus Christ. Sinners can live by his flesh and blood because he gave himself as the sacrifice for sin.

**Respond** Eat Christ’s flesh and drink his blood. This is not cannibalism. It is spiritual language for partaking of Christ as the Saviour of sinners, the true living bread.

## DAY 12

### The Fountain of Living Water

**Read** John Chapter 7

**Remember** Jesus' brothers did not believe on him and neither did the Jews at Jerusalem. However, Jesus still boldly taught in the Temple. In the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles he called the thirsty to come to him and drink, promising that those who believed on him would themselves become a source of living water. We must again realize that Jesus was not talking about physical things but about spiritual things. Those who believe upon him receive the Holy Spirit and he pours out in the words and deeds of the believer like a life-giving river. The ancient proverb gives a similar idea: "The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life." (Proverbs 10.11) When the Holy Spirit changes a person's heart, that person's life is changed too. Refreshing waters that bring life to the hearers replace the old polluted streams that poisoned relationships.

**Respond** Come to Jesus Christ and drink. Believe on him and pray that God's Spirit will change you.

## DAY 13

### The Forgiver of Sinners

**Read** John Chapter 8, verses 1 – 11.

**Remember** The religion of the scribes and the Pharisees was one of regulation without mercy. Because they thought themselves good enough for God they looked down upon those that they accounted sinners. For them, stoning a woman taken in adultery fitted with the Law of Moses. Jesus, however, saw a side of the picture that they missed. God gave the Law to convict sinners of their sin so that they would seek his mercy and find forgiveness. When Jesus challenged the sinless man to be first to cast a stone at the adulteress, they all left from the eldest to the youngest, convicted of their own sins. Jesus then had an answer for the woman. He had not come to condemn but to forgive and she needed to believe his word and to go and break off from her sinful ways.

**Respond** Seek the forgiveness of your sins through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; but be sure to break off from your sins and leave them behind to thankfully follow him.

## DAY 14

### The Liberator

**Read** John Chapter 8, verses 12 - 59

**Remember** There is a bondage in sin. As long as sinners are preoccupied with finding fault with Jesus Christ they lose sight of this. Jesus warned his enemies that if they continued in unbelief they would die in their sins. Only through faith in Jesus Christ can sinners be liberated from sin and death and have true life. If you continue in the teachings of Jesus Christ, you shall “know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (Verse 32) Do not be like those self-righteous Jews who thought that they did not need to be made free because they were Abraham’s physical seed. They needed the spiritual faith of Abraham because by committing sin they were the servants of sin and it is the same for us all. True freedom is only experienced when personal sin is dealt with and it can only be dealt with through faith in Jesus. Those he makes free are really free!

**Respond** Keep the sayings of Jesus Christ to be with Abraham, the friend of God, and be free from the Devil.

## DAY 15

### The Light of the World

**Read** John Chapter 9

**Remember** As Jesus can set the prisoner free so he can cause the blind to see. The miracle was a vivid picture of Christ's ability to give spiritual sight and understanding to sinners. Jesus made this plain by saying: "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (Verse 5) We walk in darkness and have no light as long as we are without Christ. When we believe we see everything differently. It is as though we have been groping around in a dark house and then the power returns and the lights go on. When this happens we can see things properly and we can see to do the things that we need to do. The Jews were too self confident to think of even needing light from Jesus but the man blind from birth could see the point: "Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind." (Verse 32)

**Respond** It is not enough for the Light to be shining! The spiritually blind must ask for eyes to see because we are all born spiritually blind.

## DAY 16

### The Good Shepherd

**Read** John Chapter 10

**Remember** Sheep are lost without a shepherd to care for them and a sheepfold where they can rest safely. Jesus used these facts to vividly present how much we need him. There are false shepherds who come with another message but they are “thieves and robbers.” (Verse 8) Like hired servants they flee and leave the sheep to be scattered by the wolf. We have to think of Jesus Christ as the door of the sheepfold. He says: “by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.” (Verse 9) He is also the “good shepherd”. He knows his sheep, he cares for his sheep, he laid down his life for his sheep and he calls them by name. His sheep hear his voice and they follow him and he gives to them everlasting life and they shall never perish. In Jesus Christ we find God’s total answer to our lost condition.

**Respond** Hear the Shepherd and follow him today.

## DAY 17

### The Resurrection and the Life

**Read** John Chapter 11

**Remember** Death is so final it brings devastating sorrow into the home. The world says "Life must go on" but such a saying is cold comfort to the bereaved. Jesus had a better solution and said to Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." Jesus went on to say that whoever lives and believes in him shall never die. When one of the thieves crucified with him asked Jesus to remember him when he came into his kingdom, Jesus answered: "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." For the believer in Jesus Christ, death is not the end of life but the beginning of perfected life, full of happiness and joy forever, with no return to sin or sorrow. Jesus proved himself to be the resurrection and the life by raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus did not have to wait for the last day of general resurrection. His power he could raise Lazarus.

**Respond** Copy Martha: "Yea, Lord: *I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God.*"

## DAY 18

### The King

**Read** John Chapter 12

**Remember** We are not to think of Jesus as only a great teacher. He certainly was that and his meekness and lowly condition might have led people to think that he was no more than a teacher. The event that took place after Mary had shown such loving respect for him fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah: "behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt." After Jesus had been crucified as the Lamb of God and had been raised again from the dead, his disciples remembered that these things were written about him and that they had fulfilled them by what they had done in setting him upon the ass's colt. In the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of the New Testament we find Jesus referred to again and again as the *Lord* Jesus Christ. The disciples had come to know him as their King and the ruler of all things.

**Respond** Own Jesus as your Lord and King, bow the knee to him and serve him with loving obedience.

## DAY 19

### The Servant

**Read** John Chapter 13

**Remember** At first sight we find it strange that Jesus should wash his disciples' feet. It seems exactly the wrong way round that he who is King should have done such a thing. It was right that the disciples should call Jesus their Master and Lord because he was both but he wanted to give to them an example of how to behave. He said to them: "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." Jesus expects that his disciples will be known by the love that they show to one another. Others, seeing the love of Christians for one another, would recognize them as disciples of the Saviour, who had shown such love for sinners even to the point of giving his life for them.

**Respond** Depend upon Christ as the only Saviour of sinners, who in love gave himself as the Lamb of God. Follow his example of love and serve others for Christ's sake.

## DAY 20

### The Way, the Truth and the Life

**Read** John Chapter 14

**Remember** Jesus Christ gives true comfort to all who trust in him. "Let not your heart be troubled," he says. He reassured his disciples that he was going to Heaven to prepare a place for them and that they knew the way. Thomas was not so sure that they knew the way. Jesus said to him: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." If anyone suggests that there is another way, you must not believe him. Jesus said that he is the only way. If anyone comes with another Gospel than his, do not believe him because Paul writing to the Galatians said: "If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1.9) If anyone claims to be able to give you eternal life without Jesus Christ he is deceiving you. Jesus alone can give it to you.

**Respond** Pray: "Lord Jesus, show me the way to God, teach me the truth and give me everlasting life," Seek these things from him.

## DAY 21

### The True Vine

**Read** John Chapter 15

**Remember** True Christianity is about being united to Jesus Christ so that we share in his spiritual life. Jesus illustrated this relationship by the vine and its branches. The branch must be *in* the vine so that it can bear fruit. Branches that do not bear fruit are taken away and burned. Branches that do bear fruit are cleansed so that they might bear more fruit. The true Christian is the person who remains in spiritual union with Christ and who, consequently, brings forth the fruit of holiness of life. People can say that they believe in Christ but if their life is not changed it is a self-deception. The true branch *will* bear fruit. Therefore, Jesus said: "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

**Respond** Abide in Christ, that is, remain in him, dwell in him and he in you and be fruitful in living a holy life and serving God.

## DAY 22

### The Sender of the Spirit

**Read** John Chapter 16

**Remember** The Christian is not alone. The disciples might have thought that they would be when Jesus left them. How would they be able to cope when they would no longer have Jesus to talk to and walk with? They were going to be persecuted because they believed in Jesus Christ. The Lord told them that they would be put out of the synagogues and be killed! They did not want Jesus to go away but he had to go away. It was in their interests that Jesus left them to go to Heaven: "for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." The Holy Spirit would convict sinners of their sins; he would guide the disciples into all truth showing them things to come and glorifying Christ.

**Respond** Trust Christ and ask of him the Holy Spirit so that you might have the peace that passes understanding despite the afflictions of the Christian life.

## DAY 23

### The Intercessor

**Read** John Chapter 17

**Remember** To intercede is to plead in favour of someone else. Jesus does this as the Mediator between God and man. He appears before God to pray for those who belong to him. Listen as he, the great high priest of his people, prays to his heavenly Father: "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine." Jesus knows his own and he asks God to keep them from evil, to set them apart from the wickedness of this world and to renew them to live a holy life. He also prays that his people might be one with himself and the Father, and that they will be brought to heaven to enjoy God forever. It is a wonderful thing to know that Jesus prays for one's safekeeping. Not one will be lost that he prays for.

**Respond** Entrust yourself to the prayers of Jesus Christ, the great high priest of his people. Conscious of *his* power to save, be assured that you will be kept by the power of God, through faith, for a salvation soon to be revealed.

## DAY 24

### The Betrayed

**Read** John Chapter 18, verses 1 – 11

**Remember** Betrayal is a terrible thing. How many have trusted a friend, a husband or wife and that trust has been betrayed. It is a devastating thing. Jesus, however, was not taken by surprise in connection with his betrayal by Judas: "Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them. Whom seek ye?" He knew what Judas intended to do and he was in full control of the situation. Indeed his enemies fell away backward at his presence and he could have escaped. When Peter used the sword to try to repel those who had come to arrest Jesus, the Saviour told him to put away his sword. Things had to be this way. The prophecies of betrayal had to be fulfilled. Jesus had no intention of escaping because the time had come to go through with the climax of his sufferings as the representative and substitute in the place of sinners. He loved his own even unto death.

**Respond** See the evil of betrayal and purpose never to be treacherous towards Christ.

## DAY 25

### The Judged

**Read** John Chapter 18, verses 12 – 40

**Remember** Justice is not always found in the courtroom. "And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there." (Ecclesiastes 3.16) When the Lord Jesus Christ was tried there was no justice in it at all. His life was free from sin in every way. No one had ever seen him sin at all, at any time, because he never did. It was for this reason that the Jewish authorities needed the testimony of *false* witnesses. When Jesus was brought before the Roman governor Pilate, his verdict was: "I find in him no fault at all." You cannot get plainer than that. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was the execution of one who had committed no crimes, who had done no violence and in whose mouth was no lies.

**Respond** Recognize that Jesus did not die for his own sins but was completely innocent. Seeing that he died for the sins of others, seek forgiveness for *your* sins through faith in him.

## DAY 26

### The Crucified

**Read** John, Chapter 19

**Remember** At the place of a skull, called in the Hebrew *Golgotha*, Jesus was crucified between two thieves. The title on his cross was: "Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews." This accurate description Pilate refused to change. Prophecy was fulfilled in the soldiers' casting lots for his garment, his being given vinegar to drink, his being pierced and the fact that his bones were not broken. These were clear evidences that Jesus' death was the atonement for sin, that is, the sacrifice that would cover sin and that would take away the guilt of sin. Before he died Jesus said: "It is finished." He did not say: "I am finished" as some hero shot by enemies might say. Jesus knew that he had triumphed over Satan and death. He bore the wrath of God and died the *just* for the *unjust*.

**Respond** Consider the sufficiency of the blood of Christ to wipe out the guilt of your every sin; and turning from your sin with grief and hatred, believe upon Jesus as the Lamb, before it is too late.

## DAY 27

### The Accursed

**Read** John Chapter 19

**Remember** The manner of the death of Jesus Christ was significant. He died upon a cross made of wood. This was to make plain the kind of death that he had died. When Paul wrote about the death of Jesus, he said: "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." (Galatians 3.13) This is a bold description based upon the words of Deuteronomy 21.23. Jesus Christ died on a cross so that it would be plain that he was paying the penalty of the broken Law of God. It was others who deserved that curse but Paul says it was Jesus Christ who bore it. He paid the penalty of sin to set free those unable to free themselves. Without doubt each one who believes upon Jesus Christ and trusts him for salvation will be released from the curse of the Law forever.

**Respond** To escape the curse of the Law, which involves everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, flee to Jesus Christ.

## DAY 28

### The Resurrected

**Read** John, Chapter 20, verses 1 – 18

**Remember** Mary Magdalene was up early to tend to the remains of the Lord Jesus Christ. She was stunned that the tomb should be empty. How could such a thing be? Someone must have removed the body, she thought. As Mary stood by the tomb she saw two angels who asked her why she was weeping. Having replied, she turned and saw Jesus, whom she supposed to be the gardener! How blind even believers can be! With one word "Mary", Jesus disclosed himself to her; for she must often have heard the Saviour speak thus to her. We cannot capture in words the joy that must have flooded her heart in that instant. Her Master was not dead but was alive and alive for evermore. This was exactly as he had always said that it would be, but the disciples had not understood the scripture that he must rise from the dead. However, Mary understood it now.

**Respond** Seek Jesus early and you will be surprised what you find, for to each one who believes the Saviour speaks in a personal way.

## DAY 29

### The Lord of Life

**Read** John, Chapter 20, verses 19 – 31

**Remember** On the first day of the week the disciples came to tend the corpse of Jesus. They came to pay their last respects. However, the tomb was empty and that was a great shock to them, so little were they expecting Christ's resurrection from the dead. When he appeared to his gathered disciples he showed to them his hands and his side, convincing them that he was their Master and Lord raised from the dead. Thomas was not present on the first occasion and doubted the resurrection but when Jesus appeared again, Thomas being present, he was convinced and confessed Jesus as his Lord and his God. Jesus' words are instructive: "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." Such is the powerful work of the Holy Spirit, through the Bible, that sinners do not need to see the risen Christ with their eyes in order to believe.

**Respond** Don't be a doubter, believe in the risen Lord!

## DAY 30

### The Pastor's Pastor

**Read** John Chapter 21.

**Remember** Even those who lead the Church have to learn to depend completely upon the Lord Jesus Christ. When the disciples went fishing on their own, they caught nothing! When Jesus directed them they caught very many fish. They had to learn that it would be the same in saving sinners. No one can serve the Lord Jesus Christ without loving him. Peter had failed so much by denying Jesus three times through fear of men. Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him. Peter had to realize that even preachers and pastors will fail unless they have hearts full of love to Jesus. Peter was encouraged by Jesus to realize that as he had repented of his denying his Lord, turning from his sin with hatred of it and weeping over it, he still had a place of service to the Lord Jesus Christ in his Church.

**Respond** Love the Lord Jesus Christ and purpose to serve him all your days; but, in doing so, pray that he will direct you or you will fail and fail again.

## DAY 31

### Trusting Jesus

**Read** John Chapter 20.

**Remember** Like all authors, John had a purpose in writing his book. He is clear about why he was writing about Jesus. He wrote so that his readers would “believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God” and that by believing his readers would “have life through his name.” People read about Jesus for all sorts of reasons: they might be curious, they might have an examination to take or they might respect Jesus as a great teacher and want to follow his code of conduct. John wrote so that his readers would *believe* in Jesus as the Saviour of sinners sent by God. If your reading has not brought you to believe in Jesus Christ in a personal way as your Lord and Saviour, you need to start all over again with the prayer that God will give you both understanding and faith.

**Respond** Be clear about what you need to do. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and *you* will be saved.

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### ***ABOUT THE AUTHOR***

Pastor Roy Mohon, Minister of the *Presbyterian Reformed Church*, Stockton-on-Tees, prepared the notes. He has been preaching the Gospel since he was converted in the 1960s and has served in the Stockton area since 1970. The notes reflect his desire for the salvation of lost souls and the building up of believers in holiness of life.

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