

June 13 - June 25

WHY DO YOU DELAY?
page 3

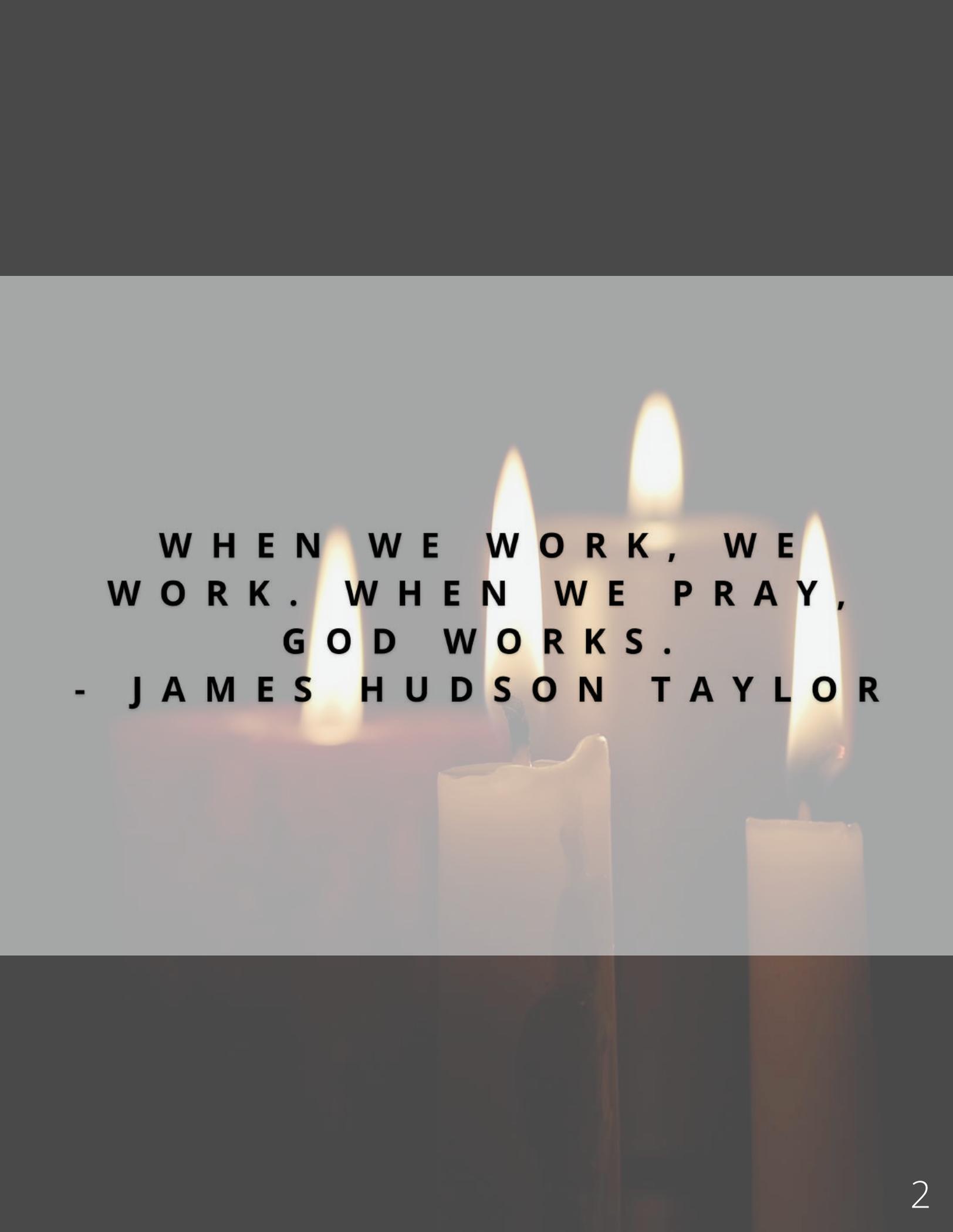
A PORTRAIT OF PAUL'S
LIVING
page 5

WHO WAS TIMOTHY IN
THE BIBLE?
page 7

BIBLE CHALLENGE
page10



SPIRITUAL DIGEST



WHEN WE WORK, WE
WORK. WHEN WE PRAY,
GOD WORKS.
- JAMES HUDSON TAYLOR

WHY DO YOU DELAY?

Acts 22:16 And now, why do you delay? Rise up and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.

Romans 10:12 There is no difference between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord of all is rich to all who call upon Him

Calling on the Lord is a necessity in our Christian life. If you practice calling on the Lord's name, you will be in the initial stage of the dispensational transfer. I assure you that the more you call on the name of the Lord Jesus, the more you will be brought out of the old things into the new.

Some believers have been Christians for many years. As the years have gone by, their Christian life has become quite old. Because of this oldness, they need to experience a transfer in a practical way. The most prevailing way to have such a transfer is to call, "O Lord Jesus!" I encourage you to practice this. If you call on the Lord's name day by day, you

will be able to testify many things concerning your experience of the Lord.

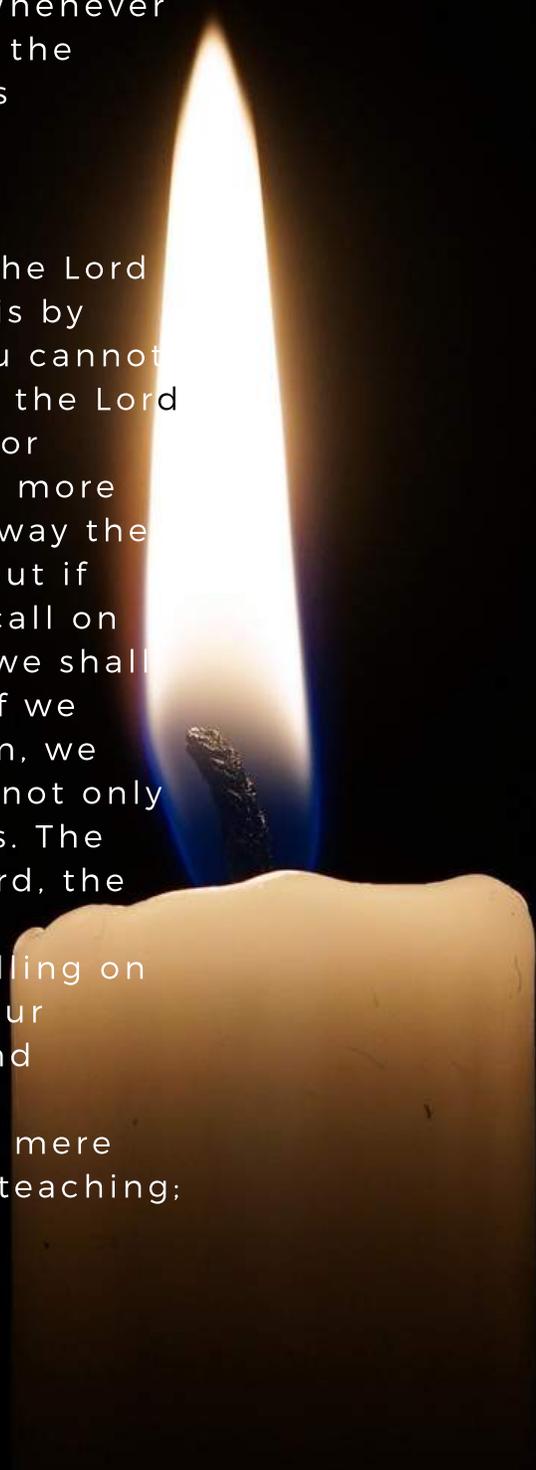
When we call on the Lord's name, we experience a real transfer. We are brought into another realm; we are brought into the kingdom of God, which is actually the propagated Christ Himself. If we realize this, we shall understand why the matter of calling on the name of the Lord is emphasized so much in the Bible.

Whenever we call on the Lord, He has both the opportunity and ground to spread Himself within us. This is not a mere doctrine; it is something very practical for our Christian experience. Today our Lord is the all-inclusive Spirit. As the Spirit, He is omnipresent, and He is now working within us, waiting for the opportunity to spread in us. When we call on His name, we give Him the way to increase in us.

Calling on the Lord is a reality, for when we call on Him we touch Him. In a verse related to this calling Paul says: "The word is near you, in your mouth" (Rom. 10:8). In a very practical sense, the word

here is equal to the Lord. Thus, for the word to be near means that the Lord is near. Whenever we call on the name of the Lord, we experience His nearness, His intimate presence.

How do we know that the Lord is near us? We know this by calling on the Lord. You cannot convince someone that the Lord is near him by arguing or debating with him. The more we argue, the farther away the Lord may seem to be. But if instead of arguing we call on His name a few times, we shall sense that He is near. If we continue calling on Him, we shall realize that He is not only near but even within us. The more we call on the Lord, the more He becomes our enjoyment. Through calling on Him He also becomes our peace, rest, comfort, and solution in all kinds of situations. This is not a mere doctrine or superficial teaching; this is a truth for our experience.





A PORTRAIT OF PAUL'S LIVING

Phil 1:19-21a For I know that for me this shall turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death; for to me to live is Christ

Acts 1:8 ... You shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto the remotest part of the earth.

[In chapters twenty-seven and twenty-eight of Acts] we have a record of a man living Christ to the uttermost. Paul was imprisoned, bound in chains, and surrounded by guards. The sea was very stormy, and the sailing was rough. Furthermore, Paul was away from his homeland and from most of his friends. Although he was in such a difficult situation, he lived like a reigning king.

Paul's living as presented in these two chapters of Acts reminds us of his word written while he was imprisoned in Rome: "I know that for me this shall turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death; for to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:19-21a). This describes Paul's living during the voyage from Caesarea to Rome. Regardless of the situation, Paul magnified Christ in his body.

As we ponder the picture in Acts 27 and 28, we see that Paul was an outstanding witness of Christ. He was the kind of witness the Lord Jesus spoke about in 1:8: "You shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto the remotest part of the earth."

In 1:6 the Lord's disciples had asked Him if He would at that time restore the kingdom to Israel. The Lord indicated that it was not for them to know times or seasons, which the Father had placed in His own authority. Instead, after they had received power through the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them, they would be His witnesses. Paul was such a witness in Acts 27 and 28. In these chapters Paul was living among Gentiles. There were very few Jews on the ship, if any. Everything on that voyage was Gentile. The food, the environment, and the atmosphere were Gentile. Furthermore, there was nothing Jewish on the island of Malta. Paul was surrounded by Gentiles and the Gentile way of living. But in that situation Paul lived like a king in a palace. I very much appreciate the picture of Paul's living in these chapters.

We all should live Christ in the way Paul did in Acts 27 and 28. If we live Christ only in a situation that is according to our culture, character, constitution, and disposition, our living is not genuine. Here in Acts 27 and 28 Paul lived Christ in a situation that was altogether contrary to his culture and character. Many things were disappointing and discouraging, but Paul nevertheless lived a life of the highest standard. As we have pointed out, in Paul the

wonderful, excellent, and mysterious God-man, who lived in the Gospels, continued to live through one of His many members. This was Jesus living again on earth in His divinely enriched humanity. Paul's living, therefore, was a repetition of the living of Jesus.

Life-study of Acts Message 72

Discussion Questions:

1. What kind of life did Paul live?
2. How was Paul able to live according to Act1:8?

WHO WAS TIMOTHY IN THE BIBLE?

Timothy, the recipient of the two New Testament letters bearing his name, was the son of a Greek father and a Jewish mother. He joined Paul during one of Paul's later missionary journeys. Paul addresses Timothy as "my true son in the faith" (1 Timothy 1:2). He was probably no older than late teens/early twenties when he joined Paul but had already distinguished himself as faithful, and the elders noticed him. He probably heard and responded to the gospel when Paul came through the area of Derbe and Lystra on his first missionary journey, but we don't know for sure. Timothy served as Paul's representative to several churches (1 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 2:19), and he was later a pastor in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3). Timothy is also mentioned as being with Paul when Paul wrote several New Testament letters—2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2

Thessalonians, and Philemon.

Paul says Timothy had a "genuine faith," the same as that which lived in his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:1-5). Eunice and Lois prepared Timothy's heart to accept Christ by teaching Timothy the Old Testament Scriptures and preparing him "from infancy" to recognize the Messiah when He appeared (2 Timothy 3:15). When Paul came preaching Christ, all three accepted his teaching and committed their lives to the Savior.

In Paul's first letter to Timothy, he gave him instructions and advice for leading the church. He also exhorted Timothy not to let others look down upon him due to his youth, but to set an example for other believers "in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12). Paul told Timothy to be devoted to reading Scripture, exhorting, and teaching, and to not neglect the gift that he had been given. Paul also counseled Timothy to keep a close watch on himself. These instructions remain pertinent to believers today. We, too, are called to "pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold



of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:11-12).

It seems that Timothy had a chronic illness that required some attention (1 Timothy 5:23). Paul counseled him on a change of diet to aid the relief of his condition. From this example we learn that it is not always God's will to heal a person miraculously; sometimes, healing comes through more "natural" means, if it comes at all.

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul warned Timothy about the false teachers that he would encounter and tells him to continue in the things he has learned because he knows the character of those he learned them from, namely Paul himself and his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 3:14-15). The truths Timothy was taught from infancy—truths about sin and our need for a Savior—were able to make him "wise for salvation" (2 Timothy 3:15).

Paul also told Timothy, to "do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). This advice is crucial for all

Christians. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Paul counseled Timothy, his "dear son" (2 Timothy 1:2), from a heart of love, wanting Timothy to stand firm in his own faith and to lead the other believers well. Timothy certainly seems to have been faithful; we should follow his example.

A H Y M N A D A Y K E E P S
Y O U H U M M I N G A L L T H E
W A Y



THE DAY APPROACHES

1

The day approaches; Jesus soon is coming.
Redeem the time; it must not slip away.
Lord, make us ready for the cry: "Behold Him!"
By using every moment of each day.

When Jesus comes, will we go in to meet Him?
When Jesus comes, will we from self have ceased?
He's coming soon to take the wise ones with Him.
Oh, let us not be left outside the feast.

2

Lord, help us to redeem these golden moments;
Our vessels fill with ointment from above;
Help us amen each trial and tribulation;
Increase in us; make us abound in love.

He's coming soon—these moments are so precious.
The oil is here—Oh, let us buy the more.
Amen the trials and welcome tribulations—
The kingdom's ours through these afflictions sore.

3

Lord, ever turn us from our soulish pleasures
To gaze upon Thy tender, loving face.
Oh, keep us running forth to meet the Bridegroom
And patiently attending to the race.

When Jesus comes, will we be in His presence?
When Jesus comes, will we His face behold?
Oh, let us not return to sloth and folly,
But jealously His loving presence hold.

4

As His dear Bride, let us go forth to meet Him,
Our lamps well-trimmed, our fires burning bright,
Our vessels filled, our eyes set on His glory,
To be with Him completely satisfied.

Yes, satisfied—Christ and His Bride together.
Yes, satisfied—throughout eternity.
Oh, what a rest, what joy, what love, what favor
To be His Bride when He comes to His feast!

B I B L E C H A L L E N G E

GOAL: TO READ THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT IN ONE YEAR

5 CHAPTERS A WEEK

WEEK ONE (6/13-6/18)

MONDAY: ACTS 22

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_22.htm#Act22

TUESDAY: ACTS 23

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_23.htm#Act23

WEDNESDAY: ACTS 24

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_24.htm#Act24

THURSDAY: ACTS 25

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_25.htm#Act25

FRIDAY: ACTS 26

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_26.htm#Act26

B I B L E C H A L L E N G E

GOAL: TO READ THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT IN ONE YEAR

5 CHAPTERS A WEEK

WEEK TWO (6/20-6/25)

MONDAY: ACTS 27

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_27.htm#Act27

TUESDAY: ACTS 28

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_28.htm#Act28

WEDNESDAY: ROMANS 1

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/45_Romans_1.htm

THURSDAY: ROMANS 2

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/45_Romans_2.htm#Rom2

FRIDAY: ROMANS 3

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/45_Romans_3.htm#Rom3