Believers: A Light for the Nations

A Prayer Guide with Selected Scriptures for a Nation in Distress.

1 PETER 2:9 | PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16 | ISAIAH 60:3



2024 Liberty Election Prayer Guide

40+ Days and beyond November 5, 2024



Liberty Election Prayer Guide 40+ Days and beyond November 5, 2024

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Please take a moment and let us know how we might pray for you or how we may encourage you during the 40+ days of prayer. You may also provide a provide a prayer of thanksgiving and praise.

Contact us through www.church.cl.com

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: Navigating 40+ Days

Please read the Table of Contents, then peruse the format of the entire prayer guide before embarking on this journey of dedicated prayer. Skim through each page and title, familiarizing yourself as to what lay ahead for the next 40+ days.

Commit each of the 40+ days to the Lord. Prepare your heart by reading selected Scriptures as well as utilizing the <u>guided format while....</u>

Praying each day in Adoration and Worship of God Confession of Sin before a Holy God Thanksgiving and Praise to God Supplication on behalf of others before God Reading and Listening Scripture Reading (am) Scripture Listening (pm)

This prayer guide has one aim: to help grow us in our love for God, through time in His word and in regular, daily prayer.

And as we grow in our love for God through His word, may the Gospel of God in the Person and work of Jesus Christ be spread throughout our nation through many bold believers.

Pray believers acknowledge God's authority over our culture, our government, churches, schools, families, and that many be brought to saving faith in Jesus Christ. For without His regeneration and saving grace, our nation will indeed perish. Most assuredly, may the light of Christ be kindled and beam with intense brightness over our land so that other peoples and nations take notice of our God, fear Him, and turn their hearts toward Him in repentance and faith.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: Navigating 40+ Days

Once you have familiarized yourself with the entire prayer guide, consider the suggested format below for how to navigate the next few weeks or months.

| Read and do the work on Jump to: Reading & Working on | Pages 21-25 Page 38 |
|--|------------------------|
| Read and do the work on Jump to: Reading & Working on | Pages 26-27 Page 39 |
| 1 Read and do the work on Jump to: Reading & Working on | Pages 28-29 Page 40 |
| 8 Read and do the work on Jump to: Reading & Working on | Pages 30-31 Page 41 |
| 5 Read and do the work on Jump to: Reading & Working on | Pages 32-33 Page 42 |
| . 0 Read and do the work on Jump to: Reading & Working on | Pages 34-35 Page 43 |

And as your schedule permits or as the Lord leads, over the next 40+ days and beyond, consider other pages within this guide. And may the Lord richly bless your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

Source 1: Excerpts taken from Booklet: Covenant Presbyterian Church Vol 13 Prayer Guide, pp 6-7



INTRO: Prayer Guide

Why Prayer? Why not simply pray on the go? After all, the Bible says pray without ceasing! (1Thess 5:17) We are creatures of habit and attuned to rhythms by ordering our lives to days, nights, hours, weeks, seasons and years. Daily, dedicated prayer is a way of aligning our hearts to God, His will and ways.(1)

The Bible teaches that in order to love God, we need a right view of God, a right view of ourselves, and a right relationship with Him. Though man alienated himself from God by sinning, nevertheless, God made the way right by His overcoming our alienation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is God, the Son.(2)

Having union in Christ, believers enjoy direct access to God as our heavenly Father. Scripture and prayer are the means though which we experience, apply and enjoy a right relationship. We speak to God in prayer, He speaks to us through His word. As we learn to pray, listen and obey the Scriptures, we learn to live as God's children, growing in love and in trusting Him.

Consider a few testimonies of the psalmists:

Psalm 1:1-2: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.

Psalm 55:17: Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and He hears my voice.

Psalm 119:64: The earth, O Lord, is full of Your steadfast love; teach me Your statutes!



INTRO: Prayer Guide

Why a Prayer Guide? A common objection to a formal prayer guide is that it restricts freedom, resulting in heartless formality and vain repetition. This guide is simply a way to structure your daily or weekly routine around suggested topics and Scriptures.

Here are a few compelling reasons for using a prayer guide:

It helps us pray regularly

Many of us, if we are honest, do not pray regularly because we may not know where to begin. Praying over a list is not only helpful, but necessary to keep our minds orderly, focused, engaged and directed to God. Guided prayer is never meant to curb freedom but rather to bolster it by the words and imagery of the Scriptures.

It helps us pray biblically

This prayer guide is not filled with quotes by famous authors or from commentaries. We hope the reader finds it uncluttered and useful in praying over the Scriptures and praying in the Spirit.(1)

It helps us pray communally

Though we pray individually, we also do so together in unity, with focused attention on our Nation and Leaders, our Churches and Leaders, our Families and First Responders, as well as our selves, during the tumultuous times we live in. To know that others are praying in unity, with whom others that God has joined in, is encouraging in our common journey toward election day. Prayer is a communal activity as much as it is an individual one.

¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, Ephesians 6:18(**2**)

Source 1: Excerpts taken from Booklet: Covenant Presbyterian Church Vol 13 Prayer Guide, pp 6-7 Source 2: Ephesians 6:10-20, Armor of God



INTRO: Prayer Guide

Q. 178. What is prayer?

Answer: Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, in the name of Christ, by the help of his Spirit; with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.(1)

Unity in the Body: In the Creed of the Westminster Confession of Faith, 26:1, we are instructed: "All saints...being united to one another in love have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man." Our confession is not overstating the case when it uses the language of "obligation." For this is exactly what the New Testament frequently does in its "one-anothering" imperatives. Listen to a smattering of these obligatory mandates: we are commanded to love one another (John 13:34,35, 15:12); we are commanded to welcome one another (Rom 15:7); we are ordered to encourage one another 1 Thess 5:11); we are mandated to show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9); we are told to be kind to one another (Eph 4:32); we are commanded to outdo one another in showing honor (Rom 12:10); we are ordered to pray for one another (James 5:16); we are told to bear one another's burdens (Gal 6:2); we are mandated not to arumble against one another (James 5:9); we are commanded to serve one another (Gal 5:13) and to bear with one another (Col 3:13).(2)



THAT THEY MAY KNOW

The Bible teaches us that in order to love God and communicate with Him we must first have a right relationship with Him.

Reading the story behind Ligonier's mission statement, dating back to the 70s, the story starts with a consultant running Dr. RC Sproul through a series of questions: What's the most important thing you can teach non-Christians that they don't know? **Answer**: "They don't know who God is." Ok, What's the most important thing Christians don't know that they need to know? **Answer**: "They don't know that they need to know? **Answer**: "They don't know that they need to know? **Answer**: "They don't know that they need to know? **Answer**: "They don't know who God is." Ok, What's the most important thing Christians don't know that they need to know? **Answer**: "They don't know who God is." We may laugh at his second response, but in truth, it is not funny at all. This goes for both non-Christians and Christians. R.C. further stated, "We need to know theology, especially the doctrine of God."(1)

You have to be living under a rock not to notice the crisis brewing in the church and in our world today. Leaders lack moral compasses. Riots, anarchy and lawlessness run rampant. All across our nation youthful hearts are led astray by false doctrines and social justice narratives. This is true for those outside, and sadly, inside the church.

We will always face crises and challenges, until the Lord's return. The answer to any trouble is always theology. Sound doctrine produces knowledgeable, articulate Christians who can therefore stand for Christ and answer the crises of our day. People, including Christians, have forgotten who God is, and therefore have forgotten who they are, and how they must live according the God's word.

> And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3 (NKJV)

Source 1: Stephen Nichols, edited via https://www.ligonier.org/blog/people-have-forgotten-who-god/



ORDO SALUTIS: Application of Redemption

The Gospel of God rests solely in the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism in Q 29 calls it Ordo Salutis, or the steps of application of redemption:

- 1. Effectual Calling: Composed of 2 parts:
 - a) Calling: The gospel is preached to all sinners, without distinction, with salvation being freely offered to all.
 - Regeneration: Only when the Holy Spirit creates a new nature in a sinner is he able to "hear" the gospel in a saving way.
- 2. Conversion: A sinner turning to Christ via 2 elements:
 - a) Repentance: the whole man (body & soul) turns from sin.
 - b) Faith: the whole man (body & soul) turns unto Jesus Christ.
- **3. Justification:** A sinner trusts in Christ alone and is immediately accepted as righteous.
- 4. Adoption: After a sinner trusts in Christ alone and is justified, he is also adopted into God's family.
- 5. Sanctification: From conversion until death, the Holy Spirit enables a believer to fight against sin and live for holiness.

Special Note: There is not necessarily an exact order of steps that commence in saving faith or even a passing of time between each step. Rather, some will occur virtually simultaneously.



THE GOSPEL OF GOD: Death in Adam. Life in Christ.

Death in Adam, Life in Christ

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.(1)



THE FIVE SOLAE

Also known as the Five Solas, each of these is intended to represent an important distinction compared with the teachings of other religions.

Sola Scriptura: By Scripture alone and inspired by God alone.

2 Peter 1:20-21 ²⁶ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture Is Breathed Out by God ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Solus Christus: in Christ alone is salvation.

Hebrews 9:15 ¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Sola Gratia: by Grace alone in what God has done thru Christ alone. Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Sola Fide: through Faith alone salvation is a works-free gift. Ephesians 2:19¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Soli Deo Gloria: to the glory of God alone in all we do. 1 Corinthians 10:31 ³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.(1)



Q. 178. What is prayer?

Answer: Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, in the name of Christ, by the help of his Spirit; with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.

Q. 179. Are we to pray unto God only?

Answer: God only being able to search the hearts, hear the requests, pardon the sins, and fulfill the desires of all; and only to be believed in, and worshiped with religious worship; prayer, which is a special part thereof, is to be made by all to him alone, and to none other.

Q. 180. What is it to pray in the name of Christ?

Answer: To pray in the name of Christ is, in obedience to his command, and in confidence on his promises, to ask mercy for his sake; not by bare mentioning of his name, but by drawing our encouragement to pray, and our boldness, strength, and hope of acceptance in prayer, from Christ and his mediation.

Q. 181. Why are we to pray in the name of Christ?

Answer: The sinfulness of man, and his distance from God by reason thereof, being so great, as that we can have no access into his presence without a mediator; and there being none in heaven or earth appointed to, or fit for, that glorious work but Christ alone, we are to pray in no other name but his only.

Q. 182. How doth the Spirit help us to pray?

Answer: We not knowing what to pray for as we ought, the Spirit helpeth our infirmities, by enabling us to understand both for whom, and what, and how prayer is to be made; and by working and quickening in our hearts (although not in all persons, nor at all times, in the same measure) those apprehensions, affections, and graces which are requisite for the right performance of that duty.(1)



Q. 183. For whom are we to pray?

Answer: We are to pray for the whole church of Christ upon earth; for magistrates, and ministers; for ourselves, our brethren, yea, our enemies; and for all sorts of men living, or that shall live hereafter; but not for the dead, nor for those that are known to have sinned the sin unto death.

Q. 184. For what things are we to pray?

Answer: We are to pray for all things tending to the glory of God, the welfare of the church, our own or others' good; but not for anything that is unlawful.

Q. 185. How are we to pray?

Answer: We are to pray with an awful apprehension of the majesty of God, and deep sense of our own unworthiness, necessities, and sins; with penitent, thankful, and enlarged hearts; with understanding, faith, sincerity, fervency, love, and perseverance, waiting upon him, with humble submission to his will.

Q. 186. What rule hath God given for our direction in the duty of prayer?

Answer: The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in the duty of prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which our Savior Christ taught his disciples, commonly called The Lord's prayer.

Q. 187. How is the Lord's prayer to be used?

Answer: The Lord's prayer is not only for direction, as a pattern, according to which we are to make other prayers; but may also be used as a prayer, so that it be done with understanding, faith, reverence, and other graces necessary to the right performance of the duty of prayer.

Q. 188. Of how many parts doth the Lord's prayer consist?

Answer: The Lord's prayer consists of three parts; a preface, petitions, and a conclusion.(1)



Q. 189. What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us?

Answer: The preface of the Lord's prayer (contained in these words, Our Father which art in heaven) teacheth us, when we pray, to draw near to God with confidence of his fatherly goodness, and our interest therein; with reverence, and all other childlike dispositions, heavenly affections, and due apprehensions of his sovereign power, majesty, and gracious condescension: as also, to pray with and for others.

Q. 190. What do we pray for in the first petition?

Answer: In the first petition (which is, Hallowed be thy name), acknowledging the utter inability and indisposition that is in ourselves and all men to honor God aright, we pray, that God would by his grace enable and incline us and others to know, to acknowledge, and highly to esteem him, his titles, attributes, ordinances, word, works, and whatsoever he is pleased to make himself known by; and to glorify him in thought, word, and deed: that he would prevent and remove atheism, ignorance, idolatry, profaneness, and whatsoever is dishonorable to him; and, by his overruling providence, direct and dispose of all things to his own glory.

Q. 191. What do we pray for in the second petition?

Answer: In the second petition (which is, Thy kingdom come), acknowledging ourselves and all mankind to be by nature under the dominion of sin and Satan, we pray, that the kingdom of sin and Satan may be destroyed, the gospel propagated throughout the world, the Jews called, the fullness of the Gentiles brought in; the church furnished with all gospel officers and ordinances, purged from corruption, countenanced and maintained by the civil magistrate; that the ordinances of Christ may be purely dispensed, and made effectual to the converting of those that are yet in their sins, and the confirming, comforting, and building up of those that are already converted: that Christ would rule in our hearts here, and hasten the time of his second coming, and our reigning with him forever: and that he would be pleased so to exercise the kingdom of his power in all the world, as may best conduce to these ends.(1)



Q. 192. What do we pray for in the third petition?

Answer: In the third petition (which is, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven), acknowledging that by nature we and all men are not only utterly unable and unwilling to know and to do the will of God, but prone to rebel against his word, to repine and murmur against his providence, and wholly inclined to do the will of the flesh, and of the devil: we pray, that God would by his Spirit take away from ourselves and others all blindness, weakness, indisposedness, and perverseness of heart; and by his grace make us able and willing to know, do, and submit to his will in all things, with the like humility, cheerfulness, faithfulness, diligence, zeal, sincerity, and constancy, as the angels do in heaven.

Q. 193. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

Answer: In the fourth petition (which is, Give us this day our daily bread), acknowledging that in Adam, and by our own sin, we have forfeited our right to all the outward blessings of this life, and deserve to be wholly deprived of them by God, and to have them cursed to us in the use of them; and that neither they of themselves are able to sustain us, nor we to merit, or by our own industry to procure them; but prone to desire, get, and use them unlawfully: we pray for ourselves and others, that both they and we, waiting upon the providence of God from day to day in the use of lawful means, may, of his free gift, and as to his fatherly wisdom shall seem best, enjoy a competent portion of them; and have the same continued and blessed unto us in our holy and comfortable use of them, and contentment in them; and be kept from all things that are contrary to our temporal support and comfort.

Q. 194. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

Answer: In the fifth petition (which is, Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors), acknowledging that we and all others are guilty both of original and actual sin, and thereby become debtors to the justice of God;...(1)



and that neither we, nor any other creature, can make the least satisfaction for that debt: we pray for ourselves and others, that God of his free grace would, through the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, apprehended and applied by faith, acquit us both from the guilt and punishment of sin, accept us in his Beloved; continue his favor and grace to us, pardon our daily failings, and fill us with peace and joy, in giving us daily more and more assurance of forgiveness; which we are the rather emboldened to ask, and encouraged to expect, when we have this testimony in ourselves, that we from the heart forgive others their offenses.

Q. 195. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

Answer: In the sixth petition (which is, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil), acknowledging that the most wise, righteous, and gracious God, for divers holy and just ends, may so order things, that we may be assaulted, foiled, and for a time led captive by temptations; that Satan, the world, and the flesh, are ready powerfully to draw us aside, and ensnare us; and that we, even after the pardon of our sins, by reason of our corruption, weakness, and want of watchfulness, are not only subject to be tempted, and forward to expose ourselves unto temptations, but also of ourselves unable and unwilling to resist them, to recover out of them, and to improve them; and worthy to be left under the power of them; we pray, that God would so overrule the world and all in it, subdue the flesh, and restrain Satan, order all things, bestow and bless all means of grace, and guicken us to watchfulness in the use of them, that we and all his people may by his providence be kept from being tempted to sin; or, if tempted, that by his Spirit we may be powerfully supported and enabled to stand in the hour of temptation; or when fallen, raised again and recovered out of it, and have a sanctified use and improvement thereof: that our sanctification and salvation may be perfected, Satan trodden under our feet, and we fully freed from sin, temptation, and all evil, forever. (1)



Q. 196. What doth the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us? Answer: The conclusion of the Lord's prayer (which is, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.) teacheth us to enforce our petitions with arguments, which are to be taken, not from any worthiness in ourselves, or in any other creature, but from God; and with our prayers to join praises, ascribing to God alone eternal sovereignty, omnipotency, and glorious excellency; in regard whereof, as he is able and willing to help us, so we by faith are emboldened to plead with him that he would, and quietly to rely upon him, that he will fulfill our requests. And, to testify this our desire and assurance, we say, Amen.(1)



INTRO: 40+ Days to November 5

t appears that the gates of hell have cracked open to unleash demons commissioned to attack the United States government (and brainwash the youth as well as the elderly). The demonic strategy seems to be to stir up chaos and anarchy in order to overwhelm our government institutions, the rule of law, and rational civil discourse.(1)

Source 1: Attributed to Abraham Lincoln, but cannot find the source.

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INTRO: 40+ Days to November 5

We know that the New Testament reveals a strong emphasis on unity and community in the church. As believers we have a declared unity, especially when it comes to prayer:

- The church has one Head: Ephesians 1:22-23
- Christ is building one church: Matthew 16:17-18
- The church has one foundation: 1 Corinthians 3:11
- All believers have a "sevenfold unity": Ephesians 4:4-6
- All barriers to unity are broken down in the Gospel: Ephesians 2:11-19

Since God knows what we need before we ask Him, and in His providence, He meets those needs, why do we pray? To understand the relationship between God's providence and prayer, we must have a right understanding of prayer. While God certainly knows what we need and the desires of our hearts, He calls us to verbalize our needs to Him. Prayer is not for God's benefit, but for ours. It's not that God needs to be "woke" out of slumber to act on our behalf, but because prayer benefits us and it deepens our dependence on Him.

Coming before the throne of God is an awesome privilege. So the posture of our hearts, "before" prayer should be noted. We must acknowledge our dependence on the Lord and give Him His due glory. Often, in the Psalms, David recounted God's great works back to Him. God obviously knew what He had accomplished, but by telling God of His glorious deeds, David strengthened His relationship with the Lord and worshiped Him reverently in truth.(1)

> If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

Source 1: Slightly edited: https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/why-pray/ 22 | LIBERTY 40+ DAY ELECTION PRAYER GUIDE, © 2020, 2024 ETSY: CoramDeoArtist



INTRO: 40+ Days to November 5

Prayer is effective because God has chosen to use it as-a-means to bring about His purposes and plans. Therefore, it's important to know how to pray properly. Prayer should include <u>adoration</u>, <u>confession</u>, <u>thanksgiving</u>, and <u>supplication</u>. We should not pray in a way that does not glorify God, such as with a lack of concentration, or praying against God's Law, or going beyond the limits of what we can ask. We are to pray according to His will in all things, and His word should be our guide and reference, being directed by His Spirit when we come before His throne.

God gloriously brings about His eternal decrees through the prayers of His people. Again prayer doesn't change God, it changes people and events (James 5:17-18) and stirs up the hearts of His people (Luke 18:26, 22:44).

Prayer never changes God's mind, rather it changes ours. It plays an important part in His providential plan for His creation (James 5:16), yet it is to be noted that He as the final say in all things, in whatsoever comes to pass.

We must always surrender our hearts and minds before the Lord and strive to pray in a complete, focused manner before God, keeping in mind the purposes and plans belong to Him.(1)

> You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

Source 1: Slightly edited: https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/why-pray/ 23 | LIBERTY 40+ DAY ELECTION PRAYER GUIDE, © 2020, 2024 ETSY: CoramDeoArtist



DAY 1 - 7: Preparing the Heart

Summary of Romans 1-3(1)

Chapter 1: The apostle discusses at length the concept of general revelation. This is the background to the announcement of the gospel, the fact that all men, everywhere, have a knowledge of God which is revealed to them in nature. What this knowledge does is to render everyone without an excuse before the judgement seat of God. However, all men distort and corrupt this revelation that God gives of himself, and exchange the truth for a lie, giving themselves over to idolatry.

Chapter 2: Paul goes on to indicate that not only do pagans and Gentiles distort the general revelation of God, but that the Jews who had the privilege of possessing the very oracles of God, the Scriptures, have gone astray. Paul summarizes, saying there is no partiality with God, for there will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, for the Jew first and then also for the Greek. Important also to chapter two is Paul's declaration that not only is God revealed externally through nature, but also there is an inward knowledge of God that we all have, insofar as God has written his law upon the heart of every human being.

Chapter 3: Paul pulls it together and shows that both Jew and Gentile are under the judgement of God. It is here he gives his statement that there is none righteous, no not one. And then comes the conclusion that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The aim of the first three chapters is to bring every human being before the tribunal of God and show that everyone, if judged by his works, would fall short of what God requires. Therefore, the only hope that anybody has for salvation is to be justified by faith alone. And Paul introduces that concept with Romans 3:28: 'for we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.'



DAY 1 - 7: Preparing the Heart

AM Reading

Romans 1-3 daily, throughout the week

Prayer

Praise and Thanksgiving Confession of Sin

Specific Prayer for the Week

- Praise God for our freedom and ask Him to preserve them for the future.
- Pray the Lord prepare your heart and mind toward His will, His ways, through the reading of His word.
- Pray your prayers be in alignment with God's word.
- Pray you submit to the Lord's will for the outcome of the election.
- Pray the Lord to renew your inner man by the power of His spirit.
- Earnestly seek the Lord before murmuring about your station in life.
- Pray His righteousness prevail in your heart.
- Pray for believers to know God's will that is not hidden, but revealed in his word.

PM Listening

Romans 1-3 daily, throughout the week

Evening Prayer

Ask the Lord to prepare your heart for the 40 day(s) ahead and to be useful for the kingdom, especially in preparing to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Begin to think about whom might you pray for within your own sphere of contact as well as within the government branches, especially believers and non believers. Include lobbyists, law makers, judges and other leaders as well as our President and Vice President in the upcoming weeks of prayer.

Further Study

Review the Appendix



DAY 8 - 14: Nation's Leaders

Summary of Romans 4-6(1)

Chapter 4: This chapter contains an extended illustration of the principle of justification by faith, in which Paul points to the Old Testament's first patriarch, Abraham, showing Abraham was justified by faith. He indicates that Abraham was justified before he did any works. He was justified, according to Genesis 15, when he believed the promise that God made to him, and it was counted to him as righteousness.

Chapter 5: Paul spells out for us in brief, the great fruits of justification. He points out that being justified by faith we have: peace with God, we have access to God, and we have a hope of the glory of God which makes it possible for us to endure tribulations and trials. And then, in referring to the free gift of Christ and his willingness to die for us while we were still sinners, he states our need for a redeemer is in the fall of Adam. He makes a comparison between Adam and Christ and points out that death entered the world through Adam, but that life comes through Jesus Christ.(2)

Chapter 6: Paul moves from justification to sanctification. Sanctification calls believers to a new kind of living, for the old man is to be put to death daily, and the new man is to be fed, nurtured and brought unto conformity to Jesus Christ. The fact that our salvation is gratuitous, based upon the mercy of God and the merits of Christ alone, does not give us a license for sin. We are no longer slaves to sin but slaves to God.

Source 1: Edited, The Gospel of God: Romans, RC Sproul, pp7-13 Source 2: See Page 8: Romans 5:12-21



DAY 8 - 14: Nation's Leaders

AM Reading

Romans 4-6 daily, throughout the week

Prayer

Praise and Thanksgiving Confession of Sin

Specific Prayer for the Week

- Pray the President and Vice President continue to display compassion, blessing and leading over our nation despite demonic interference.
- Plead against the twisting work of Satan to destroy what the President is called to do.
- Pray leaders submit to God's will and lead with grace, honor, truth, righteousness and with God in mind.
- Beg for God's mercy upon a wicked generation, whether individuals, churches corporations, or government.
- Pray the Lord place into power, honest, God fearing people that will lead our nation for His glory and that His sovereignty be recognized and submitted to, extending over all things.
- Plead for the Lord to bring leaders who have a regard for God, His word and those who regard His name as holy.
- Pray the outside interference be nonexistent especially that other nations not be allowed to tamper or cause more havoc and division between parties, while protecting the election process.
- That all sides will rest with the outcomes as being God's will.
- For the safety of volunteers serving at the polls and for the Lord to miraculously intervene in the hours and days that follow the election.

PM Listening

Romans 4-6 daily, throughout the week

Evening Prayer

Ask the Lord to grant repentance to our nations leaders and those working in various branches of government that have not carried out their God-given roles to the glory of God. Pray government leaders to no stir up the anarchy any further before, during and after the election.

Further Study

Review the Appendix



DAY 15 - 21: Church Leaders

Summary of Romans 7-8(1)

Chapter 7: This chapter outlines the continued struggle that a Christian has as he seeks to grow in grace, wisdom, knowledge and holiness. Paul speaks of his own struggle between those things that the didn't want to do yet does and the things that he wants to do that he leaves undone. He explains that the Christian will continue to struggle with sin even though he has been freed from the curse and bondage to the law. He is to live in the power of Christ, who sets us free from the bondage of our fallen nature.

Chapter 8: Paul continues his discussion of the warfare that goes on in the Christian life between the old nature and new nature that is made alive through Christ. He calls attention to the fact that the outcome of this warfare between Spirit and flesh is not (ever) in doubt in the life of a true Christian. For God has promised the final victory, noting that even all of creation looks forward to the consummation of God's plan of salvation, not just man.

Until then, the Holy Spirit is within believers helping them in their weaknesses, helping them with their prayer life, searching and cleansing their hearts, and teaching them the good and perfect will of God.

In the latter part of chapter 8, Paul introduces the grand concept of the gracious election of God. He explains that God is for His people before the beginning of time, going back to the very first of God's eternal decrees. No one can undo the election (or choosing) that God has brought to pass in the life of a believer. The Christian's assurance of perseverance is based not in man, but on the promises of God who has made their salvation all of His grace from beginning to the very end.



DAY 15 - 21: Church Leaders

AM Reading

Romans 7-8 daily, throughout the week

Prayer

Praise and Thanksgiving Confession of Sin

Specific Prayer for the Week

- Pray God would continue to purify our hearts and His church.
- Pray believers working in the church to submit to God's authority.
- That leaders trust the Lord with His church and the secret things only known to God.
- Pray leaders preach the Gospel rightly, teaching the church how to be effective witnesses for Christ and believers would Go as commanded.
- Ask the Lord of the harvest to bring co-laborers in Christ.
- Pray for believers to hold fast to the word of God so that in the day of Christ Jesus they may stand before a holy God without fear.
- Pray the Lord grant repentance to leaders in the church and its members.
- Pray the Lord change the hearts of wayward sons and daughters and return to the Lord and His church.
- Pray for His church to repent and return to their first love.
- Pray for those working in the church, to work as unto the Lord and not unto man, so that they may be blameless and innocent, shining their light to a lost nation.

PM Listening

Romans 7-8 daily, throughout the week

Evening Prayer

Pray the Lord would remind those walking with God for many years that they are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession. This so that they may proclaim Christ who called them out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

Further Study Review the Appendix



DAY 22 - 28: Law & Liberty

Summary of Romans 9-11(1)

Chapter 9: Paul speaks of his burden for the Jews, his kinsmen according to the flesh. He shows how today in his plan of salvation, God has retained for himself a portion of the Jewish people, through sovereign election. Paul makes the analogy in chapter 9 between Jacob and Esau, in which Jacob receives the blessing of election. Jacob is chosen (loved) and Esau is not chosen passed (hated) over. Paul explains that there is no injustice in God in this redemptive plan, and reminds his readers that God always reserves the right to have mercy upon whom He will have mercy.

Chapter 10: Although Paul continues the expression of his burden and desire for salvation of his race, he refers to the call to preach the gospel, and points out that anyone who believes in Christ will be saved. But no one can believe (without the gift of regeneration and faith), who has not heard, and no one can hear without a preacher, and he talks about how beautiful it is to have those committed to the cause of evangelism. Chapter 10 describes the way in which God brings His elect people to Himself; the means of salvation comes through the preaching of the gospel.

Chapter 11: Then in this chapter Paul raises the difficult question of the future status of the Jewish people. His comments have resulted in much controversy concerning this question: Does God have more in store for Israel? Paul describes the Gentiles as wild olive branches that are grafted onto the root and the tree which is Israel. His basic thesis is that if God was pleased to be merciful to the Gentiles, who are the wild olive branches, how much more merciful will He be to the original tree (Israel)? So there will be a time when the deliverance of Israel will take place, with great blessing to the rest of the world. In the meantime God will continue, for Abraham's sake, to work in the lives of the people who are descendants of Abraham. Paul ends this chapter with a magnificent doxology.



DAY 22 - 28: Law & Liberty

AM Reading

Romans 9-11 daily, throughout the week

Prayer

Praise and Thanksgiving Confession of Sin

Specific Prayer for the Week

- Pray our constitutional, God-given rights and liberties be upheld in accordance with what our forefathers instituted.
- That the Lord be merciful in keeping these rights intact.
- That if the Lord were to strip them all away, His people would trust Him all-the-more.
- Pray for the unborn and those that seek to plot murder for greed, power, and gain be completely stopped.
- Pray for God-ordained marriage to be held in high regard and honored.
- Ask the Lord that the wicked schemes and terrible bills be overturned and destroyed in the process.
- That God would protect the millions of election ballots being processed.
- That the US postal workers would be faithful and honest in their work.
- Pray for the President and Vice President and staff be surrounded with true believers that will provide wisdom and guidance in accordance with God's word.

PM Listening

Romans 9-11 daily, throughout the week

Evening Prayer

Ask the Lord to move in the heart of believers to exercise their God-given rights to vote. That believers would take the side of the Lord, aligning best with His word and His will. Pray they are able to have civil discourse with opposing sides for the purpose of drawing men to Christ.

Further Study

Review the Appendix



DAY 29 - 35: Our Nation's Youth

Summary of Romans Recapping 1-11 and 12(1)

The first 11 chapters give an exposition of the way of salvation, the doctrines of grace, beginning with an exposing of our radical sinfulness and corruption which make it possible for a man to justify himself through his own efforts. Then Paul spells out the doctrine of justification by faith alone, through Christ who alone has the ability and the merit necessary to justify those who are unjust. From justification, Paul moves to sanctification, the process of our working (or living out) our salvation, of growing in grace, of putting to death the old man, growing in obedience to the word, and strengthening the inward man within us. He explains the fruit of justification that is evidenced in the new relationship of adoption as sons into the family of God, coupled with its many blessings. Finally, he gives an exposition of God's sovereign election and of His work in history, using the Jewish nation, and reaching out to the Gentiles, and the promise for future actions with the Jewish people.

Chapter 12: There is a decided shift from theological exposition to practical application, in which Paul tells his readers that the appropriate response to so great a (gift) salvation is to present themselves as living sacrifices to God. They are to be transformed people, and that transformation comes through renewed minds in the word of God.

Then Paul speaks about the diversity that is found within the body of Christ. It is one body with many members. Each one is called to a different service, each has different gifts according to how God will give (by grace). Each person is to exercise that gift which God has given, and in doing so, Christians are called to live together in love and cheerfulness. They are to be devoted to each other. Paul gives us a series of virtues that believers are to practice: diligence, fervency in spirit, contributing to the needs of the saints, hospitality, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. He gives his indictment against pride and haughtiness and shows how destructive those characteristics are. Lastly he forbids Christians from seeking vengeance.



DAY 29 - 35: Our Nation's Youth

AM Reading

Romans 12 daily, throughout the week

Prayer

Praise and Thanksgiving Confession of Sin

Specific Prayer for the Week

- Pray for discernment, while being called to apply good sound judgement when conversing with opposing sides, keeping peace in mind.
- Pray for God's Kingdom to prevail against anarchy and lawlessness.
- Pray for those who are deceived and falling prey to the anarchy.
- Intercede for those lost and relying on government for salvation.
- Ask the to Lord transform the hearts of many, and not just the youth to be brought to saving faith.
- Pray "Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven."
- Pray God's glory and presence will rule, be manifested on earth especially in the midst of the political clashes before the election.
- Pray that this manifestation of God's presence will drive into the light any demonic entities or Satanic schemes that are at work.
- Pray believers speak words which the Lord can use for blessing and as the means to accomplish his purposes in preserving America for His Kingdom purposes.

PM Listening

Romans 12 daily, throughout the week

Evening Prayer

Pray for wisdom and discernment in the lives of believers who are on the front lines dealing with any riotous and lawless behavior. That first responders surrender their will over to the Lord's will, for His glory, His purposes and His plans and that he provide strength for the days. Pray all believers demonstrate love for God, His word and in earnestly learning the Gospel in order to be an effective witness for Christ.

Further Study

Review the Appendix



DAY 36 - 40: First Responders

Summary of Romans 13-16(1)

Chapter 13: Spells out the responsibilities of Christians to obey the civil magistrates. He gives us the most thorough statements about his view of the existence of governments and of the state, and shows that government has been established by God. Government is given as a means of grace to keep unbridled spirits in check, to restrain (and punish) evil, and Christians ought to keep a good conscience with respect to government, doing their duty as it is understood under God. And then he spells out what love means in the life of the Christian.

Chapter 14: Paul begins by explaining Christian liberty and the responsibility that goes with it. Though we have been freed from moralistic rules that are not a part of the real law of God, we are to exercise that freedom with a spirit of charity and consideration for weaker brothers who may not have the same understanding of the things of God that the more mature Christian does.

Chapter 15: He continues along these same lines in chapter 14, explaining to believers that we are to bear the weaknesses of those who differ from us, and that we are to be people who are of peace, patience, and people of hope. Toward the end of the chapter, Paul reveals his intention to come personally to visit his friends in Rome and his desire to go onto Spain.

Chapter 16: Finally at the last, there is a long list of greetings and commendations to men and women who served with Paul in his missionary journeys and in his ministries in the local churches, which give an insight to Paul as a person, a pastor and friend. And as Christians, we are to model this same character.

Paul opens Romans with who he is in Christ and then closes with who he is in the church; a person, a pastor and a friend.



DAY 36 - 40: First Responders

AM Reading

Romans 13-16 daily, throughout the week

Prayer

Praise and Thanksgiving Confession of Sin

Specific Prayer for the Week

- Pray responders work in a lawful manner, upholding the law.
- That the Lord flush out those unwilling to serve and protect, only wish to do harm.
- Pray for personal protection and ability to return to their families.
- Pray for constraining evil that is constantly stirred up.
- Ask the Lord to shut down demonic interference.
- That believers who serve begin their day in the word, putting on the full armor of God before heading out into danger, ready to witness.
- Protect their minds from confusion when responding swiftly with composure.
- Pray for lawlessness to cease and for the Lord to intervene.
- Thank the Lord for giving us our police and military forces that defend our nation from inside or outside enemies.
- For a civil war to be thwarted, especially within hearts of men.
- Pray for the preservation of life.
- That the Lord guide, help and strengthen them by the power of his Spirit.
- To be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

PM Listening

Romans 13-16 daily, throughout the week

Evening Prayer

Pray that those in Christ remember we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Further Study

Review the Appendix



APPENDIX

Confession of Faith (Excerpts from the Apostles, Nicene and Chalcedon Creeds)

I believe in God the Father Almighty,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; truly God, and truly man, Light of Light, Very God of Very God; like unto us in all things, yet without sin; Who, for us men and our salvation, came down from Heaven. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified.

And I believe in one holy and apostolic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen

A Way of Personal Examination(1)

Consider God's holiness and grace, manifest in the life of His Son, Jesus Christ. Pray God's presence and illumination of His word. Ask God's Holy Spirit to be with you and for your eyes to be open as you consider your day.

Examine yourself prayerfully: Psalm 139:23-24

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;
 ²⁴ And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting. (NKJV)

Pray with deep gratitude for every sign of God's loving presence, and pray in sorrow, repenting of any place you have resisted His loving will. Receive the words of assurance for the day, leaning on the promises and mercy of God.

Conclude your daily prayer, by offering yourself body and soul, in thought, word, and deed, as a living sacrifice to God, which is your spiritual worship.



Shorter Catechism Worksheet: Day 1-7

Q. 19. What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?

All mankind by their fall lost communion with God [a], are under his wrath [b] and curse [c], and so made liable to all miseries in this life [d], to death [e] itself, and to the pains of hell for ever [f].

[a]. Gen. 3:8, 24; John 8:34, 42, 44; Eph. 2:12; 4:18 [b]. John 3:36; Rom. 1:18; Eph. 2:3; 5:6 [c]. Gal. 3:10; Rev. 22:3

[d]. Gen. 3:16-19; Job 5:7; Ecc. 2:22-23; Rom. 8:18-23

[e]. Ezek. 18:4; Rom. 5:12; 6:23

[f]. Matt. 25:41, 46; 2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 14:9-11



Shorter Catechism Worksheet: Day 8-14

Q. 20. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life [a], did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer [b].

[a]. Acts 13:48; Eph. 1:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:13-14 [b]. Gen. 3:15; 17:7; Ex. 19:5-6; Jer. 31:31-34; Matt. 20:28; 1 Cor. 11:25; Heb. 9:15

NOTES:

Source 1: https://www.apuritansmind.com/westminster-standards/shorter-catechism/ 39 | LIBERTY 40+ DAY ELECTION PRAYER GUIDE, © 2020, 2024 ETSY: CoramDeoArtist



Shorter Catechism Worksheet: Day 15-21

Q. 21. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ [a], who, being the eternal Son of God [b], became man [c] and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever [d].

[a]. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5-6
[b]. Ps. 2:7; Matt. 3:17; 17:5; John 1:18
[c]. Isa. 9:6; Matt. 1:23; John 1:14; Gal. 4:4
[d]. Acts 1:11; Heb. 7:24-25

NOTES:

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Shorter Catechism Worksheet: Day 22-28

Q. 22. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul [a], being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her [b] yet without sin [c].

[a]. Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14, 17
[b]. Luke 1:27, 31, 35
[c]. 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 7:26; 1 John 3:5



Shorter Catechism Worksheet: Day 29-35

Q. 23. What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?

Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet [a], of a priest [b], and of a king [c], both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

[a]. Deut. 18:18; Acts 2:33; 3:22-23; Heb. 1:1-2
[b]. Heb. 4:14-15; 5:5-6
[c]. Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33; John 18:37; 1 Cor. 15:25



Shorter Catechism Worksheet: Day 36-40

Q. 24. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word [a] and Spirit [b], the will of God for our salvation [c].

[a]. Luke 4:18-19, 21; Acts 1:1-2; Heb. 2:3 [b]. John 15:26-27; Acts 1:8; 1 Pet. 1:11 [c]. John 4:41-42; 20:30-31

Q. 25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?

Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice [a], and reconcile us to God [b]; and in making continual intercession for us [c].

[a]. Isa. 53; Acts 8:32-35; Heb. 9:26-28; 10:12 [b]. Rom. 5:10-11; 2 Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:21-22 [c]. Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24

Q. 26. How doth Christ execute the office of a king?

Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us [a], and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies [b].

[a]. Ps. 110:3; Matt. 28:18-20; John 17:2; Col. 1:13 [b]. Ps. 2:6-9; 110:1-2; Matt. 12:28; 1 Cor. 15:24-26; Col. 2:15



Trusted Resources

Most of the resources listed are free or have a minimal cost associated with them with exceptions. There is quite a bit of information within the Ligonier Ministry website. Feel free to explore here: https://www.ligonier.org/learn/ or here https://www.ligonier.org/.

ARTICLES https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/how-pray/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/why-pray/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/place-prayer/ https://www.ligonier.org/blog/simple-acrostic-prayer/

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STUDY GUIDE - PURCHASE DOWNLOAD https://www.ligonier.org/store/prayer-digital-study-guide-1/

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS The Gospel of God, RC Sproul A Simple Way to Pray, Martin Luther, Translated by Matthew C Harrison The Power of Prayer, Charles H Spurgeon Little Prayer Book, 1522, Annotated Luther Study, Haemig- Lund What is the Great Commission?, RC Sproul Can I be Sure I am Saved?, RC Sproul Does Prayer Change Things?, RC Sproul



Trusted Resources

TABLETALK COLLECTION LINK TO PRAYER https://www.ligonier.org/learn/keywords/prayer/?sort=az

TABLE TALK INDIVIDUAL MAGAZINE ARTICLES https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2019/03/what-is-prayer/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/real-prayer-jabez/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/secret/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/loving-your-neighbors-praying-their-churches/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/praying-our-childrens-salvation/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/asking-seeking-knocking/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/comfort-jesus-prayers/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/the-puritans-on-prayer/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/the-discipline-of-fasting/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/praying-church-leaders/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/kingdom-prayer/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/jesus-name/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/the-fervent-prayer-of-a-righteous-man/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/ourfather/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/thy-kingdom-come-2/ https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/with-one-voice/

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https://www.ligonier.org/search/?q=PRAYER https://www.openbible.info/topics/



lections belong to the people. It is their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters. - Abraham Lincoln

The US General Election is Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Check your Village Hall for early voting for more details.

IFI 2024 Voter Guide click BELOW: https://illinoisfamily.org/ifi_news/ifi-2024-voter-guide/

To access your local district or contact a government official by zip code or address, click BELOW: https://www.votervoice.net/ILFI/Address



1 Peter 2:9 ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Isaiah 60:3 And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Philippians 2:14-16¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.