Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; April 22-27, ’19.

Mon 1 Thessalonians: Since things were going sour in the congregation, the Holy Spirit used Paul to do some sweetening by reminding them that neither Paul nor God had let them fall through the cracks (1:2-6). In fact, God had made them a positive influence on other Christian congregations (1:7-10), and Paul had served their interests at the expense of his own, for they had become dear to him (2:1-12). When people love each other, . . . .

Tues 2:13-3:13 God’s concern for them was indisputable, for He had opened their hearts to His Word, stiffened them to endure persecution, and was smoothing the road for Paul to see them soon (2:13-19). In the interim, Paul kept in touch with them via Timothy, his apprentice (3:6-10). And who but God could keep them secure (3:11-13)?             Same with us.

Wed We know how God wants us to behave (4:1-2) in matters of sex (3-8) as well as in our general demeanor (9-12). Switching channels, how long will it take God to bring our departed friends/relatives back to life? No more than the few seconds it takes for the Lord Himself to descend from heaven and shout, “WAKE UP!” Those who are asleep in Jesus will awake, join the others still alive, and in one great throng we will get caught up together to meet the Lord (4:13-18). So let’s stay ready for the reunion (5:1-11). Meantime, God has put a lot on our plates (5:12-22). Dear Lord, help us!

Thurs 2 Thessalonians 1 It’s our human nature to stumble over the concept that tribulations are blessings in disguise, but here’s how it works: We know we are on God’s side when Satan makes our life difficult; (Jesus is the prime case which proves the formula). If our life weren’t difficult, that would be prima facie evidence that we and Satan were on friendly terms; so our tribulations are evidence that we are on God’s side, not Satan’s.  Hallelujah!

Friday 2 Thess. 2 Satan has a sinister way of deceiving hearts: he has created the Anti-Christ, a domain/person which exalts itself above all that is God’s domain, sitting as God in the temple of God (the human soul), showing himself that he is God, and thus seducing souls into his clutches. This minion of Satan keeps people ignorant of God’s supreme Bible truth that salvation comes to us via Jesus alone. Therefore we must hang on tightly to His Word/Bible doctrine on all spiritual matters (13-17). Lord, have mercy on us!

Sat 2 Thess. 3: Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified; don’t join in misbehavior, laziness, or any other unloving conduct; we (and Jesus) expect more than that from one another. If and when someone acts that way, try to straighten him out. The Lord be with you all; the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.