

## “Searched the Scriptures Daily” Acts 17:1-34 3/19/23

Today, we'd like to see the title of “Searched the Scriptures Daily” in Acts 17:1-34.

To Online Word's people, *through MP3 or YouTube Channel*, on the earth, we'd like to suggest the 3 expositional Questions. ([\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_ Maranatha Worship Songs](#). Videos are seeable upon the click on the website). *YouTube Channel is not Available in China, Iran, Germany, etc. where only MP3 is available*

Q1. In verse 11, “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so,” what does it mean? And how can we apply it to our lives?

Q2. In verses 24-25, “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. <sup>25</sup>Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things,” what do these mean? And what can we learn from here?

Q3. In verse 31, “because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead,” what does it mean in the context? And what can we learn from here?

(Background for context of this text on Daily Bible Reading and Studying Weekly Book Basis)

### Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Mission Trip (Acts 15:36-18:22)



Source: [thebiblejourney.org](http://thebiblejourney.org)

In the last time, in Acts 16:40, “So they went out of the prison and entered *the house*

of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed,” Paul and Silas went out of the prison, went to the house church of Lydia at Philippi, saw the church, and encouraged the church. They departed, keeping on the 2<sup>nd</sup> mission trip. Luke, the author of the book of Acts, probably was left in Philippi behind them, until they met again in the 3<sup>rd</sup> mission trip in the light of the “we” in Acts 20:6, “But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.”,

TEXT: NKJV [KJV]

Inductive **Explanation** in context & syntax

<p><u>1</u>Now when they had <u>passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia</u>, they came to <u>Thessalonica</u>, where there was <u>a synagogue of the Jews</u>.</p> <p><u>2</u> Then Paul, <u>as his custom was</u>, <u>went in to them</u>, and <u>for three Sabbaths</u> <u>reasoned with them from the Scriptures</u>,</p> <p><u>3</u> <u>explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead</u>, and <u>saying</u>, “<u>This Jesus</u> whom I preach to you is <u>the Christ</u>.”</p>	<p>1=...passed through Amphipolis...Apollonia...to Thessalonica....a synagogue of the Jews (Paul and Silas went to a synagogue of the Jews at Thessalonica, see the above map)</p> <p>2=...as his custom...went in to hem...for 3 Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures (Paul went to a synagogue of the Jews first and reasoned with them from the Scriptures, “the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead” in the following verse 3. This custom was his good routine life style to support the scripture, not against the scripture, because (1) in the 1<sup>st</sup> “Jews,” the witness to Jesus is first Jerusalem, and then Judea, Samaria, and others in order, not in chaos or confusion, and (2) in the “reasoned,” our God wants the reasonable service of each living, holy, acceptable sacrifice, and (3) our God wants to reason together. The infinite God came to finite men through Jesus, being reasonable. But finite men try to reach infinite God. It’s impossible because limited men couldn’t reach unlimited deity. It’s unreasonable. So, Christianity is reasonable unlike other religions. <i>Mat 15:3-6; Acts 1:8; Rom 1:16; Rom 12:1; Isaiah 1:18</i>)</p> <p>3=...the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead...This Jesus whom I preach...the Christ (As Jesus told the disciples to Emmaus, Paul preached the gospel about Jesus’ death and resurrection from the Scriptures, such as -- “laid on Him the iniquity of us all,” “a reproach of men...despised by the people,” “not leave my soul in Sheol,” “Nor...allow Your Holy One to see corruption,” “bore our sins in His own body...live for righteousness” ---- to the Jews first and also the other Gentiles who might have heard in the synagogue <i>Luke 24:27; Isaiah 53:6; Psalm 22:6; Psalm 16:10; 1 Peter 2:24</i>)</p>
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<sup>1</sup> *Mat 15:3-6* He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? <sup>4</sup> For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ <sup>5</sup> But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me *is a gift to God*”—<sup>6</sup> then he need not honor his father or mother.’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition; *Acts 1:8* But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth; *Rom 1:16* For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek; *1 Cor 14:33* For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. ; *Rom 12:1* I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service; Isaiah 1:18* “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

<sup>2</sup> *Luke 24:27* And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself; *Isaiah 53:6* All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all; *Psalm 22:6* But I *am* a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people; *Psalm 16:10* For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption; *1 Peter 2:24* who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

4 And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.

5 But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. 6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. 7 Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus.” 8 And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. 9 So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

4= ...persuaded....a great multitude of the devote Greeks....leading women... joined Paul and Silas (Many Greeks and women were persuaded or convinced to have believed in the Jesus preached by Paul during 3 Sabbaths, becoming the church of Thessalonians. The church became examples to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia regions. Later Paul sent two letters to them through Timothy “work of faith, labor of love....patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” “our gospel....in word, power, the Holy Spirit, much assurance” “in much affliction with joy,” etc. *1 Thes 1:1-7<sup>3</sup>*)

5-9 = (The Jews’ envy or jealousy of Paul or Jesus, blinded them to believe in the Jesus, and stirred up an uproar or riot through their hired mobs. They attacked the house of Jason, which might have been the church of Thessalonians, and dragged Jason and other brothers in Christ to the rulers of the city. They accused Jason and others to turn the world upside down – from Caesar the king or Lord to Jesus the king or Lord in the world – for treason against Caesar. But Jason and others put up bond, security, or cash to the rulers for himself and others, who got freedom)

10= ...immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea....went into the synagogue of the Jews (Paul and Silas were escaped speedily from the danger of their arrest at Thessalonica to Berea, see the above map)

<sup>3</sup> *1 Thes 1:1-7* Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup> remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, <sup>4</sup> knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. <sup>5</sup> For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

12 Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

13 But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds. <sup>14</sup> Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there. <sup>15</sup> So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed. <sup>16</sup> Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.

17 Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

11=Q1 more fair-minded than .....Thessalonica...they received the word with all readiness... searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so (The hearers in Berea were more open minded than those in Thessalonica. When they received all the word of God ready from Paul's message about the gospel for salvation, they opened the Scriptures for themselves and searched whether all the word of God of his message was found in the Scripture. A preacher or teacher who gives God's true message will never be against the Scripture. This is a good attitude because the Scripture testifies of Jesus who is the author and the finisher of our faith in the light of the following verse 12. *John 5:39; Heb 12:2<sup>4</sup>*)

12=Therefore many of them believed...not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men (Consequently, many people, including famous people, at Berea believed the received word of God from the message.)

13-16= (The Jews of Thessalonica came down and interrupted Paul's preaching even at Berea, stirring up the crowds. Paul was escaped from Berea to Athens, commanding Silas and Timothy to follow him to Athens speedily. At Athens, Paul was troubled in heart with full of idols)

17= ...reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers....in the marketplace daily.....(The word minister conducts 5 main things – preach, convince, rebuke, exhort, and teach – with reasons, not irrationally. Paul preached the gospel for salvation with reasons from the Scripture to the Jews first and also the Gentiles in the synagogue every Sabbath or Saturday and to the people in the marketplace daily, in season and out of season. *2 Tim 4:2<sup>5</sup>*)

<sup>4</sup> *John 5:39* You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me; *Heb 12:2* looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>5</sup> *2 Tim 4:2* Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

<sup>18</sup> Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, “What does this babbler want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.

<sup>19</sup> And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak?” <sup>20</sup> For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” <sup>21</sup> For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. <sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; <sup>23</sup> for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:

<sup>24</sup> God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

18= ...Epicurean...Stoic philosophers encountered him... the babbler....preached to them Jesus and the resurrection (The Epicurean the followers of Epicurus sought happiness or pleasure the primary goal of life, called as the “Sadducees” of Greek paganism. The Stoic the followers of Zeno sought the reason above feeling in harmony with nature, called as the “Pharisees” of Greek paganism. They thought Paul as either a babbler or preacher of Jesus and the resurrection)

19-23 (They took Paul to the Areopagus stone hill located northwest of the Acropolis in Athens <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Areopagus>. Paul was invited to tell his new doctrine before all the Athenians and the foreigners who either tell or hear. Paul opened that they were very religious because they sought God seriously, even the unknown God. The finite people sought the infinite God. Paul started from the place of the hearers who already knew the inscription, “To the unknown God.” It’s a good point like Jesus used the parable of sowing seeds to the audience farmers.)

24=Q2 God ...made the world and everything in it...Lord of heaven and earth...not dwell in temples made with hands (God created the heaven and earth, not being limited to the place made by men. God is infinite, not finite. God is omnipresent. Even if we sought to flee from the presence of God, we can’t escape His presence. We often lose the consciousness of His presence. If we had the continual consciousness of His presence, it in itself would be the stimulus for holiness or setting apart from the world. . *Gen 1:1; Psalm 139:7-10*)

<sup>6</sup> *Gen 1:1* In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth; *Psalm 139:7-10* Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? <sup>8</sup> If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*. <sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, <sup>10</sup> Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

<p>25 <u>Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.</u></p> <p>26 And He has <u>made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth,</u> and has <u>determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,</u> <sup>27</sup> so that <u>they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;</u></p> <p>28 for <u>in Him we live and move and have our being,</u> as also <u>some of your own poets</u> have said, 'For we are also <u>His offspring.</u>'</p> <p>29 Therefore, <u>since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.</u></p> <p>30 Truly, <u>these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,</u></p>	<p>25=Q2 Nor.....with men's hands, as though He needed anything....to all life, breath, and all things (Because God created the heaven and the earth, and all its fulness, God is its owner and doesn't need anything from men – created and owned by God. But God wants to be glorified by us with given things – given free will, given talent, and given situation or open door <i>Psalm 24:1; Rev 4:11</i> <sup>7</sup>)</p> <p>26= ...made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth....determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwelling (All people came from Adam's blood by God's creation. God has appointed unto each person to the boundary of each habitation and once to die. But whoever believes the Jesus is made alive forever and is a new creature regardless of race or gender <i>Gen 2:21-22; 1 Cor 15:22; Gal 3:27-28; 2 Cor 5:17</i><sup>8</sup>)</p> <p>27= ...they should seek the Lord, in the hope....might grope for Him and find Him, through...not far from each one of us (When the finite people seek the infinite God, they might hope to find Him. But it is impossible or unreasonable for finite ones could not hold the infinite one. In fact, our God is omnipresent, everywhere, or close to each one of us)</p> <p>28= in Him we live...move...have our being....some.....poets....His offspring (We are subject to the sovereign God, who made us in the image of the trinity God likeness. So we are His offspring as some poets say. But as Adam's sin made all die, Jesus' resurrection of the dead made all alive <i>Gen 1:26; 1 Cor 15:21-22</i><sup>9</sup>)</p> <p>29= since we are the offspring of God...ought not...Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone...shaped by art and man's devising (So, God isn't represented by these images of silver, gold, stone, and something shaped by man's devising, despite an awe of man's artistic capacities)</p> <p>30= ..these times of ignorance God overlooked...now ...all men everywhere to repent (In the earlier times God overlooked such ignorance about these things, but now God commands everyone to repent the ignorance before God)</p>
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<sup>7</sup> *Psalm 24:1* The earth is the LORD's, and all its fulness, The world and those who dwell therein; *Rev 4:11* You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”.

<sup>8</sup> *Gen 2:21-22* And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. <sup>22</sup> Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man; *1 Cor 15:22* For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive; *Gal 3:27-28* For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus; *2 Cor 5:17* Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

<sup>9</sup> *Gen 1:26* Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth; *1 Cor 15:21-22* For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

<sup>31</sup> because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

<sup>32</sup> And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." <sup>33</sup> So Paul departed from among them. <sup>34</sup> However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

31=Q3 ..appointed ...He ...judge the world in righteousness...the Man whom He has ordained...assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead (Jesus is the Man ordained by God or the Christ; God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone in righteousness; God has assured everyone Jesus Christ by raising Jesus up from the dead – His death for our sin reconciled us with God, from wrath relationship through Adam's original sin to peace relationship through Jesus' ransom; Jesus only is the mediator between us and God; Jesus is the being in the form of God and became flesh. Jesus ministered on the earth with His disciples who heard, saw, and touched Him. As of resurrection, ascension, and coming the Spirit on the Pentecost, every Christian may receive the Spirit the overflowing living water in heart *Heb 9:27; Rom 5:11-12; Job 9:33; Phil 2:6-7; John 1:1-5, 14; 1 John 1:1; 1 Cor 15:14; John 7:37-39; John 4:14<sup>10</sup>*)

32-24= (Various reactions to the gospel that Paul preached occurred. Some mocked. Some wanted to hear more about this. Some accepted it and believed the Jesus. Believers were Dionysius the Areopagite – a special intellectual group of the day, Damaris, and others. It's like Jesus taught the sown seed in various places or the word of God planted in various hearts. Some falls on the wayside, stony places, among thorns, and on good ground. *Mat 13:18-23<sup>11</sup>*)

<sup>10</sup> *Heb 9:27* And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment; *Rom 5:11-12* And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—; *Job 9:33* Nor is there any mediator between us, *Who* may lay his hand on us both; *Phil 2:6-7* who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men; *John 1:1-5, 14* In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth; *1 John 1:1* That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—; *1 Cor 15:14* And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty; *John 7:37-39* On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified; *John 4:14* but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.

<sup>11</sup> *Mat 13:18-23* Therefore hear the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. <sup>20</sup> But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. <sup>22</sup> Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Note: Most Christians say the Bible is important, but rarely study every word in the Bible and commit it to the Lord. So, it's better to study it and live accordingly after the Spirit for the Lord (2 Tim 2:15). This online word for global crusade in effect develops from the expositional sermon (KJV), into spiritual transformation in daily love fellowship with the Lord throughout the Bible Study (NKJV) -- *All Scripture Expository Study from verse by verse Inductive Studies* -- of which application is the Discipleship and Spiritual Formation, closer to the image of Christ. We think that "Any human opinion is not really important rather than what God says. So, the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible per se. But the opinion to make us understand God's Word is acceptable (2 Corinthians 10:5)." Further, for the application, a life or spiritual experience might be helpful to understand how to apply an understood word in the text column, but it is temperately used like Paul, because nobody should think above that actual experience (2 Cor 12:6, Jeremiah 23:28).

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**Truth matters, regardless of online, offline, indoor, or outdoor services. The truth most love of God may be expressed with a donation, regardless of direct, mail, or online ways.**



***Thank you everybody. Come to Jesus!***

### ***GOD's Continuing Work Through His Church Acts 29***

Pray for continually "Let go, let God" because CCAH church (His sheep) is His church. "The Commentary of the Bible By Verse" is coming for this & future generation. E.g. 2020 <https://calvarychapelanaheimhills.com/letGod.pdf>

<https://www.calvarychapelanaheimhills.com/OnlineSermon2023.htm>

***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).***

**Who can be against the Word (λόγος LOGOS or the written word, i.e., the Bible)?**



**Pray for Comforts to the Bereaved Family of the Decedents, nearly 60,000, from Turkey and Syria earthquake devastation and for Having the True Peace in the Lord Jesus Christ the Savior.**



Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2023/feb/07/turkey-and-syria-earthquake-devastation-in-pictures>

## Pray for the Michael Loudermilk's Ministry at Korea.



*Pastoral Training of Asia*  
Ministering to Ministers

**CALVARY CHAPEL DAEJEON**

Loudermilk Family Newsletter – March 2023



Dear Friends and Family,

As March has rolled around, winter vacation has ended here. Our winter vacation for school is longer than the summer vacation. So the non-Korean people in our church often travel to their homes in order to see family and friends during the time. But now everyone is back, school has started, and with Covid no longer a big issue it is time to get busy again.

The main focus is going to be on outreach rather than just the in-church Bible teaching and fellowship that we have had over the last three years. It is time to look for opportunities for outreach like we used to do before Covid restricted us. Please pray for us as we look for ways to get our church family involved in the lives of others that need help.

Visiting orphanages is always an option that we need to look into. Also it is time to think about going back to House of Hope, a home for people with special needs. The main one to focus on though to is going back to the Philippines for a mission trip. The last time we were there was in 2020 just before travel started to be restricted. So it is time to form a team to start praying and planning for our next trip which would probably be sometime in February 2024 when people are still on the winter break. Also it won't be typhoon season so that helps as well. Plus, when we went before in the summer it was crazy hot. February is still hot, but not as bad.

Once again, I just want to thank you for praying for us and supporting what the Lord is doing here. Please pray just that we would be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as to what the Lord wants to do here next.

The family (Hye-Young and Jeena) are doing well. Jeena has just started her second year of high school and seems to be enjoying being back in school with friends. Our winter trip to visit family in Arkansas didn't exactly go as planned, so I am hoping that all of us can get back out there soon when there is less cold and snow so Jeena can have more fun. And it is just nice to be able to have time staying with my mom at my sister's house.



*Jeena with Bella in Arkansas*

Thank you always for your prayers and support –  
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## Pray for Iran's Evangelism.



INSIGHT INTO IRAN:

# The (not-so) Islamic Republic of Iran

Most Iranians no longer identify as Muslim. Iran's increasingly diverse and pluralistic ideological landscape is fostering fertile ground for the Gospel. But the growing desire among Iranians for freedom from the shackles of restrictive dogma means there are challenges the church needs to address through solid teaching and discipleship.

### Widespread disillusionment

Iran is Islamic. It's in the name: The Islamic Republic of Iran. Islam is firmly written into Iran's constitution and this identity cascades down through every law and policy, every government institution, every textbook and schoolroom, every official cultural body.

And yet for decades a divide has been growing between the conservative Shia ruling classes and the hearts and minds of ordinary Iranians. As the population has witnessed the oppression and corruption of the government, many have become disillusioned with the religion their rulers represent.

That divide has become an abyss.

Today only 32.5% of Iran's population self-identify as Shia Muslim, according to a survey of religious attitudes in 2020 by Netherlands-based research body

GAMAAN. 32.5% contrasts starkly with the official 90 - 95% quoted by the Iranian government.

Nearly 60% of Iranians do not identify as Muslim at all, according to this survey. Further, research done by GAMAAN in early 2022 into political attitudes indicated only 18% of Iran's population wish to preserve the Islamic Republic as it is. 62% of the population want to see the Islamic Republic - in place since 1979 - either overthrown or gradually phased out.

What do these millions of disillusioned, hurting people believe and value? Where does their devotion lie, if not with Islam and the state?

### Voices from many traditions

There is no single answer. Disillusionment has led some to embrace atheism, agnosticism or humanism, some to turn to other faiths and many others to identify as



# Pray for Pastoral Training of Asia (PTA).



## Pastoral Training of Asia

Ministering to Ministers

Dear Calvary Pastor,

December 2021

**PHILIPPINES: EXCITING NEWS! THE RADIO STATION IS MOVING FORWARD** We had an extremely enriching Zoom meeting with the Philippines Director of Far Eastern Broadcasting Company (FEBC) Dan Cura and staff. FEBC is one of the largest and oldest Christian networks and we are privileged to partner with them. We were told that the last step was governmental approval and we should have it within the year. FEBC will pay for everything that is needed, all we supply is the building for the radio tower and an office. What revived our keen interest was how far reaching the station would actually go. It will reach a large portion of southern Negros Island, southern Cebu Island, all Siquijor Island parts of Bohol Island and a small part of Mindanao! Conservatively we will be able to reach over a million people! We were informed as soon as we get the government green light, FEBC moves quickly, and we will be up and running! Please keep this in your prayers, the potential for new believers and strengthening believers is enormous!



**PHILIPPINES: GOVERNMENT SAY YES TO PREACH AND PRAY AT COMMUNITY MEETING!** God is blessing the church that we helped plant in Mindoro. Pastor Andy was approached by the local government officials to use the church property for a meeting (religious gatherings are allowed but with a 30% capacity only) As you see from the pictures, it was a full house, because the meeting was initiated by the government it was allowed. Pastor Andy told the

officials that to use the property he must be allowed to share the Word and lead the prayer, and they said yes...awesome! The government can limit people's freedom to be out in public, but they can't limit the Word of God!

**KOREA: SOUNDS LIKE BIG BROTHER!** We have had a couple of encouraging talks with our missionary friends in Korea. They have had very strict controls because of Covid. With several complete lockdowns they were told not to leave home. Victor got a phone call from the Health Department wanting to know why his phone had not moved in 4 hours, assuming that he had left his phone at home and was illegally out. He assured them that his phone was just in the kitchen all that time and moved it to the living room and they were able to see it. Amazing! Pray for the missionaries in Asia as it appears that is where the most severe governmental controls are.

**FINALLY, AN IN-PERSON PASTOR'S SEMINAR!** Our PTA Pastor Rey was excited to be back as well as the participants. (He has been doing Zoom Seminars for the last year & a half) Pastor Rey's only challenge was speaking the entire time wearing a mask (one of many government restrictions). 10,000 PTA gospel tracts were given, Study-type Bibles, food, and a clear understanding of how to know the Bible, Inductive Method of Bible Study was the topic.

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