

Week 168 – w/c/26/1/20

Monday: John 1:1-18. Read v18 again. In what ways has Jesus made God known to you? When was the last time you encountered God in Jesus Christ?

Tuesday: Numbers 24:1-25. Although Balaam could not prophecy against Israel, Rev 2:14 makes clear the private advice that he gave to Balak. Presumably this is because of Balak's response to him in v11 of our reading today. What would it take for you to be tempted to compromise your Christian principles, because of personal gain, or career, or financial reward, or status?

Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 8:1 - 9:1. In the long lists of names, there are brief comments inserted that can help us grasp a spiritual point. See for example, verses 6, 8, 28, 40. But note especially 9:1, where the reason for the people named being taken into captivity is given. How does "faithfulness" and "unfaithfulness" show itself among Christians today?

Thursday: Proverbs 20:21-30. Verse 21 is an important principle, that is also found in v22. Waiting for God's timing is more important than getting what we want immediately. In fact, getting the right thing too soon can be a reason why things don't work out correctly. The "prodigal" lost son in Jesus' parable (Luke 11:11ff) illustrates this clearly!

Friday: Ezekiel 35:1-15. In verse 5, harbouring "an ancient hostility" is the thing that motivated Edom's hatred of Israel. Unforgiveness, resentment, bitterness are always a problem if we want to behave correctly towards others, and progress in our walk with God. Ask God to search your heart and teach you how to give and receive forgiveness.

Weekend: Titus 1:10-16. Verse 16 re-states a clear truth in the Bible, that the fruit of our life must support what we say we believe. Our actions must be in line with our confession of faith. Our attitude to prayer, the Bible, Church, money, sharing our faith, morality and integrity, among other things must line up with our profession of discipleship. Where are you most lacking and in need of God's grace and strength to grow?