

## Reflections on November 2013 Readings

Scriptures from Peter, John and Jude that were especially meaningful to me this month:

- \* You have been born again, not by a seed that perishes but by one that can't perish...All human life is like grass, and all its glory is like a flower in the grass. The grass dries up and flower drops off, but the word of the Lord lasts forever. (1 Peter 1:23-25)*
- \* The person who wants to love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. He must turn away from evil and do good. He must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do wrong. (1 Peter 3:10-12)*
- \* God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that at the proper time he may exalt you. Throw all your worry on him, because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:6-7)*
- \* With the Lord a single day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a single day. The Lord is not slow about his promise...He doesn't want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. The day of the Lord will come like a thief...heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved and the elements will melt with fire. But...we are looking forward to new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.(2 Peter 3:8-13)*
- \* There is no fear where love exists. Rather, perfect love banishes fear. (1 John 4:18a)*
- \* You, dear friends, must continue to build yourselves up on your most holy faith. Pray in the Holy Spirit, and remain in God's love as you look for the mercy of our lord Jesus Christ that brings eternal life. Show mercy to those who have doubts. Save others by snatching them from the fire. (Jude:20-23)*

One of our November Books, Daniel, inspired Rick Warren to start a program in his mega-church that stressed eating in a healthy manner. Together he and his congregation lost over a ton of weight! He is on the cover of this week's "Parade Magazine" discussing his soon-to-be-released diet book, "The Daniel Plan." Incidentally (or maybe not so incidentally) our little Bible Study group is planning to host a 6-week study in January/February focusing on Pastor Warren's "Purpose Driven Life" book. Thank you, Lord, for confirming our plans through these timely coincidences. Vegetables and water, Daniel's staples, should be ours, too. Hmmm. What refreshments should we serve, if any, to those who attend our course?

Some highlights of November's Psalms and Proverbs can inspire us to make a difference for ourselves and others this holiday season, as we apply them to our lives:

- \* Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! (133:1)*
- \* Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his steadfast love endures forever. (136:1)*
- \* If thou, O Lord, shouldst mark our iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with thee...I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope... (130:3-5)*
- \* I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (122:1)*
- \* Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. (Pr 29:20)*