John 8:39-44, Daily Devotions

❑ Monday - Infernal Security. John 8:39

The Jews in Jesus' day trusted in their ancestry and circumcision for salvation. "Abraham is our father," they boasted to Jesus (John 8:39). But John the Baptist had already warned them, "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham" (Matt. 3:8-9). Growing up in a Christian home, or attending a Christian school, or joining a Christian church, or even being baptized are of no value if these things are not united with personal faith in God. Jesus said, "You must be born again" (John 3:7). Read Romans 2:28-29; Galatians 3:7, 28-29; Philippians 3:3

❑ Tuesday - True & False Religion. John 8:39

Here we see the Jews boasting in Abraham as their forefather (John 8:33, 39), and at the same time seeking to kill Jesus (John 8:59). Their religion, like Cain's, turned into murder, because it was divorced from true love and faith (Gen. 4:3-8). And so, historically man-made religion has grown up alongside true religion and is the ugly step-sister of a true relationship with God. The first is motivated by hatred, the second by love. But if the world does not distinguish between the two and lumps you in the same category with all of the religious fruits and nuts, then you must show them the difference. Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for another" (John 13:35). Read Matthew 5:13-16, 22:36-40

❑ Wednesday - Faith That Works. John 8:39

Jesus said to the Jews who were seeking to kill him, 'If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham'" (John 8:39). What were Abraham's deeds? "By faith Abraham, when he was called, *obeyed* by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going" (Heb. 11:8). True religion is marked by faith that works, faith that motivates men to action, faith that produces tangible results, faith that can be seen. Read James 2:14-26

❑ Thursday - A Package Deal. John 8:42

Jesus said to the Jews who were seeking to kill him, "If God were your Father, you would love Me" (John 8:42). As Jesus has already reminded us, one cannot love and honor God and not love and honor His Son, Jesus Christ. Scripture declares "He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him" (John 5:23); and "He who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me" (Luke 10:16); and again, "Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also" (1 John 2:23). You cannot have part of God. And so we must tell our Jewish and Muslim friends that the Trinity is a package deal. Read Matthew 28:19

❑ Friday - The Devil is Real. John 8:44

According to a 2009 Barna Poll, only 26% of Americans who claim to be Christians believe that the devil is a living being. Nevertheless, we should know that Jesus and the disciples, as well as 23 books of the Bible, refer to the devil, not as a mere picture of evil, but as a literal being with a malevolent mind, will and emotions. But if the world believes that Satan is pure mythology, the devil is more than happy to work undercover. You, however, must know your enemy, Christian, if you wish to fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12). The devil is a creature who is: [1] powerful, but not omnipotent (Rev. 12:7-9); [2] crafty, but not omniscient (Job 2:4-5); and [3] he roams the earth, but he is not omnipresent (Job 1:6). He may attack like a roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8), or masquerade as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14-15). He has schemes, i.e. battle plans (Eph. 6:11-12; 2 Cor. 2:11), and his chief weapons are doubt and deception (Jn. 8:44; Rev. 12:9). But do not fear, dear child of God, for "greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Read 1 Peter 5:8