

John 5:18-30, Daily Devotions

❑ Monday - The Imitation of Christ.

John 5:19

Looking at your children is sometimes like looking into a mirror. You can see some of the same mannerisms, quirks and idiosyncrasies that you see in yourself. Jesus imitated His Father too, not unconsciously, but very intentionally. He said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing" (John 5:19). Likewise, the Bible encourages us to "be imitators of God, as beloved children" (Eph. 5:1). Dear Christian, your Heavenly Father wants you to imitate Him: "For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44). "Holiness is the family likeness" (John Calvin). Read Matthew 5:48; Luke 6:36; Ephesians 4:32

❑ Tuesday - Life is a Gift.

John 5:21

Jesus said, "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also *gives life* to whom He wishes" (John 5:21). By these words Jesus reminds us that life is a gift given by God. Moreover, we are eternally dependent upon Him to sustain us (Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3), "for in Him we live and move and exist" (Acts 17:28). God is our lifeline, the source and substance of life, the power and principle of life, life's joy and fulfillment. Being a Christian is understanding that God is not just a part of my life, but that He is my life.

Read John 1:4; 5:26

❑ Wednesday - Honor The Son.

John 5:23

The problem in the Middle East is much bigger than terrorism, nuclear proliferation and suicide bombers. The biggest problem is this: No one honors God. Muslims do not honor God, but neither do the Jews. Jesus said, "He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him" (John 5:23). And what about America? Until we honor Jesus, America's motto "In God we trust" is a fraud. Christian, lift high the name of Jesus today.

Read Luke 10:16; 1 John 2:23

❑ Thursday - Hearing Test.

John 5:24-25

Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who *hears My word*, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life" (Jn. 5:24). But the heart that hears the Word of God week after week and does not do what it says is gradually hardened. In contrast, Jesus said, "Everyone who hears these words of Mine, and *acts upon them*, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock" (Mt. 7:24). How's your hearing? Is God's Word moving you to action?

Read Luke 6:46; James 1:22

❑ Friday - The Voluntary Subordination of Christ.

John 5:30

The one true God eternally subsists in three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, called the Godhead or Trinity. The three Persons of the Godhead are coequal and eternally coexistent. Nevertheless, to bring about our salvation, there exists within the Trinity a voluntary subordination of God the Son to God the Father. Notice how John's Gospel emphasizes this subordination: Jesus said, "I can DO nothing on My own initiative ... because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (John 5:30, cf. 6:38). And again Jesus said, "For I did not SPEAK on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment, what to say, and what to speak" (John 12:49, cf. 8:28, 14:10). Jesus voluntarily limited Himself to only those things that God the Father wanted Him to do, to say, and to think. And if the only begotten Son should so limit Himself, how much more should we as adopted sons and daughters cry out to God, "Not my will, but Thy will be done" (Lk. 22:42). Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me" (John 4:34). Go and learn what this means today in daily practice.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 John 2:17