

Today's Light Discussion Questions for October–December 2019

The material here is linked to the October–December issue of *Today's Light*, a quarterly magazine designed to lead God's people as they read through the Bible in two years.

We've tried to include enough discussion starters for about 45 minutes of study. Feel free to duplicate the questions and use them with *Today's Light* readers.

Suggestions for Using *Today's Light* Discussion Questions

- You could gather a group of *Today's Light* readers during Sunday morning Bible class time.
- You could invite all *Today's Light* readers in your congregation to a midweek home discussion.
- You could make the questions available to all *Today's Light* readers and encourage them to partner with one or two other people over lunch once a week.

To subscribe to *Today's Light*, contact Concordia Publishing House via email at ephorder@cph.org, via phone at 1-800-325-3381, or via fax at 1-800-490-9889.

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October Week 1 Discussion Questions

October 1–6; Philippians 1–4; Colossians 1

1. What tension in his life does Paul describe in Philippians 1:21–23? Why do many people not necessarily experience this tension? See Matthew 24:38–39.
2. God is love. Describe how God demonstrated His love for us and for all people according to Philippians 2:6–11. With what result?
3. What does it mean to “press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own” (Philippians 3:12)?
4. For a Christian, Philippians 4:8 connotes more than merely focusing on positive thoughts. Explain.
5. Read Colossians 1:10–12. What responses come from those who belong to God by faith in Christ Jesus? What is the source of the power that evokes these responses from God’s people (v. 11)?

October Week 2 Discussion Questions

October 7–13; Colossians 2–4; 1 Thessalonians 1–3

1. What is the “circumcision of Christ” (Colossians 2:11)?
2. Describe the new self that the Holy Spirit works in God’s people through the Means of Grace, according to Colossians 3:10.
3. Describe the approach God’s Spirit equips His people to have toward their work. See Colossians 3:23–24.
4. Review 1 Thessalonians 1:2–5. What action did Paul engage in on behalf of the people of Thessalonica? What did Paul remember about the faith, hope, and love of the Thessalonians? What evidence of faith, hope, and love in the lives of other Christians do you like to call to mind?
5. According to 1 Thessalonians 2:13, what is the significance of the Word of God?
6. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1–10. How do God’s people encourage one another in the face of trouble, hardship, and persecution? See especially verses 8–9.

October Week 3 Discussion Questions

October 14–20; 1 Thessalonians 4–5; 2 Thessalonians; 1 Timothy 1–3

1. Death announcements often carry the words “Asleep in Jesus.” What encouragement does Paul provide us about those who have fallen asleep in Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18)?
2. In what situations can the knowledge that Jesus will come to take us to live with Him forever be especially edifying (1 Thessalonians 5:1–11)?
3. After reviewing 2 Thessalonians 1:3–4, reflect on the various ways God’s people can encourage and build one another up.
4. What assuring promise does Paul provide amidst his discourse on the coming of the Antichrist in 2 Thessalonians 2:8?
5. How would you apply Paul’s words in 1 Timothy 1:15 to yourself?
6. What does 1 Timothy 2:1–5 remind us about our God? about the way He wants us to live?

October Week 4 Discussion Questions

October 21–27; 1 Timothy 4–6; 2 Timothy

1. Explain the connection between 1 Timothy 4:8 and verses 9–10.
2. In what way is godliness with contentment great gain? See 1 Timothy 6:6.
3. What does it mean to you that God “gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control” (2 Timothy 1:7)?
4. Which of the three vocations used by Paul to encourage Timothy in his life and work can you best relate to today—the soldier who avoids involvement in civilian affairs and endeavors to please his commanding officer, the athlete who competes according to the rules in order to win the victor’s crown, or the farmer who is the first to receive a share of the crops (2 Timothy 2:3–7)?
5. What can all who follow Christ Jesus expect as they live in this sinful world (2 Timothy 3:12)? What has God given us to strengthen and sustain us (2 Timothy 3:15–17)?
6. Review 2 Timothy 4:17–18. What is the promise? For what purpose was the promise given?

October Week 5 Discussion Questions

October 28–31; Titus; Philemon

1. Explain these words of Paul to Titus: “To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled” (Titus 1:15).
2. What event are God’s people to anticipate while living grace-filled lives (Titus 2:11–13)?
3. What perspective is helpful for God’s people to remember as they relate to others, especially to those who do not yet believe in Jesus as their Savior (Titus 3:3)?
4. Compare Paul’s intercession with Philemon on behalf of Onesimus with Christ’s intercession with His heavenly Father on our behalf. See Philemon 17–18.

November Week 1 Discussion Questions

November 1–3; Hebrews 1–2

1. Review Hebrews 1. How does Christianity differ from all other religions?

2. See Hebrews 2:1. What aspects of your life make it especially difficult for you to “pay much closer attention” to God’s Word in devotional and private Bible study times?

November Week 2 Discussion Questions

November 4–10; Hebrews 3–8

1. Read Hebrews 3:1–6. What would you expect to happen in your life when you continually “consider Jesus”?
2. Tell what the following words mean to you: “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).
3. Review Hebrews 5:12–14. What attitude would God have those who are mature display toward those still receiving spiritual milk and not solid food? See 1 Thessalonians 5:14.
4. According to Hebrews 6:19, what do God’s people have “as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul”?
5. What does it mean that Jesus “is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25)?
6. How does the new covenant we have in Christ differ from the covenant of the Old Testament? See Hebrews 8:8–12.

November Week 3 Discussion Questions

November 11–17; Hebrews 9–13; James 1

1. According to Hebrews 9:28, what will Christ bring when He appears a second time? To whom will He bring it?
2. Review Hebrews 10:23–25. How would Christ Jesus have us live in anticipation of His second coming?
3. Consider Hebrews 11. What things has God's Spirit enabled you to do "by faith"?
4. Through what kinds of discipline does our heavenly Father sometimes correct and redirect us? See Hebrews 12:5–11.
5. Hebrews 13 includes much helpful information about how God would have us live as His people. But God does not merely admonish and instruct; He also encourages us with His promises, such as "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (v. 5) and "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" (v. 6). When might these words be especially comforting to the people of God?
6. Describe the joy James writes about in 1:2–4.

November Week 4 Discussion Questions

November 18–24; James 2–5; 1 Peter 1–2

1. Other than those described in James 2:1–13, what examples of favoritism could you give?
2. Why are those who teach held to a greater level of accountability (James 3:1–2)? Against which kinds of sin does James 3:1–12 specifically warn?
3. According to verses 8–9 of James 4, how do we as God's people "humble [ourselves] before the Lord" (v. 10)?
4. List the reasons for prayer mentioned in James 5:13–18.
5. According to 1 Peter 1:5, what confidence do we have as God's people awaiting the coming of our Savior?
6. Review 1 Peter 2:1–10. Distinguish between these kinds of stones: living stones, a cornerstone, a stone that is stumbled over.

November Week 5 Discussion Questions

November 25–30; 1 Peter 3–5; 2 Peter

1. According to 1 Peter 3:8–20, how does God's Spirit move His people to act toward brothers and sisters in the faith? toward those outside the faith?
2. Review 1 Peter 4:10. What does it mean to be "good stewards of God's varied grace"?
3. What warning is contained in 1 Peter 5:7–10? What words of comfort and assurance are there?
4. What blessings does God give to His people through His "precious and very great promises" for which we can be especially thankful (2 Peter 1:4)?
5. What solemn warning is provided in 2 Peter 2:17–22?
6. Consider 2 Peter 3:9. God is patient and loving. For what reason has He not already brought about the end so that His people might enjoy the new heaven and the new earth?

December Week 1 Discussion Questions

December 1–8; 1 John 1–5; 2 John; 3 John

1. Explain the use of the terms *life* and *eternal life* in 1 John 1:2.
2. Review 1 John 2:3–11. What relationship between faith and works, or lifestyle, is expressed here?
3. Children of God! What a remarkable designation sinners have through faith in Christ Jesus. How does “everyone who thus hopes in Him” purify himself or herself (1 John 3:1–9)?
4. When do we as the people of God have the opportunity to “test the spirits” (1 John 4:1–6)?
5. Why do Christians petition God “according to His will”? See 1 John 5:14.
6. According to 2 John 4, what gives John joy? Where do you find this same source of joy?
7. See 3 John 2. What two important aspects of an individual’s well-being are referenced in John’s prayer?

December Week 2 Discussion Questions

December 9–15; Jude; Revelation 1–5

1. Review Jude 20–23. When is it appropriate to “show mercy with fear”?
2. What does it mean to be made “a kingdom” and “priests” through Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins (Revelation 1:5c–6)?
3. What does it mean to you that Jesus is “the first and the last” (Revelation 1:17)?
4. When might we as God’s people today forsake the love we had at first (Revelation 2:4)?
5. Read Revelation 4. Summarize this description of heaven.
6. According to Revelation 5:9–10, why does Jesus qualify as worthy?

December Week 3 Discussion Questions

December 16–22; Revelation 6–13

1. What common fear will unite people regardless of their power, status, or possessions (Revelation 6:15–17)?
2. What conclusions can the reader draw about heaven from Revelation 7:16–17?
3. What is the eagle forecasting in Revelation 8:13? To whom?
4. According to Revelation 11:19, what item symbolizing the Lord's presence will we behold in God's temple in heaven?
5. Revelation 12:12 describes Satan during the last times. Consider today's world in light of this verse. What conclusion might you draw?
6. Why will the last days call for a special measure of "the endurance and faith of the saints" (Revelation 13:10)?

December Week 4 Discussion Questions

December 23–29; Revelation 14–20

1. Explain the image of the grape harvest described in Revelation 14:14–20.
2. Revelation 16 describes the conditions as the end of the world nears. Consider the description of verses 10–11. How do these words apply to what can be observed in our world this year as we once again observe the first coming of the world's Savior?
3. What is the theme of Revelation 18:1–2, 17–20? Relate the theme with that of Christmas.
4. Consider the wedding described in Revelation 19:6–9. Who is the bridegroom? Who is the bride? What does the wedding represent? the bride's linen?
5. Give adjectives to describe our Savior as you read about Him in Revelation 19:11–16.
6. Consider the final judgment as described in Revelation 20:11–15. Explain the relationship between our judgment, based on what we have done, and the faith by which the Bible teaches we are saved.

December Week 5 Discussion Questions

December 30–31; Revelation 21–22

1. What words would you use to describe heaven as it is pictured in Revelation 21:1–7?

2. What are our Savior's final words recorded for us in Scripture? What is the response of God's people to these words? See Revelation 22:20.

Leader Notes

Many of the questions call for group participants to share personal insights, examples, or life experiences and applications. Answers to these questions will vary. If no one answers right away, allow a moment or two of silence so that everyone has time to think through the question. Other questions call for specific factual or analytical responses. Suggested answers for these appear below.

October Week 1

1. Paul finds himself torn between his desire to be with Christ in eternal glory and the continuing work Christ has given him to do here on earth. Even among the people of God, there are many who do not experience the tension Paul describes, because they are consumed with the affairs of this world.
2. God showed His love for us and for all people by sending His only Son to humbly become one of us in order to die on the cross to save us from our sins. Because of what Jesus has done, God “has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9–11).
3. To “press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own” means to strive to live the life God has designed for us to live and to fulfill His purpose in our life and calling.
4. For the believer, what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, or worthy of praise centers on Christ and His redeeming, restoring love for us.
5. God-given, God-driven responses to God’s goodness include living a life worthy of the Lord, bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, demonstrating endurance and patience, and giving thanks to the Father. We are strengthened in these responses by the power of God according to His glorious might.

October Week 2

1. The “circumcision of Christ” involves the putting off of our sinful nature so that we may live our lives for Jesus.
2. In Christians, God has begun to rebuild His image, which was destroyed in humanity with the fall into sin. The new self considers others more important than oneself. It focuses on meeting the needs of others because it trusts that God our Father will provide for all of one’s needs. Only in heaven will this image be fully restored.
3. Christians can serve God in whatever vocation they undertake. They honor God as they work diligently to serve others and contribute to the common good.
4. Paul prays for the Thessalonians. Paul remembers the Thessalonians’ work produced by faith, their labor prompted by love, and their endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. Examples of these same things in the lives of others will vary.
5. God’s Word comes from God Himself and is at work in those who believe.
6. God’s people encourage one another by remaining true to the teachings of God’s Word. Examples of faithfulness support and encourage other believers in times of disillusionment or trial.

October Week 3

1. Unlike those without faith, those who fall asleep in Jesus have the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. At the sound of the final trumpet, those who have died in Christ will rise first. Then the faithful who are still alive will join them and live with the Lord forever.
2. The knowledge of the approaching coming of Christ is especially encouraging to those believers who are suffering, lonely, or disheartened with the situations and circumstances of their lives.
3. God's people encourage and build one another up by praying for one another, by reminding one another of God's grace and goodness, and by growing together in faith and love.
4. The Lord Jesus Christ will kill the Antichrist "with the breath of His mouth" and bring the Antichrist "to nothing by the appearance of His coming" (2 Thessalonians 2:8). God's power is stronger than that of the Antichrist. Jesus has already overcome the powers of darkness with His life, death, and resurrection.
5. Each of us is a sinner, totally unable to save ourselves or to make ourselves in any way worthy of consideration to be saved. We receive forgiveness, new life, and salvation solely through God's love and grace for us through Christ Jesus.
6. God desires the free gift of salvation Jesus won for us to be received by all people everywhere. God desires us to pray for all those in authority over us so that we may lead peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

October Week 4

1. Only because of our hope in the living God and with His power are we able to take part in the training that helps us to grow in godliness.
2. Godliness with contentment involves finding our self in Christ and in the new identity He provides for us as God's children through faith. Being content, thankful, and truly satisfied with the place, people, and possessions God has chosen to give to us allows us to focus on serving them joyfully rather than coveting something more for ourselves.
3. In contrast to living a life of fear about what troubles may afflict us, God gives us power, love, and self-control so that we may lead lives of honor as we serve Him by serving the people around us.
4. Encourage participants to share which of the three they best relate to—the soldier who avoids involvement in civilian affairs and endeavors to please his commanding officer, the athlete who competes according to the rules in order to win the victor's crown, or the farmer who is the first to receive a share of the crops. Answers will vary.
5. “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12). God gives us His holy, divinely inspired Word so that we may be thoroughly “equipped for every good work” (v. 17). He also gives us His Holy Supper to nourish and sustain us.
6. God will stand by His people, delivering and rescuing us so we may fearlessly proclaim in our words and actions the message of the Gospel.

October Week 5

1. Christ supersedes all of the created realm, which He has provided and which is held in place by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3). He transforms our viewpoint so we recognize that the people and things around us are not there to serve us, but are there for us to serve them. The ungodly are stuck in the selfishness of their sinful nature—only valuing the people and things around them based on what advantage they can gain for themselves.
2. When we live our lives awaiting Christ's glorious reappearing, our hearts are lifted above the struggles and difficulties of life that try to weigh us down.
3. As we relate to those without faith in Jesus, we do well to remember that we, too, were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, and enslaved by various passions and pleasures (Titus 3:3). By God's grace and with His power, we will be able to speak to them the Good News with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).
4. Just as Paul asked Philemon to consider him a partner for the sake of Onesimus, Jesus took on our humanity, becoming our partner in order to approach God and satisfy the requirements of the Law on our behalf.

November Week 1

1. Christianity is the only true religion; it provides the only means of salvation (Acts 4:12); it rests on faith in Jesus as the Son of God, who redeemed and rules the world He came to save. Every other religion requires us to be our own savior, working to satisfy the demands of its god.
2. Answers will vary. Likely responses will focus on the distractions in our personal and professional lives that occupy us so that we neglect our time in God's Word and prayer.

November Week 2

1. A likely result of fixing our thoughts on Jesus is that the things of our life will appropriately align themselves on our list of priorities. Jesus is “faithful over God’s house as a son. And we are His house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope” (Hebrews 3:6).
2. God’s Word is dynamic and vibrant, slicing into the human soul with the conviction of the Law so that it might impart the comfort and grace of the Gospel.
3. God would have those in whom He has grown spiritual maturity to be accepting and forbearing toward those who are still at a spiritual level of infancy, encouraging them by word and example to seek a deeper maturity. See also Romans 14:1.
4. In Christ Jesus, our souls are anchored firmly and securely in the hope of salvation the Spirit provides to us by faith through His Word and Sacraments.
5. Since Jesus has already fulfilled everything necessary for our salvation, completeness here seems to refer to Jesus’ ongoing intercessory efforts on our behalf before His Father in heaven through any and every situation we pass through in this life.
6. The old covenant differs from the new covenant in that those living under the new covenant know that Christ has come. They serve God willingly as the Holy Spirit empowers them in response to Jesus and His saving work. They enjoy a close relationship with the Savior, who is both true God and true man, and bask in the realization of His eternal forgiveness.

November Week 3

1. When Jesus comes the second time, He will bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.
2. As we await His second coming, Christ would have His people hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, to consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, to meet together regularly, and to encourage one another.
3. Answers will vary. Comment to the group that the heroes of faith listed in Hebrews 11 were simply people like each of us. Their greatness rests in what God accomplished in and through them.
4. God disciplines His people so they can produce a “peaceful fruit of righteousness” (v. 11). Through the hardships that come into our life, He reminds us of our dependence upon Him.
5. Answers will vary but are likely to include times of uncertainty, trouble, hardship, persecution, and despair.
6. The type of joy James describes involves being able to delight in the knowledge that God blesses us as He grooms and matures us through the events and trials of our life. The faith His Spirit provides enables us to face trials with perseverance. Through those experiences, He grows and completes us as His people.

November Week 4

1. In addition to favoritism based on economic status, discrimination may be based on race, ethnic background, and a host of other—often superficial—categorizations.
2. Those who teach are held to greater accountability because of the influence they have over others. James 3:1–12 focuses on sins relating to those things we speak.
3. We humble ourselves before the Lord by recognizing and repenting of our sinfulness.
4. God invites us to pray to Him when in trouble, when happy, when we are sick, when we have sinned, and for each other.
5. We can be confident knowing that we are “being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:5).
6. We are living stones who, like Jesus, the Living Stone, are being built by God’s Spirit into a spiritual house of faith (v. 5). Jesus is the foundational stone (cornerstone) upon which God’s house is built (v. 6). Those who are not built into God’s spiritual house stumble over the stone; ultimately for them, Jesus is a rock that causes them to fall (vv. 7–8).

November Week 5

1. God would have us live in harmony with our brothers and sisters in Christ. He would have us be sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble, repaying evil with blessing. Similarly, God would have us live peacefully with those outside the faith—always ready to talk with them about Jesus, our Savior, but approaching the topic with gentleness and respect.
2. To fully administer God's grace in its various forms suggests that as God's people we employ all that God has placed at our disposal in terms of talents, gifts, and resources for the service of God and the benefit of others. This is done so that as God's Word is proclaimed the Gospel may be advanced and others will come to—and be built up in—the saving faith.
3. The devil constantly works to devour those who belong to God by faith in Christ Jesus. Meanwhile, our loving God invites us to cast all our anxieties on Him because He cares for us. Further, God reminds us that after our time of suffering the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore us and make us strong, firm, and steadfast.
4. He gives us His great and precious promises so that “through them [we] may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire” (2 Peter 1:4). As the Holy Spirit works through God's Word and the Sacraments, God's people become new people in Him. See also John 3:5–6.
5. In 2 Peter 2:17–22, we are warned that for those who come to faith and then turn their backs on the truth, it would be better for them to never have come to faith at all.
6. God allows the world to continue so that more and more people have the opportunity to hear the truth and be saved—including generations yet to be born.

December Week 1

1. Jesus is life; He is the creator of all things. Jesus is also the way to eternal life; salvation comes only through Him.
2. Saving faith is evidenced in the words we speak, in the things we do, and in the attitudes we project toward others.
3. Relying on the power of God's Spirit working in us through the Means of Grace, we as the people of God purify ourselves (1 John 3:3) by living our lives for Him who died for us and rose again.
4. We test the spirits when confronted with teachings or perspectives that seem not to align with the Word of God. We must "test" every teaching and aspect of life to see if it acknowledges Jesus, true God and man, as the Savior.
5. God promises to hear us when we pray according to His will. In so doing, we submit confidently that He will give us what is best for us and according to His good time. We find this same joy as we worship with others who trust Jesus as their Savior.
6. John finds joy in knowing that others are "walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father" (2 John 4).
7. John's prayer for Gaius considers physical as well as spiritual wellness. We might similarly include these two considerations in our prayers for one another.

December Week 2

1. In relating to those with weak faith or with no faith at all, it is important to show mercy while maintaining cautious fear so that we do not become influenced by ungodliness and abandon the faith.
2. Collectively, the followers of Christ are His kingdom, the faithful who serve God and build up and support one another. Individually, we are God's priests; we serve and worship God, proclaiming His love and mercy in word and action. God has made us this "kingdom" and these "priests" through His Son's sacrifice.
3. Answer will vary but are likely to reflect upon the eternal, unchangeable, faithful qualities of Jesus and the comfort and assurance of His unending love and care.
4. God's people abandon their first love when they allow the zeal and faithfulness of their early reception of God's grace to be influenced and altered by the perspectives and belief systems of the world around them.
5. John describes entering the door of heaven and being greeted with a voice like a trumpet. Here, he witnesses a splendid throne room with jeweled rainbow-like radiance. Surrounding the main throne are the thrones of the twenty-four elders (perhaps representing the twelve Israelite tribes and the twelve apostles to signify the whole company of Old and New Testament believers), dressed in white and wearing crowns of gold. From the main throne come flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder. Seven (symbolizing completeness) lamps burn before the throne. Also before the throne is what looks like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. Four living creatures (higher order of heavenly beings) resembling various created beings (lion, ox, man, and eagle), each covered with eyes and having six wings, join the elders in praising God and His redeeming, restoring love for us.
6. Jesus is worthy because, through His death, He has purchased for God people "from every tribe and language and people and nation" and has made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God (Revelation 5:9–10).

December Week 3

1. All will similarly fear the coming of the wrath of the Lamb—the unfolding of God's righteous judgment upon the earth.
2. United around our Savior's throne in heaven, we, the people of God, will enjoy perfect comfort, happiness, and care.
3. The eagle announces God's destructive judgment upon the earth. He makes the announcement of judgment (Woe! Woe! Woe!) to the inhabitants of the earth (the wicked).
4. In God's heavenly temple, we will behold the ark of the covenant, complete with flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a great hailstorm. God's people Israel carried the ark of the covenant—symbolizing God's presence among His people—throughout their sojourn in the wilderness and into the Promised Land.
5. Knowing that his time is short, Satan is filled with fury, roaming the earth to conquer and maintain control over as many as possible.
6. The last days will bring trial, persecution, and hardship for the people of God.

December Week 4

1. The Lord will come in triumph to harvest the ripeness of the earth. In the harvest, He will throw the grapes—the unrighteous—into the winepress, where they will be trampled and blood will flow.
2. In spite of the devastating influence of sin and its consequences in our world, and instead of recognizing their sinfulness and turning to the true God, many reject God and the Savior born at Bethlehem.
3. The ways of the world, which seek profit, security, and sinful pleasure, will finally be recognized as futile. God's people—saints, apostles, and prophets (Old and New Testament believers)—will rejoice in the salvation God provides through the gift of His Son.
4. Heaven is described as a wedding feast. The bridegroom is Christ; the bride is His Church. The wedding represents our joining Christ in heaven, where we will be clothed with bright and clean linen, representing the righteous acts of the saints.
5. Adjectives describing our Savior will vary. They may include faithful, true, just, victorious, powerful.
6. All will stand before the throne of God. Books will be opened. These books will detail our actions in life. And another book will be opened—the book of life. We will be judged according to our deeds. Those whose names are not found in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire. God will accept the deeds of those whose names are found written in the book of life. Only those trusting in Jesus for salvation will be included there.

December Week 5

1. In heaven, we will enjoy the pleasures of an intimate relationship with God Himself in His eternal presence.
2. Jesus says, “I am coming soon.” God’s people respond, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” These words are the prayer of believers living in a sinful, unbelieving world.