

# One Year through the New Testament

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# One Year through the New Testament

## Acts, con't

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### July 1: Acts 21: 1-16

- 1) Why do you think there is all the detail to this part of Paul's missionary journey?
- 2) We are told that Philip was one of the Seven. Seven what?
- 3) Why would Paul not be dissuaded from going to Jerusalem?
- 4) When the people said "The Lord's will be done," when does one know that his will is being done?

Important questions and thoughts:

*O God, you watch over all things and are truly merciful and gracious. In your wise providence, you have allowed our friend, along with many others of us, to experience difficult times. We know, dear God, that you will work all things out for good. Meanwhile, give us strength, patience, wisdom, and faith to carry on. Give strength so we can endure. Give patience so we will be content to wait on you as your will is fulfilled. Give wisdom to see what is important and what is not in our days. Give faith to trust your good will. In all of this, O Lord, anchor our eternal hope in your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

### July 2: Acts 21: 17-36

- 1) Why was it important for Paul to report what was happening among the Gentiles?
- 2) What was the agreement that the early church had made among the Gentiles and Jews?
- 3) How was it apparent that the Jews in Jerusalem were out to get Paul?
- 4) Is there this type of violence shown against Christianity today?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Gracious Lord, wonderful God, we praise your name for the blessings of living in a free country. Keep our country free, great, and prosperous according to your will, and lead citizens everywhere to acknowledge you as the only source of true freedom. Help us treasure and use the freedom to worship openly and without fear. Where people are not free to worship you openly, give them strength of faith to persevere, knowing they will attain true freedom with you in heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

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## July 3: Acts 21: 37 – 22:16

- 1) What did Paul do to get the people to listen?
- 2) Why do you think he spoke about his past life?
- 3) Where is the place of a personal testimony in Christian witness?
- 4) What is the upside?
- 5) What is the downside?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Thank you, dear Lord, for preserving our nation through each and every problem we have faced. Thank you for faithful soldiers who gave themselves so that we might enjoy freedom and speak your Name openly. Forgive us for our sin and give us hearts ready to serve you and exalt you before the nations. Blessed is the nation whose god is Jehovah! Amen.*

## July 4: Acts 22:17 – 23:10

- 1) As Paul recounted for the people his call to faith and into the ministry, we can see that what he said peeved the people. Why?
- 2) Paul's appeal to his citizenship was a real key to the rest of his life and what he wanted to accomplish. Why?
- 3) How was Paul a 'natural citizen'?
- 4) Paul showed anger at the high priest who had ordered him struck. Is there a place for 'righteous anger'?
- 5) How did Paul use his former life as a Pharisee to his advantage?
- 6) Who protected Paul? Why do you think he did?

Important questions and thoughts:

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## July 5: Acts 23: 11-35

- 1) How does this reading prove that God's will must be done?
- 2) What was God's ultimate plan for Paul?
- 3) The commander listened to Paul's nephew. Why didn't the commander simply dismiss this 'rumor'?
- 4) How can we Christians use the government for our good?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Blessed Savior, bless all who are near and dear to me. In particular, bless all the work of pastors, teachers, and missionaries, that they may bring your truth and salvation to many. Hear me for your name's sake. Amen*

## July 6: Acts 24: 1-27

- 1) Paul was on trial before Felix. Charges were brought against Paul. Tertullus was the prosecuting attorney. What charges were false or twisted?
- 2) When should we turn the other cheek when it comes to accusations and when should we not?
- 3) How was Paul able to turn his defense into a witness of his faith?
- 4) What does Paul say is the heart and core of the accusation?
- 5) How did Felix and his wife receive the witness of Paul?
- 6) How did Felix show he was a scoundrel? Is that the reason why he never came to faith since Christianity also involved changes in life?

Important questions and thoughts:

*O God, our Father, you have blessed us and our country. You have provided armies for our protection and safety. In your providence, the men and women in those armies have placed their lives at risk, and many have died for our peace. Let us not take such a wonderful and costly blessing for granted, but move us to remember those fallen troops with thanks. Help us to live worthy of the peace that they fought to preserve. Make us brave to defend that peace into the future. O Lord, keep us mindful also of the unspeakable price that you paid for our eternal peace through your Son, and keep us in that peace now and forever. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

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## July 7: Acts 25: 1-27

- 1) Felix, previously mentioned in chapter 23 and 24 was governor of Judea. Festus succeeded him. How did Festus show he was a more honorable man than his predecessor?
- 2) What was Festus having difficulty doing?
- 3) How does it become very apparent that Paul was a great Christian witness under all circumstances?
- 4) Who was King Agrippa?
- 5) What important event happens here with Paul?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Lord of wind and wave, guide us this summer in all that we do. Watch over us in our activities. Guard our lips against speaking evil, and let them glorify your name. Keep us mindful of our responsibilities as your representatives in this world. Help us be content with the earthly blessings you have been pleased to give us. Grant us peace, health, good weather, and faithful friends, according to your will. Deliver us from every evil, and preserve us unto your heavenly kingdom; for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

## July 8: Acts 26: 1-32

- 1) Paul is on trial before King Agrippa. Paul appeals to Agrippa's knowledge of Jewish Law. Why would that be helpful for Paul?
- 2) Again Paul gives testimony of who he was and what he did as a young man. Why is that going to serve in his favor before Agrippa?
- 3) As Jesus converts Paul, what was the purpose for his life from that time on?
- 4) Festus interrupted Paul when he got to the part of Jesus' resurrection and said Paul was insane. Why?
- 5) Paul remarked that these things were true and reasonable. What makes them reasonable?
- 6) Agrippa made a remark that he couldn't be persuaded in such a hurry to be a Christian. What do you say about that?
- 7) Why made it impossible for Paul to be freed? Why?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Lord God, you are the Giver of every good and perfect gift. Truly our cup of blessing is filled to overflowing. We thank you for grace which gives us what we do not deserve . . . and for your mercy which does not give us what we do deserve. For this bright day, for the love of family and friends, for the food I eat and the water I drink - all gifts from your gracious hand - I give you my heartfelt praise. Above all I thank you for my Savior without whom my life would be empty and meaningless. Surrounded by countless blessings I still ask for one more - a thankful heart. Amen.*

# One Year through the New Testament

## July 9: Acts 27: 1-20

- 1) Why was Paul sailing for Rome?
- 2) How did Julius show respect for Paul? Why do you think this was true?
- 3) Why was traveling by ship so dangerous?
- 4) Why did God make it tough for Paul to get to Rome and put him and the shipmates through such a violent storm?
- 5) What is a lesson we might learn from this?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Lord, you provide children as your blessing to families. Our hearts leap for joy whenever you have provide that blessing of a child to families by way of adoption. Thank you for giving families the strength and comfort they needed as they awaited and prayed for a child, and thanks for leading them to that happy time. Now, Lord, be with all families with children whether biologically from the parents or adopted that all may grow together in faith as members of your family. Guide in your ways until we join you in our eternal home. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## July 10: Acts 27: 21 – 44

- 1) Was Paul right in saying, "I told you so?"
- 2) What followed?
- 3) What promise did Paul cling to personally and would also benefit his traveling companions?
- 4) How did the sailors show they didn't have faith in the God that Paul had?
- 5) Julius, the centurion, was very became a protector of Paul. One wonders if didn't himself become a Christian. Has there been someone in your life who never became a Christian or took a long time but seemed to respect what you believed?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Lord, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105). What a precious gift you have given to us in Your Word. It is a lamp to show us the way and a light to brighten the path that leads to our home in heaven. Awaken in us by Your Spirit a new desire to hear and learn that Word. Bless the efforts of the congregations in Sunday schools and Bible classes for teens and adults to provide opportunities to hear and learn your word. Move parents to take advantage of these agencies of the church as they seek to bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord. Let the light of Your word shine ever more brightly in our homes, in our churches, and in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

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## July 11: Acts 28: 1 – 31

- 1) The ship crashed into the island of Malta. How did God provide?
- 2) How do people show they want to believe in something?
- 3) What is the irony of Paul riding on the ship that he did to Rome?
- 4) How was Paul blessed in the city of Rome?
- 5) How was Paul's message received?

Important questions and thoughts:

*O faithful God, loving and forgiving, you have called me from eternity to be your own, and to live in the grace of your kindness now and forever. Give me faith to appreciate it and live with confidence as your dear child. When you act in my life for my good, remind my doubting heart that you are not interrupting something more important but improving what I wouldn't be able to improve by myself. Amen.*

## Romans

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## July 12: Romans 1: 1-17

- 1) What are titles for the apostle Paul and what do they mean?
- 2) What is the Gospel?
- 3) What did the resurrection prove about Jesus?
- 4) What is a saint?
- 5) What did Paul want to do that God was finally allowing to happen?
- 6) What does the Gospel have the power to do?
- 7) What is the meaning of the phrase, "the righteous will live by faith?"

Important questions and thoughts:

*Praise to you, O God, maker of all things. You gave me life and breath. You sent your Son to cleanse me from sin and your Spirit to make me glad. Thank you for providing me with all that I need to live. Especially do I thank you for. To you be honor and glory now and forever. Amen.*

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## July 13: Romans 1: 18-32

- 1) What truth do the wicked suppress?
- 2) How has God revealed himself to mankind?
- 3) Why are people without excuse?
- 4) Despite God revealing himself to man, what did man do with that knowledge?
- 5) How deep is the sin of man?
- 6) How does all this make appreciate God's grace?

Important questions and thoughts:

*How infinite is your wisdom, dear Creator. You know our needs and satisfy them. Thank you for the institution of marriage. Keep it pure despite the terrible trends of today's society. Bless all godly partners in marriage with companionship, chastity, and godly happiness in Christian homes. Give strength and wisdom to parents that they may train their children to be yours for time and eternity. Avert discord, prevent indifference, and instill love that finds its foundation in our Savior's love for us. Amen.*

## July 14: Romans 2: 1-24

- 1) What is the point that Paul is making in the first three verses about judging?
- 2) While the Gentile he speaks about in verse one is guilty before God, what is he saying about every person?
- 3) Verse fourteen and fifteen are fascinating verses. What does Paul say about the conscience and sin?
- 4) If a Jew says his hope is in the Law in gaining favor with God, what is Paul's answer to that?
- 5) How were the Jews responsible for the Gentiles blaspheming God?
- 6) In the end what is Paul saying about Jew and Gentile?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Lord Jesus, you tell us that you desire all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. You also tell us that you do not want anyone to perish but everyone to repent and be saved. I pray for my friend to become a believer in Christ. Take away the heart of stone and give him/her a heart of flesh. Make blind eyes see and deaf ears hear. Crush his/her heart with the knowledge of the sin and comfort his/her heart with the knowledge of a Savior from sin. Thank you for paying the price for his/her sin when you gave your life upon the cross. Lead him/her by your Holy Spirit into the family of God so that he/she will become my dear brother/sister in Christ. In your name I ask this. Amen.*

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## July 15: Romans 2:25 – 3:8

- 1) What group of people is Paul obviously speaking to?
- 2) What did they have wrong in regard to the Law?
- 3) What is real circumcision?
- 4) What advantage was there to be circumcised or to be a Jew?
- 5) What kind of foolish arguments did people have when it came to the Law of God?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Thank you, Father, for your church, in which your Word and sacraments offer comfort in fearful times. Supply us with pastors who correctly handle your Word, addressing our concerns from your perspective, reminding us of our Shepherd's presence in periods of peril. Strengthen our conviction that, even in evil, you can work good. May your church provide spiritual support for those who serve our country. Remind us to pray for our leaders and for the eternal salvation of every soul. Prepare us for new opportunities to share your gospel. Merciful Lord, forgive us for taking your church for granted. We need your Word to calm our troubled hearts. As Satan stirs up fear and dissension, bless the hearing of your solemn pledge that nothing can separate us from your love. Steady the church's focus on the preaching of repentance and forgiveness. Hear us, dear Father, for your Son has invited us to pray for anything that is in keeping with your holy will. Amen.*

## July 16: Romans 3: 9-31

- 1) Paul had just concluded how both Jew and Gentile were included under sin. How does he prove that?
- 2) What kinds of sins are particularly evident?
- 3) In verse 20 we have the purpose of the Law. What is it?
- 4) What is “the righteousness apart from the Law?”
- 5) What does “justify” mean?
- 6) How had God allowed the sins of the world go unpunished?
- 7) Who has been justified by Christ’s atonement?
- 8) What does the Law do for the person who knows he has been forgiven?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Gracious Father, thank you for giving me health and strength to perform my tasks today. Renew my strength, so I may serve you and my neighbors in selfless joy. I ask this in Jesus' name.*

# One Year through the New Testament

## July 17: Romans 4: 1-12

- 1) Why would Abraham be used to further the statement that if we are saved it is by faith without the law?
- 2) How was the teaching of justification through faith taught in the Old Testament?
- 3) How does the righteousness of Christ become ours personally?
- 4) How does Paul point out that even Abraham was not saved by the Law but by faith using the example of circumcision?

Important questions and thoughts:

*I am so weak yet so strong, Lord. I am so feeble, so full of doubt, and so slow to believe; yet so resolute, so certain, and so energetic. Just like you because you are in me. Live through me and help me be like you. Take possession of all my body members, my soul, my entire being and make me to live as you've made me to be. Amen.*

## July 18: Romans 4:13 – 5:5

- 1) How does believing in the Law as the way to gain God's favor ruin God's grace?
- 2) What is the difference between God's Law and His Gospel?
- 3) Give examples of God "calling things that are not as though they are."
- 4) What was the connection between Abraham's faith and the promise that was given to him of a son?
- 5) This section gives a good definition of faith. What is it?
- 6) What is faith able to get us through according to chapter five?
- 7) Why is suffering good for us?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Dear God, compassionate Father, you have found us spiritually blind and deaf because of our sin and opened our eyes and ears to the truth of your salvation in Christ. Thank you for your forgiving love. Now in thankfulness and reflecting the hope of our salvation, we desire to show love also to those who have similar physical weaknesses. Help us in our service so that in our labor of love we glorify your name and build up the saving faith of those we reach. We ask this in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.*

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## July 19: Romans 4:13 – 5:5

- 1) For whom did Jesus die?
- 2) Why is that an incredible thought?
- 3) Who is blamed for sin?
- 4) What does the apostle mean when he says that “sin is not taken into account when there is no law?”
- 5) How is the gift like the trespass?
- 6) How is the gift unlike the trespass?
- 7) What does he mean when he says that the law was added so that sin might increase?
- 8) How does that emphasize grace?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Lord, the Bible tells me that you are a "God of the fatherless and of the widow." We pray for the single parents. It comforts us that you take special note of special stations in life and the challenges people face. You know the limitations that single parents have and the difficulties they face. Be their guardian and protector. Provide with my daily bread. Open doors for many in this situation will be able to find meaningful and gainful employment. Watch over their children. Soothe them when they are troubled. Take the burdens of their hearts and make them your own. Give me rest from fears. Help them to take time to read your word a few minutes every day. Help them also to find a good church home where your word is taught in its truth and purity. Support them and let your holy angels watch over them. We trust in your unfailing love. Amen.*

## July 20: Romans 6: 1-23

- 1) What is the reason why we don't want to go on sinning?
- 2) Many believe that baptism is more symbolic of our relationship to Christ than anything else. What do these verses say about baptism? What happened when we were baptized?
- 3) What comes forth at baptism according to verse four?
- 4) In verse five the word for 'unite' really means to engraft. What is the picture?
- 5) How do Baptism serve as an incentive?
- 6) Because we are God's children through baptism we are free people. Why then does Paul tell us we are slaves of righteousness?
- 7) 6:23 is a red letter passage that is worthy of memorization. Why?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Gracious Father, thank you for giving me health and strength to perform my tasks today. Renew my strength, so I may serve you and my neighbors in selfless joy. I ask this in Jesus' name.*

# One Year through the New Testament

## July 21: Romans 7: 1-13

- 1) What has Jesus' death done as far as the Law is concerned?
- 2) What does being free from the Law mean to us according to Paul?
- 3) If we are free from the Law what good is it for us?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Almighty Lord, we know that you rule all things for the good of your people. In your wisdom, you have established earthly governments, putting human beings in positions of awesome power and responsibility. Help us to honor them as your representatives. In this time of national uncertainty, guide our president, legislators, and military leaders, who have been charged by you to keep us safe. Lord, through your Word, turn their hearts to you. Cause them to seek your counsel as they carry out their difficult tasks. Give them wisdom, courage, and unity. Let their efforts bring peace so that we may share your Word with all people. We ask this of you, the great King over all the earth, in the name of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.*

## July 22: Romans 7:14 – 8:8

- 1) In this section Paul seems to speak out of both sides of his mouth – hopeless, yet hopeful. Why?
- 2) This is good after all if one does not want to do good, what would that mean?
- 3) When all is said and done, what is the good news at the end of chapter seven?
- 4) What is stronger than sin and our sinful nature?
- 5) How would you in a practical way use the fact that there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus?
- 6) How can we live according to the Spirit?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Lord Jesus, free my heart from sinful worry. Give me a childlike trust in you. Keep watch over me today, so nothing will harm my body or soul. I ask this because I know that you fulfill all your promises.*

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## July 23: Romans 8: 9-21

- 1) If we know Christ, what is also true?
- 2) If we let the sinful nature rule us, what will be true?
- 3) Why does the sinful nature lead us to fear?
- 4) What does it mean to be a co-heir with Christ?
- 5) What is Paul's point in verses 18-21?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Holy Spirit, remind me of the Savior's will and his example. Guide me so I do not grieve my gracious Lord, but please him in everything. In Jesus' name.*

## July 24: Romans 8: 22-39

- 1) How has sin also affected creation besides the way it has affected man?
- 2) How does a child of God live life?
- 3) What do we hope for?
- 4) How is the Holy Spirit our friend?
- 5) Romans 8:28 is a red letter passage. How does it comfort you?
- 6) What is predestination?
- 7) What is justification?
- 8) What is glorification?
- 9) Who will bring charges against us?
- 10) How are we winners?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Gracious Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of children. Let our manner with our children reflect the love you have toward us. Grant us the patience and ability to meet their needs. Give us the wisdom to use your Word effectively as the guide for our personal lives and in the instruction of our children. Grant all parents a measure of love that will not diminish under the burdens of this life. As you are always ready to forgive and to restore us, let us learn to exercise discipline in love, with a readiness to forgive. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

# One Year through the New Testament

## July 25: Romans 9: 1-21

- 1) Paul feels genuinely bad about his fellow Jews. Why?
- 2) What advantages did they have?
- 3) Who are in fact Abraham's children?
- 4) What is election?
- 5) Why is anyone saved?
- 6) What does Paul say about the one who asks why God blame man for the loss of salvation?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Lord Jesus, you are the good shepherd. You gave up your life so that I and all believers could have eternal life. Through your blood all my sins are washed away and I stand before you clothed in white robes of righteousness. But I confess that all too often I have strayed from the path of holiness. My sinful nature loves to do wrong, the world tempts me and Satan sets traps for me every day. Do not forsake me Lord Jesus. Continue to be my good shepherd and drive away all the temptation that surrounds me every day. Otherwise, give me the strength to stand up under it so that I may remain faithful to you all of my life. Amen.*

## July 26: Romans 9:22 – 10:13

- 1) How does God, according to these words, make his glory known?
- 2) Who are the people who are not his people?
- 3) What, according to Paul, is sad when it comes to Israel?
- 4) What do verses 30-32 mean?
- 5) What kind of zeal does not save?
- 6) What does "Christ is the end of the Law" mean?
- 7) What message saves?
- 8) What is comforting about the phrase, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved?"

Important questions and thoughts:

*Dear God, merciful Father, praise be to you, praise from my inmost being. Thank you, Lord, for another day in your grace, for the gift of forgiveness and the hope of life. Keep me this night and let me enjoy restful sleep so I may awaken again to a new day ready to serve to the glory of your name. Keep my loved ones also in your loving care and strengthen them in faith and purpose, all for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

# One Year through the New Testament

## July 27: Romans 10: 14-11:12

- 1) What is the chain that God uses to gain people for the kingdom?
- 2) What great theological truth is found in 10:17?
- 3) How did God make Israel jealous to know that truth?
- 4) Who is the remnant?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Lord Jesus, free my heart from sinful worry. Give me a childlike trust in you. Keep watch over me today, so nothing will harm my body or soul. I ask this because I know that you fulfill all your promises. Amen*

## July 28: Romans 11: 13-36

- 1) How were the Gentiles going to make the Jews jealous?
- 2) Who are the branches on the olive tree? Who are the broken branches?
- 3) Who is the Israel that will be saved?
- 4) Why is anyone saved?
- 5) Why is the doxology at the end of this section so appropriate?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Heavenly Father, when Satan tempts us to feel that You don't hear our prayers, and that only a miracle could solve all our problems, then cause us to look about and see miracles all around. As Jesus reminds us in the parable (Matthew 6:25ff), the same almighty God Who feeds the birds and Who colors the flowers will also provide for His children. And let Your Holy Spirit remind them of the greatest miracle of all, the miracle of salvation, that God did not spare His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all. Let that be our assurance that God does hear our prayers and that He also answers our prayers in the best possible manner and the proper time.*

# One Year through the New Testament

## July 29: Romans 12: 1-21

- 1) 12:1-2 is a very powerful passage. What is the motive for being a living sacrifice?
- 2) We are called not conform to the world. What does non-conformance consist of?
- 3) God gives spiritual gifts to his church. What are they?
- 4) Why is practicing our faith as is so strongly defined in this section so important?

Important questions and thoughts:

*O faithful God, loving and forgiving, you have called me from eternity to be your own, and to live in the grace of your kindness now and forever. Give me faith to appreciate it and live with confidence as your dear child. When you act in my life for my good, remind my doubting heart that you are not interrupting something more important but improving what I wouldn't be able to improve by myself. Amen*

## July 30: Romans 13: 1-14

- 1) Who are the authorities that are described here?
- 2) How did they become the authority?
- 3) What is our duty toward them?
- 4) How is good citizenship summed up with the word "love?"
- 5) Why is it necessary to be living a godly life always?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Heavenly Father, thank you for showering me with so many blessings. Above all, I praise you that the Holy Spirit has made me a member of your family through faith in Jesus Christ.*

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## July 31: Romans 14: 1-23

- 1) What was the problem that Paul was describing in Romans 14?
- 2) Why would some regard one day as more holy than another or not eat things that others would eat?
- 3) What does Paul say, however, is true religion?
- 4) How do we deal with people that have different preferences?
- 5) How do we deal with people who teach other than what the Bible teaches?
- 6) How should someone's sensitive conscience be treated?

Important questions and thoughts:

*Lord Jesus Christ, you instituted the Sacrament of Holy Communion to seal to me the personal guarantee that all my sins are forgiven. Lead me to true sorrow and repentance for all my sins. Give me faith to believe your body and blood, once given and shed on the cross, are present with the bread and wine that I receive in this sacrament. Fill my heart and mind with comfort, peace, and joy, knowing that all my sins are pardoned. Give me renewed zeal each day and lead me to live a godly life in loving obedience to your commandments. I ask this in your precious name, O Savior. Amen.*