

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

*Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commit to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.*

### **Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> – Exodus 20:12; 1 Timothy 5:3-4 (Happy Labor Day)**

This week our “one another” focus is to honor and accept one another. Honoring others has always been a part of God’s plan. How does God first implement it with the Israelites (vs. 12)? Why do you think this is the first of the six commands that tell us how to love each other? If you cannot honor your parents, who gave you life, how will you learn to honor anyone else? How will you learn to honor God your Father? So what does honoring look like in this context? The 1 Timothy passage will tell us. Who is the church responsible to take care of (show honor towards) (vs. 3)? Notice this does not mean the church is responsible for all widows. In fact, verse 4 tells us about widows who have families. Whose responsibility are these widows? Why are the children responsible (vs. 4)? What response from God will honoring their mother (or father) provide? Consider those we know who are widows or widowers. Which ones have family? Which ones are truly alone? How can we help those who are alone? How can we encourage families to care for their loved one and honor them and please God? What plans do you have when you need help? Who will take care of you? It might be time to have these conversations with your children so there are no surprises and they are equipped and ready to help.

### **Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Leviticus 19:32-34**

We continue to look at what honor is and will also look at an Old Testament text on acceptance. Leviticus is part of the Torah or the Books of Law. As you read verse 32, whom are we to honor? How does this clash with the world’s culture and message today? If we remain forever young, will we be able to ever live into this teaching? What is tied to honoring the aged? We are called to do this as we are called to fear God. Why do you think the two of these are put together? Could it be that our honoring is in awe and reverence of God? When we discount the elders and worship youth, does this fulfill what God has called us to do? Now let’s turn to acceptance. Again, this is not a new concept developed in the New Testament. It actually has its roots in the Old Testament. So who is Israel supposed to accept and how (vss. 33-34)? What two reasons does God give them for doing this? Their history is one reason and the fact that God is their God and has told them to do this is the other reason. How are we doing at this today? With half the country keeping people out and half the country willing to let anyone in, how would this apply? If we treat the sojourner as one of us, does not all of our lifestyle apply? Sojourners were expected to assimilate to Jewish customs eventually. Spend some time today asking God what a both/and scenario would look like when accepting others. What about honoring the elders of our communities? What would we gain from this?

### **Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – Romans 13:1-7**

Today we will turn to Paul’s teaching on giving honor. Paul starts off by telling us what we should do. What is Paul telling us (vs. 1)? If you fail to do this, then what does that say about you (vs. 2)? How are we to live in submission but without fear (vs. 3)? Now read verses 4-5. Who are the authorities supposed to be serving? What are the two reasons Paul gives us as to why we should submit (vs. 5)? Paul goes on to tell

us to do something else as well. What does he tell us to do (vs. 6)? Why do we need to do this? Verse 7 is the summation of this teaching. What are the three things we are to give? In the sermon, Pastor Shirley spoke of the understanding of honor in Paul's time. How is the teaching expanding the understanding of honor? How do you honor those in authority? Do you reject their authority? Do you submit to their authority? What if their actions go against what you believe? How do you submit and honor still? How might prayer come into play? Who is in authority over you right now? How can you honor and respect them in a tangible way? Do it.

**Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – Philemon 1:8-18 (Read all of Philemon if you wish. It is only 25 verses long!)**

Today we will look at Paul's letter to Philemon. What is the purpose of Paul's letter (vss. 8-10)? On whose behalf is he writing (vs. 10)? If you jump to verse 16, you will discover that Onesimus was Philemon's slave, his manservant, who must have run away or after being sent on a mission, did not return like he was supposed to. As you read verse 11, what does Paul insinuate about Onesimus? What kind of change is inferred? So why does Paul send Onesimus back (vss. 13-14)? What is Paul hoping Philemon will do? Now read verses 15-17. What is Paul's request of Philemon? Not only is Philemon asked to receive or accept Onesimus back, but how is he expected to accept him (vs. 16)? What is the final offer that Paul gives to Philemon in an effort to help him receive his runaway slave back as a brother (vs. 18)? How does this offer reflect what Jesus does for us before the throne? Onesimus was not without sin, but he needed to make things right and Paul, seeing his change, was willing to help make that happen. But in the end it is Philemon who will make the final decision. When have you been faced with accepting those who have wronged you? How did you accept them back? Maybe the better question is, did you accept them back? Consider Paul's offer to pay the debt. How did Jesus pay your debt? Should we not offer that to the person who repents for sinning against us? Pray today asking God whom you might need to learn to accept back into the family of God. How can this lesson help us as we do life together? What encouragement might come of it? How does this help us to accept new and different people in our groups? How can you be like Paul in such situations?

**Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> – Philippians 2:25-30**

We close this week looking at another example of honoring and being accepting. How does Paul honor Epaphroditus (vs. 25)? Even though he has thoroughly enjoyed and has been ministered to by Epaphroditus, what decision does Paul make (vs. 26)? Notice that Paul is making the decision to send Epaphroditus, fulfilling Epaphroditus' wishes. How does this point to Epaphroditus' honoring of Paul? What are Paul's reasons for sending Epaphroditus back now (vss. 27-28)? When he sends him back, how are the Philippians to accept him (vs. 29)? They are to both receive him in love and give him honor. Why is that the case (vs. 30)? Consider how this translates in the church today. How do we accept and honor those who serve in ministry? How can we do better at that? Who might we need to be more accepting towards? As God sends us more people, how can we accept and honor them? How can getting them engaged show acceptance and honor? Who has God laid on your heart that you might need to accept, welcome and honor? Pray and ask God to reveal that to you so you may act on it today.

**Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Galatians 5:13-16.**

