

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

As the people of God we should be committed to reading Scripture every day. Here are daily readings and questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and we would be honored to provide one. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number of the book. 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, January 11<sup>th</sup> – Romans 3:9-22**

We will begin this series with the Season of Spring. Spring is known as the time of birth and new life. Flowers bloom, baby animals are born, new life is springing up all over. Spring also represents new birth in our spiritual lives. It is the realization that we had been living outside of God's will for our lives. We have been our own gods. We begin to suspect that there is more to this living than what we are experiencing, but we don't know what that "more" is or what it looks like. In our passage today, Paul describes what life looks like for a person who does not know God. It makes no difference if you are a Jew or a Gentile, just that you are human. Read verses 10-12. What are the first points Paul makes about humanity without God? Now read verses 13-18. What are the lifestyle indicators that Paul presents to point out how depraved humanity truly is? Which of these have you been or are you guilty of? What is the purpose of God's law (vss. 19-20)? According to this text, is anyone "good enough" to stand before God on their own merit—their good behavior? What then makes us right with God and protects us from His just anger and wrath (vss. 21-22)? When we do not believe in Jesus Christ, we are enemies of God. We are dead in our sins. But Jesus gives us life—our new birth when we have faith in Him. Spend some time today remembering when you first realized you were living outside of God's will and mandates. When did that realization come to you? When did you turn to Jesus and trust Him to make you right? How did you feel when that happened? How does it lighten your heart today?

### **Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> – Mark 1:14-15 and Acts 17:22-31**

New birth begins with Jesus' invitation. What is that invitation (Mark text)? In verse 15, Jesus makes four points. The first is that God has fulfilled his promise. What promise did God fulfill? How is Jesus the fulfillment of that promise? The second point is that the Kingdom of God is near. What does that mean? What brought it near then prior to 20 year earlier? The next point is the call to repent of your sins. What does it mean to repent? Are you forgiven if you do not repent? Why is repentance the first thing Jesus calls for and how does it relate to what your reading yesterday? The final point is that we should believe the Good News. Do you remember what the 5 points of the Good News are? Read Acts 17:22-31 and see if you can come up with the 5 points again. If you cannot, then stop by the office and pick-up a Bookmark with the 5 parts to the Good News and memorize them. You can't believe in what you don't know. We need to know what is required to have new birth, how Jesus fulfills God's promises, understand how near the Kingdom of God (and God himself) really is and understand the need for repentance and do so. And finally believe the Good News of Jesus Christ. This is the gift of grace that God offers to us when we believe and follow what Jesus says. It is where new birth begins.

### **Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> – John 3:14-21 (read verses 1-15 for context)**

Today we look at the result of spiritual birth, which is eternal life. Think for a moment what birth actually does. It starts new life. Being born again in the Spirit is to bring spiritual life, a life wherein your eternal clock with God starts ticking and will never end, unless you choose to end it. In verses 14-15, what does the imagery of Moses lifting the snake up on the pole represent? (This Old Testament story can be found in Numbers 21:1-9.) How will Jesus be lifted up on a pole of wood? How will people be healed (vs. 16)? Why did God send Jesus into the world (vs. 17)? How does this tie into the healing of people? Verses 18-21 explain about God's judgment and who it will come against. What specifically will bring God's judgment on people? How do verses 18-20 point to the need to repent and believe? In verse 21, what is the "right" we should be doing? How does repenting fill us with God's light? How does this new birth look to others still living in the dark? So what do you believe? Have you truly repented or do you still think you are good enough? Are you born again in the Holy Spirit of God? Does your life reflect that life in the world? Today would be a good day to consider whether you are truly born again. If you are not sure, don't miss Sunday or call to talk to someone who can help guide you.

**Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> – 1 Peter 1:21-25**

Today we continue the discussion on the Spring Season of the Heart from Peter's perspective. As you read verse 21, what gift does Christ give you that leads to your new birth? Why can you trust Christ in this (vs. 21)? Verse 22 speaks to obedience to the truth's instructions. What have you learned this week so far that Jesus (God's truth) told us to do receive forgiveness? If you repented, you were also obedient, thus you are forgiven and made right before God. Now that you are forgiven, what must we do? Why does loving others matter so much? Why are we supposed to love others deeply with a pure heart (vs. 23)? The living Word of God in this context means Jesus Christ. He is God's living Word from which everything was created. Peter uses the Old Testament passage, Isaiah 40:6-8, to substantiate his claim that when we are born again we have a forever life. What is said in this text that supports Peter's claim? Peter ends his point on this matter by stating, "the word is the Good News preached to you." Do you remember what the Good News is? When we repent of our sins because we believe this Good News, we are born again. John Wesley would have called this justifying grace. When did you intentionally ask Jesus to forgive you of all your sins and to fill you with His Holy Spirit? Did this happen when you were young? Middle-aged? Older? Why is it important to know that you have done this? Why is it safe to be obedient to this truth?

**Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> – Acts 2:36-41**

We finish this week's study by looking back to the early church on its birthday and seeing what born-again looked like to them. This text follows the arrival of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem upon the disciples in the upper room. They are outside the room now and speaking in the various languages of those visiting Jerusalem. This text is the end of Peter's defense to those who were present—it was the first Christian sermon. We start with Peter's summary declaration about Jesus. What does he say (vs. 36)? What was the result of this sermon and this statement (vs. 37)? What do the listeners want to know? Peter, without missing a beat, immediately determines and tells them what they need to do. What does he say (vss. 38-39)? What promises are made in conjunction with the requirements? How does this tie into what Jesus called us to do in Tuesday's readings? Did everyone buy in immediately (vs. 40)? What did it take before they bought in? When they did accept what Peter said, what did they submit to (vs. 41)? How many repented of their sin and believed the Good News? Can you imagine that day? 3000 people repenting, choosing to believe and all 3000 being baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit! How does this touch your heart? How does it remind you of your rebirth in the Spirit. In the event you have not been reborn, do you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to join him?

**Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> – *In preparation for worship, please re-read John 3:1-8.***