

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 18th – Romans 12:1-2

Last week we looked at the Spring Season of Your Heart and what it means to be “born again.” Now that we understand what it means to be born in the Spirit, what happens next? We enter into a new season, the season of Summer. Summer is a season of growth, where the spirit takes the new creation and begins the work of transformation. We no longer are the persons we once were. Old habits and sins must die so that Christ can rule in our lives. This week we will explore the kind of growth that takes place in everyone who is born again. Paul speaks about this growth or transformation. As you read verse 1, what are you called to do? Remember the building materials this past Sunday? This is your life, your body, which is now being offered to God. When we do this, what does Paul call this? As we work with God to build our new lives, what is it we should not be like (vs. 2a)? Rather, how will our new lives be built (vs. 2b)? How will you know if you are conforming to the world or if your mind is experiencing transformation through the work of the Spirit (vs. 2c)? What will be the result of this spiritual growth in your life? Consider today where the Holy Spirit has transformed your mind and life in the past? Where does transformation still need to occur? Spend time praying today, asking the Holy Spirit to continue working in your life and thank the Spirit for the transformation that has already occurred.

Tuesday, January 19th – 1 Peter 1:13-16 (1 Peter 1:3-12)

Today we turn to Peter’s letter to the church, which consisted of those who were newly “born again” in Jesus. He addresses their Summer season of growth. To get the groundwork laid for our study text today, please read verses 3-12. Now the things Peter speaks about tie into last week’s lesson and your life. What does he say about being “born again,” and what happened that made our spiritual birth possible? Do you see the points of the Good News listed in this portion of the text? Because of this Good News and being born again, what does Peter call us to do (vs. 13)? How does thinking clearly and exercising self-control get lived out in a new life (vs.14)? How are we called by Peter to live this out (vs. 15)? The word “holy” means to be set-apart for God, his love, his service, his purposes. God is wholly other from humans and is therefore holy, set-apart and perfect. Why are those who are born again called to live lives that are holy (vs. 16)? Our season of Summer is a time to learn to live a life that his holy, set apart from the world and lived for God. How are you living a holy life? How does knowing the Good News and having God’s Holy Spirit working in you bring the necessary transformations into holiness? Spend the day reminding yourself that you are holy, set apart for God alone. See how the Holy Spirit will use your remembering to help direct your thoughts, words and deeds so that they are holy.

Wednesday, January 20th – 1 Peter 2:1-3

We continue today reading from Peter’s first letter. Yesterday we heard the call to be holy, set-apart for God. So what exactly is the process for this holiness to take place? What needs to change or grow in us in order for summer growth to take root (vs. 1)? We cannot get rid of evil, unless we admit that evil exists in us. Evil in us are the things that rebel or go against God’s design or purpose. What is the list of evils that Peter provides as a starting point to address? Peter is wise enough to know that if we remove something, we will need to replace it with something else. Otherwise, what we remove returns. What does Peter tell us we need (vs. 2)? What is “pure spiritual milk?” N.T. Wright answers

this question this way, “...we need the ‘spiritual milk’, the real stuff. All too often it gets watered down, perhaps by preachers thinking to be ‘kind’ and not wanting to make too many demands all at once. Then the spiritual baby fails to grow properly, and, like a malnourished child, may become spiritually listless and helpless. A true, strong, vital relationship with the Lord is the key: taste that he is gracious, and go on thirsting for that taste and refusing, like a sensible baby, to be satisfied with anything less.¹” What drives this desire to have pure spiritual milk (vs. 3)? Are you feeding yourself the pure spiritual milk or are you becoming malnourished? What might you do so that your summer growth will lead to a fall maturity?

Thursday, January 21st – 2 Peter 1:3-9

Now we look at Peter’s second letter. Why are we able to live a godly life (vss. 3-4)? We are able to live godly lives, and reveal the nature of God, here and now. What will escape if we acknowledge and accept this reality (vs. 4)? Now while this is a gift from God and God works through the Holy Spirit in our lives, there is the expectation that we will make an effort to respond to God. Where does our effort start (vs. 5)? We start with faith, which if we are born again, should lead to moral excellence. Then we are to add knowledge to our moral excellence, which should produce the ability for self-control (vs. 6). Self-control is practiced through patient endurance, which develops godliness (practical piety or the honor of God). From patient endurance and godliness comes brotherly affection towards other believers, which then develops into love for everyone. This is how our spirits grow in our season of summer. What is the good that comes from this spiritual growth (vs. 8)? What if you fail to grow this way? What does Peter say about never growing up spiritually (vs. 9)? Where are you in the process of growing up? How’s your moral excellence? How’s your knowledge? Is it leading to self-control? How patient are you? Does your life reflect God’s godliness? How about your piety? Do you have affection for your fellow believers? Do you love your enemies? Where does more growth need to take place? Where might you be stuck? Pray asking the Holy Spirit to show you where you are today.

Friday, January 22nd – 1 Corinthians 10:1-24 (or all of chapter 10 if you wish)

Begin today by reading completely through today’s text. Paul is writing to the church in a very pagan area of Rome. In verses 1-11, Paul points to Israel’s history as a warning to us today of how not to live. What were the lessons we should learn from Israel? It is scary that all of these warnings still apply today. What is the warning in vs. 12? This is a warning against pride. What do we need to know to resist pride and falling into temptation (vs. 13)? So what growth needs to take place in the Corinthian Church, so that they may live holy lives for Christ (vss. 14-22)? What demons do we dance with today? What sacrifices do we worship? The media? Politics? Money? In verses 23-24, we see that Paul addresses the natural tendency to debate that they can do whatever they want. How does Paul reject their arguments? How would Paul challenge our arguments that the world is different now and we know better now, and other similar arguments? What should we be concerned about when making decisions (vs 24)? How is this spiritual growth? Where is the focus at this point? How might you need to grow in this way?

Saturday, January 23rd – In preparation for worship, please read Matthew 8:4-15

¹ Wright, Tom. *Early Christian Letters for Everyone: James, Peter, John and Judah*. London; Louisville, KY: SPCK; Westminster John Knox Press, 2011. Print. For Everyone Bible Study Guides.