

## **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 25<sup>th</sup> – Matthew 24:4-8**

We begin this week by looking at what your spiritual life looks like when you enter the Season of Fall. It is in this season that we are the most vibrant and rooted in what we believe. It is also in the Fall that our faith in who God is and what God can do now governs our hearts and minds. Fall is the season of maturity in the faith. This is not perfection, but it is definitely centered, allowing God to govern all that we are and all that we have. We know God has the best for us. It also means we start to see things happening in the world differently. Jesus teaches us what that looks like. As you read verse 4, what is it that Jesus warns us against? The temptation to follow the newest, the latest, the greatest thing or person is common. We think they will make our lives better, that they are our Messiahs. Jesus says that many will be deceived, but the mature Christian will hold onto what is true and steadfast—Jesus our Messiah! As you read verses 6-8, what else does Jesus warn us about? How should mature believers respond to such things? Consider your response to events in the world. How do natural disasters, terrorism, wars, or financial uncertainty in the stock market make you feel? To whom do you turn to save you? Take time in prayer today, asking God to grow you up into your season of Fall, so that you can live grounded in His love and grace no matter what happens.

### **Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> – Colossians 1:24-29**

Paul did most of the end of his ministry in his spiritual Season of Fall. In this text, what has Paul experienced and why does he continue to do what he does (vss. 24-25)? What is the message Paul is called to give to everyone (vs. 27)? How often do you remember that as a born-again believer, you have Christ living in you? How would knowing Christ is living in you every moment of every day ground you and give you deep roots upon which you can live your life? How would remembering this in times of trouble, like we read about yesterday, help us stay calm and on the narrow path? What does Paul say his goal is? What drives him to tell everyone about Christ, warning and teaching with all of God's wisdom (vs. 28)? Depending on the Bible translation you are using, some read "present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ" and some use the word mature in place of perfect. Mature is a better translation of the Greek in this case. Paul wants us to be mature in Christ. In verse 29 he gives us an example of maturity in Christ in his own life. What does maturity look like for Paul? Whose power is he working in? How does this power govern Paul's life (vs. 29)? What do you hold back from God? How might things be different if you worked only in Christ's power? There would still be struggles and work, but who would be responsible in the end? Spend time thinking today about where you need to be more rooted in Christ's power, rather than living in your own power and strength. What might you need to turn over to Christ, so he can work through you, rather than you doing it on your own? How might learning to do this give you more freedom and joy in your life, despite the struggles and work?

### **Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> – Hebrews 5:11-18**

We know that we are to grow into mature disciples for Christ, grow into our season of Fall, but as the writer of Hebrews points out, this does not always happen. We find ourselves stuck or comfortable in our season of Summer. What is one reason the writer of Hebrews attributes this to (vs. 11)? How does he know they are stuck (vs. 12)? In verse 13, the author explains why this is a problem. What is the problem? In verse 14, he contrasts someone who is mature. What is the difference between the baby and the mature? Consider how we built our lives with God to begin with—in our Summer season. How does this show the infant in us? Where do you struggle growing up and where have some of your walls been knocked down? What might it look like to have a mature life in Christ, compared to a Summer life in Christ? How can this training root you deeper in the firm foundation of Christ? Consider today how much milk you still need compared to the solid food you ingest. Ask God to help you continue to move into the fullness of your Fall Season.

**Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – Ephesians 4:11-16**

Today we turn to Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus. He is speaking of unity in the church and the development of mature followers of Jesus – those followers who are in what we are calling "their Fall season." Verses 11-12 tell us how God structures the church, so that this movement from Summer to Fall can occur. What does God provide to the church? What is the result when these gifts are used properly (vs.13)? What is the difference between the mature believer in verse 13 and the young believer in verse 14? How do you think a mature believer will know the difference between new teachings and clever lies? As you read verses 15-16, what do mature believers do and how do they behave? When the local congregation is filled with mature believers, what will be the result? What does God do? What do they look like? How about Saint James? How are we living out verse 16? How are you a part of this? If you are not sure how you are a part, then ask God to show you where you may need to still grow. Find someone to travel the journey with you as you grow.

**Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> – Galatians 5:16-26**

We end the week looking at the difference between someone who is mature and someone who still needs to be born again or who are still in the Summer of their spiritual life. What is Paul's instruction in verse 16? A person in their Fall Season is living by the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all aspects of their lives. A person who is not yet mature is still dabbling in and fighting the sinful nature. How does Paul explain what is happening while we are maturing (vss. 17-18)? So that there is no confusion about what is living in the sinful nature, Paul provides a list for us in verses 19-21. As you read this list, be honest with yourself. With which are you struggling? But Paul wants us to also know what living by the Spirit looks like and provides that list in verses 22-23. This list is commonly known as the "Fruit of the Spirit." Notice it is "fruit" not "fruits." So if you don't have one, you really don't have any for they are all tied together. Looking at this list, which do you still need for the Spirit to develop in you? As Paul continues, what has the mature believer done that allows the fruit of the spirit to control their lives (vs. 24)? In fact, when the believer has completely nailed their sinful nature to the cross (died to self), then they have given their whole life to the Spirit and live accordingly. If we are living in and by the Spirit, what should we avoid (vss. 25-26)? This is another sign of spiritual maturity and the entrance into the Fall of our spiritual life. Consider today, what each life looks like. How does continuing to live a life seeking to fulfill sinful desires block you from having the fruit of the spirit? What part of your life in the season of Summer still stops Christ from ruling over you? Pray today that the Spirit will strengthen you, so that you can turn over your whole life to him and fully experience the fruit of the spirit, no matter what happens around you.

**Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – *In preparation for worship, please read Matthew 7:24-27.***