

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, February 1st – Genesis 3:1-19

This week we turn to our final season, the Season of Winter. This season leads us through the valley of our death to physical resurrection in the full presence of God. We begin by reminding ourselves why we face a physical death. As you read verses 1-7, what was the temptation Eve faced? What did she want (vss. 5-6)? What was the result of this disobedience (vs. 7)? What happened when they next encountered God (vss. 7-11)? Now read verses 12-13. See the blame game going on? No one takes responsibility for what they have done and no one asks for forgiveness. What does God do about all this (vss. 14-18)? These are known as the curses for sin. The final curse is found in verse 19. What is the last curse? Why do humans (and all creation for that matter) die? This is why our bodies decay and die. We live our physical lives under the curse. But Jesus has made the way for our lives to pass from the curse into new life, a new physical life for all eternity. We need to understand that each of us will pass through death, because all of creation has fallen under the curse. Consider how God is always faithful to his word. Even the word that says we will die. How much more then will God be faithful to his word in bringing new life out of death? How can this help you as you walk the journey to your own death? How can it help when facing the death of a loved one? Remember, this passage points to the hope we have in God's love and in faithfulness to his word.

Tuesday, February 2nd – John 11:17-44

Today we turn to Jesus and the death of Lazarus. What happens in the story (vss. 17-20)? Martha has come to meet Jesus. What do you notice about their conversation (vss. 21-27)? What is Martha saying to Jesus? What has Jesus just told Martha? Does Martha understand? Martha returns to Mary and sends her to Jesus. What happens when Mary arrives (vss. 32-33)? Consider why Jesus might be deeply moved or angry? Actually the Greek word indicates a sternness almost an anger or rebuke. But it also says that Jesus was deeply troubled. William Barclay suggests it was the deep emotion Jesus was feeling rising to the surface. As John is writing his Gospel to show us that Jesus is God, it indicates that God does have emotions. Something that the Greeks of John's day did not believe, for if you have emotions, you can be manipulated. But Jesus shows great emotion, demonstrating that God can have emotion and still not be manipulated. We see this again in verse 38. What happens at that point (vss. 38-44)? Now while Lazarus was raised from the dead, he was not resurrected. For Lazarus will die again and not be raised until, as Martha said, "on the last day." Now go back and read Jesus' words in verse 25. What is the promise of Jesus? What does it mean that he who believes in Jesus will never die? What does that tell us about the death of a believer? Death is no longer an end, but rather a passage to the resurrected life. While we can experience God's resurrection power in our lives today, we have the promise that death is a passageway to the new bodily resurrection, like Jesus experienced. Take time to consider and pray about these things. How does knowing this promise give you hope? How does it help in dealing with grief? What will be different in your life because you are equipped with the promise of Jesus?

Wednesday, February 3rd – Matthew 22:23-33

Today we turn to the Gospel of Matthew and what Jesus has to say about resurrection. Read verses 23-28. Who is asking the question about resurrection to Jesus (vs. 23)? Do they believe in resurrection? So what dilemma do they offer to Jesus to prove they are right? How does Jesus answer them (vss. 29-30)? This addresses the question directly. But Jesus goes on to explain how we know there is a resurrection. What explanation does Jesus give (vss. 31-32)? What is the difference between God saying “I am” rather than “I was?” What does this tell us about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? What does this tell us about our loved ones who have died as believers? What does this tell us about ourselves and the promise to us? Spend time thanking God today for being a God who is faithful and true to His word and resurrects His creation from death and decay.

Thursday, February 4th – Revelation 20:11-15

We now turn to John’s book of prophecy, the Book of Revelation. Since we are discussing and learning about the winter of our lives, facing our deaths and the deaths of those we love, this prophecy is a good text to read as it talks about resurrection and the second death. This tells us about who will be resurrected. Who will stand before the judgment throne (vs. 12)? Who is judged (vs. 12)? Where do all the dead get resurrected from (vss. 13 and 14)? What is necessary, so that you do not experience the second death from which there is no resurrection (vs. 15)? What is required to have your name in the Book of Life? Jesus tells us in each Gospel. We need to repent (turn away) from our sins and turn back to God. Be born again in water and the Spirit. Receive God’s forgiveness. Die to your selfishness and live for and in Christ. Think about if Jesus came today. Is your name signed, sealed and written in The Book of Life? If so, then praise God. If not, it might be time to take care of this.

Friday, February 5th – 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

We close our study on the Seasons of the Heart by turning to Paul, who gives us some wonderful reminders we need to tuck away in our hearts. The first thing is, what lasts forever (vs. 8)? What is the problem with having just “knowledge” or “prophecy” (vs. 9)? What does that tell us about what we know now? We seem to forget that we only see in part. Only God sees the whole picture now. What does Paul say in verse 11? How does this speak to where we should be by the time we reach the winter of our spiritual season? The reason we need to do this is so that we can understand that we do not see everything clearly, only in part. But on the day of resurrection we will see. How will we see according to Paul (vs.12)? What a wonderful thought – to know as I am known. Then Paul wants us to know what are the eternal things that last forever with us. What are they (vs. 13)? How can clinging to and living out hope, faith and love encourage you as you travel through your winter and into resurrection spring? Spend time pondering these things. Let the Holy Spirit fill you with his blessed assurance that all that Paul writes are promises to you and the church today.

Saturday, February 6th – *In preparation for worship, please read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.*