

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commitment 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, October 3rd – Leviticus 16:20-22

This week our “one another” focus is about confession of sins. We have all heard that confession is good for the soul and that is very true. In fact, we see that confession of sin was formally established by God in Leviticus with the appointing of the priests and the building of the tabernacle. Today our reading includes the instructions regarding the sin sacrifice for the people. Just before this reading, Aaron and Moses have been implementing the necessary atonements for Aaron’s sin, to sanctify the Tabernacle and the Holy Places. And our passage picks up at this point (vs. 20). In verse 21, what does Aaron, who has been purified and made right before God do next? Notice that it is just not laying hands on the goat, but the verbal, out-loud confession of the sins of Israel. This is what is referred to as “corporate confession, where the priest confesses the sins of the people. Why do you think this would be important? What happens to the goat when this is accomplished (vss. 21b – 22)? What is the symbolism of this act? How does this reflect on what Jesus does for us? How can verbal confession be freeing for the church? What kind of corporate sins would Saint James need to make to be set free from its sins?

Tuesday, October 4th – Numbers 5:6-7

Yesterday we learned what corporate confession looked like and about the symbolism of the goat. Today we turn to personal or individual sins. What kind of sin is referred to in this text (vss. 6-7)? What do you think it means to break faith with God? How does this still relate to us today? Notice that those who sinned were not aware of it until after the fact. This is not intentional sin. But when the person is aware of the sin, what is the requirement to correct the situation? Notice that this is not just a confession to God for the sin, but a confession to the one who was sinned against. In addition to the confession, what is also required? Why do you think restoration plus a fifth is required? How do you think the person felt after they accomplished this? How about the person sinned against? How can failure to verbally confess sins keep you a prisoner in your sins? Pray today asking God to show you His desire for you good and well-being when it comes to releasing sins. If you need to confess your sin to someone you sinned against, begin working to make things right.

Wednesday, October 5th – Psalm 38:15-22

Today we will turn to David and the Psalms. As we know, David, while loved dearly by God, was not sinless by any stretch of the imagination. But David’s sins would eat at him leading to profound and gut-wrenching confession to God for his sinfulness. We see that in verses 15-17. What does David fear will happen if God does not act (vs. 16)? By his foot slipping, David means falling into sin, which he may have already done. How does David begin to remedy the situation (vs. 18)? Where does David need God’s help (vss. 19-20)? After his confession, what does David ask of God (vss. 21-22)? Notice that David confesses to God to help him in his fallen state. David would still have been required to do the necessary restoration but he needs the strength and protection. Have you ever had the experience where the consequences of your sin seemed to be swallowing you up? Did you cry out to God for forgiveness and help to make things right? Did you make an attempt at making things right? Sin comes with a great cost. Confession brings

forgiveness and the ability to make things right or at least better. Where are you tempted to fall today? Where have you failed to confess to the one you sinned against? How can you confess today and begin to make things right? How can learning to do this actually set you free?

Thursday, October 6th – 1 John 1:8-10

Today we move to the New Testament and begin with John's letter to the church. What is John's first comment about people, God's people (vs. 8)? We have to admit that we are sinners. What sins do you have? What do you do that dishonors or rebels against God? If we fail to admit that we are sinful, then we are missing something within us. What is missing (vs. 8)? Now read John 14:6 (this is the Gospel not the letter). What is the truth that would be missing? So if you are not convicted, you are sinful, and are probably missing the Holy Spirit of Jesus in your life. But if you are convicted of sin, then what should you do (vs. 9)? What will be the result of our confession? Knowing what you do now about confession, what would be understood by the earlier church regarding confession? Confession of sin was not a private act. It might be personal, but it was not considered private. Our sin is usually against another, which is a sin against God as well. If you only confess your sin to God, you have missed part of the equation. Finishing off with verse 10, what is John's final point? When has there been a time you have sinned but blamed someone else for you sin? You know, when you say, "I know I shouldn't have done _____, BUT..." This is justifying your sin, thus negating it from being sin. Somehow you are not responsible for those sin. Rather, someone else is to blame. What John is teaching is that we need to say "I know I shouldn't have done that" PERIOD. Confession can only come when we admit without explanation or justification, that we sinned. Spend time today in prayer, allowing the Holy Spirit to bring to your attention where you need to own your responsibility in your sin and then confess it to God and the person whom you sinned against. This is counter-intuitive, but in the end, it is what frees you from slavery to sin.

Friday, October 7th – James 5:13-16

We close this week looking at James' letter to the church, the text which was preached on Sunday. Sickness, healing, prayer and confession go together. James lays it out rather succinctly. How in general should the people of God live (vs. 13)? These two cover the two main ways we live. We are either suffering or discontent or we are cheerful. So pray or sing or sing your prayers. The third way of life we live is found in verse 14. What is this third experience in life? What are the instructions for those who are sick? Note, it is the elders in the church, the mature believers that come to pray. The anointing with oil has to do with the Jewish understanding of the shepherd who anoints our heads with oil. It is a healing balm. What will be the result of these prayers (vs. 15)? Does this mean that the proof of a faithful prayer is that the person is healed on this side of glory? What would be the ultimate healing? Raising up is not just getting over being sick, but praying for the sick who are dying, so that they may be raised up in glory. And this healing includes one more thing (vs. 15b). So for all this to work, James continues with his instructions in verse 16. What does he tell us to do? Confessing to an praying for one another brings healing, both spiritual and physical. But in order to be mature in the faith, to live in righteousness, we need to learn to confess our struggles and sins to one another. It both releases the power sin has over you and replaces it with the power of truth – God himself! What sins do you still hide? What if you could release that sin in a safe place and receive forgiveness and healing? This is what small Doing Life Together Groups allows you to do. Set you free and heal you. And in experiencing this release, you will mature in the faith and be empowered to hear confession compassionately, pray for the person and offer forgiveness. We must learn to confess our sins to one another. It is needed for our healing.