

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 10th – Deuteronomy 3:26-29

This week our “one another” focus is to encourage one another. The need to encourage is not a New Testament concept, but as we will see today, it comes to us from the early Old Testament. Read verses 26-27. Moses is recounting a conversation God had with him. What is the conversation about? Now read verse 28. What are God’s instructions to Moses? Why do you think Joshua would need encouragement and strength? Consider what Moses, as leader, went through with the Israelites, if you are uncertain as how to answer this question. What will be Joshua’s responsibility? Let’s pause here and consider what encouragement God gave Moses even in the face of disappointment (vs. 27). How did seeing the Promised Land encourage Moses and strengthen him to encourage and strengthen Joshua as his replacement? Where do you need encouragement today? Whom might God be asking you to encourage? How can you encourage the church community to dream and plan for years of disciple-making to come, even if you may not see what God will do? Where might you need to learn to encourage others in the face of your own disappointments?

Tuesday, October 11th – Ephesians 6:21-24

Today we turn to more of Paul’s teaching on encouragement. The letter to the Ephesians was written while Paul was in prison. This seems to have caused some distress or concerns among the church in Ephesus. How does Paul attempt to bely their concerns (vss. 21-22)? We all know that left to our own imaginations we usually think the worst. Paul wants to encourage them by bringing them up to date on what is happening and that he has sent Tychicus to tell them the latest news. Now read verses 23-24. This is Paul’s closing paragraph to the church. In what ways are these closing statements a form of encouragement? What are the four things Paul specifically requested on their behalf as part of this blessing? How does asking God for the blessing of peace, love, faith, and grace encourage the reader? How do these encourage you today? How can you pass this request for blessings onto someone else? Spend time in prayer and open yourself up to receive the encouraging blessing from Paul today. Just be still, reading the words slowly over and over and allow the Spirit to fill you up with these. When you have been filled up to overflowing, consider whom you will encourage today with this blessing.

Wednesday, October 12th – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Today’s text follows on the text read in church on Sunday. As you will recall, Paul was teaching the Thessalonian church that though some had died before Christ’s return, they would be resurrected when Jesus returns. This brings the question up of “How and when will Jesus return? Will we know?” How does Paul begin to answer those questions (vss. 1-3)? Will we know? How will it happen (vss. 2-3)? It may be a surprise, but there will be no doubt it’s happening. How does Paul encourage them (vss. 5-6)? Why do you think they won’t be surprised? Will you be surprised? This encouragement comes with a warning, so as not to get caught off guard. What is the warning (vss. 6-7)? How does Paul encourage the church to be prepared to prevent surprise (vs. 8). If Jesus returned right now, would your life reflect verse 7 or verse 8?

How does Paul now encourage the church, as they prepare for Jesus' return (vss. 9-10)? How do those words encourage you to make sure you are living as a verse 8 kind of person, especially if you have been a verse 7 kind of person? But Paul tells the church to do one more thing. What is it (vs. 11)? Why do you think it is important for the church to do this on a regular basis? How is this applicable in light of our political challenges today in the U.S.? How is this applicable in view of the current turmoil in the world? How can we use these words while Doing Life Together as the church? Be ready to share this encouragement with someone who is struggling today.

Thursday, October 13th – 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

We now move to Paul's second letter to the church in Thessalonica. As Derek pointed out last Sunday, encouragement takes on different roles. Today we will look at what it means to encourage folks to do good. Read verses 1-6. What is the issue at hand (vs. 1)? What was Paul's instructions when with the church (vss. 2-6)? What is happening now (vs. 11)? What encouragement does Paul give in verse 12? Some translations read "command and urge" people to work. Urge in this case is to encourage correct behavior boldly. When have you had to encourage someone to behave differently? What is the difference between command and urge/encourage and demand? Which do you think would receive better results? But Paul doesn't stop with this encouragement. What other encouragement does he offer to the church (vs. 13)? It is difficult when we keep doing the right thing, yet see others who do not do right being better off than we are. It almost makes us want to give up and be like the wrongdoers! But Paul encourages us to stay strong and keep doing what is right. Where do you need to be encouraged to continue to do what is right? Get with someone you are doing life with and share this with them, so that they may pray and be an encourager for you.

Friday, October 14th – 1 Timothy 6:1-3

We will finish the week of encouragement by turning to Paul's letter to Timothy and the instruction to encourage others. Please note that this text is part of a larger teaching and since the whole book is only 6 chapters long, you are encouraged to read the whole thing. Verses 1-2a is a sample of the teaching that Paul is instructing Timothy to teach. What is the overall point? Now as we move into the second half of verse 2, what does Paul tell Timothy to do? Why should Timothy do this (vs. 3)? What problems will arise as Timothy begins to encourage obedience to these teachings (vs. 3)? What will be the result? There is an old saying, "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." How is encouraging others to live in obedience with the teachings of Holy Scripture like honey? Spend time in prayer today asking God to show you who needs encouragement to live in obedience. Pray for that person and then find time today to call, send a note, or meet to offer encouragement as prompted by the Holy Spirit. Know you are being prayed for and encouraged to take this exercise seriously, as it will help you live into Doing Life Together with one another, thus allowing you to comply with Paul's teachings.

Saturday, October 15th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Colossians 3:16.