

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

*Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commit to 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, May 30th**– Matthew 5:17-20; Matthew 22:34-40; Deuteronomy 6:1-9

We begin our study of the Ten Commandments and their role in the Christian believers' life. We have heard we are not under the law but we live under grace. But does that mean that the law no longer applies to how we should live our lives? As you read the text in Matthew 5, what does Jesus say about the law? What is the difference between abolish and fulfill? Abolish means to stop, eradicate or end something. To fulfill is to complete, obey or comply with. Look at the warning in verse 19. But we see in verse 20 a different angle of viewing the law. How does verse 20 point to fulfillment rather than abolishment? As we read Matthew 22, does it sound like Jesus is ending the following of the Law? Would you not agree that we are called to obediently love as the two commandments describe? Jesus is drawing on the Old Testament teaching found in Deuteronomy. Consider today what the difference is between the reason for obedience to the Law in Deuteronomy and in Matthew? One is legalistic, dotting the "I's" and crossing the "T's" so to speak. Is that the kind of love Jesus teaches us to have towards God? When our love is legalistic, it is to win God's love and acceptance. To earn it. Yet it is here where grace steps in. Jesus fulfills the law to its fullest and through his faithful obedience in life, suffering and death, he receives life and offers it to us even when we cannot live the law out faithfully. But that doesn't mean we are not still called to love God and neighbor as described. Take time today to consider how you live in balance between obedience to the law and the grace which empowers you to fulfill it in your life? Do you even see the need for balance? If not, which side do you tend to lean towards?

### **Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>** – Exodus 20:1-3; Hosea 2:14-20

We begin with the first of the 10 Commandments found in Ex. 20:3. What is the command? On what grounds does God make this declaration (vs. 2)? What exactly did God save the people from? God is the only God that saves by mighty power as was seen in the plagues that afflicted Egypt leading to Israel being set free? God is God because he saves and redeems us from what holds us captive. Now turn to the prophet Hosea. Up to this point, God has been making a point about the punishment that was due Israel for her disobedience. But in this text notice the change in God and in his people. As you read verses 14-15, what is God going to do? How will God's people respond (vss. 16-17)? Baal was the name given to several foreign and manmade gods of other nations that lived in the midst of the Israelites. Israel was not satisfied with God and would worship Baal too. We will always serve a god, but not necessarily the one true God. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century our gods are money, power and sex. We live and die for these things. When their allure contradicts God's commands, we immediately dismiss God's ways. We make what is alluring to us our gods. Spend some time today considering what things compete in your life to be your god? Which ones win? Which ones lose the competition? Pray asking for God to help you see in yourself what gods you place before Him.

### **Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>** – John 1:1-18; John 14:8-11;

Today we look at how Jesus fulfills the law because of who he is. Israel had difficulty accepting Jesus' claim because they had only one God and Jesus, a human being from their perspective, was not Him. This concerned many Jews who heard the Good News as well. Remember they were trying to be faithful. John, a later Gospel writer addresses this throughout his Gospel. As you read the text from John 1, what does it tell us about who Jesus is (vs. 1)? Now jump to verse 10. What does that tell us about Jesus? Read Genesis 1:1. How does John tie his explanation of who Jesus is (was and always be) to Genesis 1? Now read Jesus' words in John 14. Philip asked the same question many people ask, even today. Show me the Father (God). How does Jesus respond? This explains 2 of the 3 persons we understand as the one God in 3 persons (the trinity). How this all works, we cannot say for certain, it is a

mystery. But our faith, our hearts filled with the Holy Spirit affirms that even if we can't explain it, we knew it to be true. So Jesus fulfills the first commandment to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul mind and strength because Jesus is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, when we worship the Trinitarian God, Father, Son Jesus, and Holy Spirit, we fulfill the law of having no other gods for we worship the one true God in three persons. Have you ever thought about the fact that when you worship Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are actually fulfilling the law through obedience and love?

**Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Exodus 20:4-6; Deuteronomy 4:26-29; Psalm 115:1-8

Today we move to the second commandment found in our Exodus text. What is the command that God gives to his people (vs. 4-5a)? Why does God say this (vs. 5)? Have you ever wondered why this had to be the case? Read the Deuteronomy passage. What does Moses prophecy will happen to Israel? Bear in mind, Moses had been with these people for over 40 years. What does that tell you about God's people? What point about the "idols" that are carved or formed do we need to remember (vs. 28)? But what will the "false gods" or "idols" eventually lead the people to do (vs. 29)? Why do you think that is? Now read Psalm 115. As you read these verses, what do they say about idols? What is the difference between them and God? What will happen to those who make and worship them (vs. 8)? Consider today what man made idols we create and worship? How do these idols fail humanity? How do those who pursue these idols become like or victims of these idols? How is God different then these idols in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? Ponder these things in prayer and ask the one true God to reveal to you what idols you might be bowing down before to worship.

**Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Isaiah 7:12-15; Matthew 1:20-25; Luke 1:20-38

We finish this week by looking how Jesus is not idol worship but the one true God. We had looked at John's gospel when discussing Jesus was God. Now we turn to the Old Testament and other Gospels to see how Jesus is not an idol but God in flesh. Our Matthew passage quotes Isaiah's text. As you read Matthew's what does the title Immanuel mean (vs. 23)? This God with us or God in flesh point to Jesus being God. Not an idol or man made god, but rather the divine God of all becoming one of us to show us love, faithfulness, and provide our freedom from sin. How does the Angel Gabriel explain this all to Mary, the woman chosen by God to carry this "Immanuel" child (vs. 35-37)? For us, when we worship the Christ, we worship Immanuel, God with us. Consider what defines an idol and how it is different from Jesus. Idols, false gods, are manmade. There is no life, power or salvation in them. Now compare that to Jesus. How then does worshipping Christ fulfill the law? How did Christ fulfill the law? What new concepts or understandings have you received about the first two commands? How does grace (God himself) fulfill and enable you to fulfill these commandments (Law) from love and deep devotion to God?

**Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>** – *To prepare for Tomorrow's Worship please read Exodus 20:7-11*