

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. For this series we recommend the following translations: English Standard Version, New International Version, New Revised Standard or the American Standard Version. 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, August 8th – John 1:14-18

This week we will look at what grace, God giving of himself for us, even though we do not deserve it. We start at the very beginning of the Gospel of John, with God's full grace being given. Read verse 14. Depending on your translation your words may vary. From a good Greek translation, the verse ends with "full of grace and truth." What does it mean that Christ is "full of grace and truth?" it is important to remember that Jesus is God in the flesh. In Jesus, God gives himself to us as a gift. How does verse 15 point to Jesus being God? Verse 16 reads, "For from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace." To understand what that means, we need to read verse 17. The Law through Moses was God's gift (grace) of relationship with man, and now Jesus, God incarnate (in flesh), is the gift of himself to all creation. Verse 18 confirms how this came to be and points to what we refer to as the triune God, one God in three persons. Now read the text as a whole. As you read, what do you learn about God's grace? How does this understanding impact your view of God's grace? Have you received God's gift of himself and all that comes with it in your life?

Tuesday, August 9th – Acts 4:32-33

Yesterday we looked at the grace of God in the giving of himself to us through Jesus Christ. Now we turn to the early church. This would be the earliest followers from Acts 2. Read verse 33. What were the Apostles doing and what was the result? Now read verse 32. How is the result of great grace experienced by the church? What was changed in the people? How did they think and act? Now consider how these transformations came about. (Refer to Acts 2:38.) The gift of God's Holy Spirit was upon them as promised by Peter on that first day. So consider what that great grace upon them was. What had it empowered them to do and become? Now consider your life. If you believe and have been baptized, you have the Holy Spirit upon and within you. So what great grace is offered to you? More importantly, are you living under the knowledge that you have this grace, the gift of the Holy Spirit, being offered to you moment by moment? If you began to live daily with this understanding, what might be different in how you live and view life? Spend some time in prayer asking God to reveal where his great grace is working daily in your life and where you might be missing it. Then be quiet and let God reveal to you through His Holy Spirit what great grace is working in your life and what grace is waiting for you to receive and use. Don't forget to say thank you when he answers!

Wednesday, August 10th – Romans 3:21-26

Today we turn to what Paul teaches us about grace. Paul has a lot to say. We start with verses 21-22a. For Paul, complete obedience to the Law (the 10 Commandments and additional rules and regulations) had been the way for people to be righteous towards God. So how was that working for them and how does it

work for us (vs. 23)? So while the law lays out what God's righteous living looks like, the truth is no one lives this out in love and perfect obedience. We all fall short no matter how "good of a person" we think we are. But according to Paul, God addresses this sin problem we all experience. What was the plan (vss. 22-25)? In verse 24 Paul speaks of grace being a gift. The redemption through the acts of Jesus Christ, God incarnate, God giving of himself to us for our justification from sin. We are not acceptable, no matter how good we perceive ourselves to be. We are only acceptable because of the redemption found in Jesus. Verse 25 explains that redemption. The grace is Jesus' obedient right living (righteousness) given to us (the gift) so we may become right with God. Now read verse 26. How does this apply to you? What does it say about God? God is right and just. He gives us the power to have faith that through Jesus (God incarnate), our sinfulness has been dealt with once and for all and we are set free and made right. Grace – God making us right before his eyes, not because we deserve this, but because He loves us that much. Think about your sin and your need for this grace to make you right. Without it you are judged and condemned before God. With this grace, God's gift of himself to you, you are made right. Where do you stand today? What might you need to do to truly respond to God's gift of grace to you?

Thursday August 11th – 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12

The letters to the Thessalonians are part of Paul's very earliest writings and even earlier than some of the Gospels. We start today by reading verses 11-12. What is Paul's prayer for these people? The use of grace in verse 12 is "*of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in...*" How does this definition help you to understand the phrase "the grace of our God..." in verse 12 and how it relates to verse 11? Now read verses 5-10. What does the evidence prove (vs. 6)? What does God's justice look like (vss. 7-9)? When will this happen according to Paul (vss. 9-10)? Now read verses 11-12 again. What judgment does having faith in God's grace through Jesus lead to (vss. 10-11)? As you read this, who does God exert his holy influence (grace) upon? Does everyone accept God's grace? Can you make someone accept God's grace, the gift of himself and his righteousness? Consider today God's grace on you to live into verse 11—God's grace bringing to fruition your desires and deeds that glorify him. Are you living into that grace every moment of every day? What would be different in your life if you did let God's grace influence the way you made decisions and lived? Pray asking God to have this influence in your life today and see what happens.

Friday, August 12th – Titus 2:11-15

We close this week with a look at Paul's instruction letter to Titus. While we are going to focus on verses 11-15, you are encouraged after this study to read all of Chapter 2 and see how the teachings in 1-14 are because of verses 11-15. Therefore, let us start with verse 11. What is the "grace of God?" This grace points to the work in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, who is God incarnate. What is the work of grace in our lives (vss. 12-14)? Verse 15 is an instruction to Titus. What is Titus told to do? In a world that screams "don't judge" how can Titus, as well as believers today, rebuke if we cannot judge? How can we encourage if we cannot judge? If we are living in the power of the grace, the work, holy influence of God upon us, we can both encourage and rebuke out of concern for those we care for and about. Now go back to verses 12-14. If we encourage and rebuke in love, is it not the grace of God helping us to live into these teachings while we wait for Christ's return? One thing we need to consider this week before we end and that is the Holy Spirit. Again this is God in us. This is grace in our lives today. How does the work of grace through the Holy Spirit, God's giving himself to us, fit into all of Chapter 2? How does this help you understand God's grace work in your life?

Saturday, August 13th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship please read 1 John 3:1-10