

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, January 17th – Mark 1:7-15

This week we will look at the various texts on baptism. As we go through them, keep in mind from Sunday the four areas that are God's and the four areas that are our responsibilities in this covenantal relationship with him. We start with Mark's telling of Jesus' baptism. Read verses 7-8. What does John tell us is the difference between the baptism he was doing and what Jesus will eventually do? Which of the four areas does this speak to of God's work in baptism? As we read on, who comes to be baptized (vs. 9)? What happens immediately following Jesus' baptism (vs. 10)? How does our baptismal covenant with God reflect what happens to Jesus? (#4 of the four acts of God baptism points to it)? What is God's response to Jesus' faithfulness in being baptized (vs. 11)? On the day you were baptized or confirmed your infant baptism, do you think God told the angels and the Son the same thing about you as he did about Jesus? Now things are going to shift a bit. We like to think that once we accept Jesus, that then our lives will just be lived out blissfully. But that wasn't even close to being the case for Jesus. Where does the Spirit lead Jesus and what happens there (vss. 12-13)? The Bible repeatedly tells us we will have trials, tribulations, and temptations in this world. But because Jesus persevered and remained faithfully obedient, he has overcome these things. We also are to learn to do these things in the power of the Holy Spirit that we received in Baptism. Even though Jesus comes through these 40 days successful in his obedience, notice that things are still not always rosy. What happens next (vs. 14)? Then in verse 15, we see Jesus taking on his role as Messiah. He starts by announcing three things. What are they (vs. 15)? Do you remember what the Good News is? If not, email Pastor Shirley and she will send it to you. So, what does this tell you about your baptism? Do you daily remember your baptism and live into your end of the covenant? Spend time in prayer asking God to strengthen you for your wilderness temptations, so that you may, in the power of the Holy Spirit, be triumphant for His glory.

Tuesday, January 18th – Acts 2:36-41

It seems in Christ's church today that we have lost our focus on what matters. This is the end of the first sermon about Jesus. Verse 36 summarizes everything Peter has said thus far. What does his summary statement declare? What was the people's response (vs. 37)? How would you answer the question on what they should do? Maybe feed the hungry? Go on a mission trip? Read their Bibles? Go to a Life Group? While these are all good answers, what is Peter's answer (vs. 38)? I don't hear many preachers do this anymore, do you? I don't hear church members do this at all anymore, do you? Why is it that we don't call for repentance, or turning back to God or leading others to baptism? What stops us from doing this? What fears do you have? What excuses do you make? How do we know this is just not Peter's calling (vs. 39)? Did Peter's plea work the first time (vs. 40)? What does that tell us about how many times we may need to plea to others? Might we simply give up too soon? But Peter's perseverance and unwillingness to compromise paid off. How do we know (vs. 41)? Consider the culture today. Where do we compromise to appease the culture? What excuses do we use? What will need to be different in what you do, think, and say to be faithful like Peter? Whom will you lead to baptism this year?

Wednesday, January 19th – Romans 6:1-11

Today we turn to Paul's letter to the Roman church. Read verses 6:1-4. What part of the Baptismal Covenant does this relate to (#2 & #3 on God's part)? What part does this tie into on our side of the covenant (#1 & #2 on our part)? So, if we live into our covenant, what kind of life will we be living (vs. 4)? Now read verses 5-7. If we live into our belief and faith in the baptismal covenant, what will happen (vs. 7)? This might be a good marker to observe in yourself to see if you are living into your covenant with God. And there is a perk to this covenantal relationship. What is it (vss. 8-9)? Verses 10-11 are a summation of this section. Verse 10 is God's covenantal part that we join into through baptism. Verse 11 is our response. How are you doing on your end of the covenant? What might need some work this year in helping you die to sin's power a little more?

Thursday, January 20th – Galatians 3:26-29 (best if you read 3:21-29 to get full picture)

As we continue our study of baptism, we pick up Paul's summary statement to the Galatians. He has been pointing out to them why the Law could not replace Jesus and that by returning to the Law, it was a slap in Jesus' face. It did not make God happy. What is the big difference between being under the law and under grace (vs. 26)? Through Jesus, we become God's children and it is recognized through faith. What does Paul say happens in baptism (vs. 27)? What does this look like for Paul (vss. 28-29)? Read verse 29 out loud and substitute "I" and "me" for the word "you." That is the work of your baptism. How does that make you feel? Pray giving thanks to God.

Friday, January 21st – Matthew 28:19-20

We return to a repeatedly read text—the Great Commission of Jesus. Our mission and vision here at Saint James are based on this text, as it is Jesus' marching orders to the whole church. It is in verse 19 that we see Jesus telling us to go, make and baptize people. This is not an optional component to church. It is the God-given edict. It is expected that if we are loving followers of Jesus, we will go outside these walls, live our lives, and share with others the cool things God has done for us personally and for what He has done for Saint James. We will invite folks to come and be part of it (made into disciples) and once they are here, we will nurture them so that they profess faith in Jesus (become loving followers themselves) and become part of God's family. So, if this is our job, our marching orders from Jesus, how are you doing? Who have you led to faith and baptism? When you stand in front of Jesus, besides grace, how will your life be seen? Did you live into the mission? Did you cower from the mission? Did you even try? Something to think about this year as Saint James begins to get serious about living into our mission and vision. Start praying today, asking God for courage, for bold witness and for the identity of the person He wants you to bring to Christ! Then you can begin to watch the mission and vision start to bear fruit! By being faithful, God will make us fruitful.

Saturday, January 22nd – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Proverbs 12.