

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, November 2nd – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

This week we will focus on the Biblical principles of death and resurrection of we, the saints of Christ's church. As we know Jesus had much to say about facing death. Paul too has much to say and we will focus on Paul's writings this week. A very common text used in funerals/memorials/Celebrations of Life is from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. They too were struggling with what do and how to react to those who were dying before Jesus came back. As this is a very early letter of Paul's, it was written at a time when everyone expected Jesus back at any moment in a very literal sense. They expected Jesus' return before they died. But that was not the case and folks who were believers were dying in Thessalonica. Right off the bat, what is the issue that Paul takes on (vs. 13)? Notice it isn't that these folks won't grieve but their grieving process is to be different than non-believers and the culture that they lived in. Paul then explains what he believes is going to happen. What does he teach the Thessalonian church (vss. 14, 16-17)? According to Paul, when will the dead rise to be with Jesus (vs. 16)? After the dead arise to meet Christ, who is next (vs. 17)? Where did Paul get this information from (vs. 15)? How should this understanding of death transform our understanding of grief? In fact, Paul tells us what this information on death and resurrection should do for us. What is it (vs. 18)? Though we will experience grief at the death of a loved one, if that loved one is a saint, a believer in Jesus Christ, then we can move beyond grief because our loved one has moved beyond death and will be joining us in the future. Do you need these words of encouragement today? Do you know someone else who might need to hear these words? Sharing this hope is a great way of bringing hope to a very dark world that seems to remain forever in grief.

Tuesday, November 3rd - 1 Corinthians 15:1-19

Now we will turn to Paul's first letter to the Corinthians regarding death and resurrection. These letters are written mid-way through Paul's ministry. Because of the theological depth of this chapter, we will take the rest of the week to study what Paul says. Verses 1-9 are the framework that Paul's whole point death and resurrection will flow. In verse 2, Paul says he preached the Good News to the Corinthians. In verses 3-9, Paul reiterates the Good News. What is the Good News? And who all is preaching the Good News (vss. 10-11)? But there is a problem. What is it (vs. 12)? In verses 13-19 Paul does an analysis of the concept there is no resurrection. Where does this land him (vss. 17-19)? So, if we do not believe in resurrection of the dead, then by all means, grieve on, because that means death has the last word and we will die in our sins. There will be no hope. There will be no future, with God or our fellow believers. What do you think Paul means in verse 19 about our hope in Christ being only for this life? Paul's is saying that if we decide there is no resurrection, then we have all wasted our time for there is no salvation. This is what makes the church different than all other religions. We believe that we have a future, a new life in Christ. Not just us but all believers. How would this understanding change the way we grieve over loss? How can reminding ourselves that as believers, death is not an end but what lies after death is our future. Spend some time in prayer today thanking God for resurrecting Jesus from the dead and giving us a future with all the saints.

Wednesday, Nov. 4th – 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Picking up where we left off yesterday, what is the declaration that Paul makes in verse 20? How did this death and resurrection stuff come to be part of our lives (vss. 21-23)? Now that we understand we will die because we are sons and daughters of Adam, so we who believe will be resurrected because of Christ. Notice in verse 24, it says something like "Then the end comes..." What does this suggest to you about when resurrection will take place? When the end does come, what will happen (vss. 24-28)? What are we waiting for to happen? Who will be supreme? Do you believe this? Does your life attest to what you believe? What would living in continual grief say about what you truly believe to the world? Would that honor Christ's life-giving grace? How could these words help someone stuck in grief move forward in peace and joy? Learn verse 23 by memory and let it permeate into your life and words.

Thursday, November 5th – 1 Corinthians 15: 29-34

Today we will see Paul making his point from another vantage point. Read verse 29. In Paul's time, it was customary for believers to serve as a proxy for the deceased in baptism. The understanding was that if they were baptized, even by proxy, they would be part of the resurrected. Paul's point is that if there is no resurrection, then why bother? If there is no life after death, then what (vs. 32b)? And if there is no resurrection then there is no hope and no need for faith. Then Paul admonishes the readers. What does he say (vss. 33-34)? What does "bad company" ruin (vs. 33)? How is following the culture's idea of grieving like being with bad company? What does it ruin for the believers who are deceived by the culture? What sins might this deception lead too? How does it demonstrate that we don't know God at all? Yet on the other hand, how could clinging to the concept that death is not an end but another journey into the full presence of God now and in our future fill us with joy, peace and hope. How might this bless someone who is struggling with the loss of a loved one? How can these words help us to grieve in a healthy manner wrapped in hope and love? How does this point to the saints who surround us in the faith?

Friday, November 6th – 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

We finish this week's look at Paul's writing on death and resurrection and what it means for the believer. Today he focuses in on the resurrection of our bodies. Yes, we will be physically resurrected like Jesus. We will not be disembodied spirits floating through air and space. What is the question Paul will answer (vs. 35)? In verses 36-49, Paul begins his answer by layout what summary? What will be the difference in our bodies from pre-death and post-death? Notice they will not just be spirits but spiritual bodies. Think about Jesus' body post-resurrection. It looked like Jesus (human), ate, spoke, but could also appear/disappear and walk thru locked doors and walls. What points does Paul make between the difference of the two bodies? List them out. What summary point does Paul make (vs. 50)? In verse 51, Paul makes an unusual declaration in verse 51. What is his point? Paul is referring to those who are alive at the second coming. They will be transformed as well with new bodies even though they did not die. How will it happen (vss. 52-53)? Do you sense a bit of excitement rising up in you over these words? When this happens, what will be fulfilled (vss. 54-57)? So based on this wonderful information we have been given in chapter 15, what are Paul's instructions to us (vs. 58)? How will you implement what you have learned this week so that your sainthood is lived out to its fullest? How will you use this information to help others live into their saintly calling? How will doing this fulfill Paul's instructions in verse 58?

Saturday, November 8th – In preparation for tomorrow's worship, please read 2 Samuel 15:13-16