

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, November 14th – Isaiah 42:23-25; Isaiah 51:17-23; and John 3:36

This week we are going to examine the work of Jesus on the cross. The passages selected each day are by no means exhaustive and you are encouraged to continue to study on your own. Today we will look at God's wrath. As mentioned Sunday, this is a subject that is either watered down in the church today or just ignored. Yet in both the Old Testament and New Testament the wrath of God is mentioned, even by Jesus. As we read our texts, some of our translations will not use the word "wrath." I will indicate which verses do, so you can adjust as you read. Read the Isaiah 42 passage. Wrath is found in verse 25. Why is God's wrath poured out on the people (vs. 24)? In verse 23, what is the question asked? How does that question relate to today? Now jump to Isaiah 51. Verses 17 and 20 speak of God's wrath. What is the effect of God's wrath on the people? Much of this description is metaphor, describing what it is to be under God's wrath. What does it describe? Yet, even though they experience and live through the wrath of God in their lives, what happens at the end (vss. 22-23)? Though God's wrath stems from his righteous justice, his mercy flows as well. Now read John 3:36. This verse has two points. What does the believer receive? What does the disobedient non-believer receive? Are you a true believer? Is the wrath of God emotional anger or is it righteous truth in the face of denial? Take time today to consider what God's wrath is compared to human wrath. What is different and why does God's wrath exist?

Tuesday, November 15th – Leviticus 16:15-22 (OT Sacrifice)

Now that we have reflected on God's wrath and why it exists, we now turn to God's plans to begin the reconciling process. It starts with the newly called out slaves in Egypt as they learn to live into the identity of God's chosen ones. For this to happen, Israel will need to begin to understand and pay attention to their sinfulness and atonement for sin must be made for sin is an affront to God's authority and majesty. So God institutes a sacrificial ritual that addresses Israel's sin and restores their relationship with God, abating His wrath. There are two parts to this ritual. Read verses 15-19. What purpose does the blood of the first goat and the bull serve? This points to the fact that sin has a cost – the death of an innocent animal for Israel's sinfulness. This act demonstrates repentance and purification. Now read verses 20-22. This goat is called the scapegoat. What is the symbolism of this goat? Sin is an affront to God. When it is continued and not dealt with, God's holy wrath is his response. But knowing and admitting we are sinners, and seeking God's forgiveness and receiving it, brings us to peace with God. The first goat carries the admission and punishment for our sinfulness, while the second goat removes it from us completely. Unfortunately, this practice needed to be repeated regularly, since we sin regularly. How does this ritual point to Jesus? How does it help you understand better how even our "little" sins are an affront to God that need to be dealt with? How does this understanding challenge the lie that we are "good" people? Spend some time in prayer today, asking God to help you develop a deeper understanding of this ritual and how it relates to Jesus.

Wednesday, November 16th – Hebrews 10:11-18; Hebrews 6: Jesus' fulfills

Today we will see how Jesus fulfills and completes the atonement ritual once and for all. What occurred under the first covenant (vs. 11)? What does Jesus do (vss. 12-14)? There was a promise made about a new covenant with Israel by Jeremiah. Verses 15-17 quote that promised covenant. Jesus has fulfilled the role of the first goat through his blood. Then Jesus accomplishes the second goat's purpose through his death where he takes our sinfulness away from us. His resurrection seals the deal. And because Jesus is the spotless lamb that replaces the goats for our atonement for sin, what is the result (vs. 18)? And while we believe and share this Good News, the writer of Hebrews does offer some warnings as well as hope to the readers. Read Chapter 6. What are the warnings? What are the words of encouragement for today? We must always be on guard to not go wayward and continue sinning. Rather we need to cling to the hope in both the propitiation and expiation of our sins through Jesus Christ. Spend some time praying on this text and thank Jesus for accomplishing the new covenant and bearing God's cup of wrath on our behalf.

Thursday, November 17th – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 & Romans 5:6-11

Now that we have covered wrath, sacrifice, and covenant fulfillment, what does all this mean to us in the 21st Century? Today's text helps us to discover this. The 1st Thessalonians text discusses Christ returning, when judgment will be made and God's wrath will be poured out. How then should we live (vss. 4-8)? Why are we able to live like this (vss. 9-11)? These words should be used as encouragement to keep each other from living the wrong way. We don't want to be caught off guard. Now read the Romans passage. This passage states exactly what God, out of love for us, did through Christ and what Christ accomplished in his sacrifice for us. Note in verse 9, we are saved from the "wrath" of God. We are no longer enemies of God. We are saved through Christ's life in life eternal. We have been reconciled to God and have peace. Jesus' fulfillment of the Old Testament ritual secures our place in God's Kingdom and presence forever. This is the Good News. The Kingdom of God is here for those who believe and those who choose to believe and be saved. Who needs these words of encouragement today? Pray and ask God with whom you might share this today.

Friday, November 18th – Psalm 130

We conclude this week with a prayer of gratitude to the triune God who is faithful to fulfill all His promises. As you pray, remember you are not sinless and without the forgiveness offered through Jesus, you would have to face God's wrath. That is quite a lot to be grateful for today. So pray this psalm slowly and intentionally with a heart of gratitude.

Saturday, November 19th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Revelation 5:6-14. Don't forget – Hanging of the Greens tomorrow following worship.