

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, March 13th – Psalm 71:19-24

This week our Giving It Up focus is expectations. Giving up expectations is tied to our understanding of God and the way we think God should act. The Scriptures speak of this need to release some of our expectations of God and learn to trust. The Scriptures also teaches us why we need to release these expectations. Beginning with Psalm 71, what point about God is the Psalmist making in verse 19? How does this tie into verses 20-21? How is the psalmist's experience counterintuitive to our understanding of God? Does God let us suffer? That doesn't sound like a loving God. But what is the final outcome (vs.21)? How does the psalmist respond (vss. 22-23)? What is the praise about (vs. 23)? Have you considered what needs to happen in order to be ransomed? Prior to being ransomed, things are not good. And God allowed that suffering. But what did the Psalmist know that God would eventually do (vs. 24)? This is not about what happens today for the Psalmist but what he believes and hopes for in the future. Now go back to verse 19. What expectations of God might you need to give up, so God may be God and act as God deems necessary. How are your expectations of God challenged by this text? How might giving up expectations of how God should act in your life help you to be more like the Psalmist?

Tuesday, March 14th – Jeremiah 7:1-11

Today we turn to Jeremiah's prophecy. Read all 11 verses. Now reread these verses, but substitute church for Temple. Do you fall into the same beliefs that the people of Judah did? After all, they went to the Temple and sacrificed just like God required. So what's the problem (vss. 8-11)? Does the church today fall into the same trap, believing things are okay because we go to worship? What false expectations about God does this set up? Do you think God believes these things are okay now? What might happen if we stopped having the expectation that God is just going to accept our sinfulness, as long as we show up on Sunday or Wednesday? How might giving up this expectation of God accepting sin lead to transformation in our lives? What might change in the church, if we did not expect God to just allow us to live in sin because we love Jesus? Imagine how many lives could be transformed by giving up this expectation. Spend some quiet time thinking about where you commit these sins, thinking it is okay with God. Then pray asking for forgiveness for expecting God to just look the other way, and ask for the Holy Spirit to help you to begin denying these sins so your life can glorify God.

Wednesday, March 15th – Romans 8:18-25

Looking at this Romans passage, what are your expectations of life today and tomorrow with God? Just because we are believers doesn't mean will always be easy. How does Paul express this (vs. 18)? Suffering with a hope for the future. But we are not the only ones who suffer. What else is suffering today (vs. 20)? What is this hope for and in (vs. 21)? What is the expectation of God expressed by Paul (vs. 23)? Is this a specific expectation? When is the expectation believed to be fulfilled? Right now, we cling to what (vs. 24)? Hope leads us to an expectation that is not fulfilled now, but will be in the future. So what does that say about our expectations of God today and here and now? How does letting go of expectations of how God should act today lead us to become more reliant on the Spirit and hope-filled? How does letting go of the expectation that God must act now free us to see the bigger picture? How does living in a culture where we want instant gratification lead to expectations that God needs to do it *now*? Where does your hope lie today? Hoping in Christ's return and in his promises gives us peace and the ability to suffer and wait gracefully.

Thursday, March 16th – 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

We have spoken most of this week about giving up expectations of what we think God should do. Today we will not just "give it up," but find out with what to replace our expectations. Paul gives us some great clues from his own experience. Read verses 3-4. What can we expect from God (vs. 3)? Notice what God comforts us for in verse 4. Paul doesn't say God will remove our troubles, but that he will comfort us. For what reason does Paul give for God not removing our troubles (vss. 5-7)? Paul then shares an experience of trouble. How bad was it (vs. 8)? What happened through those troubles (vs. 9)? What do you think was more important in verses 9-10? That God saved them from death? Or that they learned to rely on God, expecting no more than knowing that God raises from the dead? What does this action on God's behalf lead to in others (vs. 11)? What expectations of God do you have that this passage challenges? What new expectation can you develop instead? Consider how a change in expectations can shape you into God's image rather than you shaping God into your expectations (image).

Friday, March 17th – 1 Peter 2:18-25

We close this week by reading Peter's letter to the church. What does Peter say pleases God, in verses 18-20? Why do you think this pleases God? Is it because God likes your suffering? Of course not. The answer to that question is found in what follows. Read verses 21-25. Who is the example? How did Jesus fulfill God's expectations? In verse 22, Peter points out that Jesus left his case in God's hands. He trusted God even if—and it did!—lead to death. For God, death was not an end, but victory, for Jesus rose from the dead. We are called to follow Jesus. We should not have expectations that God will act like we think He should, but rather that we should trust that God will be God, always holy, always right, and always loving. Where have you been placing expectations upon God rather than simply trusting?

Saturday, March 18th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read John 4:1-9.