

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, March 18th – Proverbs 30:7-9

This week we will journey closer to the cross and empty tomb. We will journey to the moment when Peter denies Jesus and study what denial looks like, as well as the damage it can cause. Today we start again with Solomon's words of wisdom. What are the two things that are requested of God (vss. 7-8)? Why does Solomon ask these two things (vs. 9)? Why do you think having wealth could lead to denying God? How can stealing and insulting God's name prove to be a form of denial as well? It could be the denial that God will provide. Where do you find you stumble over denying God? What is the "thing" that trips you up? How can being aware of this help you to stay on the straight-and-narrow and not deny God and His ways? What might have to die in order for you to stop denying God? Pray for strength this Lent to let it go, so you do not deny the work God is trying to do in you.

Tuesday, March 19th – Matthew 10:28-39; 26:31-35

Continuing with our study on denying Jesus, we turn to Matthew 10. As you read verses 28-31, what two themes appear? How does fear play into denial? What motivation should we have for not denying God (vss. 29-30)? So we can declare and not have fear. What happens though if we do deny Jesus (vss. 32-33)? Consider how fear can make us stumble by not declaring our faith out loud to others. In verses 34-39, Jesus acknowledges how difficult this may be for some of us. What examples does Jesus give regarding the challenges of not denying Him (vss. 34-36)? Remember, many of these were faithful Jews turned Christian. When this happened in Paul's time, the people were excommunicated from the community of Jews. Some would lose their lives over it. And it wasn't strangers, it was family who turned them in! In verses 37-38, Jesus gives us ways that we deny Him. What are they? Does Jesus come before your children, your parents, or your spouse? Considering what we learned are the risks to denying Jesus, such as arrest, abandonment and death, what final words in this text does Jesus leave us with (vs. 38)? We have to die rather than deny to win life in Christ. Where might you need to do a little less denying and a little more dying so that you can find true life? Be cautious how you answer that! Read Matthew 26:31-35. Peter thought he would be steadfast and true to his master, but we know the end of that story. Be honest with yourself. Otherwise you might lose your life to self-deception.

Wednesday, March 20th – 2 Timothy 2:8-14

Today we turn to Paul's letter to Timothy, his mentee. In this letter Paul instructs Timothy what to teach to those under his care, especially in light of what lies ahead for Paul, his death. What is the Good News that Paul urges Timothy to always remember (vs. 8)? Why is this Good News (and don't make it all about you)? What is the result of preaching the Good News, at least in Paul's current circumstance (vs. 9)? How does this imprisonment impact God's Word that Paul preaches and teaches (vs. 9b)? What is the reason Paul is willing to suffer (vs. 10)? What follows are trustworthy statements according to Paul, things that Timothy needs to remember and teach, even if it brings suffering. Read verses 11-13. We are called to die and endure hardships. In doing so, what do we gain? What does it mean as a believer to live and reign? What are the perks of reigning and what are the responsibilities? What happens if we deny Jesus? How would denying death and suffering actually deny Jesus? How might that change our thought process on death and suffering for Christ? In verse 13, we see a change-up. What happens when we are unfaithful? How does this verse tie into the concept of Good News? What is Christ faithful to? Let's finish by reading verse 14. Keeping this verse in context, what words might Paul be referring to in this text? What does dying mean? What does denial mean? Why would there be arguments over words? How does that hurt the faith? When have you denied the suffering, rather than living into it and using it for God's glory? Where might you be denying the death to your selfishness and self-centeredness? How does denying these things actually point to your denying Jesus?

Thursday, March 21st – 2 Peter 2:1-3

We move today to Peter's second letter. Remember, Peter is the one who is recognized as the one who denied knowing Jesus. He has been there, done that and has the t-shirt. What is Peter's warning to the readers (vs. 1a)? What two things will these false teachers do and what will be the result to themselves (vs. 1b)? What are the results of those who hear and follow these false teachers (vs. 2)? Finally, what are some of the signs that we should be aware of when it comes to false teachers, and what promise from God do we have regarding them (vs. 3)? Consider today how false teachings deny Jesus. Where do we have false teachings in the church today? How do you know they are false? How can you protect yourself from false teachers? Is there any part of your life where you are false teacher and deny Jesus in the process? How might you need to repent and turn back to God?

Friday, March 22nd – Revelation 3:7-13

We close this week with Jesus' letter to the Church in Philadelphia. This letter brings us words of hope and promise. Verse 7 is the greeting of the letter. How does it describe the author? Verse 8 tells us about the church and what Jesus is doing for it. What has Jesus done and why? Even under great persecution, abuse and suffering, the church has stayed faithful to the truth about Jesus. Who are the ones causing all the problems for these believers (vs. 9)? What will Jesus make them do and why? As we move to verse 10, what promise does Jesus make to the church and why? Jesus then gives them one instruction and if they are obedient he promises a specific reward. What is the instruction and what are the rewards (vss. 11-12)? Verse 10 refers to them hanging on to what they believe. How does that tie into verse 8? Also notice that Jesus does not promise to take away their suffering immediately, but encourages them to hold on. In our culture of instant gratification, how might this lead us to fail at holding on and enduring? In what ways might we be denying Jesus in our desire to have instant gratification or an easy comfortable life? Where might your actions, words or heart have denied Jesus this week?

Saturday, March 23rd – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Matthew 26:57-68.