

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, Jan 13th – Matthew 3:7-12

This week we will look at baptism and the covenantal relationship that comes with it. Today we look at the baptisms of John the Baptist. Who does John challenge when they arrive at the Jordan River (vss. 7-8)? What does he tell them to do (vs. 8)? What is the warning he gives (vs. 9)? How can this apply to the church (the people of the church) today? What further warning does John give (vs. 10)? John is speaking about what kind of fruit? In verse 11, John speaks of two different kinds of baptisms. Which is his and what is the requirement? Which is Jesus'? What will Jesus' baptism be ready to do (vs. 12)? Jesus is ready to separate the good from the bad. He does this in us and in our midst. The good he will keep. What does he do with the bad? This is the work that is executed within us through the Holy Spirit. That is what our being convicted of sin is doing; separating the good from the bad and removing the bad. Consider our culture today, where everyone thinks that because you are good, you are okay with God. Does this text support that? Why is it important that we, the church, still call out for repentance? Why is it important that we continue the practice of baptism? Why is renewing your end of the baptismal covenant and remembering God's faithfulness on His end so important every year? What will be different today and tomorrow when you apply this text?

Tuesday, Jan 14th – Acts 1:4-5

Continuing today with a look at what the Scripture teaches about baptism and the role it serves in the church, we turn to Acts. Read these two verses. What are Jesus' instructions to the disciples (vs. 4)? What is the gift they are going to receive (vs.5)? What is the difference between what John did and what Jesus gave (vs. 5)? Consider our form of baptism today. We have elements of John's baptism and of Jesus'. Our water baptism is the outward sign of what God is doing inside of us through the power of the Holy Spirit. We covenant to love God first, love others as ourselves, die to our sins, so to be resurrected to a new life, and receive the Holy Spirit. God promises to work all this in our lives through the power of His Holy Spirit. Consider how God's Holy Spirit has been working in your life. How do you love God first? How do you love others as yourself? What sins are you dying to? And how has the Holy Spirit empowered you to do these things? When we can answer these questions, we begin to see how the baptismal covenant works in our everyday lives. After answering these questions, spend time thanking God specifically for these things, and for His work in your life.

Wednesday, Jan 15th – Acts 2:37-41 (Best if you can read all of Acts 2)

Today we turn to the work of the Holy Spirit through the disciples. This text immediately follows the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room, where the disciples were waiting as Jesus told them. The very first Christian sermon is preached by Peter, beginning at verse 14. You are encouraged to read it. It was spoken in boldness and determination. What is the response that Peter got from those who were listening to him, after he stated the facts and the fulfillment of Scripture (vs. 37)? That is a question asked by all of us at one time or another. "What do we do?" What is Peter's answer (vs. 38)? If they do this, what will they receive (vs. 38)? To whom is this promise of Peter's given (vs. 39)? Does this include you? What happens next (vs. 40)? What is Peter's warning and call to those listening? What was the result of Peter's boldness (vs. 41)? Now consider all that has happened in this day. Was this because of Peter or was it the work of the Holy Spirit in Peter? This is what the baptism of the Holy Spirit produces in us – boldness, truth, grace and invitation. Where are you denying the Holy Spirit to work in your life, because you feel it may be uncomfortable for you or you may not like it? What might you be missing, because you do not cooperate with the leading and prompting of the Holy Spirit? What can be different tomorrow if you allowed boldness, truth-speaking, grace and love to flow from God through you to others? Whose lives might be changed?

Thursday, Jan 16th – Galatians 3:23-29

Today we will look at Paul's explanation of what baptism looks like in the life of the believer. We have the before and after. Now Paul is referring to Jews, but it seems to apply to gentile and Jew alike. So, let's start with the "before" description. Read verses 23-24. What was the role of the Law? Have you ever considered what the law protects you or society from? In the case of the Jews, it kept them unified as God's people and different from the cultures that surrounded them. Is it to be their guardian forever? What is the game-changer (vs. 25-26)? How does Paul describe this change (vs. 27)? In baptism, you put on Christ. You are a new being. What is the result of baptism, this putting on of Christ (vs. 28-29)? Why do you think this result is important? It unites us as one in Christ, joint heirs of the Kingdom. We are all made right through faith in Jesus. No one is above anyone else and we need each other. How does the church reflect this today? Or maybe a better question would begin with, "Does the church reflect this today?" How is your life different because of your baptism and profession of faith? Who do you know who could use this new life? Pray for that person today and ask the Holy Spirit to move in their life and yours, all for God's glory.

Friday, Jan 17th – Matthew 28:19-20

We complete our look at Baptism today with why we continue to baptize in the church. This passage is Jesus' mission for the church. It is our marching orders; what we do; why we exist; what our purpose is in our generation and in every generation. So, what is it we are to do (vs. 19)? Make disciples and baptize them. This is first and foremost. Why do you think baptizing is one of the first steps? What have we learned about the baptism and the work of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? Now read verse 20. What else are we to do? Sometimes we baptize people and think, "That's it. Got 'er done!" But that just satisfies the "making" of disciples. In verse 20 we see that we are expected to help our newly-made disciples develop into fully mature disciples, by teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded. Our baptism brings us into the covenant, that we will serve Jesus as Lord and be obedient to the mission to make and mature disciples of Jesus. So how many disciples have you made or matured? How are you fulfilling your baptismal covenant to make and mature? How are you maturing in your walk, so that you can teach others? Take some time and think back about what we studied about baptism this week. What is one thing that sticks out? Pray about it and ask the Holy Spirit to work on it within you, so that you are resolved and clear on the subject. Then go make and mature a disciple for Jesus!

Saturday, Jan 21st – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Isaiah 6:5-8.