

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 1st – Genesis 2:4-15

This week we will focus on the lost and wandering feeling we have, because this is not our home. It is the place we live, but not our home. In fact, today we will read about the home God prepared for us in the beginning. This is the beginning of the second creation story. How did things begin according to this story (vss. 4-7)? When did life occur (vs. 7b)? Now that the earth is formed and the caretaker has been created and brought to life, it is time to provide a home. What kind of home did God create for humanity (vss. 8-14)? What do you think about this home that was created for humanity? Once the garden is created, what does God do (vs. 15)? Notice we are created to work. We are to tend to the garden. Let's pause a moment and consider what it would be like to live freely in the place God created for us doing what God told us to do? As you think about it, what do you sense inside? How would it feel to just care for creation and trust God for the rest? Do you feel a yearning in your soul?

Tuesday, March 2nd – Genesis 3:23-24

We left off yesterday thinking about how creation started off. The peace and joy over the images given us will hopefully let you feel the longing in your soul. Today we learn why that longing exists. Read today's text. What happened? Why did this happen? To give you an idea of the abruptness of this consequence of sin, imagine if someone came and removed you from your home and placed a guard at the front door. You were not allowed to return and take anything from there. You were now on your own. Good luck. Imagine that happening in the next five minutes? What is awakened inside of you? Fear? Anger? Imagine how Adam and Eve felt. Everything they knew they were removed from and were on their own. There is separation from God as well. All the peace and tranquility is gone and the curse is about to be lived out. This is how humanity got where we are. This is why we know things are not right but can't seem to change them. We are living outside the home created for us. Let that sit with you today and remind you that you are not completely home yet. But some day...

Wednesday, March 3rd – Philippians 3:17-21

We left from our devotions yesterday with the realization that we are not home in this world. It leaves us kind of unsettled, like a wanderer in this place. So how does this knowledge impact our lives? Today we turn to Paul's teaching in his letter to the Philippians. How does Paul suggest we start the process of living here (vs. 17)? How do some believers (church folk) live that is contrary to Paul's example (vs. 18)? What will be the result and what are the signs of living worldly lives (vs. 19)? What does Paul say about where/how we should be living (vs. 20)? What will happen when Christ returns (vs. 21)? So this body we have will decay and die, but since we live in the Kingdom already, we will receive imperishable bodies, like Jesus. Think about Jesus' post-resurrection body. Consider it bore the scars, looked like Jesus, moved through walls/doors; he could eat and speak. We will be human and bear the scars, but our bodies will be beautiful and cleansed and glorious. So how do you live your life? Do you resemble verses 18-19 or do you resemble verses 17 and 20? What would your family and neighbors say?

Thursday, March 4th – 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Today we look at Paul's letter to the Corinthians regarding the resurrection of the dead – the beginning of new life in the Kingdom of God. It all starts and is based on one fact. What is the one fact (vs. 20)? What does this mean for us (vss. 21-22)? So, death is coming, but for the believer, so is the bodily resurrection. As we move on we are given the order of this event. What is the order according to Paul (vs. 23)? What will happen next (vs. 24)? As we read verses 25-28, what is the end game of this strategy? Did you see where it said God would reign supreme after all was accomplished? When has that happened before (Genesis 1-2)? Since God is Father and God is Son and God is Holy Spirit, God has done all the work necessary to accomplish this. So we live in this mortal state of Adam, but are assured, when we believe and live accordingly, a spot in the Kingdom where God reigns supreme with no evil and death to rebut his place as King of kings and Lord of lords. As you read this, what does this say about the bodies we live in and the world we live in now? What would our lives look like, if we focused on Kingdom living now, as best as we can, knowing what awaits us in the future? Spend time with the Holy Spirit today asking and listening to what might need to change in you and in your life to make this possible.

Friday, March 5th – Revelation 22:1-5

We close this second week of Lent with a picture of what awaits us. Hope and promise are always a good thing when dealing with the reality of a life under the curse. Read the text completely to begin. Notice that we started in the Garden of Eden in Genesis and end in the garden in Revelation. This time the river is flowing with the water of life. Notice where the water is flowing from (vs. 1). What does the river give water to (vs. 2)? How does this benefit creation (vs. 2b)? What will finally be removed (vs. 3a)? Again, a return to a time before the fall. What are the signs that we are back to our originally created status (vss. 3b-4)? When referring to good and evil, the Bible writers have used the metaphor of light and dark, day and night. How do we know that the Kingdom of God has arrived (vs. 5)? Consider that God is the light and there is no more night. James explains this to us in James 1:17. What do these two say about God? How do they agree? What in these texts gives you hope? Do you desire to begin living as a resident alien here in this world, because you are already living your kingdom life now? What will be different in your life, because of this week's path in our Lenten Journey?

Saturday, March 6th – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Psalm 12:1-8.