

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 22nd – Isaiah 6:1-8

Last week we touched on the need for repentance – *it still matters*. This week we will look at God's response to the repentant sinner. However, keep in mind, this is for the truly REPENTANT sinner. But God's response is amazing. We talked last week about Isaiah coming into the presence of God. Let's review what Isaiah saw and experienced. What did he see (vss. 1-4)? What does this tell you about who God is, compared to us humans? Faced with this reality of a Holy God, how does Isaiah respond (vs. 5)? Humanity thinks way too much of itself in contrast to God. Yet each of us will face God as Isaiah did. This face-to-face provides a reality check at a level we seldom reach. But when we do, we too are like Isaiah. We begin to understand the depth of our depravity and the depravity of humanity. And we, like Isaiah, realize we do not deserve to live another day in the presence of the mighty God. This is Isaiah's true confession and heartfelt repentance. It is what follows that gives us hope. What is the response to this self-avowed sinner (vss. 6-7)? No long lectures. No rebuttals or finger wagging. God just deals with it and forgiveness is offered and received. But we are not finished. You see, we are not just forgiven, but once forgiven and cleansed, we are invited to be on mission with God. Notice how the mission part takes place (vs. 8). You are invited, not forced. Our answer should be like Isaiah's. How did he answer? How deeply do you think about how your sins separate you from God? How is true repentance received and handled by God? Are you experiencing this on a level that Isaiah did? Are you then hearing the call to mission? How are you answering that call?

Tuesday, March 23rd – Romans 5:20 – 6:4

Today we turn to Paul's teaching on God's reaction to repentance. We hear much about being under grace and not the law, to which Paul agrees. What then, does the Law still do (vs. 5:20a)? When we say we have no sin in us, all we have to do is go back to the Big 10 and pray over them, allowing the Holy Spirit to convict us of where we sin. (Reading/praying the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew is another good instruction on the depth of the Law from Jesus.) The Law points out where we have sin lurking in us. But what has God offered to the sinner? Paul writes that the worse we get, the more grace is offered. And what is this grace that is offered and where does it come from (vs. 21b)? Then Paul asks an interesting question in 6:1. What does he ask? How many believers think that because of God's grace that they can sin and then intentionally do so, believing that they can just ask for forgiveness afterwards and God has to deliver? Foolishness! In fact, how does Paul respond to such nonsense (vs. 2)? How does Paul explain the concept "died to sin" (vss. 3-4)? Knowing the price paid for us and the amazing grace offered to us, we, the beloved and saved, should never take sin so lightly. We should have died to our sinfulness. We should strive, in the power and work of the Holy Spirit, to live holy lives for God. Where might you be missing the mark in your life? What sins do you still commit and take lightly? Repent today and receive the grace of God which will bring you into a deeper relationship with God.

Wednesday, March 24th – 2 Corinthians 4:13-18

Having a repentant heart and God's grace does not mean an easy life. In the face of danger and prison, what does Paul continue to do and why (vss. 13-14)? What is the benefit for the reader and the overall benefit (vs. 15)? Paul continues his mission with God in spite of what (vs. 16-17a)? Instead, what does Paul say makes it all worth it (vss. 17b-18)? Paul's point is that he keeps on keeping on, because he believes in God and believes the promises of God. Living a holy life on mission for Jesus is not always a cakewalk. We may have to suffer rejection, rebellion, and scorn from others. But Paul tells us to fix our gaze on what we cannot see yet, the fulfilled promise of God. In the end, it is all that will exist. Perhaps this is an example of what Jesus means to lay down our lives for him. Remember, failing to lay your life down for Christ is missing the mark – sin. Where might you need to repent and receive forgiveness in this regard?

Thursday, March 25th – Ephesians 2:4-10

Today we begin to look at the vast expanse of God's mercy towards us as sinners. How does Paul explain the vastness of God's mercy and grace (vss. 4-7)? Who are those experiencing this vast mercy and grace (vs. 8)? Even our ability to believe is grace from God. We respond to the grace, but it is all God's work. How do we know it is all God (vs. 9)? And what was the purpose of all this (vs. 10)? In this we see we are back to mission with God. We cannot do any "good things" without God. From the beginning, God had great plans for us to do much good. But in order for that to happen, we need God's forgiveness and grace and mercy and love and salvation. It is all the work of God. But it is not for us to sit around fat and happy thinking we are saved. We are to be about doing "the good" that God created us to do in God's power, which is also God's mercy and grace given to us. How are you in mission with God for good right now? If you are not sure, then repent and ask God to bring this about in your life. If you are able to see where God is working, then praise him for His mercy and grace in your life. You are truly blessed.

Friday, March 26th – Colossians 1:6-10

We close this week with encouragement and instruction, because of God's grace given to us upon repentance. We start with a reminder of this grace in the power of the Holy Spirit and what it does to a person and the impact it has on all who believe. How does Paul share this with the Colossians (vs. 6)? The Good News of God's reign and grace should be bearing fruit in the believer and changing lives. Does your life resemble that? Next we see one way this comes about (vs. 7)? What if Epaphras believed and then just sat at home instead of joining God in mission? Would there even be a letter to the Colossians? But since Epaphras did share the Good News, what was the result (vs. 8)? Notice from where the love comes. What then is Paul's response to this group of believers (vs. 9)? Which believers are you praying faithfully over? Are they only the ones in our community or are you praying over new believers? Do you even know any new believers? If not, why not? All this prayer and love from the grace of God will produce what in the Colossians (vs. 10)? So, what kind of fruit are you bearing? And are you getting to know this God of grace, despite your sinfulness, better and better?

Saturday, March 27th – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Mark 11:1-11 (Palm/Compassion Sunday).