

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 of the book. 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, June 3rd – Psalm 68:11-19

This week we look at the Ascension of Jesus. Our creeds of faith that we state each Sunday refer to Jesus' ascension. It is a core and foundational piece of our faith, but is often glossed over and not given much thought. The concept of ascension is seen in the Old Testament and is used of God in the Psalms. What is the scene that is being painted in verses 11-14? How does this compare to the church today? Who is envious and why (vss. 15-16)? As you read verses 17 and 18, what has the Lord done? What should be the people's response? Consider the ascension of Jesus. What should our response be? Why should it matter to us? Keep in mind that ascension is a concept that is started in the Old Testament and is partially fulfilled in the New Testament. It will be completely fulfilled in the return of Jesus when uniting/creating the new heaven and earth upon his return.

Tuesday, June 4th – Daniel 7:7-14, 23-27

As discussed on Sunday, N.T. Wright believed that much of Luke's description has links to Daniel 7. Today we will look at that chapter to see connections. Daniel 7 describes one of Daniel's visions. What is Daniel seeing in verses 7-8? What happens next (vss. 9-10)? Who is the Ancient of Days or the Ancient One? What was the verdict of the 4th beast (vs. 11)? What about the remaining 3 beasts (vs. 12)? Now read verses 13-14. Who comes before the Ancient of Days? How does He arrive? How does this tie into the Acts' description of Jesus' ascension? What does this person receive? Who is He over? How does this tie into our profession of faith, that "He ascended into heaven and sits at the righthand of God the Father Almighty?" As we jump down to verse 23, we see the explanation to Daniel of his vision. Who is the 4th Beast and why is he a problem (vss. 24-25)? What will be the judgment upon him (vs. 26)? Once he is gone, what will happen next (vs. 27)? The question today is, "Are you one of the holy people?" Are you living in heaven here on earth until they are united once and for all time? How does the ascension of Christ make this text true?

Wednesday, June 5th – John 20:11-18

Today we shift our focus to John's Gospel and part of his Easter story. We pick up with Mary Magdalene at the tomb for the second time, after Peter and John had left. What happens (vss. 11-12)? What is their conversation about (vs. 13)? As she turns away, what happens (vs. 14)? What was their conversation (vss. 15-16)? As she realizes it is Jesus, Mary does what any of us would do, reach out to hug our loved one. But why does Jesus stop her (vs. 17)? John is consistent with Luke's teaching of ascension to the Father. How is the ascension worded in verse 17? Notice it is inclusive of all believers. What did Mary do with all that Jesus told her (vs. 18)? How do you respond to Jesus' ascension? What impact does it have on you? Why does it matter? Consider what we said the ascension means to us. If Jesus has not ascended what would be wrong with John's Gospel? What does Jesus' words say to you, a believer? How does it feel that you are included in Mary's telling of what Jesus said 2000 years ago? Who do you know that might need to hear of Jesus' words and know they can be included as well? Who will you be "Easter loud" with this week regarding the ascension or inclusion of all believers?

Thursday, June 6th – Acts 2:32-38

Today we turn to the very first Christian sermon preached. It is Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost. He is getting close to winding it up, as he has been explaining who Jesus is to those who came out to see what all the noise was about, coming out of the Upper Room. What does Peter tell them that God had done that they had witnessed (vs. 32)? Where does Peter say Jesus is now (vs. 33)? This would have been quite startling for these who were listening. How does Peter explain his position on where Jesus is (vss. 34-35)? This is from Psalm 110:1. Peter is using the Old Testament texts to show that ascension to the right hand of God is not outside the bounds of thought. David had mentioned it himself. What is the result of all that Peter has shared with these listeners (vs. 36)? To be Lord is to be in a place of authority and power. To be Messiah is to serve by saving. Jesus has been assigned both roles. What is the result of this good news (vs. 37)? Peter was "Easter loud" and the good news he shared pierced hearts to the point the listeners wanted to know what to do with it all. What does Peter tell them that they need to do (vs. 38)? You should memorize this passage so that if anyone asks you what they need to do to have Jesus, you can tell them. You don't even have to reinvent the wheel. Remember repent and turn to God; be baptized for the forgiveness of sins and receive the Holy Spirit. Again, this is good news for the many who are lonely, suffering, struggling, afraid, and uncertain. Be ready to be "Easter loud," that because of the death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus is the Lord and the Messiah for them.

Friday, June 7th – Ephesians 4:1-10

We close this week with the practical side of the ascension. Paul is writing to the Ephesians and he is describing why there is to be unity in the church, even with diverse gifts. What is the first thing we are called to do by Paul (vs. 1)? What does this look like in real everyday life (vss. 2-3)? Why does it look like this (vss. 4-5)? Thanks to there being only one true God, what gift have we all received (vs. 7)? What reason does Paul give for Jesus being a gift from the One Lord and God (vss. 8-9)? Did you notice that this is part of the text we read on Monday? So if Christ descended to our lowly world, that means that is not where Christ started, is it? After Christ's work here on planet earth, where did Christ go (vs. 10)? And if the whole universe is filled with Him what does that say about everything good we see, touch, smell, encounter? Christ is in all – all the time. Christ is in every believer. Christ is in the beauty of the trees, flowers, and yes even the weeds. Christ is in the wind that brushes your cheeks. Christ is in His word and He is the Word. And we have this to rely on, because the Kingdom has come to earth and will one day be completely united as new earth and heaven where God's presence will be seen by all people. Spend some time in prayer and contemplation today, focusing on how you experience Christ in the small things of your everyday life. Remember to give thanks for the ascended Lord and Savior.

Saturday, June 8th – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Romans 8:14-17.