

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, Sept. 3rd – Leviticus 18:1-17

We begin this week with God's sexual ethics. As a reminder from yesterday, God is the one who created how sex works and therefore God has the right to draw the parameters around how sex is to be experienced. God sees more than we do in this regard and we are to trust and obey in order to receive the best from sex. As we begin, God lays out why there are parameters placed upon sexual activity. What are the reasons given to us by God (vss. 1-5)? If we obey, what do we find (vs. 5)? As you read the remainder of the text, what is the common theme of those with whom we are not to have sex? Most of these are close relatives. What do we know scientifically about the risks to children who are conceived by close living relatives? What social structures would be in jeopardy of collapse should these sexual boundaries be broken? How do these instructions tie into the command to honor your mother and father? Consider also that these parameters even exist. What does this tell us about Israel, Egypt and those living in Canaan? These things must have already been happening. Knowing that sex is a gift from God and that God has to set down these parameters, what does this tell us about God? What does this reveal about humans? How does this point to the need for Jesus? Spend some time in prayer today, considering where you may have gone astray in the past. Confess your sin and receive the grace of forgiveness from Jesus. For even sexual sins were taken upon the cross and dealt with once and for all time. Let these past sins be reconciled to God through Jesus.

Tuesday, Sept 4th – Leviticus 18:18-30

We continue today with the sexual ethics of God. Some of the ethics we will look at today are at the heart of a lot of our controversies. Others offer practical advice, as we see in verse 18. This is wise advice to men about not marrying and have sex with two sisters. Verse 19 ties into the purity laws and verse 20 ties into not committing adultery. Verse 21 seems to be somewhat out of place, because it deals with offering your children as a sacrifice to Molech, the god of the Ammonites. But since one purpose of sex is procreation, then it would make sense not to sacrifice your children to a false god or even to God himself. God views life as precious and sacred. Verses 22 and 23 deal with other sexual acts that violate God's sexual ethics. Again, there is the understanding that procreation is one product of sex and same sex or animal sex will not continue procreation. Verses 24-30 give us the other reasons for why we are not to break the sexual ethics code. It is simply because these things are happening in Canaan (the Promised Land) and God declares that they have defiled themselves before God. God's people are not to live like this but rather to honor the sexual boundaries God has set. The final reason is found in verse 30. Why should they obey the sexual ethics (vs. 30b)? What does this setting of sexual ethics reveal to us about God? What does it reveal about us as humanity? If God is the same today, tomorrow and yesterday, what does this say about these ethics in our world today? Pray thanking God for showing us His best way in our sexual practices.

Wednesday, Sept. 5th – Leviticus 19:1-22

We begin today with conduct in a holy manner. In other words, the expectations of behavior matter. In fact, much of what we read Monday and Tuesday has ties into what we will read today. Let's begin by reading verses 1 and 2. What is the expectation by the God of Israel, concerning His chosen people? Logic deems then that if God expects the people to live holy lives, then they must be capable of it. Holy lives are set apart from the world and lived in such a manner as to honor and please a Holy God. Which of the 10 Commandments do verses 3-4 address? Now read verses 5-8. Holy living includes strict adherence from a heart of love for God even in sacrifices. What justice issue do verses 9-10 address? Now read verses 11-18. Which of these tie into loving God first and foremost and which tie into loving your neighbor? Can you match these decrees with their place in the 10 Commandments? Why is there the expectation that we will live this way (vs.18)? As we read verse 19, we see a strange list of items not to mingle. As discussed Sunday, we are not sure exactly why this is but it could be similar to comments and instructions in 1 Corin. 10:21 and 2 Corin. 6:4-16. Our text today closes with a sexual faux pau between a man and a female slave. To not find yourself in this situation would be holy living. But if you are, what will happen and what needs to be accomplished to make you right again with God, so as to continue on in holy living? Can you live a holy life while you are impure in heart and action? What does today's text reveal to you about God? About yourself and the way we are to live? How did Jesus fulfill these things? How does this point to our need for Jesus?

Thursday, Sept 6th – Leviticus 19:23-37

We continue with the Holy Living directions from God to Israel. Verses 23-25 have to do with first fruits. Most trees do not bear good, sweet, edible fruit until year 4. That is the year you bring God the first harvest, which is the first fruits of the best fruit. In year 5 you may then eat of the fruit. Verses 26-29 are forbidden because of the pagan practices that would surround them when they moved into the Promised Land. What does verse 30 remind us to do? In verse 31, what will defile us? Why do you think that is? Verses 32-36a give several other instructions on how to treat others, and not necessarily other Israelites. In each case and in verses 36b-37, why are we to do this? How does this reasoning tie into holiness? Take time today to pause and consider the holiness of God and His ways that He has revealed to us. What would be different about you if you allowed the Holy Spirit to develop these things in you? What would be different about the church, if we lived together this way? How does Jesus demonstrate how living this way looks? Consider the stories you know of Jesus with others.

Friday, Sept 7th – Leviticus 20

We move today to the punishments for those who break the holiness code of living. What is the first offence that is addressed and what is the punishment for doing it (vss. 1-5)? Besides the family making the sacrifice, who else will be held guilty, if they do not enforce the punishment (vs. 4)? What is the issue in verse 6? What is the main problem with putting your trust in mediums? In verses 7-8, God calls us to holiness. From where do we get our holiness according to these verses? Now read verses 9-16, and 27. These sins are capital offenses and bring the penalty of death. Verses 17-21 speak of unholy acts, but the punishment for these is to be cut off from the community or to die childless. What will happen if the people do not live holy lives (vs. 22)? In verses 23-26, what are the reasons God gives to Israel to live holy lives? How does verse 26 help us understand the definition of "holy" better? What does this reveal about God's tolerance for "unholy" living? What does this reveal about us, humanity and about doing things our own way? Where does Jesus fit into this picture? And how does this apply to the Holy Bride of Christ, to us, Christ's church? Are we holy towards God, if we violate God's rules of holiness? Here is where the work of Jesus is most keenly felt. It is not that God has changed the rules, but rather that Jesus has taken our punishment for us. Spend some time considering where you might need to bring your life into alignment with God's holy living and thank Jesus for taking the punishment on your behalf. Then let's start humbly living holy lives that honor God and set us apart from unholy living.

Saturday, September 8th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Leviticus 19:1-2.