

River Community Church

Daily Devotionals Aug 29 - Sept 2 2016

Knowing and Loving God and Making God's
Love Known to Others

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Daily Devotional August 29 2016

Pray:

Ask God to orient or reorient you to himself. Confess any known sin. Thank him for his forgiveness. Be still and reflect on Jesus and his sacrifice for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to God's word. Pray for others in your life that they too would know and love God today.

Read

Ecc.2:11 When I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun... 15 Then I thought in my heart, "The fate of the fool will overtake me also. What then do I gain by being wise?" I said in my heart, "This too is meaningless." 16 For the wise man, like the fool, will not be long remembered; in days to come both will be forgotten. Like the fool, the wise man too must die! 17 So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. 18 I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. 19 And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the work into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless

Understand:

The Bible tells us what did happen not always what should happen. Clearly Adam and Eve sinned, clearly they should not have. In the same way it describes what people felt, thought and said but that doesn't mean it is prescribing that we should do the same. In this passage Solomon is describing his approach to life during a time when he was far from God. This is a good description of the worldview of a smart man who is living like a fool because he has wandered from the truth. It is certainly not a prescription for how we should view our lives.

Solomon is worried about what his children will do with all he has worked to acquire. He was worried with good reason. His son would split the kingdom. Our choices do not automatically determine our children's choices or those of anyone else. However, our choices can make the good choices of others easier or harder to make.

Apply:

How has someone in your life made a choice that you didn't agree with but you have to live with some of the consequences of that choice. Perhaps it made or continues to make your own good choices harder (Or at least makes your life more difficult and unpleasant).

What are some choices facing you right now that have implications not just for your life but for the lives of others around you? What are some potential implications for your ability to have influence in the next generation or two of those choices?

What good choices can you make that will make it easier for those impacted by your life to choose well?

Live:

(Personalize this prayer for today, make it specific to the circumstances that face you.) Ask God to lead you through his Spirit as you go through your day. Ask him to bring to mind the truth of the gospel and its implications for what you will encounter today. Tell him "Yes" to his will today and ask him for his power and protection to live this "yes." Ask him to create and reveal opportunities to proclaim the good news today. **KEEP PRAYING THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY TODAY.**

Daily Devotional August 30 2016

Pray:

Ask God to orient or reorient you to himself. Confess any known sin. Thank him for his forgiveness. Be still and reflect on Jesus and his sacrifice for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to God's word. Pray for others in your life that they too would know and love God today.

Read:

1Cor. 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Understand:

Anything God has given us as a trust requires that we be found faithful with it. Gifts, possessions, opportunities...anything. A trust is something that belongs to someone else but we have been given temporary stewardship over. To prove faithful with a trust means that we do with it what the owner would want done. To do other than this is to be unfaithful. The gospel is our more precious and important trust.

Apply:

List all that God has entrusted you with in your life. Pray over this list...remembering that the trust belongs to God, you are his steward.

Memorize 1 Cor. 4:2. Write it on a card or send it in a text to yourself so you can refer to it throughout the day today...look at today, the opportunities in it, the challenges in it...as a trust.

Before Bed tonight...reflect on the day behind you. Ask him to forgive you for when you were not faithful today. Give thanks to Jesus that he has been faithful on your behalf. Give thanks that your relationship with God does not depend on your faithfulness but on his.

Live:

(Personalize this prayer for today, make it specific to the circumstances that face you.) Ask God to lead you through his Spirit as you go through your day. Ask him to bring to mind the truth of the gospel and its implications for what you will encounter today. Tell him "Yes" to his will today and ask him for his power and protection to live this "yes." Ask him to create and reveal opportunities to proclaim the good news today. KEEP PRAYING THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY TODAY.

Daily Devotional August 31 2016

Pray:

Ask God to orient or reorient you to himself. Confess any known sin. Thank him for his forgiveness. Be still and reflect on Jesus and his sacrifice for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to God's word. Pray for others in your life that they too would know and love God today.

Read:

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. 4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. 5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. 7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. 8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. 9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith Abraham, even though he was past age — and Sarah herself was barren — was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. 12 And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. 13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. 14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. 17 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, 18 even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." 19 Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death. 20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. 21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones. 23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's

anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. 29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days. 31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. 32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. 35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. 36 Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. 37 They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated — 38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. 39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. 40 God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Understand:

Hebrews 11 begins with some general observations on the nature of faith. He is not giving a formal definition but rather calling our attention to some significant features of faith. Then he shows how faith works out in practice. He does this by telling stories of faith rather than by merely giving an academic description. He does this because ultimately our faith is revealed in our life choices not merely in what we profess to believe.

Apply:

Twice the author of Hebrews refers to the fact that these people mentioned died believing but not receiving the promise.

13 All these people were still living by faith when they died.

39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised

This helps explain his opening line... Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

These people were living for more than themselves and their own timeline on the planet. How about you? What sacrifices and lifestyle choices do you make or are you willing to make that will likely impact generations after you are gone?

Can you imagine what some of these choices are or might be? Don't over think this. Don't think in "grand" terms. These choices are often very small...but require ongoing consistency.

*From what you have just read and considered what is a personal implication/application for your life today?

Live:

(Personalize this prayer for today, make it specific to the circumstances that face you.) Ask God to lead you through his Spirit as you go through your day. Ask him to bring to mind the truth of the gospel and its implications for what you will encounter today. Tell him "Yes" to his will today and ask him for his power and protection to live this "yes." Ask him to create and reveal opportunities to proclaim the good news today. **KEEP PRAYING THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY TODAY.**

Daily Devotional September 1 2016

Pray:

Ask God to orient or reorient you to himself. Confess any known sin. Thank him for his forgiveness. Be still and reflect on Jesus and his sacrifice for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to God's word. Pray for others in your life that they too would know and love God today.

Read:

Psa. 22:1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? 2 O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent. 3 Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. 4 In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. 5 They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed. 6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: 8 "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." 9 Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast. 10 From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God. 11 Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. 12 Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. 13 Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me. 14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. 16 Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. 17 I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. 18 They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. 19 But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me. 20 Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. 21 Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen. 22 I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you. 23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! 24 For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. 25 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows. 26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the LORD will praise him — may your hearts live forever! 27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, 28 for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. 29 All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him — those who cannot keep themselves alive. 30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. 31 They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn — for he has done it.

Understand:

The original context of this Psalm was David's life as he was writing of his own suffering. But this Psalm also points forward to the Lord Jesus, verse 1 was quoted by the Lord on the cross. There are other verses in this Psalm that were applied by the writers of Scripture to Jesus as well. Jesus is the promised "son" of King David who would establish an everlasting kingdom. David's "son" would be David's king. David,

the originator of this Psalm suffered for himself. Jesus, suffered for us.

Apply:

When you consider investing your life in others it is important that you make it as easy as possible for others to make good choices. Our example does matter. However it is equally important that we remember what people most need is not our good example but rather relationship with God. Jesus did not die to set a good example he died to set us free.

Who has God put in your life so that you can believe/live/proclaim the gospel to them?

Think and pray about your friends and family using this passage...Acts 17:26" From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us."

*From what you have just read and considered what is a personal implication/application for your life today?

Live:

(Personalize this prayer for today, make it specific to the circumstances that face you.) Ask God to lead you through his Spirit as you go through your day. Ask him to bring to mind the truth of the gospel and its implications for what you will encounter today. Tell him "Yes" to his will today and ask him for his power and protection to live this "yes." Ask him to create and reveal opportunities to proclaim the good news today. **KEEP PRAYING THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY TODAY.**

Daily Devotional September 2 2016

Pray:

Ask God to orient or reorient you to himself. Confess any known sin. Thank him for his forgiveness. Be still and reflect on Jesus and his sacrifice for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to God's word. Pray for others in your life that they too would know and love God today.

Read:

22:30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. 31 They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn — for he has done it.

2 Tim. 2:2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

Understand:

Posterity comes from a word that means "seed." When you hold a seed in your hand you hold potential fields of wheat, or forests of trees. This is the idea connected with these verses. Jesus, the Master, had a simple plan to take the gospel through the world. He invested his life in a few, who invested their lives in others.

Apply:

Think large and far by thinking small and near. See in the lives of people around you the possibility of impact that goes to the ends of the earth to the end of time. This is not hyperbole, this is the Master's plan.

Are you worried that you don't have what it takes to impact others? Good! Everyone God used in the Scripture and in history has been a mess, at least as much of a mess as you are. Jesus is the lone exception. This is why we do not proclaim ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as servants.

Offer your mess to Jesus, ask him to turn it into impact for his glory and the good of others.

Look up to him in faith today and look out to others in love...look for impact in a life today.

*From what you have just read and considered what is a personal implication/application for your life today?

Live:

(Personalize this prayer for today, make it specific to the circumstances that face you.)

Ask God to lead you through his Spirit as you go through your day. Ask him to bring to mind the truth of the gospel and its implications for what you will encounter today. Tell him "Yes" to his will today and

ask him for his power and protection to live this "yes." Ask him to create and reveal opportunities to proclaim the good news today. **KEEP PRAYING THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY TODAY.**

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