

Week 22 Daily Devotional

I. Prayer to enter the Lord's presence:

Be still for a moment. "Lord, I give the day that is now past to you. It is yours. I give the day that is to come to you; help me to see where you are working and to join you there. Speak to me during these moments. I commit them and myself to you."

II. Prayer of Confession:

"Lord, you are faithful to forgive me and cleanse me of my sin when I confess it to you. I confess my sin(s) of _____. Thank you for forgiveness." (1 John 1:9)

III. Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Choose to be thankful, speak out loud of what God has done.

"Thank you, Father, for _____. Fill my heart and my mouth with gratitude throughout this day."

IV. Scripture Reflection

Day 1

Rom. 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Ps. 90:12 "Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom"

Reflect

This week you will have the opportunity to contemplate your own mortality. Please don't do this by harboring fear or guilt. Those would both be self-defeating actions. Do this by actual, practical reflection on your life thus far and the opportunities you have in front of you today and for as many days God grants you. There is no penalty in death for the Christian. If you have trusted Christ death is still a result of living in a fallen world, but death has lost its sting. You need not fear death but you can learn wisdom from accurate contemplation of the reality of your own death.

Respond

As you dress today, eat food, drink, speak with friends and family, see the sky, lay down to sleep...consider the fact that you do not have unlimited opportunities in this life to do these things. How can you let this reality propel you towards gratitude rather than fear? How can you let this make you "buy up" every opportunity today?

Day 2

Read

1 Cor. 15:26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Ps. 90:12 "Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom"

Reflect

We have already been saved by Christ, he has declared us "not guilty" We are being saved by Christ, he is making us into his image. We will be saved by Christ, he will transform us fully at death. Now, today, you live in the "already but not yet" reality of the victory of Christ over death. He has beaten death but the results of sin remain until he returns. You experience the Kingdom of God right now in part. You will experience the Kingdom of God in full in the future.

Respond

What aspects of the Kingdom of God are you aware of in your life today? Are you aware that as a Christian you are alive even now in the Kingdom of God? Do you know peace? Do you love God and feel that love growing? Do you find yourself loving others and wanting their good? Do you have hope that is growing? The Kingdom has come, the Kingdom is coming. Think of what you are experiencing now, think of what you will experience some day.

Reflect on Psalm 90:12

Day 3

Read

Acts 20:24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

2Tim. 4:6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure.
⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Ps. 90:12 "Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom"

Reflect

As a follower of Christ what is most important to you is Christ. Perhaps you struggle to feel this is true and surely there are times when you don't act like it is true. However, this is a fact for all believers, whether we feel it or act on it or not. Christ is actually, factually the most important thing in your life. His glory is far more important than your physical life. It is more important than many of the things you consider valuable. What is most valuable in fact can become most valuable in our hearts and actions. We must make the continual choice to treasure Christ in our hearts so our hearts will be shaped to value him more and more.

Respond

If you are able, watch this video. If you would prefer to not watch it please pray for those who are giving their health and life for the gospel. If you watched the video how does it challenge you to see your life differently?

Note: The video might be disturbing for some but it is not graphic.

[Video](#)

Reflect on Psalm 90:12

Day 4

Read

Phil. 1:21-23 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

Ps. 90:12 "Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom"

Reflect:

This perspective outlined in Phil. 1 was a reality for Paul. He saw death as gain. Not because he was a cynic or suicidal but because he had a mature faith in Christ. He saw life as Christ. This means he had purpose in all he experienced. His work, his suffering, his traveling, his teaching, eating, sleeping...for Paul, all of life was Christ. This is the "win/win" life. To live is Christ, to die is gain.

Respond

If you are at a place of mature faith in Christ and you are seeing life as Christ and death as gain then give thanks to God right now. If you do see life this way or are learning to do so this is a gift. If you are not where you want to be then ask God to continue to move you that direction. Tell him you want to see life and death as they really are. Life is Christ. Death is gain.

Reflect on Psalm 90:12

Day 5

Read

1Th. 4:13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

Ps. 90:12 "Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom"

Reflect

Christians grieve the loss of loved ones but we are not to do so in a way that betrays our hope. To "fall asleep" is of course a euphemism for death. Paul is not trying to skirt the harsh reality of death by talking about it as "sleep." He is also not implying that those who are dead are somehow not fully conscious. He uses this figure of speech to communicate death is temporary, like sleep. One day you will close your eyes in the sleep of death and Christ will say "sleeper awake!" and you will find yourself in the presence of God. This is no myth or fairy tale this is the reality of your future inheritance.

Respond

Contemplate your own death today. Don't do so in a dark way but think about the end of your life as a settled reality. Unless Christ returns in your lifetime you will die a physical death. How can this, how should this make you wise today? Ps. 90:12 "Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom"

V. Prayer for others:

Pray specifically for the concerns of your life and the lives of others.

VI. Prayer of commitment:

"Lord God, I commit to love you with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my strength and with all my mind and to love my neighbor as myself. Empower me today to love you and others with everything that I am." (Luke 10:27)

This Month's Scripture Memory:

Matthew 6:25-31

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'