

Week 47 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

Read

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. 1 John 3:2-3

Reflect

A very important principle for understanding the Bible and the Christian life has been termed “The already/Not yet” reality of the Kingdom of God. This simple means that when you read the Bible you see much that is stated as a present reality and much that seems to be yet in the future. This is because we are, as believers, already changed and are yet to be fully changed. The Kingdom of God (the reign of Christ in the hearts of people and the world at large) is already here and is not yet here fully realized. It is important to keep this in mind, both as you read the Bible and as you consider the implications for your faith in your day to day life. This passage from 1 John is an example of this already/not yet for us.

Respond

Read today’s passage through the lens of the “already/not yet”. Think of things in your life that give indication that Christ’s reign has already come and then consider things that demonstrate it is not yet here in its fullness. Today, you have the opportunity to think, pray, and live in a way that his kingdom will more fully come into your life.

Day 2

Read

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity,

lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Col. 3:1-14

Reflect

The "heart" is like the command post of your life. It is more like the "will" than anything else. But the human will is closely tied to our affections. We move towards the things we "love". Our affections attract us...they motivate our will. Our "minds" have a play in all this because we can choose what we will think about...we determine what we will believe. What we allow to linger in our minds is what will impact our affections. This in turn will set our life direction...move us in our words and deeds. It sounds complex but it's not. We are to think about the fact that we have died with Christ to the old life and we have been raised to a new life with him. These kinds of thoughts are to shape our day to day lives more than the "normal" thoughts that people have.

Respond

Set your affections and your mind on "things above." Think about what is truly going to be most valuable in the years ahead (if God grants them). Consider what is going to matter at the end of your life and beyond. Look at your life today through this perspective.

Day 3

Read

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.** Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Col. 3:1-14

Reflect

Paul often uses lists to demonstrate principles. These lists are never exhaustive they are intended to be representative. They are examples to help us think practically about the principles. Here he gives two lists each with a different focus but both representing the "old life" before Christ saved us. We are to see these things like filthy old clothes...dirty, smelly, ragged...things to be cast off because we see them as they are. Why would we want to wear these filthy rags since we have a better option?

Respond

This is not a set of rules to follow this is about opportunity. Use this list or make your own...what "rags of the old life" have you cast away? What is something that used to attract you or control you and it no longer does? What "rags" are you still drawn to? Ask God to help you dispose of these rags as well.

Day 4

Read

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. **Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.** Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Col. 3:1-14

Reflect

Paul's world was as divided as our is. A big distinction in the church at the time was between Jewish background believers (who had been circumcised) and Gentile background believers (who had not been circumcised). Then there were believers who did not speak Greek (they were "barbaric") and even worse...Scythians...people from the edges of civilization. There were even Christians who remained slaves and were in community along with people who were free. The church has always been a complex, mixed bag of people. But Christ is all. Meaning he is the center of our universe...our lives all orbit around him not the many things that might divide us. Christ is in all. Meaning we are to see each other as little "Christs". We are to focus our attention and our affection on the fact that Christ died for us rather than on the things that annoy and divide us.

Respond

Pray for the people you struggle to love or to even like. Pray for yourself in regards to them, that you would see them as God does.

Day 5

Read

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. **Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**

Col. 3:1-14

Reflect

In these verses that are highlighted Paul focuses on the "clothing of the new life." We are to continually take off the rags of the old life and continually put on the clothes of the new life. These actions will ongoing throughout our lives.

Respond

Take time to contemplate each of these words and consider them in relationship to the real people in your life. If there is one word that seems to especially challenge you "take it with you" today...think about it often today as you interact with others.

- Compassion** is seeing life through the eyes of others.
- Kindness** is treating others as you would want to be treated.
- Humility** is the willingness to set aside our own rights and defer to others.
- Gentleness** is approaching people as being of great value...without being rude or demanding.
- Patience** is overlooking the failures and imperfections of others.
- Love** is what binds them all together...it is the "bottom line" for all our relationships.

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:

Habakkuk 3:17-18

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.