

Daily Walk With God

Week 22

Week 22 Day 1

Readings: Mark 11:27-33; 1 Corinthians 14:10-19; Psalm 119:145-160; Ecclesiastes 1:1-8; 2 Samuel 13-14.

Focus Verse: "The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever." (Psalm 119:160)

Key Concept: Life Goes On (Ecclesiastes 1:1-8). One of the most perplexing books in the Bible begins by talking about the cycles we observe in life on earth. Generations come and go. The sun rises and sets daily. Currents of wind and sea run their circuits. Life goes on.

If our wisdom is limited to the observation of physical phenomena, our existence becomes a trivial cycle. It is interesting that pagan philosophies are often depicted as circular, with cycles being endlessly repeated. Some even "recycle" the soul through reincarnation. The message of Ecclesiastes unfolds much later, but we eventually see that there is another aspect of our existence which alters this circular perspective. "The spirit will return to God" (Ecclesiastes 12:7). We are not recyclable--our souls are eternal.

Action: Walk today with your life in eternal perspective.

Week 22 Day 2

Readings: Mark 12:1-12; 1 Corinthians 14:20-26; Psalm 119:161-176; Ecclesiastes 1:9-11; 2 Samuel 15-16.

Focus Verse: "I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure." (Psalm 119:162)

Key Concept: Rejecting the Servants and the Son (Mark 12:1-12). Jesus' parable of wicked vinedressers reflects specifically the attitudes of Jewish leaders toward Him. They rejected God's messengers and finally rejected God's Son. Sadly, the same attitudes have often been mirrored by Jews and Gentiles who have not received Jesus Christ. Unwilling to accept the testimony of Bible prophets, they ultimately refuse Jesus Himself. God's answer: "Destroy the vine-dressers" who reject His Son.

Action: Humbly submit to God's Son.

Week 22 Day 3

Readings: Mark 12:13-17; 1 Corinthians 14:27-40; Psalm 120; Ecclesiastes 1:12-18; 2 Samuel 17-18.

Focus Verse: "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." (1 Corinthians 14:33)

Key Concept: Edification and Orderliness (1 Corinthians 14:27-40). Although not all of the details of the assembly described here will be duplicated today, this passage does illustrate some important principles, including:

- o Using abilities to edify and encourage.
- o Recognizing that God brings peace, not confusion.
- o Observing God's will that women be subject to men.
- o Practicing orderliness in worshiping God.

Action: Use your abilities to reverently glorify God.

Week 22 Day 4

Readings: Mark 12:18-27; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Psalm 121; Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; 2 Samuel 19.

Focus Verse: "My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:2)

Key Concept: The Heart of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-11). This chapter contains the Bible's most thorough defense of the resurrection of Jesus and its ramifications for His followers. Paul offered these facts about Jesus: (1) He died, (2) Was buried, and (3) Rose again. In support of his claims, he offered hundreds of witnesses still accessible to his original readers. Paul contends that his faith, his work and his preaching were all founded in truth.

Action: Hold fast the truth of the gospel.

Week 22 Day 5

Readings: Mark 12:28-34; 1 Corinthians 15:12-19; Psalm 122; Ecclesiastes 2:12-17; 2 Samuel 20-21.

Focus Verse: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" (Psalm 122:1)

Key Concept: An Empty Faith (1 Corinthians 15:12-19). Some at Corinth denied the idea that death is followed by a resurrection. Paul shows that their position strips the gospel of all meaning. If Christ did not rise, there is no reason to serve Him! Some today claim to follow Christ while denying the resurrection. Theirs also is an empty, hopeless faith.

Action: Thank God for the resurrection and exaltation of Jesus Christ. Serve Him as one who has well-founded hope of the hereafter.

Week 22 Day 6

Readings: Mark 12:35-44; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Psalm 123; Ecclesiastes 2:18-23; 2 Samuel 22.

Focus Verse: "Unto You I lift up my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens." (Psalm 123:1)

Key Concept: Futility of Leaving a Big Inheritance (Ecclesiastes 2:18-23). The wise man continues his search for fulfillment in this life by discussing his efforts to amass wealth, only to realize that it could be squandered by ungrateful heirs. Even today, many people are concerned with leaving behind a great inheritance while at the same time neglecting the spiritual needs of their children. Our physical possessions perish. Eternal souls last forever.

Action: Parents, give your children something of eternal value. Show them the way to heaven.

Week 22 Day 7

Readings: Mark 13:1-13; 1 Corinthians 15:29-34; Psalm 124; Ecclesiastes 2:24-26; 2 Samuel 23-24.

Focus Verse: "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'" (1 Corinthians 15:33)

Key Concept: Contradictory Philosophies (1 Corinthians 15:32-34). Paul contrasts two philosophies on life. The first is the pleasure--seeking hedonism prevalent then and now. It is the philosophy of those who expect to be defeat-ed at death. The second is righteous submission to God. This is the philosophy of winners--those who expect to be victorious over death. Paul chose the latter!

Action: Live righteously, expecting victory over death.