

Daily Walk With God

Week 24

Week 24 Day 1

Readings: Mark 14:53-65; 2 Corinthians 2:12-17; Psalm 132; Ecclesiastes 5:13-20; 1 Kings 11.

Focus Verse: "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place." (2 Corinthians 2:14)

Key Concept: The Aroma of Death and Life (2 Corinthians 2:12-17). Paul reveals here his zeal for preaching the gospel as it moved him to use opportunities available. Particularly consider:

1. Paul's diligence to use an open door.
2. The source of triumph--Jesus.
3. The motive of preaching--sincerity.
4. The aroma of the gospel--a fragrance of life to those who receive it and the stench of death to those who deny the need to repent.
5. God offers one sacrifice and one saving message for all men. Each individual must decide whether to receive it as a fragrance of life or as a stench of death.

Action: Spread the word and let Christ lead you to triumph.

Week 24 Day 2

Readings: Mark 14:66-72; 2 Corinthians 3:1-6; Psalm 133; Ecclesiastes 6:1-6; 1 Kings 12-13.

Focus Verse: "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of any-thing as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God." (2 Corinthians 3:5)

Key Concept: The Blessing of Unity (Psalm 133). Peace among brethren is a great blessing. When founded in truth, such unity gives glory to the Lord and invites others to come to Him. Sometimes peace is rightly severed because God's children refuse to share in sin (cf. 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1). At other times, it is disturbed by evil actions of carnal men. Such selfishness hinders the service of God's children and shows dishonor toward God.

Action: Promote peace with God and with godly people.

Week 24 Day 3

Readings: Mark 15:1-5; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18; Psalm 134; Ecclesiastes 6:7-12; 1 Kings 14-15.

Focus Verse: "Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech." (2 Corinthians 3:12)

Key Concept: Great Boldness of Speech (2 Corinthians 3:12). Paul proclaimed the gospel with confidence. His boldness was not because of his own ability, but because he recognized the significance and clarity of the message revealed in the gospel. He knew that the gospel was of value to others, so he boldly shared the good news.

Action: Strengthen your resolve and confidence in proclaiming the word of God. Focus first on the greatness of the gospel, and then contemplate the predicament of those who are lost without Jesus. Can you keep silent?

Week 24 Day 4

Readings: Mark 15:16-32; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; Psalm 135; Ecclesiastes 7:1-6; 1 Kings 16-17.

Focus Verse: "It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart." (Ecclesiastes 7:2)

Key Concept: Lessons from Funerals (Ecclesiastes 7:1-6). Few people would choose to attend a funeral instead of a party, if given the choice. Yet there is much to be learned from the sad realities of life. When we mourn a loved one's death, we are reminded of the brevity of our own lives, and challenged to make the best of opportunities we have while living. "The living will take it to heart."

Action: Think about the brevity of life. Are you ready to die?

Week 24 Day 5

Readings: Mark 15:33-41; 2 Corinthians 4:7-18; Psalm 136:1-9; Ecclesiastes 7:7-12; 1 Kings 18-19.

Focus Verse: "We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair." (2 Corinthians 4:8)

Key Concept: Hard Pressed, Yet Not Crushed (2 Corinthians 4:8). Paul reflects here the optimistic and victorious spirit which should characterize the child of God. He suffered, even anticipating death in service to God. Yet he was not defeated or driven to despair. Christians will face trying circumstances, but it is never necessary to be overcome and destroyed by those challenges.

Action: Face your trials with optimism, courage, and a determination to endure by the power and grace of God. With His help, you can overcome.

Week 24 Day 6

Readings: Mark 15:42-47; 2 Corinthians 5:1-11; Psalm 136:10-26; Ecclesiastes 7:13-18; 1 Kings 20-21.

Focus Verse: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Key Concept: The Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10). Paul places his own life, along with the lives of all others, in its eternal perspective. Our time on earth is limited. We will some day face the judgment of Christ. His judgment will be: Just--according to the things we have done; and individuals each one will receive the things he has done.

Action: Make sure that you are ready for the judgment of Christ.

Week 24 Day 7

Readings: Mark 16:1-13; 2 Corinthians 5:12-21; Psalm 137; Ecclesiastes 7:19-22; 1 Kings 22.

Focus Verse: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Key Concept: Paul's Plea: "Be Reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:15-20). Paul describes himself and other messengers as ambassadors of God appealing to sinners to be reconciled to God. This reconciliation is possible only through Jesus Christ, who died for us in a sacrifice of love. Therefore, we should live for the One who died for us and rose again to show the way to eternal life (v. 15).

Action: If you are not at peace with God, be reconciled now. From that point forward, live for Jesus every day.