

Weekly Memory Verse

“Whom the LORD loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives.” Hebrews 12:6

Hymn of the Week: Jesus Shall Reign

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Doth his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns:
The pris'ner leaps to lose his chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And endless praises crown His head;
His name, like sweet perfume, shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

Where He displays His healing power,
Death and the curse are known no more;
In Him the tribes of Adam boast
More blessings than their father lost.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Blessing and honor to our King;
Angels descend with songs a gain,
And earth repeat the loud Amen.

*Use your smartphone to
hear this hymn's tune:*



What is the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:7)?

The Fear of the Lord is a *reverent faith* in *Jesus Christ*,
exclusively *loving, obeying, and worshiping* he whom I will give an *account* to.

Monday, September 4

Proverb for the Day: "Excellent speech is not becoming to a fool, much less lying lips to a prince."
17:7

John 12

This chapter relays events that laid the groundwork for Jesus' death, transitioning from his public to his private ministry.

After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead in Bethany he went to a city in the wilderness called Ephraim (11:54). Six days later he returned to Bethany (12:1) where Mary anointed Jesus' feet with oil, expressing her costly, extraordinary (using her hair), humble, love and devotion for Jesus (vv. 2-8). There Jews came to see Jesus and Lazarus, though the priests sought to kill them both because many were following Jesus (vv. 9-11).

Jesus then (vv. 12-19) entered Jerusalem on a donkey's colt (kings rode on such; see Zech 9:9-10) and was joyfully greeted by many Jews. They laid down palm branches, calling out "Hosanna!" (Israel's Savior, Ps 118:25-26). "This is the Son of David, the King of Israel, who will deliver us from Roman rule!"

Sadly, most of these did not *truly* believe Jesus was the Son of God, the promised Christ and Messiah. Thus, Jesus taught the nature of true faith (vv. 25-26), expressed his commitment to glorifying the Father through his obedience (vv. 27-29), declared God's judgment on Satan and the world (vv. 30-33), and commanded sinners to believe in him (vv. 34-36).

John then explained that because most Jews did not believe in Jesus despite his many miracles, God judged their unbelief (vv. 37-43) and will do so at the last day (vv. 44-50).

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. Jesus is Israel's promised King and Messiah! The fact that most Jews then had different beliefs about Jesus doesn't change the fact about who Jesus is. There is coming a day when Jesus will return and establish his kingdom!
2. True saving faith does not live for this life but lives to serve Christ (vv. 25-26). Note also verses 42-43. Look up the hymn, "If I Gained the World." Do you have true saving faith?
3. Verses 44-50 summarize and characterize Jesus' earthly ministry during his first coming.

Word, observe its ordinances, and follow our leaders (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor 11:23-26; 16:16; 1 Thess 5:12-13; 1 Tim 4:13; 2 Tim 4:1-5; Heb 13:17; Jude 3)

Saturday, September 9

Proverb for the Day: "Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, rather than a fool in his folly."
17:12

Read Ecclesiastes 1, which Pastor will be preaching from tomorrow.

Items for Prayer

- Tom, Stephanie, Daniela, Nino, Angelo, and Gabriella Boehm, Italy—Pray the Lord will use their Bible studies in believers' lives for greater maturity
- Scripture truth for praise and thanksgiving: God is omnipotent (Gen 18:14)
- Church covenant commitment for prayer: We will serve the Lord faithfully, using the gifts and abilities he has given for the growth, edification, maturity, and protection of this body (Rom 12:3-8; 1 Cor 12:7; Eph 4:11-16; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet 4:11)

The Lord's Day, September 10

Proverb for the Day: "Whoever rewards evil for good, evil will not depart from his house." 17:13

Think back on God's truth you heard or read this past week, and how you could use that to minister to the saints today as the church gathers.

Items for Prayer

- Brian, Erin, Isabel, Emmett, Arthur, Owen, and Walter Bollon, Taiwan—There are many uncomfortable with returning to services; ask the Lord to use the Word they've heard in their minds and hearts
- Scripture truth for praise and thanksgiving: God is omniscient (1 John 3:20)
- Church covenant commitment for prayer: We will pray daily for the members and ministry of this church (Eph 6:18-20)

Friday, September 8

Proverb for the Day: "An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore, a cruel messenger will be sent against him." 17:11

John 16

Jesus continued teaching the disciples the night before his betrayal as they walked to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus would leave the disciples and they would be persecuted, but the Holy Spirit would supernaturally cause them to remember Jesus' teaching (vv. 1-15). Thus they would be enabled to persevere and effectively minister for God's glory (note vv. 8-11).

Jesus would die and unbelievers ("the world") would be happy about that, while the disciples would weep (vv. 16-24). Yet they would see him again (vv. 16, 22) because he will rise from the dead and they will then rejoice.

In verses 25-33 Jesus told the disciples that because of his death they would [1] know and understand his truths (v. 25), [2] pray to and be heard by the Father, and [3] they would have peace in troubled times.

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. "The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth" is Jesus' promise to his disciples (the apostles) that would result in their faithful ministry as the foundation of the church (Eph 2:20), resulting in the NT books. The Holy Spirit *does* help Christians learn and know the truth, but *through* the Scriptures—not miraculously—especially the NT which the apostles wrote.
2. True joy and happiness is found only in knowing Jesus. Jesus is only known through the Scriptures. Believing, grasping, and resting in such truths only happens by the Spirit's work through the Scriptures. Along this line, meditate on and memorize verse 33.
3. Jesus is alive! He paid sin's debt and broke its power! Christian, every trouble and difficult in the world is because of sin, and what did Jesus do about that? Always seek and depend on Jesus!!

Items for Prayer

- Mark and Bekah Perry, Chile—we praise the Lord for safety while traveling to US churches; pray for grace as we share our work in Chile
- Scripture truth for praise and thanksgiving: God is infinite (Ps 147:5)
- Church covenant commitment for prayer: we will endeavor by the Spirit's help to uphold and promote the doctrines of this church, the public ministry of the

Items for Prayer

- Tim and Cristina Goossen, Argentina—pray for grace and strength for Cristina as she deals with fibromyalgia.
- Scripture truth for praise and thanksgiving: the God the Bible speaks of is the infinite and perfect Spirit in whom all things have their source, support, and end (Rom 11:36; 1 Cor 8:6; Col 1:16-17)
- Church covenant commitment for prayer: We will be witnesses for Jesus Christ by spreading the gospel and possessing a testimony that supports the gospel (Acts 1:8; 2 Cor 5:11–21; Phil 2:14–16).

Tuesday, September 5

Proverb for the Day: "A present is a precious stone in the eyes of its possessor; wherever he turns, he prospers." 17:8

John 13

John 13-17 cover one night, the night before Jesus was betrayed. Here in Jesus' private ministry to the disciples he teaches the character of true faith.

Jesus washed the twelve disciples' feet, portraying their sanctification and giving a pattern of service (vv. 1-17). Jesus then spoke of and identified his betrayer, Judas Iscariot (vv. 18-30). Jesus taught the character and nature of a false profession as exemplified by Judas.

Jesus then taught a "new commandment" to love one another just as he loved them (vv. 31-35). "Love one another" is an OT command (Lev 19:18) that Jesus taught and expected (Mark 12:31), but here he gives a standard that makes it "new"—"as I have loved you."

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. The infinite Son (v. 3) humbled himself and served sinful men (vv. 4-5. The work of washing feet was that of a servant, not a King! Christian, you must serve one another—serve like Jesus (vv. 16-17)!
2. None of the disciples guessed that Judas Iscariot was the traitor Jesus spoke of. Judas was with them for three years, yet he was lost. Never assume you are or someone is a Christian just because of proximity to true religion.
3. Think about how the disciples doubted, disappointed, and would even deny (v. 38!) Jesus, yet his love continued and did not waver. Jesus loved unconditionally, fully, holding nothing back that was good and needed by them. This is the character of a true believer as opposed to Judas. False believers love money, true believers love Christ and his people.

Items for Prayer

- Daniel and Rosamma Kumar, India—pray for permission from the government Foreign Contribution Regulation Act that enables the Kumar’s to receive financial support from outside India.
- Scripture truth for praise and thanksgiving: The Bible reveals that God is a person (Exod 3:14; Isa 43:13; 1 Thess 1:9), known by His attributes.
- Church covenant commitment for prayer: We will make church attendance a priority, striving to attend as many of its services as possible (Acts 2:42; Heb 10:25)

Wednesday, September 6

Proverb for the Day: “He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.” 17:9

John 14

During the night before he was betrayed Jesus met with his disciples, teaching them the characteristics of true faith. Here we read of Jesus’ promise to those who believe in him that though he would go to heaven he will return for believers (vv. 1-6).

Jesus then taught about his essential union with the Father (vv. 7-11). The Father and the Son are of the same essence (one God), but they are two different Persons. This is a matter of faith; Jesus said, “believe me…” (v. 11) and God gave truth that such faith believes and rests on: “the words that I speak to you…” (v. 10).

Jesus taught that those who truly love him show it by obeying him (vv. 15-24). This results in believers experiencing the Holy Spirit’s ministry, enjoying being loved by the Father, and having the Triune God dwell in the them (v. 23).

After Jesus would go to heaven the Holy Spirit would work in and through these disciples/apostles, resulting in their being the foundation of the church and authoring the NT (vv. 25-31; cf. Eph 2:20).

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. Jesus will come again to bring Christians to be with him in heaven (vv. 1-3). This is called the *rapture*, Christ’s at-any-moment return in the clouds for Christians (1 Thess 4:13-17). Jesus said this to the eleven disciples in the upper room, yet did he fulfill this? Not yet! When Jesus returns to the clouds “the dead in Christ will rise first”—which will include the eleven disciples—“then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thess 4:14-16).

2. True faith in Jesus believes who he is (including his relation to the Father and the Holy Spirit), what he said, and obeys his commands. Anything less is not true faith in Jesus.
3. What the NT says in every book is what Jesus says (v. 26; 15:26-27; 16:12-15).

Items for Prayer

- Chris, Heidi, Rachel, Isaac, Susanna, and Titus Seawright: Thailand—Pray for humble boldness to proclaim the whole truth of God found in the Scriptures, even the unpleasant truths.
- Scripture truth for praise and thanksgiving: We will fulfill our family responsibilities, each doing his part to please Christ in our homes and promote godliness (Isa 6:1-7; 1 Pet 1:15-16).
- Church covenant commitment for prayer: We will fulfill our family responsibilities, each doing his part to please Christ in our homes and promote godliness (Eph 5:22–6:4; Col 3:18-21)

Thursday, September 7

Proverb for the Day: “Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool.” 17:10

John 15

From the last sentence of 14:31 we see that chapters 15-17 is Jesus’ last time he talked with and taught the disciples, on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus taught that an essential evidenced of true followers of Jesus is bearing fruit (vv. 1-8). True disciples abide in Jesus’ love, obey him, love another, and have great joy (vv. 9-17), because Jesus chose and appointed them for this and because the relationship between a believer and Jesus is one of love (“friend”). Though true disciples will love one another, they will be hated by the world (vv. 18-25). Jesus again told the disciples (apostles) that they would testify/bear witness of Jesus after his resurrection and ascension (vv. 26-27; note Acts 1-2).

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. Note Jesus’ relationship to believers: he is the giver of life (vv. 1-8), a friend because he loves (v. 15), a sovereign Savior (vv. 16, 19), One who commands (vv. 10, 12, 14, 17), and Master (v. 20).
2. Jesus’ teaching in verses 1-8 is significant and serious. He has a vital union with believers (v. 1). His life in believers is seen by their Christ-like lives (vv. 4-5, 7-8). The Father lovingly cleanses believers for greater Christ-likeness (vv. 2-3). And the Father condemns false believers to hell (vv. 2, 6).
3. The point of verses 22 and 24 is that Jesus’ teaching and perfect life revealed sin, and Jewish unbelievers didn’t like that, no matter how religious they were.