

Bible Reading for Week of November 19, 2023

Monday, November 20 – Genesis 12

How does this passage indicate that the covenant relationship between God and Abram was initiated and established unilaterally by the Lord (that is, not a negotiated contract between two equal parties)? How do we see both Abram's faithful obedience and unfaithful disobedience in this passage? Reflect on moments in your own life when you have had "say you are my sister" moments and chosen fear instead of faith.

Tuesday, November 21 – Genesis 15

Meditate on verses 4-6. How do the promises of God revealed in Scripture function practically in your daily walk with the Lord? Why is it significant that as the Lord makes a covenant with Abram, it is not Abram who passes through the pieces of the animals but the symbolic presence of the Lord (a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch)? How would this assure Abram of the truth of God's promise?

Wednesday, November 22 – Proverbs 22

Meditate on verse 6. Why is it important to note that the Bible instructs parents to train up a child in the way he "should" go rather than "would" or "wants to" or "feels like" going? Consider verse 15. The Bible tells us the Lord disciplines His sons (Heb. 12:6) as a demonstration of His love. In our professedly "child-centered" age, how does an undisciplined child demonstrate the lack of the love of his parents? How does the Lord's "parenting" of His children challenge our own (parenting)?

Thursday, November 23 – Psalm 136

Take note of all the different reasons the Psalmist gives for thankfulness to the Lord and note some particular reasons the Psalmist mentions that we would not typically list today as reasons for thankfulness. Sometimes repetition in prayer or in song has been criticized as too "simplistic" or "unsophisticated" for worship. Why would the author of this Psalm disagree?

Friday, November 24 – 1 Thessalonians 5

Meditate on verse 14. How can our journey through the Psalms in evening worship help us to fulfill the Christian's calling in this verse? Who are the "fainthearted," "weak," and "all" whom the Lord has placed in your life? Make a determined effort, dependent on God's grace, to encourage, help, and be patient with at least 3 people this week.

Saturday, November 25 – Proverbs 4

Describe in your own words what it means to "hold fast" (vs. 4), "not turn away from" (vs. 5), "accept" (vs. 10), and "be attentive to" (vs. 20) words? How can you apply all 4 of these verbs to how we should receive the Word of God? Given that we are sanctified (made more like Jesus) through the truth of God's Word, what do you spend more time with during the week – the (impure) words of men or the pure words of the Lord?