

Ministry of West End Church of Christ

The Quarantine Bible Study



12 Daily Bible Studies

Thoughts on the Coronavirus

In just a few short weeks, classification of the coronavirus (COVID-19) escalated from outbreak, to epidemic, to global pandemic; and President Trump declared an official state of emergency for the United States and its citizens. And as anyone reading this knows, the impact of this kind of global crisis extends far beyond the sickness itself.

There is not a person on this earth who hasn't been impacted by the coronavirus, in one way or another, and right now, many people are anxious, on edge, and afraid. Some have even gone to the extreme; bunkering down and "panic purchasing" toilet paper, respiratory masks, and bottled water in preparation for the "end of the world."

Everyone will react to crisis and fear in different ways, but in trying and uncertain times like these, how should Christians respond? When the rest of the world is afraid and loses hope, how can Christians still bring the life and love of Jesus Christ to a sick and dying world? How can Christians still be cautious of this serious disease, while not neglecting their responsibility to the Father?

I'm glad you asked...

First, as Christ-followers, we need to remember that our God is a "refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble" (Psalm 46:1). God has not given us a spirit of fear. We should not panic. Our Heavenly Father is still the all-knowing, ever-present, omnipotent God.

Second, we need to pray for all those who have been infected, those who will be, and for their families. We need to pray for God to deliver the world from this menace to human health and well-being. We need to pray for wisdom, guidance, and protection for our national, state and local leaders as they seek to fulfill their oaths of office in protecting the citizenry.

Third, we need to take necessary precautions. Listen to the medical experts. Be informed, sensitive, and wise in the way we approach this pandemic.

Fourth, don't do anything knowingly that would put anyone else at risk. Seek to help those who need help coping with the aftermath of having the virus or having been exposed to it. And during this whole process, as Christ-followers, we must always remember and have in our consciousness the Lord Jesus' command to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31) and "to do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Luke 6:31). Let's all pray that when we look back on this crisis, our fellow Americans will see this episode of our history as one that reflects credit to the Lord we serve as they see His work in us as we serve them.

Spiritual Side of This Pandemic

Out of the abundance of caution and the threat of this virus spreading, our church family at West End is dealing with something we have never dealt with before. Our elders have decided that for the time being, we will be limiting our exposure at the building by offering Sunday and Wednesday services and Bible study online. In addition to that, we wanted to try and take advantage of the time that many families will have together and offer a hands on Bible study for you to take part in each night.

Each of the lessons provided can be done in a short amount of time or as long as you would like. We would also like to encourage you to share your thoughts from your time together on our private West End Facebook page, where we will have several videos posted each week that correspond to these studies.

By doing this, we are hoping to maintain our fellowship as a congregation and our devotion to God's Word, while still not being able to meet as a body in person. Lets not forget however, that although we can not be present physically in the building, the Lord's church is still meeting and doing great things!

I hope this Bible study will be a benefit to you and your family!

-Billy Bearden

Quarantine Study 1

Matthew Chapter 26

The stage is set for the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. It's two days before Passover, and Jesus announces that he will be handed over and crucified, very soon. At the same time, the chief priests and elders are conspiring about how they will arrest Jesus because they know they can't do it in the light of day because people will riot. So they plan to arrest him at night instead. The chief priests find their inside man in Judas, and he is paid 30 pieces of silver to betray the Son of God. Jesus and his disciples gather to celebrate the Passover, Jesus drops the bomb that someone at the table is going to betray him and of course, all start denying it and asking everyone else what's going on, even Judas. Matthew 26 uncovers many important details and events leading up to the crucifixion of our Lord.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. When the disciples asked Jesus where they should make preparations to eat the Passover meal, what answer did He give them? (vs. 17-30)
2. What unexpected announcement did Jesus make when he was reclining at the table eating the Passover with the Twelve? How did the disciples respond to this announcement?
3. What are some of the differences and similarities between the Passover Feast and our communion?

Related Scripture

- Luke 22
- 1 Corinthians 16:13
- Mark 14:38
- 1 Peter 5:8
- Ephesians 6:18
- Isaiah 26:8-9

Action Step

Why do you think Jesus was able to submit to God's will, even though it would cause Him to suffer so much? Jesus trusted God and knew God and knew that God is good. He knew that God is love. He knew that God wants what's best, and that God has the power to make all things work together for good (Romans 8:28). It is awesome that our God is so good and that we can trust Him completely. We can obey His every word! Some opportunities only come once in a lifetime, have you ever missed a golden opportunity to do something kind or loving, but missed it because you were too practical? Do something for God today!

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 2

Mark Chapter 16

After the Sabbath, the Mary, Mary and Salome arrive at the tomb in order to anoint Jesus for burial. As they proceed to the tomb they realize that the stone has been removed. As they enter the tomb, they're surprised when they meet a young man who informs them that Jesus of Nazareth, who had just been crucified, has gotten up and is no longer there. He then instructs the women to tell the disciples that Jesus is going on before them to Galilee, and they will see him there.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. When and why did the women go to Jesus' tomb? Why at that time?
2. What instructions did Jesus give his apostles? (Mark 16:15-18) Were these commands just for his apostles, or are they for others? Are they for you?
3. How does the Lord "confirm his word" through Christians today? (Mark 16:20)

Related Scripture

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Acts 1:8
- Mark 13:10
- Colossians 1:23
- Psalm 22:27
- Isaiah 60:1-3

Action Step

Jesus willingly went to the cross to be crucified, even though He was innocent. He took on the sin of all mankind. Jesus gave up His spirit, and He died. He paid the penalty for the guilty. Do you take time to stop and worship Jesus? He died to take away your sin, and God raised Him to give you a new life. If you have put your trust in Him, are baptized, your sins are forgiven and you have abundant, eternal life. You may have heard this story many times, or it may be new to you, like it was to Mary Magdalene that day. Either way, we should never stop taking time out of our week to worship Him. When we sing worship songs are you paying more attention to the friend beside you than to the One who saved you? If things around you are a distraction, move, or close your eyes. Do whatever it takes to focus your worship on Jesus.

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 3

John Chapter 14

John 14 illustrates the love and patience that Jesus had toward His disciples. As Jesus attempts to prepare them for the upcoming events, His death, burial and resurrection, He instructs them to continue his work, and comforts them with the assurance that they would eventually be reunited with him. Jesus told his disciples to take comfort and to believe in him as they believed in God. He explained to them that there were many mansions in his Father's house and that He was going ahead to prepare a place for them. He continues saying that they will know the way to where He is. He clarified that if they knew him, they knew God also and from that had seen Him. He described that, as he was in the Father, the Father was in him also and that He was going to the Father shortly.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What is the significance of vs. 6 to you?
2. In Verses 13-14 there are amazing promises. Jesus says He will do whatever we ask in His name. What do you think Jesus meant by "in my name"?
3. According to vs 15, what is the indication that one loves Jesus? What can those who love Jesus expect (vs 21-23)?

Related Scripture

- John 16:22-23
- Isaiah 12:2-3
- Psalm 42:5-6
- John 6:40
- Ephesians 3:14-17

Action Step

Christ is the only one in whom Satan has no power over. He came to Adam and Eve, he came to Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and all the disciples and found imperfection. He came to Christ, and found nothing at all. He was a Lamb "without blemish and without spot," a suitable Sacrifice for a world of sinners, a suitable Head for a redeemed race. Let us thank God that we have such a perfect, sinless Savior; that His righteousness is a perfect righteousness, and His life a blameless life. In ourselves and our doings we shall find everything imperfect; but in Christ we have a perfect, sinless representative. Christ has died for us, and suffered in our stead.

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 4

Acts Chapter 2

In Acts 2, we witness the events that took place on The Day of Pentecost, which was a Jewish feast held fifty days after Passover. While all the apostles were gathered together a strong wind came through the house and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. As a result, Peter stands and preaches to the crowd as a representative of the whole group of apostles. Knowing Peter, there is a huge change taking place! He has courage and boldness that is a complete contrast to his denials of Jesus before being filled with the Holy Spirit. On the Day of Pentecost, Peter didn't teach as the rabbis in his day usually did. They would gather disciples around them, sit down, and instruct them and any others who might listen. Instead, Peter proclaimed the truth like a herald. Cut to the heart is a good way of describing the conviction of the Holy Spirit. They now knew that they were responsible for the death of Jesus (as each of us are), and that they had to do something about it.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. Is the speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance in Acts 2 the same gift of tongues described in 1 Corinthians 12 and 14?
2. What is repentance?
3. How many, on the day of Pentecost, were converted and added to the Body of Christ?

Related Scripture

- Joel 2:28-32
- Psalm 16:8-11
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 1 John 1:3
- Hebrews 10:25

Action Step

Before we can be filled, we must recognize our emptiness; by gathering together for prayer, in obedience, these disciples were doing just that. They recognized they did not have the resources in themselves to do what they could or should, they had to rely on the work of God. As a result, God was pleased and the church continued daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house: The church is meant to worship God and learn His Word together. God wants us to share our lives with one another. We are to be praising God and having favor with all the people. As we see in Acts 2, the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved: This is God's prescription for church growth. If we take care to follow the example of Acts 2:42-47, God will take care of growing the church Himself.

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Related Scripture

- Matthew 8:5-13
- Galatians 1:17-22
- Romans 15:7-12
- Malachi 1:11

Action Step

Even with his background and teaching, Peter was able to preach God's will to a houseful of people who wanted to obey Him. What an awesome example for those of us who believe that old dogs can't learn new tricks! Changing one's mind and ingrained habits are difficult, to be sure, but that in itself doesn't make change impossible. But it may not have happened that way if Peter hadn't kept an open mind, reflected on God's teaching, and recognized the opportunity to implement it. Let each one of us think on the things presented, whether by hearing or by reading, and resolve to "apply it to myself." Think about Peter and his success. Who knows what the results might be from you making the application!

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 6

Romans Chapter 1

The Book of Romans has life changing truth but it must be approached with effort and determination to understand what the Holy Spirit said through the Apostle Paul. By the time Paul wrote Romans, he had been a Christian preacher for some 20 years. Paul had never been to Rome, and did not found the Roman church. This makes the Book of Romans different because most of Paul's letters were to churches he founded. It seems the church in Rome began somewhat spontaneously as Christians came to the great city of the Empire and settled there. Paul was thankful for the good reputation of the church in Rome. Because of its location, this church had a special visibility and opportunity to glorify Jesus throughout the empire.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What term does Paul use to describe his relationship to Jesus Christ (1:1)?
2. Verse 8 tells us that we should have an attitude of _____ toward all other members in the church.
3. How are we to feel concerning our obligation to present the Word of God to everyone (15)?

Related Scripture

- Romans 15:16
- 1 Corinthians 9:1
- 1 Timothy 1:11-12
- Ephesians 3:5-7
- Galatians 1:10-17

Action Step

The righteous live by faith in God, honoring Him with lives of obedience. The unrighteous have "suppressed the truth of God" and believed a "lie" resulting in a life that does not honor God or other people. A hardened heart is a dark heart. People who have chosen to believe a lie and not follow their God-given conscience are miserable and want others to be that way as well; they give hearty approval to lives of sin and disobedience to God. Our culture is full of this expressed very openly.

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Related Scripture

- Colossians 1:10
- Philippians 1:27
- 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2
- Genesis 17:1
- Galatians 4:12

Action Step

What is your philosophy of life, that is, your daily attitude and conduct toward life, both publicly and privately? Does being a Christian make a difference? What is the primary stress that you are undergoing right now? In what way does your faith make a difference in how you handle yourself? Most polls taken today concerning the moral conduct of the church in our society show very little difference in behavior between professed Christians and the rest of our society. What is your assessment of this information? God has called every believer to the same higher standard of conduct in Christ. He has given us the Holy Spirit, although at times he is grieved by our misconduct. May the Lord lead his church in paths of righteousness for his glory!

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Related Scripture

- Matthew 5:48
- 1 Peter 1:15-16
- Colossians 3:12
- 1 John 3:1-2
- Hosea 1:10
- 1 Corinthians 13

Action Step

It is clear that God has made us and called us so that we do good works. We are to pattern our behavior after God himself. Paul states this general principle as he begins chapter 5: “Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”. We should be like our heavenly Father. The imitation of God is a basic principle of Christian ethics.

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 9

Ephesians Chapter 6

Chapter 6 helps us understand the responsibilities of children and their fathers. This chapter also suggests how principles governing servants and masters can be applied to employees and their employers and how we need to adorn ourselves with the whole armor of God, that we might be strong in the power of His might, and not just our own strength. The final chapter begins with what might be called an exhortation to "walk in harmony." Children are told to obey their parents, while fathers are instructed not to provoke their children to wrath but bring them up in the Lord's nurture and admonition. The last major section of this epistle is a call to "walk in victory", with a charge to stand strong in the power of the Lord's might. To be able to withstand the wiles of the devil and spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places, Christians need to adorn themselves with the whole armor of God.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What responsibility do children have toward their parents? (vs. 1-2)
2. What responsibilities does a father have toward his children? (vs. 4)
3. List and discuss the armor of God described in vs. 14-17.

Related Scripture

- Colossians 3:20-25
- Proverbs 23:22
- Romans 12:1-2
- 1 Timothy 5:4
- Deuteronomy 21:18

Action Step

The history of warfare is often defined by peak moments, milestones of several great battles with little mention of the struggle between them. This is not the expectation for Christian soldiers. Standing firm in our daily life is all that is required. We must examine ourselves and ask, “what elements of the whole armor of God do I need to strengthen to enable me to stand in my daily life?” What part of your armor is weak and needs improvement? What are we going to do to strengthen it? What can we pray on your behalf that you might be strengthened together with us?

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 10

1 Timothy Chapter 4

Paul begins this chapter with describing how the Spirit has revealed that in latter times there would be an apostasy in which some would depart from the faith. This falling away would come about as people gave heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, leading to their speaking lies in hypocrisy and searing their consciences as with a hot iron. In the last half of this chapter, we find Paul instructing Timothy on how he can be a good minister of Jesus Christ. By instructing the brethren in matters pertaining to sound doctrine, he will also be nourished himself. But he should also be careful to avoid foolish fables, and rather exercise himself to godliness, which is of more enduring value than bodily exercise. Though Timothy is young, he should not let anyone despise him for his youth. Instead he must demonstrate the proper example of how a believer should speak and live.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What was Timothy not to let anyone despise? (vs. 12)
2. In what areas was Timothy to be an example to the believers? (vs. 12)
3. To what three things was Timothy to give attention? (vs. 13)

Related Scripture

- 1 Timothy 3:1-9
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12
- Jude 1:4
- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
- Daniel 11:35-38

Action Step

Respect and influence are earned through how we live our personal lives for Jesus Christ, and holds more weight than mere words with no deeds. Basically, live a life that reflects what you want someone to follow. We cannot guide someone else along the path of purity if we ourselves are living a life contrary to that. We cannot promote love, peace and restoration if we are angry or unforgiving towards a brother or sister who wronged us and continue to hold a grudge against them. We cannot walk someone through how to be joyful amidst the circumstances if we are depressed all the time. We cannot draw others to Jesus if we ourselves are not being filled with Him daily through prayer, worship and His Word.

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 11

Hebrews Chapter 11

In Hebrews Chapter 11, the author tells his readers that faith is made of the things we hope for rather than the things that we can see. He said that it was faith that helped our ancestors survive, and it is by faith that we know that God spoke the world into being and created the things that we see all around us. Hebrews 11 paints a wonderful picture of the men and women who triumphed by faith. People who believed God and pursued His promises even though many didn't see them come to pass in their lifetime. This chapter defines faith and shows that it pleases God. This is a great reminder for us as we navigate this life, clinging to the promises of God and looking forward to Jesus' return.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What is faith?
2. From within this chapter, which example of a faithful hero is one of your favorites from scripture?
3. What encouragement do you receive as you read through these heroes of faith?

Related Scripture

- 2 Corinthians 5:7
- Romans 8:24-25
- Hebrews 6:18-19
- 1 Peter 1:7-8
- Psalm 27:13

Action Step

Here is a text that defines true faith, for that is what all Christians need. All Christians must have faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 11 also describes how faith works in the difficult times of men and women's lives today. How will you utilize your faith to further God's kingdom? How will you continue to strengthen your faith each and every day? May God imbed this text in our minds and enable us to live it out in our lives, to His glory and to our eternal good.

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 12

Revelation Chapter 20

This chapter reveals the binding of Satan for "a 1000 years". It most likely depicts a long period of time in which Satan is no longer able to deceive the nations as he did during the time of the Roman empire. It began following the end of Roman persecution and would continue for some time in the future. During this period, John sees souls reigning with Christ, who were beheaded for their faithfulness to Jesus and the word of God. The chapter closes with a description of the final judgment. Before the great white throne and Him who sat on it, all the dead are judged. Books are opened, including the Book of Life, and judgment is based upon their works. None escape the judgment, for the sea, Death, and Hades give up all the dead that are in them.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What did John see coming down from Heaven? (v. 1)
2. According to verse 10, what will happen to the devil at the end of times?
3. Who does John see standing before the throne? What was opened? (v. 12)

Related Scripture

- Revelation 1:18
- 2 Peter 2:4
- Luke 8:31

Action Step

This passage plainly tells us that we have abundant peace and serenity when we are in Christ, because He is our All in All! God gave us the book of Revelation not only to inform our minds but also to transform our lives. It gives us insight into the realities of our situation, our enemies, our Champion, and our true identity, and it calls us to patient endurance, hopeful purity, and courageous witness.

My/Our action steps for today will be...