



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - Philippians Study

Week 4 - Day 1

[Start by watching the short video: Philippians Week 4 - click here](#)

Approaching God

Psalm 25:1-5 - *In you, LORD my God, I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause. Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.*

Opening Prayer: Take a minute to make Psalm 25 your own prayer this morning. Offer the Lord your trust and dependency. Ask him to guide you, teach you and lead you today. Praise him that he is your Savior and hope.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Matthew 10:16-31

One major theme in Paul's letter to the Philippians is the call to defend and suffer well for the gospel. Paul's commission to the church at Philippi is not new, but in accord with Jesus' teaching and instruction on the cost of advancing the gospel.

Matthew 10:16-31 - **16** "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. **17** Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, **18** and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. **19** When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. **20** For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. **21** Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, **22** and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. **23** When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. **24** "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. **25** It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. **26** "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. **27** What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. **28** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. **29** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. **30** But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

A.B.C.'s of Bible Study & Meditation

This week we are looking at a series of questions that are aimed at helping us grow in our approach to daily bible reading. The questions are a part of a simple bible study tool called the A.B.C's of Bible Study which provide an easy framework for meditating on scripture for 15-20 mins. At the beginning of the week, and as you get more familiar with the A.B.C. method, the questions will be selected for you. Later in the week you'll have the chance to choose your own questions from the list.

First, to discover and draw out what's *in* the text, answer these study questions:

- Next make a list of everything it says about God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)

- List anything that it tells you about yourself, humanity, people, your neighbor

- List any examples to be followed, commands to be obeyed (or things that need to be avoided), and promises to claim.

Next, choose the verse and truth that is most striking and helpful to you. Paraphrase the thought or verse in your own words. _____

Lastly, to bring this truth home to your heart, answer these meditation questions:

- What does the text show me about a need that I have? What do I need to do or become in light of this? How shall I petition God for it?

- How is Jesus Christ or the grace that I have in him crucial to helping me overcome the sin I have confessed or to answering the need I have?

Close in Prayer:

Close out your time by praying through your meditations:

- What can you rejoice in? What might you need to confess in light of your study time?
- Pray for your needs and pressing concerns.
- Take a final moment just to enjoy him and his presence.

Stories of Advancing the Gospel & Suffering

The Story of an Indigenous Indian Missionary - (Adapted from John Piper's sermon, "To Finish the Aim of Christ's Afflictions")

"While I was working on the missions book in May, I had an opportunity to hear J. Oswald Sanders speak. His message touched deeply on suffering. He is 89 years old and still travels and speaks around the world. He has written a book a year since he turned 70! I mention that only to exult in the utter dedication of a life poured out for the gospel without thought of coasting in self-indulgence from 65 to the grave. He told the story of an indigenous missionary who walked barefoot from village to village preaching the gospel in India. His hardships were many. After a long day of many miles and much discouragement he came to a certain village and tried to speak the gospel but was driven out of town and rejected. So he went to the edge of the village dejected and lay down under a tree and slept from exhaustion. When he awoke, people were hovering over him, and the whole town was gathered around to hear him speak. The head man of the village explained that they came to look him over while he was sleeping. When they saw his blistered feet, they concluded that he must be a holy man, and that they had been evil to reject him. They were sorry and wanted to hear the message that he was willing to suffer so much to bring them. So the evangelist filled up the afflictions of Jesus with his beautiful blistered feet."

The Early Church - Tim Keller: Acts Commentary

"In other words, as a church they were both suffering sharp persecution and enjoying enormous popularity and broad-based support. They were both attractive and growing, yet hated and attacked. This description of the early church cuts us two ways. If on the one hand, we experience no attacks or persecution for our faith, it means we simply are being cowards. We are not taking risks in our witness, we are not being bold. On the other hand, if we experience attacks without a consequent fruitfulness and attractiveness (i.e. if we get lots of persecution and no affirmation), it may mean that we are being persecuted for being harsh or insensitive or strident. Jesus said we would only be blessed if we were persecuted 'for righteousness' sake.' It is quite possible (indeed, it is very normal) for Christians to be persecuted not for their faith, but for their discourtesy, insensitivity, and lack of warmth and respect in their dealings with others. Insensitive, harsh Christians will have persecution but not praise. Cowardly Christians will have praise but not persecution. Most Christians (whose walk with God is weak) actually get neither! But Christians who are closest to Jesus will get both, as he did."

The A.B.C.'s of Bible Study & Meditation

This is a simple grid to help you think about how to outline your daily time with God and what questions to ask when spending time in the Word.

A. Approaching God

Ask him for his presence and help as you read and pray. Choose from one of these scriptural invocations: Psalm 16:8; 27:4, 9-10; 40:16-19; 63:1-3; 84:5-7; 103:1-2; 139:7-10; Isaiah 57:15; Matthew 11:28-30; John 4:23; Ephesians 1:17-19; 3:16-20.

B. Bible Reading, Study and Meditation

(Keep in mind that no one can do all of the following in any one session of meditation and prayer.)

To Study the passage: Write down answers to the following questions:

- First read it three or four times. Don't be afraid to underline, circle, or highlight.
- Next make a list of everything it says about God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
- List anything that it tells you about yourself, humanity, people, your neighbor
- Are there any words, phrases, themes that stand out or are repeated?
- List any examples to be followed, commands to be obeyed (or things that need to be avoided), and promises to claim.

When this is all done, choose the verse and truth that is most striking and helpful to you. Paraphrase the thought or verse in your own words.

To Meditate on the passage: Write down answers to the following questions:

- How would this change my life if I took it seriously; if this truth were fully alive and effective in my inward being? Also, why might God be showing this to me now? What is going on in my life that he would be bringing this to my attention today?
- What does this text show me about God for which I should praise or thank him?
- What does the text lay a finger on in my heart? What does it show me about my sin that I should confess and repent of?
- What false attitudes, behavior, emotions, or idols come alive in me whenever I forget this truth?
- What does the text show me about a need that I have? What do I need to do or become in light of this? How shall I petition God for it?
- How is Jesus Christ or the grace that I have in him crucial to helping me overcome the sin I have confessed or to answering the need I have?

C. Close in Prayer

Pray through each of the meditations:

- use adoration, confession, petition, & thanksgiving for Jesus & his salvation as a guide.
- Pray for your needs and pressing concerns.
- Take a final moment just to enjoy him and his presence.