

Study your Bible

A noted New Testament scholar was once asked, “What do you recommend as a method for the devotional study of the Bible?” He replied: “The accurate, painstaking, critical study of the Bible is its devotional study. For the first thing to inquire of Scripture is its meaning. What could be more important for its devotional interpretation and application than this?”

This is why sermons are preached—to give worshippers a clearer understanding of some portion of scripture and to equip us to read the Bible on our own with increased profit. One of the most helpful ways for a Christian to read the Bible is with a commentary at hand. (Pastors are always pleased to recommend good commentaries to their people.)

Scripture, however, must not only be understood; it must also be applied. The eighteenth-century Lutheran theologian Johann Bengel said, “Apply thyself wholly to the text, then apply the whole to thyself.” To fail to let the Scriptures judge our lives is to deceive ourselves; we become mere listeners, not doers, of the Word.

Daily Bible reading is absolutely necessary for spiritual nourishment. We do not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from God. It is quite impossible to maintain a high level of spiritual health without constant recourse to the blessed truths of the Word of God. Such was the conviction and practice of the psalmist “Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day” (Psalm 119:97).

But at the same time we must remember that the Bible is a closed book apart from the help of the Holy Spirit. “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God” (1 Corinthians 2:14). The Westminster Confession of Faith acknowledges “The inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word.” We must always read the Bible with the prayer on our lips, “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law” (Psalm 119:18). So read your Bible; strive diligently to understand just what meaning God intended to convey in a given passage. Then apply it!

*Oh, how I love
your law! It is my
meditation all the
day.*

Psalms 119:97

Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 3

“Give to Our God Immortal Praise”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 181

“We Come O Christ to You”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 252

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 371

“O Lord of Hosts How Lovely”

Sermon Text

Luke 22:1-6

Sermon

TWO TYPES OF SEEKING

*Hymn of Response # 161

“O Christ, Our Hope, Our Heart's Desire”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church following the morning worship service. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.

Sunday, October 6. We remember the Lord's death in the Communion service during morning worship. Our Communion service is open to those who have been, or are now, communicant members of an evangelical church. But those who are not communicant members of our Church are asked to meet with the elders of the Church before partaking of the Lord's Supper. It is required that they meet with the elders only once.

Sunday, October 6. Our quarterly offering for the Deacons Fund will be received during the singing of the hymn following The Lord's Supper.