



NO SERMON NOTES THIS WEEK

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ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *January 1-6, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

As we look towards another new year, we reflect on what has been and what we hope will be. Amidst a changing world, we take time this week to consider what a steadfast connection with our Creator can be. Each devotional day focuses on one of the “admonitions” that are part of the Wesley Covenant Renewal Service, which John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, developed.

Monday: Matthew 6:6

“First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord”

While experiencing God through community - worship, serving, small groups – is vital to being a fully-engaged follower of Jesus, it’s just as important that we spend personal time each day with God. Take time each day this week - beginning today - to explore or expand on a personal discipline as part of your “God time” (prayer, meditation, scripture reading, etc.).

Tuesday: Psalm 33:6-9

“Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.”

Take a moment to consider a time in your life when you felt the presence of God and the enormity of God’s power. What happened in that moment? What led you to it? How did you react? How does that moment - and others like it - help you to get into a mindset of “holy awe and reverence” as you spend time with God?

Wednesday: Proverbs 3:5-6

“Third, claim God’s covenant, rely upon God’s promise of giving grace and strength, so you can keep your promise. Trust not your own strength and power.”

Frustration in a situation we can’t control is natural. We all want to feel that we are in the driver’s seat at all times. How can you work towards trusting God to provide you with the strength and power to face a situation out of your control (as well as day-to-day living)?

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 10:13

“Fourth, resolve to be faithful.”

Momentary faithfulness is easy. Staying faithful through an extended time period can be challenging. What are some things you can incorporate into your daily routine to keep a focus on your faithfulness to God this year?

Friday: 2 Corinthians 4:16

“And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord.”

Today’s scripture passage contrasts the entropy our physical bodies face with the everlasting life God promises. As you renew your covenant with God, how can you strive to truly live it out this year (how can you make it more than words that begin to waste away after a few days)?

MOVING FORWARD

As you finish this week and continue into 2024, reflect on and pray the Wesley Covenant Prayer:

*“I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.”*