

DAILY READING PLAN



Week of August 7, 2022

Alive: Spirit of Restoration

Psalm 98

Day #1 – Read Psalm 98 | Sing a new song to the LORD, for He has done wonderful deeds. His right hand has won a mighty victory; His holy arm has shown His saving power! The LORD has announced His victory and has revealed His righteousness to every nation! He has remembered His promise to love and be faithful to Israel. The ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Shout to the LORD, all the earth; break out in praise and sing for joy! Sing your praise to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and melodious song, with trumpets and the sound of the ram’s horn. Make a joyful symphony before the LORD, the King! Let the sea and everything in it shout His praise! Let the earth and all living things join in. Let the rivers clap their hands in glee! Let the hills sing out their songs of joy before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, and the nations with fairness.

Why do you think all of creation rejoices that the Lord is coming to judge the earth? How does your perspective shift if you think about judgement less as a means to condemn and punish and more as God’s pathway to making all things right?

Day #2 – Read Romans 8:1 | So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

St. Paul boldly proclaims that God does not condemn us, despite our sin. Does that encourage you to sin more? Why or why not?

Day #3 – Read Revelation 21:1-5 | Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be His people. God Himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.” And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” And then He said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.”

Jesus promises that all that has been corrupted by sin will be made new. How do you think that will happen? All at once? Gradually? Will the old be destroyed or redeemed? How is that happening in your life now?

Day #4 – Read Matthew 3:11-12 | “I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be His slave and carry His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then He will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into His barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

This passage is often read as one of judgement, assuming that some people are wheat (good) and others are chaff (bad). Is that your experience of people – that they are either good or bad? Is that true of you? How does the meaning of Jesus’ words change if we assume that we are all both wheat and chaff?

Day #5 – Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 | Because of God’s grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

What foundation are you building on? What aspects of your life are “gold, silver and jewels” and what are “wood, hay and straw”? As you consider your answer, what might need to change in your life?