



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

When we truly look to Christ in all things, we will discover His will and purpose for our lives. This spiritual perception and self-inspection involves several different phases – causing us to “*fix our eyes on Jesus*” (Heb.12:2). The first three we studied last week are: 1) Look upward for the glory of Christ, 2) Look downward for the humility of Christ, and 3) Look inward for the attitude of Christ.

Fourth, ***look outward for the work of Christ***. In the Bible, the words “worship” and “service” are almost synonymous. This gives us a clear indication that our worship of Christ is closely related to our serving Christ. For the Christian, serving Christ is not an inconvenience and it is certainly not a drudgery. Rather, it is a joy for us to serve the Lord that we worship! A person who professes to worship Christ and yet is not obediently engaged in the work of Christ is, at best, unsubmitive and, at worst, a fraud. Jesus Himself stated, “*If you love me, you will obey what I command*” (Jn.14:15). However, there is a deadly mistake people often make in regard to their worship of and service to God: they fail to see that while true worship invariably leads to serving Christ, serving Christ does not necessarily lead to worship (the Pharisees, for example, served God but failed to truly worship Him; cf. Matt.7:21-23; 15:7-9). Too often, Christians mistake religious performance for reverence; moral function for devotion; and spiritual activity for maturity. As we examine our lives, it is important that we ask ourselves if we are faithfully involved in the work of Christ as a loving expression of our worship of Him.

Fifth, ***look backward to the cross of Christ***. Everything in the Bible directs us to the cross of Christ. Whereas the Old Testament looks ahead to the cross, the New Testament looks back to the cross. Obviously, the cross is central to the Christian Gospel, and it is crucial to the Christian life. The cross is not only the focal point of all redemptive history, but it is the pivotal point of all human history. Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross is the pinnacle of the Gospel, because it is the symbol of the infinite and sufficient payment for the sins of all who would ever believe. For the believer, the cross is the end of God’s judgment and wrath, and the experience of His saving love and grace. The cross of Christ is the expression and demonstration of the character and will of Almighty God (Jn.15:13; Rom.5:8; 1Jn.3:16). The Old Testament saints looked ahead to the cross with a desperate and hopeful longing, and the New Testament saints looked back to the cross with a desperate and ecstatic joy. We too, must spend our time contemplating and cherishing the cross of Jesus Christ – “*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God*” (1Cor.1:18).

Sixth, ***look forward to the coming of Christ***. The greatest thing Christians have to look forward to is the Second Coming of Christ. In the Bible, the apostle Paul describes Christians as “*eagerly await[ing]*” (Phil.3:20) and “*long[ing] for*” (2Tim.4:8) the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Christian believer is one who – though he has not seen Christ – loves Him, believes in Him, worships Him, and rejoices in the hope that one day they will see Him face-to-face as they behold His beautiful and magnificent glory for eternity. As we live in this temporal world, and live out our mortal lives, we must live in light of eternity. An eternal perspective keeps us focused on our heavenly destination and grounded in our earthly mission. It compels us to live with a heavenward focus, and it prevents us from being too preoccupied with the peripheral things of this world – “*... we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal*” (2Cor.4:18).

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(8/25/25)

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #34):

Numbers 5-8; 1 Chronicles 10-14; Psalms 99-101; Proverbs 19; Hosea 1-7; John 7-9; 1 Timothy 4-6

Recommended Reading:

“High King of Heaven” ed. by John MacArthur