

DAILY READINGS

Sunday	1 Thessalonians 4:9-12
Monday	Hebrews 10:19-39; Psalm 136:8-16; Proverbs 29:10-13
Tuesday	Hebrews 11:1-40; Psalm 136:17-26; Proverbs 29:14-16
Wednesday	Hebrews 12:1-29; Psalm 137; Proverbs 29:17-20
Thursday	Hebrews 13:1-25; Psalm 138; Proverbs 29:21-23
Friday	1 Peter 1:1-25; Psalm 139:1-5; Proverbs 29:24-27
Saturday	1 Peter 2:1-25; Psalm 139:6-13; Proverbs 30:1-4

DEVOTIONAL: READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12

God commands us to love one another, encourage one another, pray for one another, confess to one another, teach one another, and so many other honorable commands.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 Paul shares this desire with the Thessalonians. Though they have loved each other well, Paul encourages them “to do so more and more.” He emphasizes that living a quiet life, working hard, and minding your own affairs is the way to “win the respect of outsiders and...not be dependent on anybody” (1 Thessalonians 4:1). Paul is calling them to a humble and holy life of love and service. Living this way will be respected by the community and open up doors for showing love, because at the root of love, is serving. If Christ is the ultimate example of love, we should remember that He came not to be served, but to serve (Matthew 20:28).

Today, we are all surrounded by opportunities to love and serve one

another, specifically through the work we do. Whether it is in the marketplace, in the classroom, in the medical field, or at home, the opportunities are abundant for taking the focus off ourselves and placing it on Christ. Choosing to work hard and complete the tasks we have been given shows integrity, honors those in authority, and allows us to serve others. Rather than becoming involved in others’ business, breeding comparison, envy, slander, anger, and frustration, we can engage in pure, encouraging, and uplifting thoughts and words. Choosing to listen rather than sharing unsolicited opinions allows you to hear where others are coming from and have a heart of compassion when needing to share truth. Ultimately, living this way honors the Lord and wins the respect of others in the workplace, opening doors for the gospel.

We are saturated with opportunities to love and serve one another. May we be known by that.

REFLECTION

When have you experienced being loved and served by another? Who did it? How did it impact you?

How can the way you live life at work, open the door for the gospel?

How are you able to better love and serve those in the church and your community? Who can you talk to about finding a way to serve regularly?

DISCUSSION

Who do you know that is great at serving others well?

PRAYER

Lord, give me eyes to see those around me. I want to see others as You see them—made in Your image and worthy of service. Teach me, Father, that my life is not my own. Show me how my life is made to serve You and those around me.

Let my work not be done primarily for my own gain. Rather, may it be from a posture of worship. Help me to use the gifts You have given me to honor You through how I work.

Jesus, Your sacrifice was the ultimate act of service for others. Make me more like You in giving up my life for the sake of others.

Lord, teach me to serve quietly. Help me to walk worthy. May the integrity of my work reflect who You are and what You intend to bring about in Your kingdom. May You receive glory in and through my labor today. Amen.