

The church in Pergamum encountered deep struggles in resisting the temptations “where Satan [had] his throne.” In many ways, we find ourselves in similar predicaments—seeking Jesus in the midst of a world and a culture that isn’t always honoring to God. Consider this week’s devotions as a place to both discover where we might fall into similar temptations as well as look forward towards Christ’s promise of complete redemption.

New to daily devotionals? Here are a few tips for this week:

- Some sermons hit us harder than others—the goal is never to sit in “woe is me” land from week to week. Rather, sit with God knowing that in all of your brokenness, He welcomes you without a second thought.
- Resist the urge to have your problems or ailments “solved.” Try asking God, “Even if this thing might never change, how do you want me to know you more in the midst of it?”
- You don’t need to have a big revelation every day—take one thought and remind yourself of it throughout the day.

Monday, November 5th

Read Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In what ways have you found yourself in bondage to decay (living outside of God’s intentions)? What kind of freedom might God be inviting you into? How has He already begun revealing His glory in you?

How have you found yourself groaning inwardly while waiting for redemption? How has God responded to your groaning? Do you find that you wait patiently alongside God? Why or why not?

Tuesday, November 6th

Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-18

¹³ It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Verse 14 says that we will be raised like Christ—what does that truth mean to you? What is liberating about it? Spend time praising God for this promise.

How have you found yourself outwardly wasting away but inwardly being renewed day by day? How might you continue to foster inner renewal?

What does it mean to think of your troubles as “momentary” compared to an eternal glory? How might that change your perspective on your day to day struggles? How might you fix your eyes on the unseen?

Wednesday, November 7th

Read John 17:13-19

¹³ “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Before Jesus’ crucifixion, he spent time praying for the disciples he was leaving behind, asking that they wouldn’t be taken from the world but would be protected from the evil one. What do you find interesting about this plan? Is there anything frustrating about it?

How have you encountered being “not of this world”? When have you experienced cultural dissonance with your surroundings? How have you reacted to that dissonance?

Jesus asks that his disciples would be sanctified (set apart or free from sin) despite being in an upside-down world. How have you encountered sanctification in this world? How might you continue to find it despite living in a world with different priorities?

Thursday, November 8th

Read Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.¹²It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

In what ways has salvation by the grace of God taught you to say “no” to things that God didn’t intend for us? When has saying “no” felt like something other than a response to God’s gift of salvation? What would it look like to say “no” in order to say “yes” to God’s good intentions?

Verse 14 says that Jesus gave himself up for us to redeem us (to save us from evil or to pay the debt that was owed). How might this change your perspective of living within God’s intentions?

Friday, November 9th

Read Psalm 111.

¹Praise the LORD.

*I will extol the LORD with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the
assembly.*

*²Great are the works of the LORD;
they are pondered by all who delight in
them.*

*³Glorious and majestic are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures forever.*

*⁴He has caused his wonders to be re-
membered; the LORD is gracious and
compassionate.*

*⁵He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.*

⁶He has shown his people the power of

*his works, giving them the lands of other
nations.*

*⁷The works of his hands are faithful and
just; all his precepts are trustworthy.*

*⁸They are established for ever and ever,
enacted in faithfulness and upright-
ness.*

*⁹He provided redemption for his people;
he ordained his covenant forever—holy
and awesome is his name.*

*¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning
of wisdom; all who follow his precepts
have good understanding.*

To him belongs eternal praise.



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What do we learn about God’s character from this psalm?

God is described as both compassionate and as one who should be feared. How have you encountered both sides of God? Is there one you lean to more than the other? How might God be inviting you to have a more holistic view of Him?

Verse 10 says that eternal praise belongs to God—spend some time praising God for the ways He has revealed His character to you.