

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE JUNE 25-JUNE 30: COMPASSION COMES WITH UNSWERVING HOPE

DAILY PRAYER: Gracious God of Love; Guide my thoughts and prayers during this week and in this particular moment. Help me to read your Holy Word through the lens of compassion and hope and to never take for granted that *informed study* of the scriptures is life giving. Amen.

Mon., June 25 Read Romans 13: 1-7 Compassion and Authority

Paul was never in Rome. He never had firsthand knowledge of how the government was treating believers. Chapters 12-16, in part, are an attempt to address the problems of “God’s lordship and daily life.” The point of vss. 1-7 is not that the church is to be “subject to the governing authorities” without question. Rather that the government is subject to the same law of God’s love as the people. That is what gives government authority. God’s authority is grounded in compassion. Verse 4 emphasizes that governmental authority is “God’s servant for *our* good.” If it is not good for God’s people, then it does not have authority. Where do we see governments acting out of compassion and hope? Do our lives reflect God’s authority?

Tue., June 26 Read Romans 13: 8-10 Compassion and Love Fulfill the Law

In verse 8 Paul brings clarity to what it means for a citizen to truly fulfill the law. “For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.” What are the various ways we see compassion and hope fulfill God’s law? Do we see expressions of it in our churches? In our businesses? In our elected officials?

Wed., June 27 Read Romans 13: 11-14 Now is the Moment to Wake From Sleep

This passage is about more than sins of the flesh. Paul could be using easily understood examples of what it means to be “of the world.” Verses 11-14 were considered an urgent appeal by Paul. If they were urgent then, how much more urgent are they now? Paul calls on his readers to put on the armor of light. Can compassion grow in the darkness?

Thur., June 28 Read 2 Corinthians 5: 11-15 To No Longer Live for One’s Self

By affirming that Christ died for *all*, Paul reveals the power of reconciliation. We cannot be reconciled to God and not to one another. Does “all” really mean “all?” Is there anyone for whom we struggle to offer compassion?

Fri., June 29 Read 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21 When Everything Old has Passed Away

“From now on we view no one from a human point of view.” In other words, Christ has given us a new lens through which to see the world. Because we have received reconciliation, we are called to be “ambassadors” to the world, offering the same measure of grace, hope and compassion that we have received through Christ. How are we doing? What are some concrete ways to offer compassion in these days especially?

Sat., June 30 Read Psalm 9 God’s Power and Justice

Psalm 9 is a reminder that even the greatest nations are under the authority of Yahweh. Moreover, it affirms that “the LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed” (v. 9). As we prepare for tomorrow’s Sabbath, let us give a thorough reading to Psalm 9. Verse 20 calls on God to “let the nations know they are only human.” What does this psalm mean to us today? What does it have to do with walking humbly?

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE JUNE 25-JUNE 30: COMPASSION COMES WITH UNSWERVING HOPE

DAILY PRAYER: Gracious God of Love; Guide my thoughts and prayers during this week and in this particular moment. Help me to read your Holy Word through the lens of compassion and hope and to never take for granted that *informed study* of the scriptures is life giving. Amen.

Mon., June 25 Read Romans 13: 1-7 Compassion and Authority

Paul was never in Rome. He never had firsthand knowledge of how the government was treating believers. Chapters 12-16, in part, are an attempt to address the problems of “God’s lordship and daily life.” The point of vss. 1-7 is not that the church is to be “subject to the governing authorities” without question. Rather that the government is subject to the same law of God’s love as the people. That is what gives government authority. God’s authority is grounded in compassion. Verse 4 emphasizes that governmental authority is “God’s servant for *our* good.” If it is not good for God’s people, then it does not have authority. Where do we see governments acting out of compassion and hope? Do our lives reflect God’s authority?

Tue., June 26 Read Romans 13: 8-10 Compassion and Love Fulfill the Law

In verse 8 Paul brings clarity to what it means for a citizen to truly fulfill the law. “For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.” What are the various ways we see compassion and hope fulfill God’s law? Do we see expressions of it in our churches? In our businesses? In our elected officials?

Wed., June 27 Read Romans 13: 11-14 Now is the Moment to Wake From Sleep

This passage is about more than sins of the flesh. Paul could be using easily understood examples of what it means to be “of the world.” Verses 11-14 were considered an urgent appeal by Paul. If they were urgent then, how much more urgent are they now? Paul calls on his readers to put on the armor of light. Can compassion grow in the darkness?

Thur., June 28 Read 2 Corinthians 5: 11-15 To No Longer Live for One’s Self

By affirming that Christ died for *all*, Paul reveals the power of reconciliation. We cannot be reconciled to God and not to one another. Does “all” really mean “all?” Is there anyone for whom we struggle to offer compassion?

Fri., June 29 Read 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21 When Everything Old has Passed Away

“From now on we view no one from a human point of view.” In other words, Christ has given us a new lens through which to see the world. Because we have received reconciliation, we are called to be “ambassadors” to the world, offering the same measure of grace, hope and compassion that we have received through Christ. How are we doing? What are some concrete ways to offer compassion in these days especially?

Sat., June 30 Read Psalm 9 God’s Power and Justice

Psalm 9 is a reminder that even the greatest nations are under the authority of Yahweh. Moreover, it affirms that “the LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed” (v. 9). As we prepare for tomorrow’s Sabbath, let us give a thorough reading to Psalm 9. Verse 20 calls on God to “let the nations know they are only human.” What does this psalm mean to us today? What does it have to do with walking humbly?