

PRAY:

Father show us who you are. Show us your person, your power, your purposes. Overwhelm us with a knowledge of you that penetrates our minds and imbeds itself in the deepest recesses of our hearts. Let this knowledge so change our hearts that it results in our lives being lived in light of who you are, what you have done and what you say is true about us in Jesus Christ.

Notes Thoughts Questions:



AS YOU READ THROUGH TODAY'S PASSAGES REFLECT ON THESE QUESTIONS:

What are some things revealed in these passages about the person and character of God? Who is he? What is he like?

What are some things that God has done to reveal who he is?

Who are you in light of God's work? What is it that God is saying about you?

How should knowing who God is, what he has done and what he says about you change how you live?



The Death of Nadab and Abihu

10 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. ² And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. ³ Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD has said: 'Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.' " And Aaron held his peace.

⁴ And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said to them, "Come near; carry your brothers away from the front of the sanctuary and out of the camp." ⁵ So they came near and carried them in their coats out of the camp, as Moses had said. ⁶ And Moses said to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar his sons, "Do not let the hair of your heads hang loose, and do not tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the congregation; but let your brothers, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning that the LORD has kindled. ⁷ And do not go outside the entrance of the tent of meeting, lest you die, for the anointing oil of the LORD is upon you." And they did according to the word of Moses.

⁸ And the LORD spoke to Aaron, saying, ⁹ "Drink no wine or strong drink, you or your sons with you, when you go into the tent of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations. ¹⁰ You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean, ¹¹ and you are to teach the people of Israel all the statutes that the LORD has spoken to them by Moses."

¹² Moses spoke to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his surviving sons: "Take the grain offering that is left of the LORD's food offerings, and eat it unleavened beside the altar, for it is most holy. ¹³ You shall eat it in a holy place, because it is your due and your sons' due, from the LORD's food offerings, for so I am commanded. ¹⁴ But the breast that is waved and the thigh that is contributed you shall eat in a clean place, you and your sons and your daughters with you, for they are given as your due and your sons' due from the sacrifices of the peace offerings of the people of Israel. ¹⁵ The thigh that is contributed and the breast that is waved they shall bring with the food offerings of the fat pieces to wave for a wave offering before the LORD, and it shall be yours and your sons' with you as a due forever, as the LORD has commanded."

¹⁶ Now Moses diligently inquired about the goat of the sin offering, and behold, it was burned up! And he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, the surviving sons of Aaron, saying, ¹⁷ "Why have you not eaten the sin offering in the place of the sanctuary, since it is a thing most holy and has been given to you that you may bear the iniquity of the congregation, to make atonement for them before the LORD? ¹⁸ Behold, its blood was not brought into the inner part of the sanctuary. You certainly ought to have eaten it in the sanctuary, as I commanded." ¹⁹ And Aaron said to Moses, "Behold, today they have offered their sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD, and yet such things as these have happened to me! If I had eaten the

sin offering today, would the LORD have approved?" ²⁰ And when Moses heard that, he approved.

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PSALM 11-12

The LORD Is in His Holy Temple

11 TO THE CHOIRMASTER. OF DAVID.

- In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain,
- for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart;
- if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"
- The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.
- The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.
- ⁶ Let him rain coals on the wicked;

fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.

For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.

The Faithful Have Vanished

12 To the Choirmaster: According to the Sheminith. A Psalm of David.

- Save, O LORD, for the godly one is gone; for the faithful have vanished from among the children of man.
- Everyone utters lies to his neighbor; with flattering lips and a double heart they speak.
- May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that makes great boasts,
- 4 those who say, "With our tongue we will prevail, our lips are with us; who is master over us?"

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"Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, I will now arise," says the LORD;
"I will place him in the safety for which he longs."

- The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.
- You, O LORD, will keep them; you will guard us from this generation forever.
- On every side the wicked prowl, as vileness is exalted among the children of man.

PROVERBS 25

More Proverbs of Solomon

- 25 These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied.
- It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.
- As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable.
- ⁴ Take away the dross from the silver,
 - and the smith has material for a vessel;
- take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.
- Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great,
- for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
 than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

What your eyes have seen

do not hastily bring into court,

for what will you do in the end,

when your neighbor puts you to shame?

- Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret,
- lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.
- A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.
- Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.
- Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the soul of his masters.
- Like clouds and wind without rainis a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.
- With patience a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue will break a bone.
- If you have found honey, eat only enough for you, lest you have your fill of it and vomit it.
- Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he have his fill of you and hate you.
- A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a war club, or a sword, or a sharp arrow.

Notes Thoughts Questions:

- ⁹ Trusting in a treacherous man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth or a foot that slips.
- Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda.
- If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,
- for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.
- The north wind brings forth rain,
 and a backbiting tongue, angry looks.
- It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.
- Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.
- Like a muddied spring or a polluted fountain
 is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.
- 27 It is not good to eat much honey,
 nor is it glorious to seek one's own glory.
- ²⁸ A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

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A Life Pleasing to God

4 Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

⁹ Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, ¹⁰ for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, ¹¹ and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, ¹² so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

The Coming of the Lord

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, ^[d] that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.



JOURNAL A PRAYER TO THE LORD FROM YOUR READING TODAY.

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