

## Midweek Bible Study

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by David Scarpio

*"I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the LORD" (Psalm 122:1).* Would you tell the writer of Psalms, I don't think we need to have a midweek study?

We all know how tired we get from our day to day lives, as work, family, and friends all vie for moments of our limited energy resource. We meet each first day of the week (**Acts 20:7**) to worship Him, and also to be built up (**1 Cor. 14:26, Col. 2:7**) in the most holy faith (**Jude 20**). In the same way saints have been coming together for many years for what is called the **Midweek Bible Study**. We choose to take *every opportunity* to be built up, or refueled, during an otherwise hard week of separation from the special unity believers have in Christ, that unity which strengthens us.

It rejuvenates the saints, the church, each and every time we assemble and learn of the greatness and power of God. Would you say to the first century saints, "I'm too tired, too busy to meet with you guys?" Read **Acts 2:44-46** before you answer that question. Rather than just going home to sleep, we must purpose to walk circumspectly and redeem the time as Paul wrote, *"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil"* (**Eph. 5:15-16**).

What does it mean to walk **circumspectly**? For one thing it means **not to walk as a fool but as wisdom would dictate**. **Psalm 1** teaches us that a wise man, a blessed man, avoids walking in counsel of the ungodly, in paths of sinners, and wasting time sitting with the scornful. The blessed man purposes in his heart to know God, come close to God. Part of this blessedness happens when we turn and run from worldly business such as personal wants, pleasures, and idleness and seek the blessings found only in Christ (**Eph. 1:3**). Our faith comes from hearing God's word (**Rom. 10:17**) and faith must grow by the hearing or it becomes lethargic and weary. Walking circumspectly mandates redeeming the time and the blessed man accomplishes this by his delight in the law of the Lord and meditating on that as often as he can, i.e. day and night.

To walk **circumspectly** is to *redeem your time wisely*, not wasting it. Paul said, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit"* (**Rom. 8:1**). There is no condemnation by walking according to the Spirit. To run from a burning house is to run to safety, and, in the likeness of that, turning to the study of God's word in every moment He affords us is running from ignorance, immorality, and slothfulness. Every time we come together to learn of Him we take power out of the hands of Satan and are empowered by Him to the saving of our souls (**Rom. 1:16**). Each time we study together He lightens our load and gives us rest from this weary world (**Matt. 11:28-30**).

To learn of Him, to study, to meditate on His words does strengthen and energize the weary. The Psalmist said, *"He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper"* (**v. 3**). For the Lord knows the way of the righteous (**v. 6**). We cannot in this life find enough time to study God's word which **empowers, strengthens, profits, and completes** us (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**). **Is it too hard to meet?** *"So continuing daily with one accord in the temple..."* (**Acts 2:46**). I don't think so!

via Columbus St. Church of Christ Bedford, Ohio

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