

NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 12/14/2020-12/18/2020

The following content is based on the message on 12/13/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY // EXCLUSIVITY OF CHRISTIANITY

Read 1 John 4:1-3. John wrote this letter to real people going through real things. They were in a crisis and John was concerned that there was false teaching going out from the church. John reminds the church that there is one true spirit—the Spirit of truth. This Spirit of truth flows out from Jesus Himself. Every other spirit that does not confess that Jesus has come in the flesh is not from God. We have to guard ourselves from ways that false spirits of the world want to draw us away from Jesus.

The test for a Godly spirit is not only comprehensive, but it is also confessional.

- *How does the exclusivity of Jesus allow you to have confidence in your faith?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Silently reflect on the reassuring nature of Jesus.*

TUESDAY // INCLUSIVITY OF CHRISTIANITY

Read 1 John 4:4-6. If someone doesn't get the main thing right in Christianity—that Jesus came from God in the flesh, then it would be difficult to get anything else right. There is only one way to God. To be so exclusive in our language sounds unloving. However, the irony of that is that Christianity is the most inclusive “religion” out there. While there is only one way to God, everyone is welcome to walk that way. Everyone is fully and deeply loved by God. Anyone can turn from their ways and follow Him! John tells us that anyone who believes in Jesus has the one who has overcome the world living within them.

- *How does the Spirit of truth speak the love of Jesus to your heart? What are some ways that you need to remember how much you are loved?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on how freely you are able to come to Jesus despite your past.*

WEDNESDAY // ORIGIN OF JESUS' SALVATION

Read John 1:1-5. Jesus has come into the world from God. He did not originate from within the world. This is different from other religions of the world which originate from human intellect. Human intellect can accomplish many things, except eternal salvation. Salvation can only come from God, by God. Jesus left heaven to take on the form of a human in order to rescue humanity.

Jesus coming in the flesh is evidence that God has come to pursue you.

- *In what way do you need to remember that Jesus is near you right now? Do you need to believe that He is near you to keep you from sin? Do you need to believe that He is near you because you are hurting and feel alone?*
- *Set a timer and reflect on the nearness of God. How does His nearness speak to you right now?*

THURSDAY // PURPOSE OF JESUS' SALVATION

Read John 1:9-16. Many religions seek to escape this world. Jesus doesn't save us in order to escape this world. He saves us in order to redeem the world. We cannot expect a human institution to do a divine act. They will always let us down. Our hope should only come through a divine act. Thankfully, God Himself has acted on our behalf by providing salvation. But this salvation isn't just a future reality. The salvation that we receive should motivate us to seek the flourishing of the world that we live in now. Ultimately, we can look forward to the day when salvation and redemption from God will create a new heaven and new earth.

The purpose of Jesus' salvation is not to escape the world but to redeem the world.

- *How is the salvation of Jesus available to you in this life now, not just as a future reality?*
- *In what specific area of your life (your family? your neighborhood? your work? your school?) would you like to see God transform how you act?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on how Jesus will create a new heaven and earth.*

FRIDAY // METHOD OF JESUS' SALVATION

Read 1 John 4:7-11. The method of our salvation isn't to do the right things. The method of our salvation is Jesus. God showed us grace and mercy through Jesus. John tells us that the love of God is evident through this grace and mercy. Jesus came to earth, walked on the earth, and lived the life that we should have lived. He lived perfectly. He didn't deserve punishment. But despite that, He went on to die the death that we should have died. Jesus took our place; and in that is true love. We need to sit in the love of Jesus, reflecting on what it really means for God to pursue us and take our place. This love of Jesus should motivate us to love because we have been loved.

The characteristics of true Christianity are right belief, righteousness, and the right love.

- *What makes the method of Jesus' salvation—Him taking your place—so overwhelmingly loving?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on how Jesus took your place.*