

Scriptural Charge and Exhortation

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

– Jesus

Knowing, Loving, Serving Christ ... Together

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Why Memorize Scripture? By John Piper

CONFORMITY TO CHRIST - Bible memorization has the effect of making our gaze on Jesus steadier and clearer.

DAILY TRIUMPH OVER SIN - As sin lures the body into sinful action, we call to mind a Christ-revealing word of Scripture and slay the temptation with the superior worth and beauty of Christ over what sin offers.

DAILY TRIUMPH OVER SATAN - When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness he recited Scripture from memory and put Satan to flight.

COMFORT AND COUNSEL FOR PEOPLE YOU LOVE - When the heart full of God's love can draw on the mind full of God's word, timely blessings flow from the mouth.

COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL TO UNBELIEVERS - Actual verses of the Bible have their own penetrating power. And when they come from our heart, as well as from the Book, the witness is given that they are precious enough to learn.

COMMUNION WITH GOD IN THE ENJOYMENT OF HIS PERSON AND WAYS - The way we commune with (that is, fellowship with) God is by meditating on his attributes and expressing to him our thanks and admiration and love, and seeking his help to live a life that reflects the value of these attributes.

Week 1 :: Psalm 120

PSALM 120: A SONG OF ASCENTS.

- 1 In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me.
- 2 Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue.
- 3 What shall be given to you, and what more shall be done to you, you deceitful tongue?
- 4 A warrior's sharp arrows, with glowing coals of the broom tree!
- 5 Woe to me, that I sojourn in Meshech, that I dwell among the tents of Kedar!
- 6 Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace.
- 7 I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war!

Week 3 :: Psalm 122

PSALM 122: A SONG OF ASCENTS. OF DAVID.

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"
- 2 Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!
- 3 Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together,
4 to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
- 5 There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you!"
- 7 Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!"
- 8 For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!"
- 9 For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

Week 2 :: Psalm 121

PSALM 121: A SONG OF ASCENTS.

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
- 8 The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Week 4 :: Psalm 123

PSALM 123: A SONG OF ASCENTS.

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
- 2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us.
- 3 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.
- 4 Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

Week 5 :: Psalm 124

PSALM 124: A SONG OF ASCENTS. OF DAVID.

- 1 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side— let Israel now say—
- 2 if it had not been the LORD who was on our side when people rose up against us,
- 3 then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;
- 4 then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;
- 5 then over us would have gone the raging waters.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth!
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped!
- 8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Week 7 :: Psalm 126

PSALM 126: A SONG OF ASCENTS.

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
- 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
- 3 The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.
- 4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!
- 5 Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!
- 6 He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

Week 6 :: Psalm 125

PSALM 125: A SONG OF ASCENTS.

- 1 Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.
- 2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore.
- 3 For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.
- 4 Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts!
- 5 But those who turn aside to their crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers! Peace be upon Israel!

Week 8 :: Psalm 127

PSALM 127: A SONG OF ASCENTS.
OF SOLOMON.

- 1 Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.
- 2 It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.
- 3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.
- 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.
- 5 Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Week 9 :: Psalm 128

PSALM 128: A SONG OF ASCENTS.

- 1 Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,
who walks in his ways!
- 2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your
hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be
well with you.
- 3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within
your house; your children will be like olive
shoots around your table.
- 4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who
fears the LORD.
- 5 The LORD bless you from Zion! May you
see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the
days of your life!
- 6 May you see your children's children!
Peace be upon Israel!

Week 11 :: Psalm 130

PSALM 130: A SONG OF ASCENTS.

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!
- 2 O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be
attentive to the voice of my pleas for
mercy!
- 3 If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O
Lord, who could stand?
- 4 But with you there is forgiveness, that you
may be feared.
- 5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in
his word I hope;
- 6 my soul waits for the Lord more than
watchmen for the morning, more than
watchmen for the morning.
- 7 O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the
LORD there is steadfast love, and with him
is plentiful redemption.
- 8 And he will redeem Israel from all his
iniquities.

Week 10 :: Psalm 129

PSALM 129: A SONG OF ASCENTS.

- 1 "Greatly have they afflicted me from my
youth"— let Israel now say—
- 2 "Greatly have they afflicted me from my
youth, yet they have not prevailed against
me.
- 3 The plowers plowed upon my back; they
made long their furrows."
- 4 The LORD is righteous; he has cut the
cords of the wicked.
- 5 May all who hate Zion be put to shame and
turned backward!
- 6 Let them be like the grass on the
housetops, which withers before it grows
up,
- 7 with which the reaper does not fill his hand
nor the binder of sheaves his arms,
- 8 nor do those who pass by say, "The
blessing of the LORD be upon you! We
bless you in the name of the LORD!"

Week 12 :: Psalm 131

PSALM 131: A SONG OF ASCENTS. OF DAVID.

- 1 O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes
are not raised too high; I do not occupy
myself with things too great and too
marvelous for me.
- 2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother; like a
weaned child is my soul within me.
- 3 O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time
forth and forevermore.

Week 13 :: Psalm 132:1-9

PSALM 132: A SONG OF ASCENTS.

- 1 Remember, O LORD, in David's favor, all the hardships he endured,
- 2 how he swore to the LORD and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,
- 3 "I will not enter my house or get into my bed,
- 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids,
- 5 until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."
- 6 Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of Jaar.
- 7 "Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool!"
- 8 Arise, O LORD, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might.
- 9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your saints shout for joy.

Week 15 :: Psalm 133 & 134

PSALM 133: A SONG OF ASCENTS. OF DAVID.

- 1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!
- 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!
- 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

PSALM 134: A SONG OF ASCENTS.

- 1 Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD!
- 2 Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD!
- 3 May the LORD bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth!

Week 14 :: Psalm 132:10-18

- 10 For the sake of your servant David, do not turn away the face of your anointed one.
- 11 The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.
- 12 If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne."
- 13 For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place:
- 14 "This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.
- 15 I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread.
- 16 Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy.
- 17 There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.
- 18 His enemies I will clothe with shame, but on him his crown will shine."