

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on "Is This the End?" — Death, Hope, and Eternity

Day 1: The Certainty of Death and the Appointment We All Must Keep

Reading: Hebrews 9:27 — This verse declares that every person dies once, and that after death comes judgment, leaving no room for do-overs or second chances.

Devotional: Most of us live as though death is optional — something distant, something we can simply refuse to think about. But the Bible speaks plainly where culture grows silent. Every person has an appointment they cannot cancel. The question is not whether you will face that moment, but whether you will be prepared for it. Preparation does not come through wealth, reputation, or good intentions. It comes through a settled, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Take time today to examine your heart honestly. Have you trusted Him fully? Do not treat eternity with the same carelessness you might treat a minor errand. This appointment is the one that matters most.

Reflection: What have you been avoiding thinking about regarding eternity, and what would it mean to face it honestly today?

Practical Application: Write down the names of three people in your life who, to your knowledge, have not trusted Christ. Begin praying for them by name this week.

Day 2: To Be Absent From the Body Is to Be Present With the Lord

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 — Paul describes the believer's confidence that departing from this physical body means entering into the immediate presence of the Lord, a reality that reshapes how we live now.

Devotional: The body is not the person. It is the dwelling, the shell, the temporary housing for the spirit that truly makes you who you are. When a believer dies, the shell remains, but the person — the real, eternal self — goes immediately to be with Christ. This truth is not a vague comfort. It is a precise, biblical promise. Paul calls this being at home with the Lord. There is no sleep, no void, no waiting in darkness. The spirit of the believer is received into the presence of Jesus. If you are in Christ, death is not a loss. It is a homecoming. Let that reshape how you grieve, how you comfort others, and how you face your own mortality.

Reflection: How does knowing that death for the believer means immediate presence with Christ change the way you think about losing someone you love?

Practical Application: Reach out today to someone who is grieving a loss. Offer them not just comfort, but the specific hope found in this passage.

Day 3: One Thief's Faith and the Promise of Paradise

Reading: Luke 23:39-43 — In his final moments, one criminal crucified beside Jesus acknowledged Him as Lord and received the immediate promise of paradise, demonstrating that salvation is available to anyone who believes.

Devotional: There are only two responses to Jesus Christ — the same two responses displayed on Calvary that day. One thief hurled contempt. The other offered surrender. The difference between them was not the severity of their sin, not their background, not their time remaining. The difference was faith. One man said, in essence, you are who you say you are, and I need you. That was enough. Jesus did not say, well, let us see how the rest of your life goes. He said, today. This is the urgency of the gospel. You do not know how much time remains. The same Jesus who said today to that thief is saying the same thing to you right now.

Reflection: Which of the two thieves do you most identify with in this season of your life, and what is keeping you from full surrender?

Practical Application: If you have never formally committed your life to Christ, do not let this day pass without doing so. If you have, spend time in gratitude today, thanking Him specifically for the mercy He extended to you.

Day 4: The Intermediate State — Between Death and Eternity

Reading: Luke 23:43; Philippians 1:21-24 — Paul expresses that to live is Christ and to die is gain, and that departing to be with Christ is far better than remaining, pointing to a conscious, blessed existence between death and the final resurrection.

Devotional: The Bible introduces what theologians call the intermediate state — the period between a believer's physical death and the final resurrection. This is not soul sleep. This is not an unconscious waiting. The spirit of the believer is immediately and consciously with Christ in a place of rest, joy, and holiness. Paul said departing to be with Christ is far better. Not slightly better. Far better. This means that what awaits the believer on the other side of death is a reality so surpassing this life that Paul struggled to explain it. Yet it is not the final chapter. The resurrection is still coming. The best is still ahead. Live today with that kind of hope anchoring your soul.

Reflection: How would your daily attitude and priorities shift if you genuinely believed that what awaits you in Christ is far better than anything this world offers?

Practical Application: Identify one area of your life where fear of loss or fear of the future is controlling your decisions. Surrender that specific fear to Christ in prayer today.

Day 5: We Shall All Be Changed — The Hope of the Resurrection

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 — Paul reveals the mystery that not all believers will die before Christ returns, but all will be transformed in an instant, receiving glorified bodies and entering into the victory that Christ has won over death.

Devotional: Death does not get the final word. That is the declaration of 1 Corinthians 15. The trumpet will sound. The dead will be raised. The living will be transformed. Every ache, every scar, every limitation of this body will be swallowed up in victory. This is not wishful thinking. This is the logical conclusion of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because He rose, we will rise. Because He was transformed, we will be transformed. The same power that brought Him out of the grave is the power at work in every believer today. Do not let the weight of this world make you forget what is coming. You are not headed toward an ending. You are headed toward a beginning that will never end.

Reflection: In what ways has the difficulty of this life caused you to lose sight of the resurrection hope that belongs to every believer in Christ?

Practical Application: Memorize 1 Corinthians 15:58 this week. Let the truth that your labor in the Lord is never in vain fuel the way you serve, love, and live today.