

DAILY BIBLE READING (November)

By following this suggested schedule you will be able to read the entire Bible in one year. If you've missed previous months' installments, you may begin with this one and finish at this time next year. Others in the congregation are reading the same material each day.

JOHN

The author is usually considered to be the disciple John, "the disciple whom Jesus loved." John gives us the picture of an exalted, glorified Christ. His Gospel has a greater emphasis on Jesus' words than his actions. We've noticed how similar the synoptic Gospels are (Matthew, Mark, Luke). John's is complementary. It is obviously addressed more to a Gentile audience than a Jewish one.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Reading</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Nov 1 | John 1-3 | How does John's opening differ from those of the other Gospels? Who is the "Word"? Chapter 3 speaks of Jesus as the "life giver." <i>Comments:</i> |
| Nov 2 | John 4-6 | There's no secrecy at first about who Jesus is (unlike Mark). Consider 4:42, 5:18, 5:23-24, 6:29, 6:40. <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |
| Nov 3 | John 7-9 | Jesus makes Messianic claims about himself. What is the result (7:43)? |
| Nov 4 | John 10-12 | Chapter 10 is the famous Good Shepherd chapter. Jesus causes divisions among the people. The result is obvious to the disciples (11:16). The Pharisee's statement in 12:19 is all too true. <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |
| Nov 5 | John 13-15 | This marks the beginning of the end. Almost half of this Gospel is about the final week before Christ's death & resurrection. How is his coming suffering described in 13:1? Note the tremendous "I Am" statements of Jesus throughout (e.g. 14:6). <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |
| Nov 6 | John 16-18 | Chapter 17 is called "Jesus' High Priestly Prayer". What does it show us about his will for the Church? <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |
| Nov 7 | John 19-21 | According to John's chronology, Jesus was crucified on the day before Passover (when the unblemished lambs were being slain). None of the Evangelists (Gospel writers) wrote everything he could have, but what they did record was so that we might BELIEVE (20:30-31). <i>Comments:</i> |

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Do you recall who wrote this book (check the opening of the book)? This book traces the witness of the apostles (“those sent”) and their effect on the world. It pays special attention to a man who was not one of the original 12. The story of Acts is the story of the “spreading flame” of faith which has never been extinguished.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Reading</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| Nov 8 | Acts 1-3 | How long was Jesus with his disciples after his resurrection? What did he teach them? Chapter 1 tells of his ascension (not to be confused with his resurrection). What was his final promise (8:1)? The book simply traces how his promise was fulfilled in a few short years. <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |
| Nov 9 | Acts 4-6 | We’ve already heard one of Peter’s sermons. The theme of all his sermons and of Christian sermons today is the same (4:12). What kind of economic system did the early followers have in 4:32 f? Gamaliel says a mouthful in 5:38-29! <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |
| Nov 10 | Acts 7-9 | Stephen, the first Christian martyr (which means “witness”) gives a thumbnail sketch of Israel’s history. Because of persecution, the witness mentioned in 1:8 expands in 8:1. The church thrives under persecution. <i>Comments:</i> |
| Nov 11 | Acts 10-12 | What does Peter’s vision in 10 mean? Gentiles are admitted to the faith! Note 11:26. In Greek the word “Christian” is very similar to the word for “fool.” More persecution in 12; but note the result in 12:24. <i>Comments:</i> |
| Nov 12 | Acts 13-15 | Now is a good time to turn to a map to trace the journeys of Paul. His theme is the same (14). Note the controversy in 15. But what’s the final verdict (15:11)? <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |
| Nov 13 | Acts 16-18 | The focus is on Paul’s preaching. Wherever he goes, his theme is the same (16:31, 18:5, 18:28). Notice the very wise thing that the Bereans did (17:11). |
| Nov 14 | Acts 19-21 | Good reading! <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |
| Nov 15 | Acts 22-24 | What Jesus said is true: “a disciple is not above his master.” <i>Comments:</i> |
| Nov 16 | Acts 25-28 | It was during his tumultuous journeys, his stays in prison, and his house arrest awaiting final execution in Rome that Paul wrote most of his letters to which we now turn our attention. <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |

ROMANS

Some have called this letter the “Gospel according to St. Paul,” for in it Paul gives us a resume of his faith and preaching and of Christian teaching in general. It’s loaded with Gospel! In the epistles (letters) of the New Testament we often see how practical problems within the Church are dealt with in the light of the Good News. Pretend the letter is addressed to you and your congregation (after all, it is!).

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Reading</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Nov 17 | Rom 1-3 | Paul sees the heart of Christianity as the tension between Law and Gospel. The Law is everything that stands as evidence to condemn us before God. Even the Gentiles with whom God hadn’t made a covenant still had the law written in their hearts (conscience). All people stand guilty before the holy God (2:11-12). But that’s not the final word. The final word is God’s Word who came to die for us and take away our sin (3:21-28). What Gospel! |
| Nov 18 | Rom 4-6 | The Gospel comes through clearly again: 4:23-25, 5:1, 5:5. But the Good News of God’s mercy should not be a license for sin (6:1-4). <i>Comments:</i> |
| Nov 19 | Rom 7-9 | The Holy Spirit leads us to greater obedience, lives more in conformity with the will of our Lord (8:9-11). If you wonder if it’s worth it, read 8:31-39! |
| Nov 20 | Rom 10-12 | Some wonder what will become of the Jews who lived under God’s grace, but who repudiated Jesus as the Messiah. Read this section carefully. All rests on God’s continuing mercy. <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |
| Nov 21 | Rom 13-16 | This section contains good pastoral advice about specific concerns in the Roman congregation. <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |

1 CORINTHIANS

The congregation in Corinth, Greece proved to be one of the most difficult groups with which Paul had to contend. They show how quickly inter-personal problems could get in the way of clear Christian precepts. Nevertheless, Paul addresses them as Christians, brothers and sisters in the faith. He deals with them and their problems evangelically (i.e. in a Gospel-centered way). Any church will think it’s having problems should study this letter!

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Reading</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Nov 22 | 1 Cor 1-3 | Note that in spite of all their problems, Paul says that he thanks God for them in his prayers. Their big problem is the factions that have developed (1:12). |
| Nov 23 | 1 Cor 4-6 | Pride, sexual misconduct, and civil litigation between members are just a few of their problems. <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Reading</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Nov 24 | 1 Cor 7-9 | Paul gives more advice to special concerns in this congregation. He deals with recent converts who expect the return of Christ in the near future: “how should we live in the meantime?” <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |
| Nov 25 | 1 Cor 10-12 | Chapter 11 deals with their peculiar practices re Holy Communion. Read carefully! 12 is a beautiful description of the close fellowship of the Church. Does it describe us? <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |
| Nov 26 | 1 Cor 13-16 | Good reading! Chapter 13 is the great “Chapter of Love.” 15 is the great “Chapter of the Resurrection.” <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |

2 CORINTHIANS

In spite of Paul’s admonitions in his first letter to them, the party spirit at Corinth continued. Some had rejoiced over his first letter, but others’ opposition became more solidified. Hence, a second letter.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Reading</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Nov 27 | 2 Cor 1-3 | Here Paul traces recent happenings. He describes the circumstances surrounding his first letter. Then he goes on to maintain his apostolic authority, which some are questioning. <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |
| Nov 28 | 2 Cor 4-6 | Paul sees his ministry in humble terms (4). The Gospel keeps ringing through (5:15-21). Paul viewed everything through the cross of Christ. |
| Nov 29 | 2 Cor 7-9 | More good reading! <i>Comments & Questions:</i> |
| Nov 30 | 2 Cor 10-13 | Paul’s ministry has been challenged by some Corinthians. (How often the church wastes time and effort discussing its clergy rather than the business of ministry!.) Paul defends himself against their charges, but only because it reveals the power of Christ (12:9). But the letter ends with a beautiful salutation and a final benediction which should be familiar to us. |

You may download December’s schedule from our website or pick up a copy in the church narthex

