

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

5 Day Chronological Bible Reading Program WWW.FIVEDAYBIBLEREADING.COM

Week Six: February 2–8

- Day 1: Exodus 16-18; Ephesians 4
- Day 2: Exodus 19-21; Psalm 33; Ephesians 5
- Day 3: Exodus 22-24; Psalm 109; Ephesians 6
- Day 4: Exodus 25-27; Psalm 90; Philippians 1
- Day 5: Exodus 28-31; Philippians 2

Week Eight: February 16–22

- Day 1: Leviticus 8-11; Psalm 110; Hebrews 4
- Day 2: Leviticus 12-14; Psalm 111; Hebrews 5
- Day 3: Leviticus 15-18; Psalm 31; Hebrews 6
- Day 4: Leviticus 19-20; Hebrews 7
- Day 5: Leviticus 21-23; Hebrews 8

Week Seven: February 9–15

- Day 1: Exodus 32-34; Philippians 3
- Day 2: Exodus 35-37; Psalm 26; Philippians 4
- Day 3: Exodus 38-40; Hebrews 1
- Day 4: Leviticus 1-3; Psalm 27; Hebrews 2
- Day 5: Leviticus 4-7; Hebrews 3

Week Nine: February 23– March 1

- Day 1: Leviticus 24-25; Psalm 81; Hebrews 9
- Day 2: Leviticus 26-27; Psalm 112; Hebrews 10
- Day 3: Numbers 1-2; Psalm 64; Hebrews 11
- Day 4: Numbers 3-5; Hebrews 12
- Day 5: Numbers 6-7; Hebrews 13



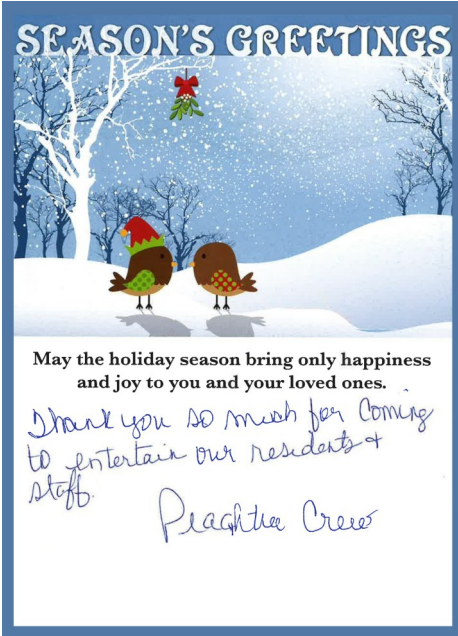
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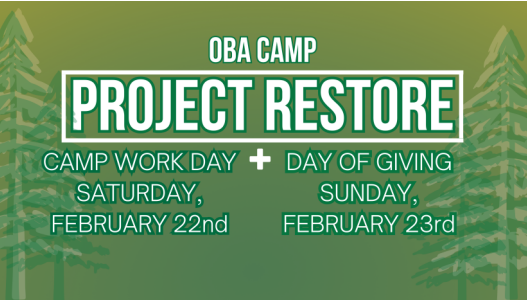
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It is the hope that God is surely going to do in the future every single thing that He has said He will do. The fruit of justification is that kind of hope. Justification, in a sense, is the down payment for all that God promises us in His work of redemption. Hope is created by the Holy Spirit within us. Elsewhere Paul will speak about God’s giving to us the “earnest” or down payment of the Holy Spirit, which gives us total assurance for the future. Hope is not taking a deep breath and hoping that things are going to turn out all right. It is assurance that God is going to do what He says He will do.

This article was written by R.C. Sproul and originally published in, *The Power of the Gospel: A Year in Romans* and on Ligonier.org on January 6th, 2025



*Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your prayers for my dad in his time of illness and passing. Your cards and food and kind thoughts are greatly appreciated. Thank you for the Bible in his name. He would like that very much.
The family of Raymond Cummins
Shela and Vernon Payne
Betty Cummins*



Please consider with me a portion of Paul’s letter to Philemon. It is a rich document full of brotherly love and grace. It is profound yet simple in its address to someone Paul held very dear. It may not be a book of the Bible that we refer to often, but it has so much to say for believer’s today. It is short in its length while deep in wisdom.

I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. Philemon 4-7.

As we read these words, there are several things that stand out and deserve greater contemplation. First, we find Paul’s thankfulness is deliberate and always part of his prayers.

Prayers of thanksgiving are vital in our relationship with God. It helps maintain the mindset around our blessings and where they come from. A heart filled with gratitude cannot help but to praise the Source of our blessings.

Next, we identify the reason for Paul’s gratefulness. He has been told of Philemon’s love and faith that he has for God and for the brothers and sisters in Christ. Obviously, this is not some trivial matter that Paul is addressing. Philemon is a man known for a commitment to love and faith. In other words, his life is signified by the love he has for God and others while punctuated by a sincere faith that he holds.

Both are not mere character traits, but fruit brought forth by the Holy Spirit in someone’s life. Again, this is something that every believer should strive to identify with. Each of us should be known as people of love and faith.

Thirdly, we see that Paul recognized Philemon as someone who regularly shared his faith with others.

Paul understood that this very act is how Philemon tangibly demonstrated his love and faith to the world around him. These were never meant to be kept to ourselves but freely shared with the world that the saving grace of Jesus Christ might be made known. This is how Christ’s kingdom is grown and His glory demonstrated for all to see. This, too, is a clear indicator of a life lived in right standing before God and something we each must strive for. Finally, we can glean from this letter that Philemon has been a blessing to Paul personally as he has experienced the love from a brother in Christ. Paul also notes that other believers have been ‘refreshed’ as a part of Philemon’s life. It is the genuine life of faith in Christ lived in a manner that those around him are benefactors of the grace shown by our Lord and Savior. Our lives should be impacted by Christ’s grace in a similar fashion that it flows through us to those around us so that people would recognize

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The Privilege of Being a Christian

Paul wrote Romans from the house of his friend Gaius during a stay in Corinth. Neither Paul nor the Christians in Rome knew how soon they would need the comfort of Romans 8.

Opinion varies, but many scholars estimate that Romans was written in AD 57-58. Within a decade, many of the Roman Christians to whom the letter was addressed were brutally slaughtered in the Roman amphitheaters. The original readers of Romans faced a terrible dilemma: they could deny Jesus or profess Him knowing that, if they did, they faced certain death.

Tacitus’ account, written half a century later, and with unmeasured contempt for Nero, is often cited:

“Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered in the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or doomed to the flames.”

Think about it: Paul initially wrote Romans 8 for Christians who had to face the possibility of unspeakably brutal deaths.

Some were crucified in mockery of their faith in Jesus. Some were mauled to death by wild beasts.

Some were covered in tar and set ablaze.

Paul himself was killed outside the city at *Tre Fontane*. As a Roman citizen, he was spared the horror of crucifixion, being thrown to wild animals, or being burned alive. Most likely, he was beheaded with a sword.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall . . . [the] sword?” (Rom. 8:35, emphasis added).

Can you imagine anything greater than this—that you have been loved from eternity

No, a sword did not sever Paul from the love of Jesus Christ. Nothing could come between the apostle and the certainty of heaven that awaited him.

The same promise was given to every Roman Christian who died in these appalling circumstances. They knew a love that would not let them go—the love of the Father and of the Son made known by the Holy Spirit, a love that did not spare Jesus.

As a Christian, I am not only “in Christ,” but Christ is “in me” (Galatians 2:20)

This means, *“God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rom. 5:5).*

Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, *“I am convinced that there is no aspect of Christian truth that has been so sadly neglected in this century.”*

Oh, the privilege of being a Christian. Can you imagine anything greater than this—that you have been loved from eternity; that “in Christ” you are loved right now?

This article was written by Derek Thomas and originally published in *How the Gospel Brings Us All the Way Home* by Derek Thomas and on Ligonier.org on March 7th, 2023

NEW/
PROSPECTIVE
MEMBER
CLASS

February 2nd-23rd

Sundays 9:30 am



Continued from Pastor's Desk

the Holy Spirit within us and be refreshed by being around us. As we consider our lives in Christ, may we each yearn to be recognized in the same way that Paul identified Philemon. A people of prayer with grateful hearts who are known by our love and faith and consistently share that same faith with the world around us who so desperately need to hear it. Let our lives be refreshing to those we encounter all the glory of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

God bless you all,
Bro. Jim Tennerly

The Role of Hope in the Christian Life

The triad of Christian virtues—faith, hope, and love—are all important. As important as love is (1 Cor. 13:13), we know that faith is not unimportant. We have been working closely on the significance of faith, and we understand the importance of love, but so often that third element in this triad of virtues, hope, gets overlooked in Christian experience. If there is any word in Romans 5 that we might radically misunderstand, it is *hope*. There is always an element of doubt that clouds our understanding of Paul’s use of the word. When we use the word hope, typically we use it to describe a wish or a desire that something will take place, something that we are not sure will actually happen. That is not the way that the word functions in the New Testament. When we are regenerated by the Holy Spirit, we are born anew to a hope that forms the basis for our confidence in living out the Christian life. The only difference between hope and faith is that faith looks to what has already taken place, and we put our trust in it. Hope is merely faith looking forward. The metaphor used in the New Testament to describe the nature of hope is that of an anchor. Hope, we are told, is the anchor of the soul. We frequently find this nautical image in the New Testament. The unstable are compared to boats that have no anchor, tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine. Such people are characterized by vacillation and uncertainty, but the hope planted in the soul by the Holy Spirit is not like that. This hope gives a foundation and stability and assurance. Hope is the anchor that keeps us from being blown about.

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Music Notes

Have you ever thought about the worship of God being a privilege? I’m not speaking only of corporate worship on Sunday. Worship should be a daily attitude of humility before God with praise for who He is, and thanksgiving for what He has done and is doing. That we, as finite creatures, can have knowledge of and personal relationship with the Infinite Creator of all things certainly is a blessing beyond what we mortals deserve, or of which we are even capable on our own. Only by God’s grace can we know him, through His self-disclosure to us. Only by God’s grace does He give us the capacity to engage with Him in personal communion. True worship will always leave us awe-struck before God and mindful of our weakness and unworthiness to approach such a God as our God. The prophet, Isaiah, was caught up in such worship when he had a view of God in His majestic glory, high and exalted (Isaiah 6:1-5). He heard the song of the Seraphim:

*Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts,
The whole earth is full of His glory.*

Isaiah was stricken in heart at his total unworthiness to be in the presence of such glory. The passage from Isaiah inspired the hymn, “Holy, Holy, Holy”. Each time we sing that hymn, we are given the opportunity to join in the endless song of praise to our God begun by the seraphim. The hymn describes the triune God without diminishing the mystery of the Trinity. “Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see” does not prevent our worship of our awesome God. Don’t take the privilege of worship for granted. What a glorious privilege it is for us to enjoy!

Blessed to serve,
Bro. Vernon