

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

5 Day Chronological Bible Reading Program WWW.FIVEDAYBIBLEREADING.COM

Week Thirty one: *July 28– August 3*

Day 1: Jonah 1-4; Matthew 11

Day 2: 2Kings 13-14; 2 Chron 25; Psalm 53; Matthew 12

Day 3: Amos 1-3; Matthew 13

Day 4: Amos 4-6; Psalm 55; Matthew 14

Day 5: Amos 7-9; Matthew 15

Week Thirty two: *August 4-10*

Day 1: Hosea 1-3; Matthew 16

Day 2: Hosea 4-6; Psalm 58; Matthew 17

Day 3: Hosea 7-10; Matthew 18

Day 4: Hosea 11-13; Matthew 19

Day 5: Hosea 14; 2 Chron 26-27; Psalm 61; Matthew 20

Week Thirty three: *August 11-17*

Day 1: 2 Kings 15-16; Matthew 21

Day 2: Isaiah 1-3; Psalm 9; Matthew 22

Day 3: Isaiah 4-6; Matthew 23

Day 4: Micah 1-4; Psalm 10; Matthew 24

Day 5: Micah 5-7; Matthew 25

Week Thirty four: *August 18-24*

Day 1: Isaiah 7-10; Psalm 22; Matthew 26

Day 2: Isaiah 11-13; Psalm 118; Matthew 27

Day 3: Isaiah 14-16; Matthew 28

Day 4: Isaiah 17-19; Psalm 62; 1 Corinthians 1

Day 5: Isaiah 20-22; 1Corinthians 2

Week Thirty five: *August 25-31*

Day 1: Isaiah 23-25; 1 Corinthians 3

Day 2: Isaiah 26-29; Psalm 65; 1 Corinthians 4

Day 3: Isaiah 30-32; 1 Corinthians 5

Day 4: Isaiah 33-35; 1 Corinthians 6

Day 5: 2 Chronicles 28; 2 Kings 17; Psalm 66; 1 Cor 7

Continued from page 3

Ultimately, in heaven, we will be delivered from sin’s presence. John Stott has argued that when Paul reasoned with Governor Felix about “righteousness and self-control and the coming judgement” (Acts 24:25), he was pointing out the three tenses of salvation.

At every stage—justification, sanctification, glorification— we come with empty hands, seeking mercy from our heavenly Father. Even at the point of our obedience as Christians—we are to “work out our salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12) - we do so only because God works “in us, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13). And when we enter the pearly gates of heaven, wisdom will dictate that we show our empty hands and say with Edward Mote: “On Christ the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.”

The moment we drift away from the gospel, we perish. But if we remain on the narrow gospel way, it brings us all the way home.

This article was written by Derek Thomas and originally published in “How the Gospel Brings Us All the Way Home” by Derek Thomas.

*The family of
Pauline “Polly” Sullivan Lochala
acknowledges with
deep appreciation
your kind expression of sympathy*


*Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for your love
and support for us during this time
of loss.
You have been such a great home
church and I have loved serving there.
Thank you for the Bible you donated
in Mom’s memory.
We look forward to serving our Lord
together more.*

Rick & Susan & Family

AUGUST 2024

VOLUME 295

THE BROADCASTER



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST MENA

FBC Family,
The weather is still warm, but we must concede that summer is quickly coming to an end. Personally, it is my favorite time of year as I am drawn to sunshine and warm weather, but all good things come to an end as it does every year. Warm days will eventually give way to cooler days, but I am always hopeful that the warmth of summer days will be extended far into the fall. I bring this up because soon all the children will trade days of freedom for days filled with learning in school. From primary schools to the top universities, students will head back to what have become familiar sounds of education across the land whether they are schooled at home or part of an institution of education in some other fashion. Teachers and administrators are preparing for the same. Each school year brings new faces

and opportunities to learn; a chance for the children to be more than they were before through education. Certainly, this is something we all encourage in our children. Education is one of the things in this world that you can gain and not have it taken from you. What you learn is a treasure and yours to keep. As we learn, we are more capable of dealing with the things of this world and, depending on what we are called to do, can equip us with the tools necessary to navigate the workplace and home. Educators work hard to train children in what they will need in the future and continually develop themselves, so they are even more capable of preparing students for an ever-changing world. The merits of education simply cannot be overstated, and we should encourage and pray for students, parents and educators alike in the pursuit of this most worthy endeavor. We cannot restrict educational instruction to secular learning

alone. As we encourage students to learn, we must consider learning from a spiritual perspective. As a lot of emphasis is placed on secular education, we cannot neglect the greater cause of spiritual instruction in God’s Word. Ponder for a moment the words from the writer of Hebrews:
For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. Hebrews 5:12-14
Sacrificing spiritual teaching is a tragedy for the believer. We put so much emphasis on something as important as

Continued on next page

Morning & Evening

Charles Spurgeon

Morning: "Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn."
[Ruth 2:2](#)
Downcast and troubled Christian, come and glean today in the broad field of promise. Here are abundance of precious promises, which exactly meet thy wants. Take this one: "He will not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax." Doth not that suit thy case? A reed, helpless, insignificant, and weak, a bruised reed, out of which no music can come; weaker than weakness itself; a reed, and that reed bruised, yet, he will not break thee; but on the contrary, will restore and strengthen thee. Thou art like the smoking flax: no light, no warmth, can come from thee; but he will not quench thee; he will blow with his sweet breath of mercy till he fans thee to a flame. Wouldst thou glean another ear? "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." What soft words! Thy heart is tender, and the Master knows it, and therefore he speaketh so gently to thee. Wilt thou not obey him, and come to him even now? Take another ear of corn: "Fear not, thou worm Jacob, I will help thee, saith the Lord and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel." How canst thou fear with such a wonderful assurance as this? Thou mayest gather ten thousand such golden ears as these! "I have blotted out thy sins like a cloud, and like a thick cloud thy transgressions." Or this, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Or this, "The Spirit and the Bride say, Come, and let him that is athirst come, and whosoever will let him take the water of life freely." Our Master's field is very rich; behold the handfuls. See, there they lie before thee, poor timid believer! Gather them up, make them thine own, for Jesus bids thee take them. Be not afraid, only believe! Grasp these sweet promises, thresh them out by meditation and feed on them with joy.

Evening: "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness."
[Psalm 65:11](#)
All the year round, every hour of every day, God is richly blessing us; both when we sleep and when we wake his mercy waits upon us. The sun may leave us a legacy of darkness, but our God never ceases to shine upon his children with beams of love. Like a river, his lovingkindness is always flowing, with a fulness inexhaustible as his own nature. Like the atmosphere which constantly surrounds the earth, and is always ready to support the life of man, the benevolence of God surrounds all his creatures; in it, as in their element, they live, and move, and have their being. Yet as the sun on summer days gladdens us with beams more warm and bright than at other times, and as rivers are at certain seasons swollen by the rain, and as the atmosphere itself is sometimes fraught with more fresh, more bracing, or more balmy influences than heretofore, so is it with the mercy of God; it hath its golden hours; its days of overflow, when the Lord magnifieth his grace before the sons of men. Amongst the blessings of the nether springs, the joyous days of harvest are a special season of excessive favour. It is the glory of autumn that the ripe gifts of providence are then abundantly bestowed; it is the mellow season of realization, whereas all before was but hope and expectation. Great is the joy of harvest. Happy are the reapers who fill their arms with the liberality of heaven. The Psalmist tells us that the harvest is the crowning of the year. Surely these crowning mercies call for crowning thanksgiving! Let us render it by the inward emotions of gratitude. Let our hearts be warmed; let our spirits remember, meditate, and think upon this goodness of the Lord. Then let us praise him with our lips, and laud and magnify his name from whose bounty all this goodness flows. Let us glorify God by yielding our gifts to his cause. A practical proof of our gratitude is a special thank-offering to the Lord of the harvest.

Continued from Pastor's Desk

A secular education and miss the greater need for spiritual education. Here, the writer admonishes these Christians who should, by this time, be mature believers ingesting the deeper things of God. Yet, they are still on the elemental things they should have comprehended and moved on from. Imagine as an adult if all you were given to consume was milk; we would be distraught and hungry.

...too often we are satisfied with spiritual milk never pushing ourselves for greater depths

However, too often we are satisfied with spiritual milk never pushing ourselves for greater depths of God’s Word. Education is vital. We can never underestimate the importance of the subjects taught in school. With that in mind, I want to encourage all of us to dig deeper into God’s Word as part of our own spiritual education so our “powers of discernment” would be what God intends for them. Nothing will ever surpass this greater knowledge of God. Read your Bible, use good commentaries, read credible Bible-believing authors and challenge yourself to learn and grow in the Lord.

May God bless you as a student of His Word,

Bro. Jim Tennery

The 3 Tenses of the Gospel

We never get past the gospel. What saved us in the past, when we were still in our sins –fallen sons of Adam by nature –was the grace of God in the gospel. Nowhere is that put more succinctly than in Ephesians: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast”. (Eph. 2:8-9)
But the New Testament can also speak about our salvation in the present tense -we are “being saved” (1 Cor. 1:18; 2 Cor. 2:15) -as well as in the future tense –we “shall ... be saved” (Romans 5:9).
There is only one salvation and one way of salvation. What occurred in our past, works itself out in the present, and comes to consummation in the future is all of a piece. Justification now leads to glorification then (Romans 8:29-30).
True, some talk unadvisedly about being “saved again”, as though salvation could be lost one day and regained the next. In truth, some who speak this way were never saved in the first place. They had made a decision, but it was just that –a human decision and not a sovereign, life-renewing work of the Holy Spirit “from above” (John 3:3,5). Others who speak this way may have been converted but never acquired the fullness of assurance that should accompany it; when they did, it felt like a new birth all over again.
Why, then, does the New Testament speak of salvation in three tenses? The answer lies in considering what happens in salvation. Initially, at the point of regeneration, our sins are forgiven—entirely and completely. We have been delivered from sin’s penalty. Through faith, we are reckoned to be righteous—as righteous as Christ is. Then, there is sanctification—a process whereby we are being delivered from sin’s power.

At every stage—justification, sanctification, glorification—we come with empty hands, seeking mercy from our heavenly Father.

Continued on page 4

Music Notes

“My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there’s nothing my God cannot do”.
These are some of the lyrics to the children’s song we will sing this Sunday in morning worship, thanks to Preston Tennery. Preston, Bro. Jim’s grandson, is a great help in always having a song to suggest for worship. Remember, adults, that the children’s song is not just for the children to sing, but for all of us to join in singing. The children’s songs are not just for fun, but they convey truths of our faith if we really listen. Most of you, like me, grew up learning songs as children that stick with us to this day.
How many of you remember the following:

“I’ve got a home in glory land that outshines the sun
Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me.
‘Way beyond the blue.
I took Jesus as my Savior, you take Him too”.

This song speaks of the hope we have for life in heaven when we trust Jesus to be our Savior.

“Deep and wide, Deep and wide.
There’s a fountain flowing deep and wide.”

What a wonderful way of conveying the truth about blood sacrifice Jesus made on the cross that provides full forgiveness and cleansing from sin for all who come to Jesus.

“I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart”.

One can’t sing this chorus and be sad. It lifts the spirit to rejoice in what God has done in our lives. So many more songs and choruses I could call to mind. I express a big thanks to Donna Hendricks and her helpers for leading the children’s choir in learning the songs and hymns of our faith. Thanks to Dana for teaching hymns to our preteens. Never underestimate the impact of music on our theology and practice of our faith.

“I’m gonna keep on singing, I’m gonna keep on shoutin’
I’m gonna keep on lifting my voice and let the world know that Jesus saves”.
See you in worship Sunday, and hope to see and hear you singing.

Blessed to serve,
Bro. Vernon