

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

5 Day Chronological Bible Reading Program WWW.FIVEDAYBIBLEREADING.COM

Week Twenty Seven: June 30– July 6

- Day 1: 1 Kings 10-11; 2 Chron 9; 1 Tim 6
- Day 2: Ecclesiastes 1-3; Psalm 45; 2 Tim 1
- Day 3: Ecclesiastes 4-6; Psalm 125; 2 Tim 2
- Day 4: Eecl 7-9; Psalm 46; 2 Tim 3
- Day 5: Eecl 10-12; 2 Tim 4

Week Twenty Eight: July 7-13

- Day 1: 1 Kings 12; 2 Chron 10-11; Titus 1
- Day 2: 1 Kings 13-14; 2 Chron 12; Psalm 47; Titus 2
- Day 3: 1 Kings 15; 2 Chron 13-14; Titus 3
- Day 4: 2 Chron 15-16; 1 Kings 16; Philemon
- Day 5: 1 Kings 17-18; Psalm 119; Jude

Week Twenty Nine: July 14-20

- Day 1: 1 Kings 19-20; 2 Chron 17; Psalm 129; Matt 1
- Day 2: 1 Kings 22; 2 Chron 18; Matt 2
- Day 3: 2 Chron 19-20; 2 Kings 1; Psalm 20; Matt 3
- Day 4: 2 Kings 2-3; Psalm 48; Matt 4
- Day 5: 2 Kings 4-6; Matt 5

Week Thirty: July 21-27

- Day 1: 2 Kings 7-8; 2 Chron 21; Matt 6
- Day 2: 2 Kings 9-10; Psalm 49; Matt 7
- Day 3: 2 Chron 22-23; 2 Kings 11; Psalm 131; Matt 8
- Day 4: 2 Chron 24; 2 Kings 12; Psalm 50; Matt 9
- Day 5: Joel 1-3; Matt 10

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But God Delegates authority as He reigns and rules over His creation. God raises up human governments. It is God who instituted government in the first place. (Rom. 13) That’s why Christians are called to honor and pray for the king, pay their taxes, and submit as much as possible to the authorities in all things – because the authorities are instituted by God. Moreover, He shares supreme authority with Christ, who said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given [by the Father] to me” (Matt 28:18). So, no ruler in this world has any authority except that which has been delegated to him by God and by His Christ, who is the King of kings and Lord of lords. Thus, disobedience to the lawful commands of earthly authorities is ultimately disobedience to God and to Christ because they ordained the governing authorities. The root problem in all of creation is disobedience to law, defiance of authority. And the ultimate authority of the universe is God Himself. The world has gone crazy in lawlessness, but we’re to be different. Wherever we find ourselves under authority– and we all find ourselves submitting to various authorities– we’re to submit to that authority. Nobody in this world is autonomous. Every one of us has not just one boss, but several bosses. Everyone I know, including me, is accountable not to just one person but to all kinds of authority structures. Throw a brick through a store window, and you’ll find out quickly that you’re accountable, that you’re under authority, that there are laws to be obeyed and law enforcement officers to make sure the laws are obeyed.

Christians are free in Christ, but we aren’t to use our liberty as a license for sin, because even though on the one hand we’re free, on the other hand we remain indentured servants. We’re bondservants to God. We’re slaves of Jesus Christ. So, even if the rest of the world is running on the track of anti-authority and anti-submissiveness, we aren’t allowed to join in. We’re called to be scrupulous to maintain order. There is such a thing as law and order that God Himself has ordained in the universe. And we’re called to bear witness to that, even by suffering through uncomfortable, inconvenient, and sometimes painful submission to the lawful rules of even those authorities who do not recognize God, for even the godless authorities have been established by God. I think we all have experiences where we bristle and chafe under authority and under mandates with which we vehemently disagree. Let me just suggest as a matter of practical consideration that if we look to these human institutions or these human persons who are tyrannical, unfair, unjust, and all that, and we seek to submit to them individually or even institutionally, considered in and of themselves, we will find it extremely difficult to submit with any kind of good attitude. But if somehow we can look through them, look past, look over them, and see the One whom the Father has invested with ultimate cosmic authority, namely, Christ Himself, we’ll have an easier time submitting. We’ll find help with our struggle to submit when we recognize we’re submitting ultimately to Christ, because we know He’ll never tyrannize or abuse us.

This article was written by R.C. Sproul and originally published online at Ligonier.org on May 30th, 2024.

THE BROADCASTER



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST MENA

Greetings FBC, Experts have warned us for years that unhealthy diets are doing serious damage to our bodies. Passing on fruit and vegetables while consuming too much fast-food leads to real health problems and even diseases. Nutritionists still advise balanced diets like we all learned with the “pyramid” in elementary school. It prevents us from issues related to vitamin deficiencies and other risks associated with not eating correctly. I will be the first to admit that the “other” food is delicious, and a real temptation and that testimony comes from firsthand experience. Our physical health is largely dependent on what we consume. Of course, this is leading to my point in writing this article. Along with our physical health, we have a spiritual health that we need to be far more concerned about. As important as our physical health

is, our spiritual health is critical and must be maintained with great care and diligence. We must be fed regularly a healthy diet to lift our spiritual health. Just like the crisis of unhealthy eating in the physical sense, our spiritual health is being ravaged by an unhealthy diet. To make my point, a recent LifeWay study showed that only 32 percent of Americans who attend a Protestant church regularly say they read their Bible personally each day. Read that again, 32 percent; less than one third.

“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Those identified as Evangelical Protestants came in at 36 percent. That number is a sad statement regarding modern-day Christianity. How can we as believers walk with God and grow in Him if we won’t even

read His revelation to us? It leaves us spiritually unhealthy suffering from malnutrition. We are literally starving as believers if we do not read God’s Word. Following His 40-day time in the wilderness without food, Jesus responded to each temptation with Scripture. In Matthew 4:4, Jesus responded, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Reading your Bible is not just about learning Bible stories or moral lessons. The Bible is much more than that. Pastor Justin Dillehay put it this way, “When we neglect reading the Bible, we don’t just miss knowledge, we miss God.” I believe that to be a very accurate way of stating the truth that we desperately need God’s Word in our lives.

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Morning & Evening Charles Spurgeon

Morning:

"Only ye shall not go very far away."
[Exodus 8:28](#)

This is a crafty word from the lip of the arch-tyrant Pharaoh. If the poor bonded Israelites must needs go out of Egypt, then he bargains with them that it shall not be very far away; not too far for them to escape the terror of his arms, and the observation of his spies. After the same fashion, the world loves not the non-conformity of nonconformity, or the dissidence of dissent; it would have us be more charitable and not carry matters with too severe a hand. Death to the world, and burial with Christ, are experiences which carnal minds treat with ridicule, and hence the ordinance which sets them forth is almost universally neglected, and even condemned. Worldly wisdom recommends the path of compromise, and talks of "moderation." According to this carnal policy, purity is admitted to be very desirable, but we are warned against being too precise; truth is of course to be followed, but error is not to be severely denounced. "Yes," says the world, "be spiritually minded by all means, but do not deny yourself a little gay society, an occasional ball, and a Christmas visit to a theatre. What's the good of crying down a thing when it is so fashionable, and everybody does it?" Multitudes of professors yield to this cunning advice, to their own eternal ruin. If we would follow the Lord wholly, we must go right away into the wilderness of separation, and leave the Egypt of the carnal world behind us. We must leave its maxims, its pleasures, and its religion too, and go far away to the place where the Lord calls his sanctified ones. When the town is on fire, our house cannot be too far from the flames. When the plague is abroad, a man cannot be too far from its haunts. The further from a viper the better, and the further from worldly conformity the better. To all true believers let the trumpet-call be sounded, "Come ye out from among them, be ye separate."

Evening:

"Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called."
[1 Corinthians 7:20](#)

Some persons have the foolish notion that the only way in which they can live for God is by becoming ministers, missionaries, or Bible women. Alas! how many would be shut out from any opportunity of magnifying the Most High if this were the case. Beloved, it is not office, it is earnestness; it is not position, it is grace which will enable us to glorify God. God is most surely glorified in that cobbler's stall, where the godly worker, as he plies the awl, sings of the Saviour's love, aye, glorified far more than in many a prebendal stall where official religiousness performs its scanty duties. The name of Jesus is glorified by the poor unlearned carter as he drives his horse, and blesses his God, or speaks to his fellow labourer by the roadside, as much as by the popular divine who, throughout the country, like Boanerges, is thundering out the gospel. God is glorified by our serving him in our proper vocations. Take care, dear reader, that you do not forsake the path of duty by leaving your occupation, and take care you do not dishonour your profession while in it. Think little of yourselves, but do not think too little of your callings. Every lawful trade may be sanctified by the gospel to noblest ends. Turn to the Bible, and you will find the most menial forms of labour connected either with most daring deeds of faith, or with persons whose lives have been illustrious for holiness. Therefore be not discontented with your calling. Whatever God has made your position, or your work, abide in that, unless you are quite sure that he calls you to something else. Let your first care be to glorify God to the utmost of your power where you are. Fill your present sphere to his praise, and if he needs you in another he will show it you. This evening lay aside vexatious ambition, and embrace peaceful content.

Continued from Pastor's Desk

How long has it been since you regularly read your Bible? Let's put that question into perspective. When was the last time you checked social media regularly? When was the last time you checked the news regularly?

How do the last two questions compare to the first? God's Word is inspired and a far greater source than anything else we could read. Paul certainly knew it. "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#).

How long has it been since you regularly read your bible?

The Bible is a living word and not some relic that is no longer relevant because it is past its time. The Scriptures are always right for the time and give us all that we need to rightly follow God and know Him. Consider devoting real time regularly to God's Word each day. It will literally change your life as it nourishes your soul. Don't be left hungry and malnourished, give the Bible the attention it deserves and make it a priority in your life. May God bless you with a heart filled with desire for His holy words.

Love for you all,
Bro. Jim Tenney

Living Under Authority

As I read the Scriptures, particularly the New Testament, there is a theme that recurs again and again regarding the Christian's willingness to be in submission to various types of authority. Given the rebellious spirit of our age, that frightens me. It's all too easy for us to get caught up in an attitude that will bring us into open defiance of the authority of God.

Let's turn our attention to

[1 Peter 2:11-16](#):

Beloved I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by Him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Live as free, yet not using your liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

Peter is speaking to people who were subjected to brutal, fierce, and violent persecution— the kind of activity that can incite within us the worst possible responses, including anger, resentment, and hatred. But Peter pleads with those people who were the victims of the hatred of their culture to behave in an honorable manner before the watching world. Paul gives a similar plea time and time again that we're to try to live at peace with all men as much as possible. The "therefore" of verse 13 introduces a key manifestation of living honorably before the watching world. We're to submit ourselves to the ordinances of man. Why? I find the answer startling and fascinating. The Apostle's admonition is that we're to submit for the Lord's sake. But how is obedience to human ordinances done for the Lord's sake? How does my obedience to my professors, my boss, or the government in any way benefit Christ? To understand this, we have to understand the deeper problem that all of Scripture is dealing with— the problem of sin. At the most fundamental level, sin is an act of rebellion and disobedience to a higher law and Lawgiver. The biggest problem with the world is lawlessness. The reason people are violated, killed, and maimed in battle, the reason there are murders, robberies, and so forth is that we're lawless. We disobey, first of all the law of God. The root problem in all of creation is disobedience to law, defiance of authority. And the ultimate authority of the universe is God Himself.

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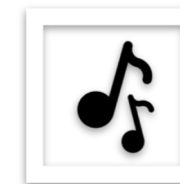
Music Notes

All of us, even as Christians, go through times of suffering. That is a result of our living in the fallen place among a fallen race, given to sin and rebellion against God. As a result, our lives are less than what God created us to experience. Our lives are marred by sickness, broken relationships, emotional wounds of rejection, disappointment, and ultimately death. As followers of Christ, we face ridicule and persecution from a hostile world. How do we respond to these negative experiences? It is counterproductive to ask, "Why?", when our world caves in. Instead of why, we should ask, "Who?". Who do we look to for help through the crisis of life? Do we seek to control the situations ourselves, depending on our own strength and resources to cope, or will we turn, in hope, to God? When we let God be the "Who" to control our situations, then our worry will turn to worship.

This was the experience of the Psalmist as he expressed himself in Psalm 86:

Incline Thine ear, O Lord, and answer me; for I am afflicted and needy. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to Thee I cry all day long. Make glad the soul of Thy servant, for to Thee, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Thy name forever. For Thy lovingkindness towards me is great.

No matter what grief, pain, or need you are struggling through, forget asking why. Focus, instead, on the Who. Let your worry turn to worship as you experience God's grace and peace.



Blessed to serve,
Bro. Vernon