

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

5 Day Chronological Bible Reading Program www.fivedaybible.com

Week Twenty-Seven: July 3 - 9

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

Week Twenty-Eight: July 10 - 16

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

Week Twenty-Nine: July 17 - 23

- Day 1: 1 Kin 19-21; 2 Chr 17; Ps 129; Matt 1
- Day 2: 1 Kings 22; 2 Chr 18; Matt 2
- Day 3: 2 Chr 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 24 - 30

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

Continued from Christ as the Center

pages are like the garments which are perfumed by His love. These pages are like the garments of our King, and they all bear His fragrance. Scripture is the royal chariot in which Jesus rides, and it is paved with love for the daughters of Jerusalem. The Scriptures are like the swaddling clothes of the holy child Jesus; unroll them, and there you find your Savior. The essence of the Word of God is Christ.

Devotional material is taken from Morning and Evening, written by C. H. Spurgeon, revised and updated by Alistair Begg.

True Life by John Petersen (Ligonier Ministries)

As we look around America today, we see what our forefathers envisioned — a land of freedom and opportunity. Even households at the “poverty level” in this country today have a much better standard of living than those in third world countries. Yet, the resounding theme throughout America today is to get richer.

Because we live in a privileged society, most of us enjoy some degree of wealth. God has entrusted His people with varying degrees of riches. As Christians living in this country, the biggest challenges to managing our money are: How are we going to glorify God with what He has provided? How are we to live up to God’s charges through Paul as described in 1 Timothy 6:17-18?

The answer to the first question is simple. Invest in the kingdom of God. It is the most rewarding place to invest your money. Doing this can be difficult, however, even for the most conscientious of stewards. This is because we do not necessarily see an immediate return on our investments. We are trained by our culture to gain wealth now and live for today. But when we Christians give with a pure and joyful heart to the poor and needy, support the church, and help fund a missionary, we are laying up treasures in heaven (Matt. 6:20-21). Thus, our ultimate return on investment is: unfathomable eternal richness. (Matt. 19:21, 29; Luke 14:14).

In order to follow God’s directions as given in Paul’s letter to Timothy, we need to keep in the forefront of our minds a few basic principles. We need to remember that everything we own is God’s. He has given the increase to us as a loan, for which we will be held accountable (2 Cor. 5:10). God has entrusted us all with differing degrees of wealth, so we must regularly ask ourselves, how will we serve His kingdom with it? We must not get caught up in the things of this world, otherwise known as materialism (see 1 Tim. 6:10). We must rely on God who provides for us everything we need on this earth. When we truly live by these principles, only then will we begin to understand the meaning of “that which is truly life” (6:19).

Thank You to FBC

Dear Church Family, We want to express our gratitude to each of you for the love and support you have shown us at the loss of Jim. Thank you for your prayers, visits, cards, flowers and food. Thanks also to those who provided the delicious meal for our family. Our love, The Jim Lesley Family

Continued from Members Corner

In 1986, we bought a small farm and I’ve raised miniature donkey’s ever since. I’ve been a deacon for 6 years, served on the security team and have been a VBS volunteer.

Do you have a favorite verse and song or hymn? *My favorite Bible verse is Revelation 3:20, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” Amazing Grace is my favorite hymn.*

What is your favorite food & sweet treat? *Anything chocolate!*

Do you have any hobbies or interesting facts to share? *I enjoy pen turning and making handmade pieces of furniture for my family. I read a lot and I go to the coffee shop and visit with the ‘Southside Mafia’ every morning during the week. I had a close group of friends for years that would meet to do Bible Study together. There were 18 of us and now there are only 6 of us left. I used to enjoy traveling with my wife. My family is very important to me. My parents were farmers and we didn’t have electricity until 1946. I’ll be 84 years old this month. And I was raised as an only child.*

Editor’s note: Stokes is the most humble gentleman I know and it is a privilege to feature him.

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We Preach Christ and Him Crucified

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. - Psalms 90:2

VBS 2022



July 25-29

Register in the office foyer
or online at
www.firstbaptistmena.com

Registration 4:45-5:15 PM
Program 5:15-8:00 PM

From the Pastor’s Desk

Church Family,

First, let me say thank you to all of you that wished me Happy Birthday in such a special way a couple of weeks ago. Your kind words and congratulations were very appreciated.

I want to invite you to begin to pray fervently for Vacation Bible School. We have to be careful that we do not operate like VBS is just something we do because we have always done it. It is much more than that. VBS needs to be looked at as one of the greatest opportunities for Gospel outreach in the church year. Is VBS fun? Yes it is, but fun is not the point. The point is that we will have the

opportunity to share the truth of the Gospel with well over 100 young people in the course of a few days.

Many of you have already signed up to help with VBS in many different capacities. Thank you for your willingness to serve. For those who have not and want to, let the office know and we will try to get you connected. There is always a need for more hands. Perhaps your schedule or something else will providentially hinder you from being involved in Bible School. What can you do? What should you do? Prayer is the key. In fact, someone that will fervently pray for VBS is doing as much as someone that is serving in a more hands on

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way. How should you pray? Pray for every child that will come. Some you may know by name. Pray for them by name. Some you do not know their name. Pray anyways because God knows. Pray for every volunteer. Every volunteer has a part to play in this great undertaking. Specifically, we know that in the week of Vacation Bible School there is a lot of fatigue that takes place. Pray for God to sustain everyone's energy level. Pray for all of our volunteers to see fruit for their labor. This does not just mean the fruit of salvation. It is always wonderful to see kids come to Christ, but that is not the only type of fruit that comes from Bible School. Some children will have seeds planted that may not be nurtured for years before God brings the increase. There may be a volunteer that has grown cold in their walk with Jesus and something that happens at Bible School reignites their passion for Christ and serving the Lord. That is fruit, too.

This is a large undertaking with many moving parts. Your service, prayers, and your giving that fund this effort are all integral parts. So, I look forward to working with all of you and celebrating all that God will do as we proclaim the glories of the Risen Savior.

In Christ, *Bro. Russell*

Christ at the Center

It is they that bear witness about me. — John 5:39

Jesus Christ is the Alpha and Omega of the Bible. He is the constant theme of its sacred pages; from beginning to end they bear witness to Him. At the

creation we immediately recognize Him as one of the sacred Trinity; we catch a glimpse of Him in the promise of the woman's seed; we see Him pictured in the ark of Noah; we walk with Abraham as He sees Messiah's day; we live in the tents of Isaac and Jacob, feeding upon the gracious promise; and in the numerous types of the law, we find the Redeemer abundantly foreshadowed.

Prophets and kings, priests and preachers all look one way—they all stand as the cherubs did over the ark, desiring to look within and to read the mystery of God's great propitiation. Even more obvious in the New Testament we discover that Jesus is the one pervading subject.

It is not that He is mentioned every so often or that we can find Him in the shadows; no, the whole substance of the New Testament is Jesus crucified, and even its closing sentence sparkles with the Redeemer's name. We should always read Scripture in this light; we should consider the Word to be like a mirror into which Christ looks down from heaven; and then we, looking into it, see His face reflected—darkly, it is true, but still in such a way as to be a blessed preparation for one day seeing Him face to face.

The New Testament contains Jesus Christ's letters to us, which are perfumed by His love. These pages are like the garments of our King, and they all bear His fragrance. Scripture is the royal chariot in which Jesus rides, and it is paved with love for the daughters of Jerusalem. The Scriptures are like the swaddling clothes of the holy child Jesus; unroll them, and there you find your Savior. The essence of the Word of God is Christ.

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Growing Deeper

Dear church family,

As we come to the end of June we leave behind a very busy month with our Kids Camp and Adventure Camp having each been successes! The next big thing we have coming is a Youth Ministry lead block party on July 23rd and then Vacation Bible School the following week.

But, I want to take this space to focus on something that is coming up the first weekend of August called D2 Camp. This is a new camp that was developed by our associational discipleship team to help place a greater emphasis on discipleship and sound doctrine and to encourage our churches to pursue discipleship.



Here are the details about this new camp. It will be August 5th and 6th at our OBA campground. Activities will start on Friday evening, allowing time for those who have to work to come after they get off, and end on Saturday night. The camp will focus on a major doctrinal truth that we as Christians hold to. This year's focus will be on the doctrine of the Trinity. There will also be breakout times to help encourage and equip both adults and youth to engage in discipleship. The cost of camp is \$10 per person to cover the food.

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Who is D2 Camp for? It's for parents and their youth or children, adults who are already engaged in a discipleship relationship with a student, and even those who aren't already discipling someone, but they want to begin to do that!

I can tell you that we need more people who are willing to step into a long-term discipleship relationship with students and even children. With that said, I want to encourage you to consider coming to this camp!

Your fellow servant,

Bro. Kevin

Music Notes

Are you experiencing troubles, worries, challenges, life situations that seem to weigh you down? We all deal with pressures and uncertainties, but there is never a reason to despair. The apostle Paul, despite all the hardships and troubles he experienced stood steadfast. In 2 Corinthians 4:1, he declared, "We do not lose heart". And later in verse 8, he states, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing."

Where can we gain the strength to carry on when things are rough? Paul tells us in verse 7, "We have this treasure (knowledge of God through Christ) in earthen vessels (our weak human flesh), that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves."

Despite dealing with increasing prices, renewed unrest and rioting, on top of other issues with which you may be dealing, keep your confidence and trust in God.

I love the song by Chris Tomlin,

Average Attendance June 2022

Worship Services
(SUN AM/PM & WED) **136/31/41**
Sunday School **90**

Financials May 2022

Month
Tithes & Offerings **\$43,032.16**
Expenses **\$29,486.49**
Net Balance **\$13,545.67**

Year to Date
Tithes & Offerings **\$144,489.66**
Expenses **\$153,679.45**
Net Balance **(-\$9,189.79)**
June financials will be reported in August.

Members' Corner



Stokes Herod

Joined December 13, 2009

Where were you born and where did you grow up? *I was born 12 miles East of West, Mississippi.*

Previous Church: *Church of Nazarene*

Who makes up your family? *I have 3 children, Allen & Lauren Herod, Joanna and Bobby Tedder and David and Jessica Herod. I am blessed with 15 grandchildren (21 counting in-laws) and 13 great-grandchildren.*

How did you come to faith in Christ? *There was a little Baptist Church in our community that held services twice a month. A young, full-time college student came to preach on Sunday's and once held a week long revival service. I was saved that week on August 1st 1950. I was baptized the following Sunday in Taylor Creek.*

How did you meet your spouse? *I met Linda when I was transferred to Crowley, LA. I was an Assistant Manager at the 5 & Dime. I was invited fishing by the manager. We needed a few things so we went to Western Auto for fishing supplies. When I walked in a blue eyed Cajun girl who was working there stood up. It was March 1959 and we married the next Summer in June of 1960. We were happily married for 53 years.*

Tell us about your education and occupation? *I graduated High School in 1956. Then I went into the retail business in February 1957 until December 2014. Linda and I ran Herod's Department Store in Downtown Mena for 38 years.*

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"How Can I Keep from Singing".

There is an endless song
Echoes in my soul
I hear the music ring
And though the storms
may come
I am holding on
To the rock I cling
How can I keep from
singing Your praise
How can I ever say
enough
How amazing is Your love
How can I keep from
shouting Your name
I know I am loved by the
King
And it makes my heart
want to sing

Remember the words from Isaiah in 40:29, "He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength." Keep your focus on God, not on circumstances; don't let the Lord's song go out of your heart!

Blessed to serve,

Bro. Vernon