

# BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

5 Day Chronological Bible Reading Program

## Week Twenty-Seven : June 30 - July 6

- 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 4u

## Week Twenty-Nine : July 14-20

- Day 1: 1 Kings 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 Twenty-Eight : July 7 - 13

- 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; Judeu

## Week Thirty : July 21-27

- 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

Week Thirty-One : July 28-August 3

- Day 1: Jonah; Matt 11
- Day 2: 2 Kings 13-14; 2 Chr 25; Ps 53; Matt 12
- Day 3: Amos 1-3; Matt 13
- Day 4: Amos 4-6; Psalm 55; Matt 14
- Day 5: Amos 7-9; Matt 15

Continued from Member's Corner

Do you have a favorite verse and song or hymn? My favorite verse is Romans 8:38-39 and *Awakening Chorus* is my favorite Hymn.

What is your favorite treat and do you have any hobbies or interests? Chocolate is my favorite treat. I enjoy painting, crocheting, reading, puzzles, and having stories published.

Anything else that's interesting about you, you'd like to share? At age 3 or 4, I was playing with Daddy's Masonic ring during Sunday morning service. I dropped the ring and it rolled all the way down the sloping floor and fell with a loud clunk into the furnace . This was in the old FBC. Bro. Overton kept right on preaching! Also, Lee and I moved 54 times in 7 years when he worked for the KCS railroad. We covered 47 states on motorcycle trips. Lee and I were married 63 years.

Continued from Greater Obedience

Let me finish by saying that I'm not against extracurricular activities. I don't hate sports, music, etc. But where I am concerned is that as a Christian culture I see us turning towards all those things to help mold our children and teens instead of turning toward the body of Christ that we belong to. And if I don't believe that God's people can be used in greater ways to impact my child than lost people, what does that say about my God?

In love,

Bro. Kevin

Continued from Music Notes

Also, a verse of the "Star Spangled Banner" includes the following lyrics:  
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation.

Let us each lift our songs and prayers of praise to our sovereign God, and commit anew to serve and obey Him!

Blessed to serve,  
Bro. Vernon

Continued from Can God Bless America?

To ask such questions is to answer them. Scripture is clear that a wholesale spiritual renewal, brought about through the preaching of the gospel, is the true pathway to divine blessing. What is needed is not merely moral reform but spiritual regeneration. And unless this occurs on a widespread scale that deeply impacts all of society, we will continue to forfeit the true blessings of God for our nation. Merely reciting the slogan "God bless America" will do nothing for us until it becomes a heartfelt prayer for spiritual renewal and regeneration. The remedy to our nation's moral and spiritual woes must begin at the house of God. The process starts with personal repentance. If Christians truly want to see God's blessing on our society, we ought to be models of genuine contrition and humility rather than merely pointing fingers of blame at the evils of secular society. The church today is in a serious state of spiritual decline. Many churches are apparently more willing to imitate the world's fashions and opinions than to confront them with biblical truth. Meanwhile, Christians concerned about the moral evils of society often opt for all the wrong remedies — as if the only thing needed to cure the spiritual malaise of our nation were some kind of federal legislation against abortion, sexual promiscuity, pornography, or other forms of corruption. I am by no means opposed to legislative efforts to outlaw abortion, drug abuse, and similar abominations. But political remedies to our nation's moral ills are no cure for the underlying spiritual problems. Of all people, Christians ought to know that, and the preponderance of our efforts ought to be focused on proclaiming the truth that can genuinely set people free. In other words, the majority of our energies ought to be invested in preaching the gospel and living the kind of life that gives testimony to the redeeming power of Christ. Lives, not just laws, need to be transformed before America will be in a position to ask for and expect God's blessing. The blessings of God cannot be acquired by any legislative process. Law cannot make people righteous. Scripture is clear on this. No one is justified by works of law, but by faith in Jesus Christ (Gal. 2:16). And saving faith is an individual matter; it cannot be imposed by legislative force. In other words, society as a whole cannot be delivered from moral bankruptcy unless individual lives are transformed by the power of Christ. If that conviction does not frame the priorities of the people of God and drive the activities of the church on earth, we can forget about God's blessing on our nation.

Excerpted and adapted from *Can God Bless America?* (Nashville: Nelson, 2002), v-xi.

JULY 2019



VOLUME 233

# THE BROADCASTER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST MENA

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Bro. Vernon Payne

*We preach Christ, and Him Crucified.*



8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

4 years old - 5th grade completed

Register online at

[www.firstbaptistchurchmena.com](http://www.firstbaptistchurchmena.com)

or at the door.

*And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the Lord, worshipping the Lord.—2 Chronicles 20:18*

This verse comes in the midst of a tough time in the nation of Judah. Enemies of the nation had come against them seeking their destruction. King Jehoshaphat had cried out to God, he had called together the people to pray, and in the midst of their time of prayer, God spoke through Jahaziel and told them to not worry about what was going to happen. In verse 17 the pronouncement was made to "stand still and see the salvation of the Lord". What I want to draw your attention to is that here in verse 18 (printed above), where the people are singing songs of praises to God, the people have not yet seen God fulfill His promise to save them from their enemies. Yet the Bible

says in verse 19 that the Levites and others sang with their "voices loud and high". God would ultimately deliver, but the nation was already praising God for what He had promised to do, even though they had not seen it happen yet. There is a great lesson here for us. It may happen that we find ourselves in this life in troubles that we cannot imagine. Yet we can trust in the promises of God to never forsake us and to sustain us in this life. Ultimately our greatest trust is in the promise of eternal life with God. No matter what our life circumstances are in the moment, we should fix our hearts on praising God because his promises are going to be kept. Praise God even when what you see does not move you to praise. Praise God because He is worthy to be praised and because He is the keeper of promises.

'Til He Comes, Bro. Russell



## Can God Bless America? by John MacArthur (September 1, 2011)

In this era of terrorism, poverty, oppression and a few less-distinct enemies, waves of patriotism occasionally revive the slogan "God Bless America." Sadly, though, the sentiment long ago became a cliché to which people rarely give serious thought. The phrase is even seen, ironically, on bumper stickers adjacent to other bumper stickers expressing humanistic and atheistic sentiments. One assumes that even those who don't believe in God want His blessing on our nation. Anti-God philosophies and worldviews now clearly dominate most of Western society. God has been removed from public discourse; prayer has been virtually banned from the public arena; agnosticism and humanism dominate public policy. So it is remarkable that the slogan "God Bless America" is still in vogue. We have to wonder what most people have in mind when they repeat it.

Originally, "God bless America" was a prayer for divine blessing. In its current form, it sometimes seems nothing more than a patriotic battle cry — usually intoned without much serious reflection. Perhaps it is sometimes recited with the superstitious belief that merely invoking God's name can garner His blessing. One thing is clear: while Americans universally want God's favor, as a whole, they do not want God.

Some apparently believe that America enjoys God's blessing by divine right. After all, God has blessed America throughout history to a remarkable degree. But His blessings are not measured — as most people believe — by material affluence, power, and world dominance. The greatest blessings God has graciously given America have been spiritual blessings — freedom for the gospel to be propagated, sweeping revivals like those of the Great Awakenings, and growth and spiritual prosperity for the church in our nation. The sad truth is that all those blessings were in serious jeopardy long before the terrorist strikes reminded us that our freedom and material prosperity hang by a fragile thread.

Does our nation really desire God's blessing? Do Americans truly long for the spiritual awakening that would be the necessary condition for true blessing, or would the policy-makers and media moguls in our society be as hostile to such a revival as they are to the threat of terrorism?

And what are the means by which the people of God should seek to have God's blessing on our nation? Can we help position modern society to receive God's blessing merely by influencing public policy through politics and protest, or is something more needed to fulfill the conditions under which God will bless our nation? Can external moral reform alone make America fit for God's blessing, or is something even deeper needed in the lives of most Americans?

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### Attendance & Giving June 2019

Worship Services	
(SUN AM/PM/WED)	141/35/64
Sunday School	119
Budget Giving	\$33,414.55
Designated Giving	\$2,462.00

### Thank You to FBC

Dear Church Family, Thank you for the generous and unexpected graduation gift. I really do appreciate it.  
-Beverly Siegfried

Tune in to KAWX 93.1 or 94.9 for Bro. Russell's sermon every Sunday morning at 11:00 AM. "Moments with Bro. Russell" can be heard Monday - Saturday at 5:58 AM & 5:56 PM & Sunday @ 5:26 AM & 3:27 PM.



**FBC Mena History Tidbit** — In 1998, Ninth Street Ministries Free Medical Clinic was organized. The clinic opened its doors in a small refurbished home at 306 9th Street and provided services for local people who had no medical coverage. Meals were prepared and served at the facility and some were delivered to homes. The clinic grew rapidly in patients as well as support from other area churches and the community. A decade later the ministry moved into a modern building located on the corner of Ninth Street and Church Avenue. In April of 2014, the clinic closed its doors after the passage of the Affordable Care Act as there was no longer a need for the services.

### Greater Obedience

Teenagers are growing up in a culture that is more and more distant. Studies have shown that kids are first learning to communicate via electronic devices instead of face to face. Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, the list goes on. Our culture is more and more comfortable relating from behind screens than in person. But we are also seeing the negative effects that this has. Scripture is clear from the beginning that we were created to be in relationship and no amount of screen time can provide what we were intended to have.

So what do we do? We involve our children in activities that provide opportunities for them to develop relationships. We put them in sports, extracurriculars at school, clubs, etc. These are all good things, but I have to ask if

we're choosing these things at the expense of the church.

Now, you may respond to that by saying that it's my job to think of the church first and I'll concede that it's a fair point. But does that mean that it's not true? Let me give just a few reasons why I believe that the church is still the best choice for family involvement.

1. History - From the Jewish people of the Old Testament to the roots of our own country, there is a rich history of the church being the center of family involvement. This partnership between the nucleus of society and the body of believers was the pillar of civilization, and for the most part, it worked. No, everything wasn't perfect, but perfection in this life is an unrealistic expectation. While the saying, "Those who forget history are bound to repeat it" is true as it

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*Continued from Greater Obedience*

involves the negatives, the opposite is true if we ignore what has worked and has value from times past.

2. God centered relationships - Giving my kids opportunities to develop relationships is a good thing, but giving them opportunities to develop God centered relationships is better. They are made in His image and for His glory, so their relationships should be centered on Him. Yes, it will take effort on our part as parents to ensure that the people pouring into our children are centering their relationship on God (even at church), but it'll be much easier inside the church than outside of it.

3. It provides a Biblical framework for relationships. Let's just be honest here. What the world calls a healthy relationship and what the Bible calls a healthy relationship are not the same. The world will teach our children that relationships are ultimately subservient to their needs and wants. Scripture, on the other hand, teaches us that relationships are meant to be an avenue of blessing others and pointing them to Jesus.

### Music Notes

In this season of celebrating the birth of our nation, we as Christ followers, above all people, should render joyous praise to the sovereign God who made the rise of this nation possible. The scriptures teach us that governing authorities are established by God. That God would see fit to inspire and enable our founding fathers and mothers to establish such a nation "conceived in liberty" as ours is reason to give thanks and joyfully sing His praises.

There is no doubt that our founders acknowledged the hand of God in the founding of this nation. George Washington wrote, "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God and to obey His will." Thomas Jefferson wrote, "God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?" Benjamin Franklin, addressing the Constitutional Convention declared, "God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

Some of our beloved hymns reflect this knowledge of God's providence in the rising of this nation. Samuel F. Smith (1808 - 1895) penned the lyrics to "My County, 'Tis of Thee", acknowledge that this nation is of God. In the third verse, Smith calls for the song of freedom to be raised,

Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees.  
Sweet freedom's song: Let mortal tongues awake;  
Let all that breathe partake; Let rocks their silence break,  
The sound prolong  
Then, in the fourth verse, he calls for praise to be lifted to God:  
Our father's God, to Thee, Author of Liberty,  
To Thee we sing.

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And while the rebuttal is heard clearly that not everyone in the church acts this out in their relationships, the truth of the matter is that the church is uniquely set up to work this way and there ARE people in your church who are living it out.

4. Eternal reward - As a Christian parent I'm sure you want your children to be saved. You want them to love God, live a life that is pleasing to Him and serve His Kingdom. I can confidently say that there is no other entity in existence whose mission lines up closer to that than the church. This doesn't mean that we should expect the church to do what we as parents are called and expected to do in leading our children spiritually. What it does mean is that the church is meant to come alongside and bolster what we are doing as parents. I am by no means saying that a Christian can't influence your child through a non-church activity or entity. But I am saying that if that happens, that Christian is being fed and sustained by a church themselves.

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## Members' Corner



### Linda Gandy

Ms. Linda has been part of the fellowship at FBC Mena for 77 years.

*Get to know Linda a little more through the questions below!*

**Where did you grow up?** Mena

**When were you saved?** Having grown up in church: Sunday School, Training Union, Sunbeams, Girls in Action (G.A.'s), Young Woman's Auxiliary (YWA) and VBS, plus home teaching of spiritual things, I knew the right answers to salvation questions at an early age, but there came a time when I felt uncomfortable, burdened. Invitation time was pure misery. THEN, one day, I walked the aisle and went down to the pastor and asked God to forgive my sins and save me. HE DID! The heavy burden left and a tremendous peace came over me.

**What college did you go to and what was your major?** Received a Teaching Degree from Henderson University. Taught 4th grade for many years

**How did you meet Lee?** We met at a church related ice cream social when I was serving at a YWA summer project. Lee was traveling with KCS Railroad. He joked with me several weeks later that he didn't even like ice cream and that I was his mission project.

**Who makes up your family?** I have 3 children; Dawn Gandy Jackson, Brian Gandy and Susan Gandy Tre`an-Saor, 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren and one on the way.

**What areas have you served in ministry?** I've had the privilege of being the organist, teaching Sunday School and VBS, visiting homebound, serving on various committees, and being the church historian.

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