

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

5 Day Chronological Bible Reading Program

Week Thirty-Six : September 1-7

- Day 1: 2 Chr 29-31; 1 Cor 8
- Day 2: 2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chr 32; Ps 67; 1 Cor 9
- Day 3: Isa 36-37; Psalm 123; 1 Cor 10
- Day 4: 2 Kings 20; Isa 38-40; Ps 68; 1 Cor 11
- Day 5: Isa 41-44; 1 Cor 12

Week Thirty-Eight : September 15-21

- Day 1: Isa 64-66; 2 Cor 2
- Day 2: 2 Kings 21; 2 Chr 33; Ps 71; 2 Cor 3
- Day 3: Nahum; Psalm 149; 2 Cor 4
- Day 4: 2 Kings 22-23; Psalm 73; 2 Cor 5
- Day 5: 2 Chr 34-35; 2 Cor 6

Week Thirty-Seven : September 8-14

- Day 1: Isa 45-48; 1 Cor 13
- Day 2: Isa 49-52; Psalm 69; 1 Cor 14
- Day 3: Isa 53-55; Psalm 128; 1 Cor 15
- Day 4: Isa 56-59; Psalm 70; 1 Cor 16
- Day 5: Is 60-63; 2 Cor 1

Week Thirty-Nine : September 22-28

- Day 1: Habakkuk; 2 Cor 7
- Day 2: Zephaniah; Psalm 74; 2 Cor 8
- Day 3: Jeremiah 1-4; Psalm 130; 2 Cor 9
- Day 4: Jer 5-7; Psalm 75; 2 Cor 10
- Day 5: Jer 8-10; 2 Cor 11

Week Forty : September 29-October 5

- Day 1: Jer 11-13; 2 Cor 12
- Day 2: Jer 14-16; Psalm 76; 2 Cor 13
- Day 3: Jer 17-20; James 1
- Day 4: Jer 22, 23, 26; Psalm 77; James 2
- Day 5: Jer 25, 35, 36, 45; Ps 133; James 3

Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.

When we sit in our corporate worship services, remember to stay focused on the message of the songs and of the word spoken from the pulpit. Greater gains in our spiritual growth will happen when we truly worship in this manner.

Blessed to serve,
Bro. Vernon

Continued from Greater Obedience

Secondly, it places our security and joy back where they should always have been, in Jesus. Realizing that my identity before God is settled and secure in what Christ has done frees me from living in constant worry. We no longer live in the looming shadow of the Law but in the finished work of Christ our Savior.

Lastly, I believe that it changes the nature of our good works. This happens as a natural outworking of our identity being in Christ. When we realize that there's no report card at the end of the day, that God is not a disappointed Father, but that we are totally, completely and eternally accepted and loved in Christ, then we serve from a different place. We serve from a place of joy, love and worship. We serve realizing that it truly is an honor to be used of God because He is the one working good in and through us!

My prayer is that you would reflect on these truths and find your identity fully in the finished work of Christ and that you would rest completely in His grace, not only for your salvation, but for your living as well.

Your fellow servant,
Bro. Kevin

Thank You to FBC

From Jake Fowble

I just wanted to thank you all for supporting and praying for me. And thank you for being there for me during me getting baptized! I had a really fun time at VBS and can't wait for the next one. THANKS again!

Jake



Bible Drill: Pre-K through Youth
Wednesdays
Youth - 4:10 PM & Kids - 6:00 PM
Sunday Review Class - 5:30 PM

Continued from Member's Corner

What areas have you served in ministry? *Will* - I've been a Deacon and currently lead Men's Ministry at FBC Mena.

Dana - At church, I play the keyboard, sing in the choir, teach 3rd-5th grade students in Vine After School and lead the Women's Bible Study class on Sunday afternoons. I'm the Women's Ministry leader at FBC Mena and serve with the Ouachita Baptist Association Women's Ministry.

Who makes up your family? *Dana* - Will, Dana and our 17 year old son Caleb.

Do you have a favorite verse and song or hymn? *Will* - Jeremiah 28:11 is my favorite verse. *Dana* - Psalm 103:1 is my favorite verse and I would have to say "Love Lifted Me" is my favorite hymn.

What is your favorite treat and do you have any hobbies or interests? *Will* - I enjoy hunting and fishing. Cookies are my favorite treat. *Dana* - I like to read, fish and take walks in the woods. Reese's is my favorite treat.

Anything else that's interesting about you, you'd like to share? *Dana* - We love animals! Will and I love to fish together.

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IN THIS ISSUE

September Calendar of Events
Members' Corner
Bible Reading Schedule
FBC History Tidbit



PAGE 1-2 |

From the Pastor's Desk
Sr. Pastor
Bro. Russell Threet

PAGE 2 - 3 |

Growing Deeper
Associate Pastor
of Youth & Children
Bro. Kevin Williams

PAGE 3-4 |

Music Notes
Interim Music Pastor
Bro. Vernon Payne

We preach Christ, and Him Crucified.



WEEK OF PRAYER

Dixie Jackson
ARKANSAS
MISSIONS
OFFERING

September 8th - 15th
OFFERING GOAL: \$2,500

Brokenness is a precursor to revival. This is a truth that I must relearn every so often in my Christian life. The principle is present all over the Bible, most noticeably in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Christ was broken before He was resurrected. I shared briefly Sunday and I will share some more again soon about the Prayer conference that Bro. Kevin and I attended at the end of August. I experienced brokenness in that meeting that may exceed any other time in my life. I believe that perhaps for a moment God gave me a better understanding of the offense of sin to Him in His perfection. This brokenness has led to some personal revival in my life and in the lives of others that were in attendance. We truly believe that God has done something special and that there will be an outpouring of God that will be directly connected to those two days among Southern Baptist pastors in Arkansas. I am praying for this to be true and I ask you to join me in praying the same prayer.

What does this mean for our church at FBC Mena? As your pastor and leader, I can say honestly that I have no clue. We do have some things coming but they were in place before all of this. There is a phenomenon among pastors (and other people I am sure) that we call a conference high. You go to a conference, you hear great speaking and ideas and you come home with a list a mile long of how you are going to change your church and make it the biggest, best thing that God has ever seen. The after a day or two you realize that this list is not feasible, and it really is not what God wants for your church. That is why this is different. We have no agenda flowing out of this time of prayer and brokenness except that we want to please God. There is not a bunch of programmatic changes that we are going to make because some speaker told us it was a good idea. No. Here is what I believe God wants. He wants us all to take our sins of commission, omission, and apathy and be completely broken by

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them. Then in our brokenness He can and will do something that only He can do that would never be possible in our own strength. Why do I believe this to be true? God's word tells me in Psalm 34:18 that "The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit." Trust God enough to break you and then put you back together for your good and His glory.

Til He Comes, *Bro. Russell*

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.

Attendance & Giving August 2019

Worship Services (SUN AM/PM/WED)	164/38/57
Sunday School	113
Budget Giving	\$28,850.16
Designated Giving	\$1,338.75

Thank You to FBC

Dear FBC,

Thank you so much for the meat and cheese tray with all the sandwich makings. It was appreciated greatly. Also for the Gideon Bibles in his honor. I treasure the thought the Bibles can change lives for His Kingdom. - Dell Alley and children

Thank you to everyone at First Baptist Church for participating in our Community Fair at UA Rich Mountain. We sincerely appreciate all you do to care for and support our students. - LeAnn Dilbeck



Not In Part But the Whole by Tim Challies

Sometimes it is the unexpected things that get you. Sometimes it is the words you have heard or said or sung a hundred times over that suddenly leap off the page—words like "My sin, not in part but the whole." The words come, of course, from the much-loved hymn "It Is Well With My Soul," a song that joyfully celebrates the freedom that is found in salvation.

"Not in part but the whole." Have you ever considered your life, your death, and your eternity if you had to face God with your sins only partially forgiven? Can you imagine singing, "My sin, not the whole but in part"?

Thankfully, wonderfully, forgiveness is not a partial thing. Forgiveness does not come in half measures; it is all or nothing. It is either extended or held back, freely offered or completely withheld.

Greater Obedience

Grace really is amazing! To think that God would give us the gift of salvation, of adoption into His family, through the sacrifice of Jesus is truly astounding. It's a marvelous truth that we hold fast to and rejoice in as the people of God. We preach it with passion and guard it from the trappings that would make it a lesser truth, one that is somehow earned from the hand of God. Yet for all of our preaching of it, our singing about it; for all the decorations bearing those five letters that embellish our homes, grace seems a truth hard to grasp. And to be fair it is understandable why: we are programmed from a very young age to understand that everything we want we must earn and, once earned, maintain. The sad truth is many of us are trying to earn and maintain the grace in our lives that is already ours in Christ.

FBC Mena History Tidbit — Bro. Karl McClendon (pictured left) served First Baptist Church Mena as Pastor from August 1924 to 1931. A tent revival was held in Janssen Park in 1925. There were 98 people baptized in the park pond next to the spring. A present member of the church who was baptized recalls how the candidates formed a semi-circle from each end and walked into the water to be baptized. In 1960, Bro. Lewis McClendon (son of Bro. Karl McClendon) and his wife, Alma, were appointed to start churches in Nevada, Colorado, and Alaska.

To be partly forgiven is to be wholly damned. Partial forgiveness is complete condemnation. The Christian and the Christian alone knows the pure delight of God's full and final forgiveness. Christian, you can joyfully accept and proclaim "My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more." The biggest of your sins is nailed to the very same cross as the smallest. God has forgiven the sins you don't even remember in the same way and to the same degree as the sins you just can't forget. He has extended grace for the sins known to the whole world and the ones known only to you and him. And all of this means that you, with the hymn writer, must conclude: "Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!"

That is exactly what Paul was addressing in his letter to the Galatians. In chapter two verses 19 through 21 he says, "For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose." The believers Paul was writing to were in danger of returning toward a works based lifestyle to somehow maintain their relationship with Jesus, and Paul is showing them how futile such reasoning is, because they had not entered into relationship with God through works in the first place. Now, most of us both under-

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-stand this and would agree with Paul completely. But the issue comes in our living because, while we assent to grace as the means of our salvation, I'm afraid we often live out a works based life. "But," You might ask, "aren't we supposed to do good works as the proof of our salvation? Isn't that what the book of James is all about?" Yes, good works and a life of obedience are definitely part of the Christian life. I don't want anyone to think that I'm saying a child of God has license to live in habitual, rebellious sin. But I am afraid that we have placed so much focus on doing **good** that we have given it an emphasis that is unhealthy. Paul, writing in Ephesians 4 verses 8 and 9 says, "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." We know these verses well. But what the Lord has brought to my attention is the following verse, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we

should walk in them." Far too many times I've read this verse and not realized that its truth is connected to the previous ones. I am, in Christ, the "workmanship" of God, created "for good works". I would propose to you that those good works are also included in the gift of God mentioned in verse 9! If you have trouble seeing that, go back and read, starting in verse one of the chapter. I believe Paul sets forth that it is not only our salvation in Jesus that is a gift of grace, but also our **living** in Jesus! And if that doesn't convince you, then read these words from Paul in Philippians 2:13, "For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." And how does that change how we view good works? Well, firstly, I believe that it changes our view of ourselves and humbles us. We no longer view our obedience as something that God needs from us, or that we give to Him of ourselves, but instead, even our service to God is a gift from Him. A manifestation of His glorious grace and yet another reason to praise Him.

Continued on back

Music Notes

"Mind to muscle connection" is a phrase used in bodybuilding. It speaks of focusing mentally on the muscle being exercised rather than just going through the motions of pumping iron. Greater gains in muscle growth are accomplished by this intent focus.

The same principle can be applied in our corporate worship experiences. I would call it a "mind to message connection". What message is being conveyed through the hymns that are sung and through the words that are spoken? We must keep our minds focused upon the message.

As I plan music for our worship services, I seek to select songs and hymns that focus upon truths from scripture. Music needs to have scriptural integrity. It is the truths of God's Word brought to bear upon our lives by the Holy Spirit that moves us inwardly. This inward experience is then expressed in outward action.

We may get caught up in the catchy rhythm or melody of a song that has no scriptural message. Does the melody make me love the music too much and the message to little? Our music should exalt God, foster reverence, holiness, hope, love and other Christian graces.

In his 1761 hymnal, Select Hymns, John Wesley wrote the following:

Continued on back

Members' Corner



Will & Dana Bowers

Will & Dana joined our fellowship at FBC Mena on May 11, 2003
Get to know the Bowers a little more through the questions below!

Where did you grow up? Will - Pine Bluff
Dana - De Queen

When were you saved? Will - When I was about 9 years old the Holy Spirit began to work on my heart and I realized I was lost. I remember talking to my Mother about it and being very troubled. The next Sunday at church I walked down and accepted Christ as my Savior. I still remember the joy I felt, like the weight of the world was lifted off my shoulders. That was a long time ago, and I have made my share of mistakes, but God is faithful. I know, because of that day, I have a Heavenly Father that I belong to.

Dana - I was sitting in a small missionary Baptist church, when all of a sudden, I realized God was speaking to me through the minister's words. I still remember where I was sitting!

Tell us about your education and occupation? Will - I work at Nidec as the 3Q6S Manager. Dana - I have a degree in music.

How did you meet? Dana - Will moved to De Queen from Pine Bluff. He was brought it as a Supervisor at Poulan Weedeater. When they brought him out to meet his employees, my friend Kaye was one of them. When he shook her hand, my whole name went through her mind. She turned to her mother, who also worked there, and said, "Dana Russell is going to marry this guy." Her mother thought she was crazy. She set us up on a blind date, and six months later, we got married. That was 26 years ago.

Continued on back