

# DAILY BIBLE READING

Let the message of Christ dwell among  
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one another with all wisdom...

COLOSSIANS 3:16 NIV

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What gets pride of place in your home? Typically it's something that you value. Typically it's something that says much about you. As we embark on a new year as God's people, who ought to have pride of place in our lives? Surely it's the Lord Jesus, he's the one we value most. But how do we give him pride of place? By letting the message about him in the Bible stand centre stage in our lives. That's what Colossians 3:16 urges us to do:

*“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom...”*

It's our prayer that our Daily Bible Reading Plan might help us give the Lord Jesus pride of place in our lives. The plan takes us through the whole New Testament, Psalms and the first half of the Old Testament in a year. It represents the first two columns from Robert Murray M'Cheyne's reading plan.

Three simple tips to help:

*One*, if you're feeling short of time, we recommend prioritising the New Testament and Psalms readings.

*Two*, to help focus your thoughts and your prayers, why not write out a verse or two to help you pray for yourself and others.

*Three*, to help others, why not share with someone from church something that has encouraged you so it might encourage them too.

Praying God would do us much good as we give his word pride of place in our lives this year.

Tom, Ben, Doug and Adrian  
*Elders at Beccles Baptist Church*



























# QUESTIONS: NEW TESTAMENT

**MATTHEW** | Matthew tells us that Jesus is the 'Christ' (Messiah)–1:16–who came in fulfilment of the Old Testament promises, to establish the Kingdom of Heaven.

- *What does this chapter reveal about Jesus as the Christ?*
- *What does it reveal about belonging to His kingdom?*

**MARK** | Mark tells us in 1:1 that he is writing the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In Mark 1:15 Jesus proclaims 'Repent and believe the good news!'

- *How does this chapter show us that Jesus is good news?*
- *How should we repent as a result of this chapter?*
- *What will it mean for our lives to believe the good news about Jesus in this chapter?*

**LUKE** | Luke wrote his gospel so that we might know the certainty of what we have been taught about the Lord Jesus (1:1-4)

- *What certainty/certainties does this chapter provide about the Lord Jesus?*
- *What will it mean to trust those certainties today?*

**JOHN** | John wrote his gospel so that we might have life by believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (20:31).

- *What does this chapter teach about the life Jesus gives?*
- *What should that mean for the way we live today?*



**ACTS** | Acts provides certainty about the unstoppable spread of the gospel of the crucified, risen and ascended Lord Jesus.

- *What does this chapter teach about the spread of the gospel?*
- *What does it teach us to expect as the gospel spreads?*

**ROMANS** | Romans declares that the gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes (1:16).

- *What does this chapter teach about the gospel?*
- *What does it call us to do as a result?*

**1 CORINTHIANS** | The Corinthian church faced divisions over a number of issues. As Paul addresses each one he points them to our Lord Jesus.

- *What issue in the Corinthian church does this chapter address?*
- *How does Paul point to the Lord Jesus?*
- *What are the implications for you?*

**2 CORINTHIANS** | The background of 2 Corinthians is the presence of false teachers in Corinth who were undermining Paul's teaching with a false gospel that had no place for cross-shaped suffering.

- *What does this chapter reveal about cross-centred living?*
- *What dangers does it call us to avoid?*

**GALATIANS** | The wonderful fact that we are justified (made right with God) solely by faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus on the cross, was being contradicted by false teachers in Galatia. There is an urgency and seriousness in what Paul writes, as he calls the believers to understand that the Christian life is by faith from beginning to end.

- *What does this chapter tell us about the gospel of our Lord Jesus?*
- *How does it help us to live by faith in Him and His gospel?*

**EPHESIANS** | 'Together under one Head' is the theme of Ephesians. The Lord Jesus has brought Jews and Gentiles together in His body, the Church.

- *Note one truth about the identity every believer shares 'in Christ'.*
- *How does this chapter help us to pray, not only for ourselves, but for our 'together' life as a local church?*

**PHILIPPIANS** | Paul's desire for the Philippians was that 'whatever happens' they would conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ (1:27). The letter has much to teach about gospel partnership.

- *Pick out one great truth about what it means to be a believer in Christ.*
- *What does this chapter teach about being in gospel partnership with other believers?*
- *How does it help us to pray for others?*

**COLOSSIANS** | False teachers in Colossae were suggesting that the believers there needed more than Jesus to live the Christian life. Paul shows that Jesus is all we need. Key verses are 2:6-7.

- *What truths does this chapter teach that helps us understand that we have all we need in Jesus?*
- *What might living by faith in the sufficiency of Jesus look like in your life today?*

**1 & 2 THESSALONIANS** | Paul loved the Thessalonians.

He reminds them of things they know so that they might be encouraged to continue by faith until the Lord Jesus returns.

- *How does what Paul writes relate to the certainty of the return of the Lord?*
- *What encouragement does this chapter provide as you face the day ahead?*

**1 TIMOTHY** | The church is the pillar and foundation of the truth. Its task is to hold the truth up and to hold it firm (see 3:14-15). Paul writes to Timothy and the church in Ephesus so that they might know how to conduct themselves as they seek to fulfill that God-given mission.

- *Note a truth emphasised in this chapter about the Gospel*
- *What will it mean to hold firm to that truth and to hold it up for others to see?*
- *How does this chapter help you to pray for our local church?*

**2 TIMOTHY** | The truth of the gospel is always under threat. As Paul writes again to Timothy he makes clear that the only way to guard the gospel is by passing it on to others.

- *What potential danger(s) is/are highlighted in this chapter?*
- *What answer(s) to that/those danger(s) are provided ?*

**TITUS** | In a place (Crete) renowned for lies, Paul gives Titus instructions that will encourage those redeemed by the Lord Jesus to devote themselves to doing what is good. There is a big emphasis on the need for teaching and learning

- *What does this chapter reveal about the priority of teaching?*
- *How should the truth taught in this chapter affect the way we live?*

**PHILEMON** | Paul writes to his friend Philemon about Philemon's now converted runaway slave, Onesimus. Will Philemon welcome Onesimus as a brother in Christ?

- *How would this letter encourage Philemon?*
- *How would this letter surprise Philemon?*
- *How would this letter challenge Philemon?*

**HEBREWS** | Written to Christians from a Jewish background, the unidentified writer is concerned that his readers are drifting away from what they have heard. He calls then to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus.

- *Identify a truth about Jesus highlighted in this chapter.*
- *What will it mean to fix your thoughts/eyes on this truth?*
- *How will it keep you from drifting away?*

**JAMES** | Out of love for his readers, James writes to bring them back from wandering from the truth by unpacking the wisdom that comes only from heaven.

- *What does this chapter teach about the wisdom that comes from heaven?*
- *What will it mean for you to rely on that wisdom in your life today?*

**1 PETER** | To scattered Christians suffering many and various trials, Peter writes to encourage and to testify that what they are experiencing is part of the true grace of God. He emphasises their distinctiveness as God's people and God's plan to use their distinctiveness to give opportunities for witness to the hope that they have.

- *What encouragement do you find in this chapter?*
- *What does this chapter teach about God's grace?*
- *How does this chapter instruct you to live today?*

**2 PETER** | Peter wrote his second letter as a reminder to stimulate his readers to wholesome thinking (3:1).

- *Of what key truth or truths does this chapter remind you?*
- *How does this chapter help you to think wholesomely?*

**1 JOHN, 2 JOHN & 3 JOHN** | John's 3 letters are full of love and a desire that his readers should be assured that they have eternal life (an eternal relationship with God) through faith in the Lord Jesus.

- *What assurance and encouragement is there in this chapter?*
- *What does this chapter call you to do?*
- *How does that prompt you to pray?*

**JUDE** | Jude writes to urge his readers to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

- *Why is Jude's message so important?*
- *Which of the instructions given strikes you as most relevant to you today?*

**REVELATION** | Revelation can appear a complex book. It helps to remember the circumstances of the original readers. They were believers in the Lord Jesus living in a hostile world, facing great persecution. Look out for what the chapter teaches about God the Father, the Lord Jesus or God the Holy Spirit.

- *Consider how this truth/these truths would be of encouragement to the first readers facing great trial.*
- *How does it prompt you to pray for yourself and other believers?*

**PSALMS** | The Psalms are the song book of the Bible. They are best read out loud. Many were written by King David - but not all. It is almost impossible to suggest questions that apply to every psalm.

- *What key truth about God is found in this psalm?*
- *How does that point you to the Lord Jesus?*
- *Is there any instruction given by the Spirit-inspired author to us, the readers?*
- *What part of the psalm can you use to turn into your personal prayer to God today?*

**These questions were originally written by Johnny Prime at Enfield Evangelical Free Church and are reproduced with his permission.**

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# QUESTIONS: OLD TESTAMENT

By and large the Old Testament books are longer than the New. This makes constructing questions for a whole Old Testament book hard. Below are questions for each Old Testament book. If the questions suggested for a particular book seem less relevant on any given day, you might find it helpful to use the questions below which are applicable for all of the books in the Old Testament.

- *What big truth does each passage teach about God, His character and His works? (God is the hero of every page!)*
- *What does it teach about humanity?*
- *How does it point to our Lord Jesus?*
- *What does it teach us about living by faith in the Lord Jesus?*

## **GENESIS "BEGINNINGS"**

- *How does Genesis portray the damaging effects of sin?*
- *How do God's promises reveal his grace to sinful people? (Not just what he promises, but who he makes promises to.)*
- *How do the people in Genesis exemplify faith in God's promises? How do they fail?*

## **EXODUS "RESCUE"**

- *What or who do Israel need rescuing from?*
- *How does God reveal his greatness and grace in the ways he rescues?*
- *How do God's laws reveal the kind of people he rescued Israel to be?*

### **LEVITICUS "HOLINESS"**

- *What do the sacrifices reveal about sin and God's grace?*
- *What can we learn about the scope, shape and significance of holiness from God's laws?*
- *How do Israel's festivals highlight God's goodness?*

### **NUMBERS "STUBBORNNESS"**

- *In what ways does Israel's stubborn sinfulness show itself? In what ways are we like them?*
- *How does God show his "stubborn" grace towards his people?*
- *How is God's anger at sin expressed? How does this show the seriousness of sin?*

### **DEUTERONOMY "LOVE"**

- *How does God demonstrate and explain his love for his people?*
- *God expects his people to love him and each other. What is this love to look like?*

### **JOSHUA "FULFILMENT"**

- *How do we see God keeping his promises to Israel?*
- *What does courage look like? Where does it come from?*

### **JUDGES "DISASTER"**

- *The people of Israel have a serious sin problem, what does it look like? (Individually, corporately and nationally.)*
- *How do the judges succeed and fail to meet the people's needs? How is Jesus much better than them?*



## **RUTH "PROVIDENCE"**

- *How is God at work in ordinary circumstances through ordinary people?*
- *What does godliness look like in the lives of ordinary people?*

## **1 AND 2 SAMUEL "LEADERS"**

- *How does David point us to Jesus the Son of David by his failures / successes?*
- *What is it about the way God works that helps us love him and depend on him?*
- *How do people defy God and why is it so foolish?*

## **1 AND 2 KINGS "DIVISION"**

- *How do the kings exhibit loyalty and/or disloyalty to God and what does he say about them?*
- *How are the effects of sin and God's judgement seen as the kingdom is divided in two?*
- *How do we see God's patience and grace to his people, especially through the prophets?*

## **1 AND 2 CHRONICLES "HOPE"**

1 and 2 Chronicles are written to God's people who have recently returned from exile, but who are awaiting the fulfilment of God's good promises. It retells the story of Israel and has overtones of hope that these promises will be fulfilled.

- *What reasons are there for praise, joy and thanksgiving in God?*
- *How does the narrator urge us toward godly devotion?*
- *How does it build a hope and excitement for the future king and kingdom that God has promised?*

## RESOURCES

### **BIBLE READING NOTES BY DON CARSON**

There are some excellent devotional notes written to support these daily Bible reading plans. To access these please scan the QR code below or enter this web address:

➤ [www.thegospelcoalition.org/devotionals/read-the-bible/](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/devotionals/read-the-bible/)



### **FULL M'CHEYNE BIBLE READING PLAN**

If you'd like to access the full M'Cheyne Bible Reading Plan please scan the QR code below or enter this web address:

➤ [www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf](http://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf)





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