

DAILY BIBLE READING

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

ROMANS 15:4

DAILY BIBLE READING 2021

Encouragement and endurance are things we all need as we follow Jesus, and all that we need can be found as God speaks through the Scriptures and as we speak to Him in prayer. We are so pleased the Bible Reading Plan in 2020 helped many commit to this more regularly, providing us with a manageable plan to follow and partners in the church who are seeking to do the same.

Whether you followed the Bible Reading Plan last year or not, we hope you will join us in this venture for 2021. The plan takes us through the whole New Testament, Psalms and the second half of the Old Testament in a year. It represents the two columns from Robert Murray M'Cheyne's reading plan, that we did not cover last year.

We have reproduced the questions for each New Testament book and for the Psalms too. In addition to these we've also provided some broader questions to guide you through whatever Old Testament book you are reading.

To make the most of this plan, we'd suggest three Ps:

- First, **prioritise** reading the New Testament and Psalms, if you only have time for one reading. That said, you'll benefit from reading the Old Testament reading greatly too.
- Second, pick up a **pen**. Writing down a verse or two will cement it in your mind; journalling your thoughts will help you process what God is saying to you.
- Third, turn that verse into **prayer**. Use it to fuel your praise to God and your prayers for others in the church. Not only will it impress the verse on your heart more firmly, but it will shape your prayers more biblically.

May God teach you and encourage you each and every day this coming year.

Tom, Peter, Doug & Adrian
Elders at Beccles Baptist Church



QUESTIONS: NEW TESTAMENT

MATTHEW | Matthew tells us that Jesus is the ‘Christ’ (Messiah)–1:16–who came in fulfillment 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 for the salvation of 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 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 them 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 multi-coloured 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 the saints.

- *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.

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?

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