

but a designed purpose. It seems that when God sets out to do a new work He often times chooses specific people. Does God still work this way? Read [Titus 1:5-9](#) and [2 Timothy 2:20-21](#). Remember, God calls leaders to be servants. Read [Matthew 20:28](#).

[Exodus 29](#): Moses goes to great lengths, obeying God's command so the people will know that He who brought them out of Egypt dwells among them. Read [Hebrews 13:4-6](#) and keep in mind these same words were used in [Deuteronomy 31:6](#) in regards to God's commitment to Israel. We are to maintain a pure marriage to Christ.

### Thursday Pray for "My World"

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at Work • Others God brings into my life. Begin to take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help.
- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County. Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation.
- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.

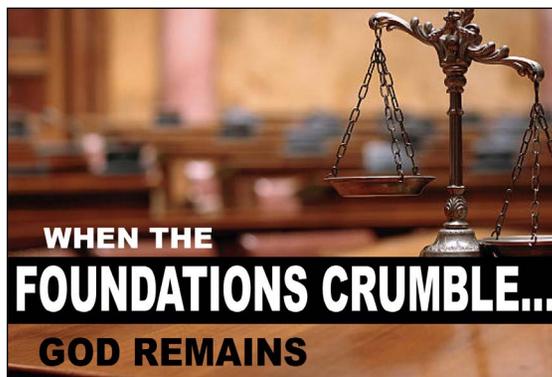
### Friday, Dec. 8: Read [Exodus 30-31](#)

[Exodus 30](#): "Do not offer on this altar any other incense or any burnt offering or grain offering, and do not pour a drink offering on it," v. 9. Do not come to God by any other means or through any other name than through Jesus Christ, no saints or even any form of personal sacrifice or form of works. We know this to be true because Jesus was the fulfillment of the Law ([Matt. 5:17](#)). He came in the flesh as God's tabernacle and dwelt among us ([John 1:14](#)) (temporal dwelling that moved from place to place as the Spirit lead Him), a sacrifice for sin ([John 1:29](#))(behold the lamb), and the Great High Priest ([Hebrews 4:14-16](#)). Read the rest of the chapter and determine how Jesus meets these parts of the tabernacle.

In [Exodus 31](#), we read how God chose Bezalel and Oholiab and equipped them to do the artistic work of building the temple. In like fashion, God has given to the church gifts to the edification of the saints ([1 Corinthians 12](#)). Paul concludes in the last verse "and yet I show you the most excellent way"...Love. How are you using your gift in love to edify God's people at Bethel Gilead?

### Pray for Our Missionaries

**Juan & Adriana Palacios** (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), **Robert Newkirk** (Jesus Film), **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Mike & Fran VanBruggen** (South Africa), **Sue Sanders** (Detroit, MI), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Danielle Tucker** (France), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (New Tribes), **Brad Babjack** (Intervarsity), **Salomon Guzman** (Tijuana), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Interserve USA)



- Think about what you're reading. Ask:
  1. How does this apply to me?
  2. Are there any temptations to avoid, sins to confess, commands to obey or promises to claim?
  3. What insight do I gain on God, myself, others, or life?
- Ask God to show you any specific action you need to take as you read.

## Weekly Readings

### Monday, Dec. 4: Read [Exodus 22-23](#)

[Exodus 22](#). Protection of property is an important part of American life. No one wants to open the doors of their house and say "free for the taking." However, there are similarities and differences between God's Law and American law. Both set of laws are reflective of values. How does God view property compared to human life? (v.2). How does Americans value life and property? Today's society has broken away from the sanctity of human life with most states leaning toward "Stand Your Ground," or "Castle Doctrine" type laws. Self defense in too many cases has been equated with defend property. Defense of life, either the life of the one being attacked or the aggressor, is keeping with God's law. Let's take this a bit further and view abortion. Abortion in most cases is not any different than "Stand your Ground" or "Castle Doctrine" type legislation. "It's my body" (property/ownership) and no one should tell me what to do with it." How true is that?

For the Christian, lets look at Christ's teaching. Christ teaches that no greater love than this is to lay down your life for a friend. Read [Mark 8:31-37](#) and consider the heart of God and the importance of life and property. Why we do what we do is even more important than what we do, (read [Proverbs 16:1-3](#)). There are many scriptures to consider when determining our views but all should lead to who God is and *who He has called us to be.* (v. 31a).

[Exodus 23](#) God's law is neither liberal nor conservative. It reaches both vertically and horizontally as in the cross. It is concerned with our relationship with God and with our fellow man. Truth is essential in all relationships and so is mercy. The importance of ones relationship with God and others is written in the law that three times a year the people were to celebrate a festival to the Lord. It was to remind people of their deliverance from slavery. They were to offer sacrifices

## Spiritual Disciplines

- Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.
- Read the chapters and underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advise or wisdom gleaned from your reading.
- Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.

and were to cleanse their homes of leaven, a physical reminder of ridding themselves of hypocrisy. (Read [Matt. 16:11-12](#), [Matt. 5: 23-25](#)).

No compromise! God would drive out the enemies of Israel but they must obey ([vs. 20-21](#)). The reward was great but so also is the commitment. His promise was to take them to a Promised Land. Israel was to have full allegiance to God. How is that any different to Christ's call to follow him? Read [Luke 14:25-34](#) and also recall the greatest commandment [Matt. 22:37-38](#). Jesus doesn't make it easy to become a disciple nor is it a welcoming message unless you realized that He is calling people to believe, to trust, have faith and to show love. We are called not to kill our enemies but to show love, patience, and kindness. The only enemies we are to show no mercy toward are spiritual. Our warfare is spiritual, and God promises to go before us to drive out the enemy. We are to move forward by prayer and with action if we are to realize God's promise.

### ***Monday Pray for:***

1. *My relationship with God.*
2. *My life roles*
3. *My personal needs/weak areas*
4. *Goals and objectives*

### **Tuesday**, Dec. 5: Read [Exodus 24-25](#)

[Exodus 24](#): It is important to recall Moses first experience with God at the burning bush ([chapter 3](#)). Moses was amazed that although the bush burned it was not consumed. Moses could stand before God, amazed and not be consumed. However, Moses dare not touch the burning bush. He wasn't to even wear his sandals before the very presence of God. The ground itself was holy and Moses was not.

God told Moses that this will be a sign to you that you will bring the people out of Egypt and worship me at this mount ([Ex. 3:12](#)). It has come full circle. Moses brings the people out of bondage as God said and ascends to the top of the mountain at God's invitation. Although the mountain appeared to be consumed with fire Moses was not consumed ([vs. 15-18](#)). From observing the burning bush at a distance to entering the presence of God we are given a glimpse of worship. Read [John 6:44](#).

[Exodus 25](#): Israel plundered Egypt as they left, ([Ex.12:36](#)). From this bounty they were give as their hearts prompt them to build the temple, the place where they would meet with God. They built it inside to out, starting with the Ark from the riches God provided through their captives, according to His design. Read [Matt. 23:26-28](#). The Pharisees had it wrong and Jesus rebuked them in very harsh terms.

### **Pray for family and friends by name.**

### **Wednesday** Dec. 6: Read [Exodus 26-27](#)

[Exodus 26](#): Israel was to make a Tabernacle that would go with them. They moved as a people across the desert following God. News of their travel was noticed by sur-

rounding nations. Nations anxiously watched as the people whose God destroyed the Egyptian army moved about the desert.

The Tabernacle was of the finest fabrics of Egypt and made with skillful hands. The skills learned and used from generation to generation in Egypt as servants are now to be used to honor God. In every way God had prepared them. Even though the Tabernacle was temporary it was not inferior to any temple. It was to be a place of service in its construction, maintenance and worship. How are earthly temples like the Tabernacle? Read [1 Cor. 6:19-20](#). What about the Church, the body of believers? ([1 Cor. 3:16-17](#)). Paul gives us further instruction for worship in [Romans 12:1-2](#).

[Exodus 27](#): When you look at the duties of the priest remember these words: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light, ([1 Peter 2:9](#)). What does this say about our calling as priest? Who are we responsible for as priest? It isn't every person for themselves. Read [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#).

### **Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church (Consider fasting one, two, or all meals this day.)**

- a. Pastors: Pray for God's grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn in her work at BGCC.
- b. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- c. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- d. Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries here at BGCC.
- e. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ.
- f. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in 2017 and beyond.

### **Thursday**, Dec. 7: Read [Exodus 28-29](#)

[Exodus 28](#): God calls them out by name to serve him as priests. He doesn't make a general qualification and tell Moses to choose from among men those who can serve. As with the entire plan, just as with Noah and the Ark, God is specific. Could other dimensions and other ways work? Possibly, but it was to be a shadow of what is in heaven and what was to come. Jesus was not just a good man to serve as a messiah, He was the ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD. The disciples were not just any good men at the time to choose from. Aaron and his sons being chosen was different from Jethro's advice to Moses to choose "capable men as leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens," ([Exodus 18:25](#)). It was not a reward