

Friday, July 20: Read [Acts 27-28](#)

The book of Acts concludes with Luke's account of Paul's journey from prison in Caesarea to Rome. Chapter 27 includes a shipwreck, where Paul takes leadership and even preaches to his shipmates. God saves all involved and Paul eventually ends up being taken to Rome.

The final chapter of Acts gives us the last account of Paul's life in captivity. He is under house arrest waiting to stand trial before Caesar. The Romans allow him freedom to receive guests and he spends perhaps the last two years of his life preaching Jesus. This is where Luke's "orderly account" ends. Paul may have been acquitted, and soon after is taken into captivity and eventually executed by the Emperor Nero. Or, he may have remained in captivity. Regardless, he finishes strong, unashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the power of God for salvation for all who believe ([Romans 1:16](#)).

Notes:

Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), **Robert and Kailey Newkirk** (South Sudan), **Mike and Fran VanBruggen**, (Word of Life), **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Sue Saunders** (Bosnia), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (Ethnos360), **Brad and Christa Babjack** (University of West Virginia), **Salomon and Megan Guzman** (Tijuana), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Central Asia)

Thru the New!

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 advice or wisdom gleaned from your reading.*
- *Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.*
- *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.*

Monday, July 16 Read [Acts 17-18](#)

Paul and Silas continue on their second missionary journey through chapters 17 and 18. The background is set for the New Testament letters to the Thessalonians and the Corinthians. Notice in almost every place they go, they preach first in the Jewish synagogues and then to the Gentiles outside of Judaism.

The Athens account in chapter 17 records Paul's direct clash with the intellectual philosophers of his day. Only a few give ascent to his preaching and he moves on to Corinth, where he possibly stayed on two years in order to establish that church.

Notes:

Pray for: ---My relationship with God

---My life roles

---My personal needs/weak areas

---My goals and objectives.

Tuesday, July 17: Read [Acts 19-20](#)

Acts dedicates an entire chapter to the establishment of the church at Ephesus. This is now the third missionary journey as the Apostle works across the coastal region of Asia Minor. Chapter 18 records his farewell address to the church leaders of Ephesus. Here Paul gives an excellent overview of his philosophy of ministry as well as a stark warning against coming divisions and heresies within the church. [Revelation 2:2-3](#) seems to indicate that the church there held its ground.

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday July 18: Read [Acts 21-23](#)

Acts 21 details the Apostle Paul's trip from Asia Minor back to Jerusalem. Controversy over his ministry to the Gentiles creates dissension in Jerusalem, a riot occurs and Paul is taken into custody. Chapter 22 details his defense before the crowd that accused him -- most of whom are Jews who are fearful of the rise of Christianity in the middle east along with its impact on Judaism. Next, Paul gives witness to the Jewish ruling counsel, creating still another upheaval from which a plot is birthed to assassinate him. The Romans intervene and shuttle Paul off to the Governor in Caesarea.

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 our 2020 plan. Pray for our upcoming 150th celebration. Ask God to use our church anniversary as a testimony to Branch County.

Thursday, July 19: Read [Acts 24-26](#)

The final chapters of Acts record the Apostle Paul's defense of his ministry before Pagan kings. Starting with the Roman governor over Israel, Paul will be called to account for all the trouble he is causing among the Jews. The trial process is incredibly slow, allowing time for Paul to write many of the letters to churches in the New Testament. After governor Felix, Paul stands trial before the next governor, Porcius Festus. Next, King Agrippa arrives in Caesarea and is asked to hear Paul's testimony. Finally, the stage is set for Paul to travel to Rome to stand before the Emperor himself.

Notes:

Thursday Pray for "My World"

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at Work • Others God brings into my life. Take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help. Who can you invite to church this Sunday?
- 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.