

**Friday**, September 14: Read [\*1 Corinthians 7\*](#)

Chapter seven records advice regarding marriage and singleness. He recognizes the prevalence of sexual sin and recommends marriage as God's provision against it, though he admits that singleness is an option for some who have that capacity as Paul did.

Next, he addresses the cases where one spouse becomes a Christian and the other remains an unbeliever. His instruction is to try to remain married, though he recognizes that in some cases, the unbelieving spouse could abandon the marriage. In such cases, the believer should remain single. The example carries also to slaves and freedmen and to Gentiles and circumcised Jews.

From verse 25 on, Paul deals with the simplicity of wholly serving God, free from other concerns, including marriage. The ideal is individual devotion to God, possible in the truest form when someone is single.

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!***

(Reading through the New Testament in 2018)

- *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**, September 10 Read [\*1 Corinthians 1\*](#)

The Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church is written primarily to address numerous problems that had arisen in the church at Corinth and to offer correction. The basic theme of his letter is correct Christian conduct.

His opening verses of chapter one introduce himself, affirm the Corinthians' true identity as saints by calling, and encourage them in their secure standing due to God's faithfulness. From verse 10 on, he exposes their problem with divisions and clarifies the difference between human knowledge and God's divine wisdom, the reason that they now live as God's chosen people.

Notes:

**Pray for:** ---My relationship with God

---My life roles

---My personal needs/weak areas

---My goals and objectives.

## Tuesday, September 11: Read [1 Corinthians 2-3](#)

Paul launches his second chapter reminding them of his early days of ministry in Corinth ([Acts 18:1-11](#)) and the basic gospel message he preached to them through the Holy Spirit's power. At that point, Paul differentiates between the man with the Spirit and the non-Christian who does not have the Holy Spirit. Chapter three continues the theme, introducing what is commonly called the carnal man -- a Christian who is living by his own resources and not trusting the Spirit. The result includes divisions in the church like those at Corinth. Finally, Paul closes the chapter reminding the church that they each will be judged for how they lived on the final day.

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

## Wednesday September 12: Read [1 Corinthians 4-5](#)

Chapter four revisits the quarreling concerns from the previous chapter and calls the believers to halt their judgments until Christ returns. He continues with his self defense as a true Apostle of Christ and his eventual visit to prove his authority if necessary. At that point, he addresses the grievous sin of incest, a sin that is being tolerated at that time within the church of Corinth. His verdict is to announce judgment on the individual and to remove him from the fellowship as discipline. The goal of their action was to provoke genuine repentance.

### **Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church**

1. Leadership: 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. Pray for the church council and the various ministry team leaders.
2. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
3. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
4. Discipleship: Ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries at BGCC. Pray for our small group ministry.
5. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ. Ask God to embolden our people to intentionally reach out to others.
6. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for our upcoming 150th anniversary celebration. Ask God to use our church anniversary as a testimony to Branch County. Pray for God's clear leading in our upcoming 2020 plan.

## Thursday, September 13: Read [1 Corinthians 6](#)

Continuing with the theme of judging evil, Paul scolds the Corinthian believers for carrying out lawsuits against fellow Christians. Part of his argument is that their actions are a poor testimony to unbelievers. On the other hand, Christians are competent to handle their own legal and social disputes without turning to worldly judges as arbiters. In verses 9-11, he reminds them of the penalty for willful sins -- exclusion from the Kingdom of God. The good news is thanks to Christ's vicarious suffering and death, they now have redemption in Jesus' name!

Finally, Paul addresses the sin of sexual immorality, possibly referring to the pagan temple prostitution that was common in Corinth at that time. His admonition is not to fight sexual temptation, but to flat out flee it! It is the Holy Spirit within that sanctifies us and now empowers us to bodily honor God and avoid sexual sins.

### **Notes:**

### **Thursday Pray for "My World"**

(Write down names as God brings people to mind.)

- 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.