

Friday, September 21: Read [1 Corinthians 15-16](#)

Chapter fifteen of Paul's letter to the Corinthian church addresses the persistent questions of death, the second coming and the resurrection from the dead. Paul first reviews the gospel -- central to which is the idea of the resurrection of the body. Christ's resurrection serves as a prototype for all humanity and sets the stage for a whole new existence with God in the future. The new "spiritual body" will be of a different type than our earthly bodies, just as our immortal life in heaven will be of a higher quality than our mortal, earthly life. He concludes the chapter with the exhortation to stand firm and work heartily for the Lord. It will be worth it!

The Apostle Paul finishes 1 Corinthians with some final instructions for the financial gift they are giving to the needy Judean believers. He also affirms several of his ministry colleagues and their involvement with the Corinthians. Though the letter has addressed numerous church issues and problems, it ends on the positive emphasis of love and grace in Jesus Christ.

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 17 Read [1 Corinthians 8-9](#)

The Apostle Paul here addresses a hot potato of his time -- Idolatry and food sacrificed to idols. These were ancient "No No's" for the Jews who now find themselves converted to Christ and part of churches filled with Gentile (pagan) converts. Meat sold in open air markets was often used first as a sacrifice at a local pagan temple and then put on sale at a discount. Should a Christian eat that discounted meat? Paul argues for freedom with responsibility to the "weaker" in faith. In chapter nine, he uses his own freedom as an apostle as an example of restricting himself out of love for others.

Notes:

Pray for: ---My relationship with God

---My life roles

---My personal needs/weak areas

---My goals and objectives.

Tuesday, September 18: Read [1 Corinthians 10-11](#)

In chapter ten, Paul picks back up the issue of eating meat sacrificed to idols and encourages the Corinthians to separate from any appearances that could harm others. His admonition is to do what's best for others in an attitude that glorifies God. Next, he addresses communion and the Lord's supper. Apparently there were some major abuses occurring in the church at Corinth, creating confusion and even division. Head coverings were the dominant practice at that time and Paul exhorts them to stay with practice in order to avoid conflict. Next, he rebukes them for their inattention to the Lord's supper, re-explains the ordinance as Christ gave it, and instructs them to observe the meal in a more orderly and considerate fashion.

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday September 19: Read [1 Corinthians 12, 14](#)

The theme of these two chapters is spiritual gifts. Again there is conflict at Corinth as it relates to the practice of certain gifts in church, namely speaking in tongues. Paul clarifies that the gifts are given by the Holy Spirit as he determines and are to be used to strengthen the church. Apparently the opposite was occurring. Like a human body, God desires unity in our diversity of functions for the sake of the whole body.

In chapter fourteen, Paul argues that prophesying is more important than tongues because it edifies the church. Tongues was to be regulated as outlined in chapter fourteen with prophecy (preaching) taking precedence.

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 20: Read [1 Corinthians 13](#)

As always, "the love chapter" stands out among the pages of scripture as one of the great, though short, essays on the virtue of love. Read the chapter slowly. If God is love, then the descriptions of what love is reflect the character of God and who he is. Next, read the chapter reflexively. Consider how you personally fare in the love department. Check yourself with the various attributes of love. Are they obviously present in your life? Are there any glaring absences that need to be confessed and re-emphasized? Can you recommit to love God and others as God designed you to? Ask the loving Holy Spirit of God to refill and use you as an instrument of God's love in your daily world.

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.