

**Friday**, October 26: Read [\*1 Thessalonians 5\*](#)

Chapter five picks up where four left off with more details of Christ's second coming, followed by an admonition to honor and obey their spiritual leaders. Notice the four elements of ministry in verse 14: Warn the idle; encourage the timid; help the weak; be patient with everyone.

If there were an obvious memory verse in the book of 1 Thessalonians, it would be verses 16-18. They contain a simple summary for God's daily will for your life -- to be joyful always, to pray continually, to give thanks in all circumstances. How have you lived up to these three commands this past week? Which is easiest to do and which is hardest for you? Why not pray through all three and ask God to genuinely develop your ability to be thankful, joyful and prayerful.

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**, October 22 Read [\*1 Thessalonians 1\*](#)

The letter of Thessalonians makes better sense if you start by reading the context for the letter in [\*Acts 17:1-10\*](#). Paul and Silas preach a mere three weeks in the city before they meet up with lively opposition and are chased out of town. Having left, he later sends Timothy back to Thessalonica to find out what happened to the first believers. Timothy's report is totally positive so Paul writes to encourage the believers to stand strong for the faith in the face of "severe suffering" (verse 6)

Notes:

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

---My life roles

---My personal needs/weak areas

---My goals and objectives.

## Tuesday, October 23: Read [1 Thessalonians 2](#)

In chapter two, Paul reminds the believers of his example while he served among them. He treated them like a mother or father treats and trains children. Likewise, they now follow his example and that of the churches in Judea who suffer under the oppression of the Jews. He encourages them to endure opposition knowing that they will eventually be rewarded in glory. At that time all evil oppressors will then be punished (Note [1 Peter 4:12-19](#)).

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

## Wednesday October 24: Read [1 Thessalonians 3](#)

Timothy was sent to strengthen and encourage the believers in their trials. Who has God sent to encourage you in difficult times? Might he want to send you to someone who is struggling in order to encourage them too? Note the goal while suffering is to stand firm in the Lord.

Verses 11-13 reveal Paul's heart for the Thessalonians, that they might grow in love and be strengthened within. That is God's ideal for us as well -- faith and relationships. Check yourself on both accounts and ask God to help you live likewise in your present circumstances.

**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, October 25: Read [1 Thessalonians 4](#)

Chapter four includes practical instructions on how to live to please God. Notice, not to please self but to please him. The first instruction is to avoid sexual immorality by self control. To honor God with pure thoughts and actions. Secondly, to develop brotherly love relationships among the believers. And then, to be industrious and productive in your work.

The second half of the chapter addresses a question that may have arisen in the face of persecution -- "What happens to Christians who die before Jesus comes back"? This passage is a classic funeral passage giving hope and comfort to countless millions over the centuries. Some day it will come to pass.

**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.