

# Thru the New!

(Reading through the New Testament in 2018)

**Friday**, November 2: Read [2 Thessalonians 3:1-18](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:12-28](#)

Both Thessalonian letters of Paul finish with words of encouragement and instruction. The church is going through a lot of adversity. People are getting discouraged. Serving God is the harder choice and Paul is trying to encourage them to stand firm, to resist evil, to live outstanding lives for God's glory. Both letters highlight the Lord's faithfulness to the believers, the need for self control and discipline, and the assurance that God's plan will prevail in the end. Both letters are written to inspire hope and perseverance in the face of adversity, a message that may come of age for our generation in the near future.

Notes:

- *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.*

## 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)

**Monday**, October 29 Read [2 Thessalonians 1](#)

Second Thessalonians picks up where Paul's first letter leaves off -- encouraging the Christians in Thessalonica who are undergoing persecution. Paul exhorts them to keep the faith and to hold out until Christ returns.

Chapter one reminds all of us that God will eventually right all wrongs and pay back all evil done on earth. Until then, the Apostle prays for God's supernatural strength to endure all for Christ's sake.

Notes:

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

---My life roles

---My personal needs/weak areas

---My goals and objectives.

## Tuesday, October 30: Read [2 Thessalonians 2](#)

Chapter two deals with a supposed letter circulating in Thessalonica that “the day of the Lord” has already occurred. The Apostle clarifies that before that day, a rebellion on earth will occur and the Anti Christ, known here as “the man of lawlessness” would appear on earth. He will establish himself as a world leader until Jesus finally comes back. Verse 11 is of special interest. What kind of delusion will lead the world astray, and exactly what lie (“the lie”) will people believe? Much to study here!

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

## Wednesday October 31: Read [2 Thessalonians 3](#)

Paul calls for prayer on his behalf and offers prayers for the Thessalonians. He points to the Lord, who alone can strengthen and protect us from evil. Mentioning their obedience, Paul finishes his letter with a focus on industry, as opposed to idleness. Apparently, there were some problems with laziness and inactivity among the Christians of Thessalonica. They are to work hard, especially doing good to others. The promised reward will be grace and peace of God. The same holds true for us today!

### **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 this Sunday. 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, November 1: Read [2 Thessalonians 2; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11](#)

Let’s take the final two days and correlate the teachings of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, looking back at a couple of chapters today and two more tomorrow.

Chapter 4 of 1 Thessalonians and Chapter 2 of 2 Thessalonians both speak to a similar event -- the coming of Jesus Christ. Comparing both chapters, we can conclude that the Anti Christ will appear on earth, the rapture will happen, then the Lord will return, the dead in Christ will rise to meet him and then the living believers will be raptured up and finally then the judgment will occur. 2 Peter chapter 3 speaks to the same topics. It concludes his teaching with an exhortation to live holy and godly lives in the midst of societal degeneration, looking forward to God’s promised future.

### **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.