

Friday, January 24: Read [Ephesians 4:17-32](#)

Let's finish the week by focusing on the last several verses in our passage. Verse 29 zeroes in on how we talk as Christians. The tongue is often an indicator of what's going on in your heart ([Mark 7:20-23](#), [James 3:1-12](#)). Check yourself here. How is your speech? Notice back in verse 29 we are only to say things that benefit others and build them up. To do otherwise certainly grieves the Holy Spirit (verse 30).

Now examine the list in verse 31. Most of the things listed are interpersonal sins corresponding to our relationships. Verse 32 gives numerous opposites in terms of how we are to treat others. Ask the Lord to check you here, especially as you relate to others, in particular, any tensions you might be experiencing with others. Ask God to exchange the wrongs of verse 31 for the rights of verse 32. Formally forgive anyone you might be at odds with today and trust God to work out any differences there as he leads you. ([Colossians 3:12-14](#)).

Friday: Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), , **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Sue Saunders** (Bosnia), **Matt and Becky Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezowski** (Wycliffe), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (Ethnos360), **Brad and Christa Babjack** (University of West Virginia), **Salomon and Megan Guzman** (Tijuana), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Central Asia), **William and Salma Garcia** (Tijuana church plant)

Week of
January 19
2020



Be the CHURCH is DISCIPLESHIP

Spiritual Disciplines Guide:

- *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, January 20 Read [Ephesians 4:17-32](#)

This week we will cover the second half of Ephesians, chapter four. Here the Apostle Paul addresses several elements of practical Christian living. Read through this passage and take note of Paul's specific instructions to anyone who has come to faith and is learning to change their old way of life for a whole new lifestyle. His words here are nearly the same instruction he gives the Colossians in the third chapter of his letter to the church at Colossae. You may want to take time to compare [Colossians 3:1-17](#) with Ephesians 4:17-32.

Monday: Pray for yourself:

---My relationship with God

—My life roles and responsibilities

—My personal needs/weak areas

—My goals and objectives for 2020

Tuesday, January 21: Read [Ephesians 4:17-24](#)

Now let's break down our reading from Ephesians 4 into sections. Verses 17-24 emphasize the role your mind plays in both conversion and in sanctification. Gentiles in our case would be nonbelievers, people who live average, faithless, secular lives. Paul describes their mindsets as futile and ignorant. Their lives are lived for sensual pleasures and material happiness. Read [Psalm 73](#) and notice the way "the wicked" are described there. The Psalmist laments their apparent successes and happiness but eventually concludes that knowing God and his ways is best.

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday January 22: Read [Ephesians 4:20-24](#)

Let's zero in on the "new self" today. First note how Paul describes our new life in verses 23-24. It starts with a change of attitude and then actions. Note also [Philippians 4:8-9](#), [Colossians 3:1-4](#) and [1 Peter 2:9-17](#). Is there a difference between how you think and act now and how you were before you came to Christ? The "new you" is your best you. It's the person God created you to be, a person like his Son, Jesus. Ask God to show you yourself in a new light. Ask him to give you a renewed vision of who you are in Christ and of how he wants you to think, act and feel as his New Creation ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)).

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. Ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up more workers for the harvest ([Matthew 9:38](#)).
2. **Worship**: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for more musicians to help lead the church in worship, including a pianist. 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. Pray that we incorporate newcomers into our church fellowship. Pray through this past Sunday's congregational prayer requests.
4. **Discipleship**: Ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries at BGCC. Ask God to bless our small group ministry, to raise up new groups, new teachers and more leaders.
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, especially through the upcoming Kingdom Projects.

6. **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 as we call our members to a greater love and commitment to the Lord and his service. Ask God to bless our finances so that we can better accomplish his purposes for our congregation.

Thursday, January 23: Read [Ephesians 4:25-28](#)

Do not give the devil a foothold. The word *foothold* translated is *topos*, from which we get topographical maps. "Topos" is a location, a place where the devil can hang out. A sinning Christian could be giving Satan place in his life, a rightful place from which the devil can badger him.

Examine yourself. Check to see if there is any willful sin in your life. Use [Psalm 139:23-24](#) and [1 John 1:9](#) as guides. Invite the Holy Spirit to convict you of any sin in your life at this time. If God reveals something, simply confess it as sin, renounce it and repent of it. Ask God to forgive and cleanse you and then, as Paul tells the Ephesians, do the opposite! Bless instead of cursing. Become generous instead of stealing. Speak truthfully instead of lying. Forgive others instead of holding a grudge. These are true reflections of "our new selves" in Christ!

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?
- **Community** -- 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.
- Pray for the **community parachurch ministries** serving our county, including Beginnings Care for Life Center, Branch County Right to Life, Celebrate Recovery, Coach Eby Youth and Family Center, Damascus Road Ministry, Family Hope Outreach, Forgotten Man Ministries, Foster Closet of Branch County, God's Choice Church, Jacob's Well Ministry, Presbyterian Free Health Clinic, Shelterhouse, Tommy's House, the Gideons.
- **America** -- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.