

Friday, October 11: Read [Revelation 2:1-7](#)

The final account in scripture of the church of Ephesus is found in Revelation 2. Read the message God gives to this church. It has been established for some 50 years now but is in jeopardy of losing its testimony (lampstand). Read the message carefully. What are the strengths of the Ephesian church and what is its principle weakness? Could we as a congregation be in jeopardy of judgement for not loving God like we did earlier? Could you personally? Notice the remedy is to repent and then to return to the first works of our faith. Ask God to reveal any lukewarmness in your own life. Renounce it and invite the Holy Spirit to revive your love and commitment for him. God's promise is life in paradise for all who obey.

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)

06 October
SUNDAY
2019



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, October 7 Read [Ephesians 1:1-14](#)

For our fall sermon series, we will turn our attention to St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians. If you have maps in the back of your Bible, look up the ancient city of Ephesus. What region of the world was it located in? What nation is this region in today?

Paul launches his letter declaring all that God has done for his people through Christ. From verse 3 on note the words that Paul chooses to explain God's actions. (For example, blessed us, chose us, predestined us, etc.) Ephesians offers outstanding security for the believer in Jesus Christ. Our salvation is a work of God on our behalf! Thank God for it, acknowledging his great works for you as his own possession.

Monday: Pray for: —My relationship with God
—My life roles
—My personal needs/weak areas
—My goals and objectives for the fall season

Tuesday, October 8: Read [Acts 19:1-22](#)

In order to better understand Ephesians, let's take some time to go back to when the gospel first reached that city. Read Acts 19:1-22. He reaches a group of God-fearing Jews who have yet to confess Christ, be baptized in his name and receive the Holy Spirit. Next, he witnesses to the Jews who eventually reject his message so he moves on to preach to the non-Jewish population in Ephesus. The seven sons of Sceva story has always been a point of interest, illustrating how others seek to imitate what Christ can do. They fail, but the result is high honor to the one name above all names, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday October 9: Read [Acts 19:23-41](#)

The Gospel not only brings salvation, it often brings consternation, opposition and trouble. Paul's message counters the local lore of the goddess Artemis. Our confession of Christ will bring us into conflict with people who hold other beliefs, sometimes in dramatic fashion. Who opposes your faith? Is anyone around you "offended" by your testimony and maybe even critical of you? If so, you are probably on the right track. Jesus predicted that his followers would confront opposition and persecution. The devil is alive and active, doing what he can to silence Christians. Don't give in. Stand true to the Lord ([Matthew 10:16-36](#)).

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. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
3. **Fellowship**: Pray that God would 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 Kingdom Initiative.
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, October 10: Read [Acts 20:17-38](#)

Paul is on a return trip to Jerusalem and stops by Ephesus to briefly address the church leadership there. Note Paul's declaration of integrity along with his prediction of coming hardship, all for the task of preaching the gospel. Next he admonishes the Ephesian elders to guard the sheep from distortions of the truth and church divisions. It is the truth of God's word that sanctifies and preserves us from all harm and error. That's true for us today and for our church in general. We must stay true to the historic doctrines of our faith and not stray from the authority of the word of God as our final guide. ([1 Timothy 4:1-16](#)).

Thursday: Pray for "My World"

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

- **Neighbors** • People who live around me. (Focus Four)
- **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.
- **America** -- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.