Friday, November 29: Read Ephesians 4-5

Let's finish the week by previewing the second half of Ephesians (read chapter 6 also if you have time). Notice the shift from doctrine and theology (chapters 1-3) to practical applications for living out our faith (4:1) Take note of any directives that apply to you personally at this present time. Ask God to show you how to follow through with the truths of Ephesians as they relate directly to your own life.

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 November 24



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 advise 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, November 25 Read *Ephesians 1*

We are presently halfway through our study of Ephesians. Let's take this week to review the first three chapters of the book. We'll break for December and the holidays and then pick up chapters 4-6.

Re-read Ephesians 1. Personalize the chapter as if the Apostle Paul were writing to you personally. What stands out from your reading? Have you underlined any verses in this passage? Take special notice of who you are in "in Christ", as revealed here in chapter one. Go back and pray Paul's prayer for yourself from verses 17-21. Be sure Jesus is Lord over "all things" in your life today (v. 22).

Monday: Pray for yourself:

- ---My relationship with God
- —My life roles and responsibilities
- —My personal needs/weak areas
- —My goals and objectives for the fall season

Tuesday, November 26: Read *Ephesians 2*

Read chapter 2, reflexively thanking God for his great salvation afforded you personally through Jesus' innocent suffering and death. Ask God to show you your "glorified self", seated with Christ in the heavenlies (verse 6). What difference has God's grace made in your life? How is his grace (undeserved kindness) changing your attitude towards yourself or others? As God's workmanship, what good works are you doing in his name? If nothing specific, ask God to employ you in some new venture of service to others as an extension of his salvation worked out in your life.

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday November 27: Read *Ephesians 3*

Chapter 3 is a continuation of <u>Chapter 2:11-22</u>. Go back and read those verses and continue up to chapter 3:13. As a Gentile, God has included you in his family. You are now an "instrument of peace". Where is there interpersonal conflict around you that you could reach out and offer the peace of the Lord? Watch for any hint of division at church or among Christians and mend the breach.

Now go on to read Paul's second prayer for the Ephesians. Again, make his prayer your own, asking God for a greater experience of his power and his love. Claim the truth of verse 20 for your life circumstances and choose to walk in faith today.

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

- 1. <u>Leadership</u>: 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. <u>Worship</u>: 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. <u>Fellowship</u>: Asl 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. <u>Discipleship</u>: 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.

- 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 Assignments and the upcoming Kingdom Projects.
- 6. <u>Future Faith Goals</u>: 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, November 28: Read Psalm 34, 46

Take time this Thanksgiving to meditate on God's mercy, love and blessings shown to you throughout the year. Both Psalms today declare the greatness of our God and give reasons why we should give him his due honor, glory and thanks. Therefore, join the Psalmist's words -- O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, and his love endures forever (*Psalm* 106:1)

Thursday: Pray for "My World"

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

- Neighbors People who live around me. (Focus Four)
- <u>People at Work</u> 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?
- <u>Community</u> -- 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.