

Friday, July 28: Read [*Psalms 79-80, John 10*](#)

Both Psalms suggest Israel is in decline and becoming vulnerable to the surrounding nations. Soul searching is in order to cause people to return to God. Note the call for revival in 80:18-19. Not a bad prayer for American Christians to pray today!

Jesus presents himself as the good Shepherd to all who will submit to his leadership. To fail to do so is to risk the dangers of robbers and wolves. Are you submitted to him today? Will you pay attention to his voice (v. 3,16,27) and follow his leading? His promise is to provide for and to protect his own sheep. That includes you and I.

Notes:

Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Nate & MaryBeth Brace** (Kentucky), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), **Robert Newkirk** (Jesus Film), **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Mike & Fran VanBruggen** (S. Africa), **Sue Sanders** (Detroit, MI), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Danielle Tucker** (France), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (New Tribes).

Specific Concerns:

Pray this weekend:

- Review the week (Thank God for answered prayer)
- Note any ongoing concerns to pray for next week.
- Praise God that He is working in your life. You are growing in your faith.



Spiritual Disciplines **Reading Assignments**

- *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.*

Weekly Readings

Monday, July 24: Read [*Psalms 72, John 6*](#)

Psalms 72 records the only Psalm written by King Solomon. It is a royal prayer for prosperity, justice and success and can be attributed to Christ, the ultimate ruling King.

Chapters 5-9 are known as the period of controversy. Here John records several dialogues between Jesus and his religious critics. The key question is "Who is Jesus"? Jesus' answer (v. 35) provokes much debate among the religious leaders.

Notes:

Pray for:

1. *My relationship with God.*
2. *My life roles*
3. *My personal needs/weak areas*
4. *Goals and objectives*

Tuesday, July 25: Read [*Psalms 73-74, John 7*](#)

Psalms 73 begins the third of five sections in the book of Psalms. The first two were written primarily by David. This section is recorded primarily by Asaph, a contemporary of King David.

The controversy of who Jesus is continues as Jesus goes to the Feast of Tabernacles in John 7. The underlying question is could he be the long awaited Messiah? Notice the mention of Nicodemus at the end of the chapter. We saw him in chapter three and will see him once more at Jesus' burial in chapter 19.

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday July 26: Read [*Psalms 75-76, John 8*](#)

Both Psalms allude to the coming Judgment. God is just and also merciful. He will punish evil and vindicate the righteous. All rulers, kings, people and nations are accountable to him.

In John 8, Jesus again answers the "who are you" question. He is the light of the world, who offers light and life to everyone. Notice several other "I am" statements by Jesus in this chapter. His teaching results in an attempted stoning for blasphemy.

Notes:

**Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church
(Consider fasting one, two, or all meals this day.)**

- a. Pastors: 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.
- b. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- c. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- d. Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries here at BGCC.
- e. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ.
- f. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in 2017 and beyond.

Thursday, July 27: Read [*Psalms 77-78, John 9*](#).

Psalms 78 reminds us of the responsibility to pass on the faith to the next generation. Israel was to teach their children all the statutes and great works of God. To fail to do so would promote a stubborn and rebellious generation (verse 8). The Psalm is a lengthy expose of the fickleness of human nature as seen in Israel's history.

John 9 presents the only place in the gospels where the author focuses an entire chapter on one incident. In this case, it is the healing of a blind man at the temple, mirroring the spiritual blindness of Israel's religious leaders.

Notes:

Pray for "My World"

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at Work • Others God brings into my life. Begin to take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help.
- 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.