

Week of
August 16
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.

We just finished the book of Acts last week. This week we are going to move to Paul's letter to the Galatians. Through the week we will look at the nature of God and the Grace and Peace He offers. At the same time we will look at how that Grace and Peace can become missing in the Christian life. It is not that God pulls it from the believer but the believer can walk away from it. Crazy, right? But people can be persuaded to do what seems right but only to lead to confusion and unbelief.

Monday, Aug. 17: Read [Galatians 1](#)

Paul writes a letter to believers in Galatia. His opening is a pleasant salutation from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is one of Grace and Peace (v.3). However, there is a problem and it is a very **BIG** problem. The exact nature of the problem becomes clearer as the letter unfolds. For today's reading, let's consider why Paul greets believers with encouraging words from God. After you read the full chapter come back and focus on verse 4. What does this tell us about the Father?

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, Aug. 18: Read [*Galatians 2*](#)

Paul goes to Jerusalem to meet with the leaders after he had received a revelation. We are not told what that revelation was but it was enough to send Paul to discuss it with others. It is important to seek out the opinions of others who are strong in the faith. The revelation may had to do with Paul's understanding of the Gospel when it came to gentile believers and "our freedom in Christ." Sometimes the attack on our freedom comes from within the ranks, as mentioned in verse 4. The spiritual freedom gained for us was through Christ's death. That's a very high price. It doesn't get any higher of a price. The return to the old way, the traditions, is the opposite direction to the New Way that Christ is going. Read [*Matt. 9:16-17*](#). Is God directing you in a new way? Consult with those you see as spiritual and be true to His calling. No one is above correction nor is anyone above seeking the wisdom of others.

Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.

Wednesday, Aug. 19: Read [*Galatians 3*](#)

The hammer comes down! In chapter three, we read how these "foolish Galatians" had good company with Peter and others succumbing to the pressures of Jews holding to traditions. How **BIG** of an issue is this? **BIG** enough to make it into the sacred writings of the Bible. Paul argues that the law and traditions were just a passing through until the gentiles would be brought in to this new family. He references Abraham as a man of faith because he believed God. Whoever relies on works of the law and traditions are under a curse. Is it time to stop working the old ways in your life because they once brought you success and start moving in a new way in faith. The word foolish that Paul uses implies thoughtless or not understanding at best and down right stupid at worse. It is based on sensual—relying on senses to gratify the flesh. We *feel* righteous and superior to others by holding on to traditions and works, therefore we foolishly believe we are. Harsh words but a very important issue.

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.
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, Aug. 20: Read [Galatians 4](#)

We are redeemed! Hallelujah! And adopted by God the Father. Therefore God has sent the Son's Spirit into our hearts (v.6). **WE ARE FREE**, no longer slaves. Emancipation Proclamation claims "Slaves are, henceforward shall be free." Why would we want to return to slavery, Paul asks? The old ways served its purpose but they are weak and miserable forces (v.9). The fight is always not to gain freedom but to remain free. Paul lays this out in a strong argument going back to the story of Hagar and the child of the slave not to be raised with the child of the free woman. They cannot coexist. It seems harsh. This is true in ones personal life and the life of the church. Ask God to show you old ways you are still holding onto that persecutes the spiritual child in you that God wants to grow (v. 29). It's a tough metaphor but give it some thought.

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?
- Community -- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County, even through the Coronavirus crisis.
- Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation, especially as churches reunite after the quarantine.
- 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 Promise, 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 and the Bronson Food Pantry.
- America: Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America. Pray that God would use the Coronavirus outbreak to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ.

Friday, Aug. 21: Read [Galatians 5, 6](#)

Paul lays out the simple truth to living by the Spirit. Going to church on Sunday and living like the devil during the week is no different then living by traditions that make you appear better then someone else. In both cases life is empty and miserable. It is the new creation that makes the difference. The new life is like a young fruit tree. Its fruit is certain as it continues to grow in the orchard. Paul lays out the fruit of a Spirit filled life. It includes love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Who wouldn't want to experience the Spirit filled life? Jesus taught the same truth but used a slightly different analogy. Read [John 15:1-17](#) and ask God to remove any dead wood from your 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), **Brendan and Ashley Camp** (Columbia)