

Week of  
August 30  
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 have come to the second part of our study of the book of Acts. Part I -- The Church Established, featuring the Apostle Peter. Part II -- The Church Extended, featuring the Apostle Paul. Luke, who wrote Acts, includes three different missionary journeys of Paul, covering a combined period of some 20 years. Each mission trip sets the stage for many of Paul's New Testament letters. This week, we will survey one.*

### Monday, Aug. 31: Read [1 Corinthians 1,3](#)

Paul helps establish the church at Corinth on his second missionary journey ([Acts 18:1-18](#)). He later writes them to address numerous problems that have risen in that congregation. We'll survey five of those issues this week.

In chapters 1 and 3, Paul speaks to the problem of disunity and divisions among the believers at Corinth. Notice the words quarrels, boasting, division and jealousy. The basic issue here is worldliness (3:1-3). He deals with a similar problem in Philippi ([Philippians 2:1-4, 4:1-3](#)). We, likewise, must avoid disunity and divisions in the church today. Our assignment like theirs is to work towards being united in mind and spirit (1:10) and to minimize disputable matters that could potentially ruin the church's testimony ([Romans 14:1](#)).

### **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, Sept. 1: Read [1 Corinthians 5, 6:9-20](#)

A second issue Paul dealt with in Corinth was sexual immorality. The Greco-Roman society in the first century was very sexually loose and explicit. Our society has increasingly loosened its own morals this past generation or so to the point where Christians often live promiscuous lives, much like their non-Christian neighbors. Pornography is a primary proponent of sexual immorality and must be denounced and combated at every level. Our bodies are now temples of the Holy Spirit and must be kept pure in thoughts, intentions and deeds that honor the Lord who bought us. Chapter 7 also relates to this issue, particularly in the single verses married life scenario ([1 Thessalonians 4:3-8](#)).

**Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.**

## Wednesday, Sept. 2: Read [1 Corinthians 8](#)

Another issue that Paul addresses to the Corinthians is idolatry and foods sacrificed to idols. Pay close attention to the deeper issue -- conscience as it relates to knowledge. Romans 14 essentially deals with the same theme -- guarding against offending other Christians by what we believe or do as it relates to personal freedoms. Christians hold a variety of opinions about "secondary issues". We are to guard the weaker consciences of other believers in regards to "disputable matters". Politics is an easy example of this for us today. Paul's admonition is to not "wound" a brother by what you know or believe. In [Romans 14:5,15](#) Paul, in essence, tells us to withhold our views or opinions in situations that could cause an argument or even division. Not always easy to do. The greater issue is God's kingdom and right living ([Romans 14:17-18](#)). We should be discussing this for sure!

**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.

1. 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.
2. 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, Sept. 3: Read [1 Corinthians 11:17-34](#)

The Apostle Paul scolds the believers in Corinth for the shoddy way they are taking communion. It's causing disunity instead of celebrating their common union around the cross. It is also accenting the socio-economic differences of the congregation -- some have plenty to eat, others do not. Apparently for them the Lord's Supper was more like a meal eaten together than a simple church ritual. We are to join together, to examine ourselves, to recognize the body of Christ and his church and to commune. Paul warns that God could judge those who abuse this sacred act. It should bring us closer together...not further apart.

### **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, Sept. 4: Read [1 Corinthians 12,14](#)

A final issue in Corinth that we'll look at has to do with spiritual gifts and their misuse. This topic is still somewhat controversial today, especially the gift of speaking in tongues. Read carefully Paul's presentation on the spiritual gifts, why they are given and also, who decides which gifts are given. Note, the goal is to edify the church. Apparently some gifts had become divisive -- not unlike in our day as well. Paul emphasizes unity in diversity all for the sake of edification. The varieties of gifts are given to build up one another for greater service. See also [Romans 12:3-8](#), [Ephesians 4:11-16](#) and [1 Peter 4:10-11](#). What spiritual gift has God given you and how are you using to build up others in their faith?

### **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), ***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)