

Week of  
September 13  
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 focus on a colleague in Paul's ministry, Timothy.*

## Monday, September 14: Read [1 Timothy 1-2](#)

Timothy joins the apostle Paul on his second missionary journey ([Acts 16:1-3](#)). From that point, he becomes a key partner in the ministry and eventually pastors the church at Ephesus. 1 and 2 Timothy are eventually written as personal instructions to Timothy related to church order, discipline and instruction.

Note Paul's testimony in chapter one. According to verse 16, what was God's intention in saving Paul? Who do you look at as an example of God's patience and power by saving them from a lost and godless life? If he can save them, he can save anyone!

Chapter two hints to the need for propriety and order within the church ([1 Timothy 3:15](#)). Prayer for those in authority allows us to live peaceful and productive lives. These prayers require harmony among believers (verse 8) and decency among the women of the church (verse 9). Apparently there was some upheaval in the culture that was affecting Christians. The word *women* in verses 11-15 could also be translated *wives*. Some women were possibly being disruptive and unsubmitive to their husbands in the worship services. See also ([1 Corinthians 14:33-40](#)).

### **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. 15: Read [\*1 Timothy 3-4\*](#)

Chapter three keys in on biblical leadership in Christian assemblies. An overseer is synonymous with the word *elder* and *pastor*. He would be the shepherd of the local flock. A deacon is literally a table servant (a waiter or helper). The pastor teaches and leads the church first by example. The deacon must also live a model Christian life with lesser responsibilities. Both are to serve the needs of the people of the congregation, “the church of the living God”.

Chapter four hones in on Timothy’s own example to the church and its influence on others. He is not only to teach others, he is to train himself for godliness (verse 7). He is to set an example in integral living (verse 12). He is to be devoted to reading, preaching and teaching scripture (verse 13) and to persevere and progress in his own Christian life, to benefit both himself and his hearers (verse 16). We would do well to follow Paul’s admonitions to train ourselves, devote ourselves, set an example for others and persevere in our daily, vital relationship with God. What kind of an example are you to others?

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

## Wednesday, Sept. 16: Read [\*1 Timothy 5-6\*](#)

Chapters five and six give regulations for several groups within the church including older and younger men, older and younger women, widows, younger widows, elders, slaves and the wealthy. Again, Paul’s admonition to Timothy as a leader is to live out his commitment to Christ in the context of pastoring a church. Notice the personal imperatives in chapter six -- flee, fight, pursue, take hold of, guard and turn away from. Safeguards to any leader who must maintain his/her own integrity in the midst of service to God ([\*1 Corinthians 9:24-27\*](#)).

**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. 17: Read [2 Timothy 1-2](#)

Paul writes a second letter to Timothy, probably a couple years after the first. He is in prison on "death row". His time is short. He gives Timothy further pastoral instructions but also makes a personal plea to his "son in the faith", to come soon before its too late to see him.

In chapter one, Paul encourages Timothy to step up and extend himself to "fan into flame your gift". What gift has God given you and are you using it faithfully? ([1 Corinthians 4:1-2](#)). Note also, Paul's admonition to endure hardship like a soldier (2:3-7). The life of service is rigorous! We need God's power to persist, to endure and to press forward. Why not reconsider your own commitment to Christ (1:5-9) and recommit your life to his service. Trust in his power and grace to work in and through you on behalf of those God brings into your life. We too are to serve God like a soldier, like an athlete and like a farmer.

### **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. 18: Read [2 Timothy 3-4](#)

Paul finishes his second letter to Timothy, alerting him to the end times' conditions and the increasing need to live godly and exemplary lives. Persecutions will likely persist and intensify. God's word and his work are essentials that must be preserved, prioritized and preached. And each of us in turn must run our own race, fight our own fight and, by God's grace, keep the faith. Pray for any known Christians who are nearing the end of their pilgrimage. Ask God to fortify and keep them faithful to him to the end. A note, a visit or a phone call could be of real encouragement to someone that you know like that. "A crown of righteousness" awaits them as their reward. Why not remind them of it?

### **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)