



Reading through the New Testament—Week 27

July 9-15

Reading Plan available on
YouVersion Bible App
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Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

This week we finish our reading in the book of Romans and begin reading in 1 Corinthians. As you know, much of the rest of the New Testament consists of specific “letters” that the apostle Paul addressed to churches he established in places like Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, Thessalonica, and others. Paul initially came to Corinth during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1-8).

Corinth was the largest city in first-century Greece, serving as capital of the Roman province of Achaia. It was a prosperous city. Most shipping heading to or from Rome passed through Corinth. It was an important center of commercial and social interchange. Unfortunately, Corinth was not only known for its bustling trade and wealth, but also for its immorality. Paul mentions that prior to their conversation to Christ, some of the Corinthians had been “sexually immoral.” As such, he mentions “idolaters,” “adulterers,” “male prostitutes,” and “homosexual offenders.” Coming to Christ, however, there was to be liberation from such practices.

Paul ended up writing to the church in Corinth (more than once) because while he was in Ephesus, he received word from three members of the Corinthian congregation (1 Cor. 16:17) about what was going on in the church there. In response to that, Paul writes the letter we know to be 1 Corinthians.

Remember to check out some of the introductory videos to the books of the New Testament found on The Bible Project website. Here is the link that summarizes and outlines 1 Corinthians:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-corinthians/>.

See the sermon outline on page 2

THIS WEEKEND'S SERMON OUTLINE

"Better Together"

Romans 16:1-27

What goes together?

Why "better together?"

1. I can't do everything _____

Phoebe (deacon), Priscilla and Aquila (co-workers), Urbanus (co-worker), Timothy (co-worker), Tertius (scribe), Gaius (host), Erastus (city's director of public works)

2. _____ has significance

Priscilla and Aquila, Epenetus, Mary, Andronicus and Junia, Ampliatus, Stachys, Apelles, the household of Aristobulus, Herodian, household of Narcissus, Tryphena and Tryphosa, Persis, Rufus, Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, other brothers and sisters, Philologus, Julia, Nereus and sister, Olympas, Lucius, Jason, Sosipater, Tertius, Quartus

3. Others help me stay _____

a. against _____

"... watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned . . .

b. on the _____

"Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaimed about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith – to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen."

"One another . . ." (59 times)

New Testament in a Year—July 9-15

Romans/1 Corinthians

Chapter 14  15  16  1  2 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading

Romans 14 In verse 1, Paul mentions “disputable matters.” What are some examples mentioned here in this chapter of “disputable matters” and those things that are “indisputable matters”? What are some examples of both today in the church?

Romans 15 How does Paul define his ministry and motivation in ministry? (see 15:16-22).

Romans 16 It may not be unusual that when we see a list of names, like we see in 16:1-16, to just skip over those names. After all, we probably don't know much about many of these people anyway. However, the overall reason for Paul mentioning all these people is because of some connection he has had with them. As a personal exercise, or if you are working through this in a group, write down your own list. Write down the names of people who have been helpful to you, people who have touched your life in some meaningful way, people who are especially important to you. And when you have a chance, thank them!

1 Corinthians 1 Much of Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church addresses some of the “divisions” that are taking place among the believers. What examples of divisions do you see throughout 1 Corinthians, but especially here in chapter 1?

1 Corinthians 2 From the references to “wisdom” in this chapter, what differences do you note between “man's wisdom” and “God's wisdom”?

Blessing the World

Backyard BBQ

Jesus answered, "... And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

Summer is officially here. Vacations are happening. Tincaps are in full swing. And hopefully, you have fired up the grill a time or two. What a great season to get to know your neighbor and share God's love with them. A great way to get to know your neighbor is to invite them over for a backyard barbecue. As you enjoy a meal and fellowship together, enter into a conversation without an agenda and with listening ears to learn about your neighbors and their lives.

Belonging in Community

This week we are considering different people in our lives. In Additional Reflections on page 3, you were encouraged to make a list of people who have been helpful to you, people who have touched your life in some meaningful way, and people who are especially important to you.

We are going to take a look at this from the opposite angle. Who are people you are influencing? Take some time to read some of what scripture says about these roles. Consider how we can be the people of God to the people we are called to serve in these roles.

- Encouragers/Prayer Warriors - 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 10:25, 1 Timothy 2:1, Philippians 4:6-7
- Salt and Light - Mark 9:50, Colossians 4:6, Matthew 5:16, Isaiah 42:6
- Fellowship - Acts 4:32-35, Matthew 18:20, Galatians 6:2

This list just scratches the surface of roles that we are called to fill. Read 1 Peter 4:8-10, do you have other roles that come to mind? How does God instruct us to live those roles out? Who do you serve in these roles?

As we think on the roles that others have in our lives as well as the ones we serve others in, be sure to keep in mind that it is God that orchestrates the Body of Christ. Knowing your gifts can be a powerful tool and we are here to help if you would like to dive deeper as individuals or a group. Yet it is not necessary to know in order to be a part of the "team", God continues to work through us no matter what.

Take some time in prayer for the ability to keep serving others in our various roles as well as thanking God for those in our lives that serve in particularly impactful roles.