

LOVE GOD'S WORD & PRAYER

Daily Bible Reading

At Faith Baptist Fellowship, we *Love God's Word and Prayer*. We strongly believe that every growing disciple of Jesus needs to be regularly hearing from God through His word and personally speaking back to God through prayer. If regular Bible reading is not yet a habit of yours, this is a great way to get started!

We are encouraging everyone to continue our daily bible readings with spending time in Proverbs. We will provide devotional thoughts and helpful prayer points on the passages. The weekend material will prepare you for the upcoming Sunday sermon as well as provide some discussion help for Faith Groups.

We encourage you to set aside at least 15-20 minutes a day for reading and prayer. If you fall behind, just start on the current day. Try to develop the habit of reading at the same time and place. Have a journal and pen for answering questions and recording your thoughts and insights. For additional Bible reading plans check out our website at www.faithsf.com. Enjoy your time in God's Word and Prayer!

Monday, September 20

Read Proverbs 15:1-9

THINK: In this section, Solomon primarily speaks about the speech of a man. Indeed, six verses refer to some kind of speech, from gentleness, to a father's instruction, and to prayer. Three of the verses in this section reveal something about The Lord. What do these nine verses teach you about the speech of man, and what do you learn about God?

PRAY: How we speak and what we say has great importance. R.C. Sproul once said that we will be accountable to God for every word that comes out of our mouth. That is a humbling thought. As you consider your time for prayer think back through the last few days and consider the things you said. Do these Scriptures apply to your words? Do they offer you wisdom and guidance in your speech? Pray for encouragement and motivation to speak in a godly way as we receive our Father's instruction through The Scriptures.

Tuesday, September 21

Read Proverbs 15:10-23

THINK: Look through this section and take note of the words that Solomon tends to repeat. Look some of them up in the dictionary (or on your phone) to see their meanings. Some definitions could surprise you. For a few moments, think through those words and how the Scriptures use them. Take time to pursue some of those insights further by asking the questions, “What does this teach me about my heart and the heart of man?” and “What does this teach me about God?”

PRAY: There is a common thread that is woven all throughout the Proverbs. Solomon speaks of it in many chapters of the book. If you could boil down Proverbs to a common denominator, it would be the fear of the Lord. In this chapter, Solomon speaks of the value of fearing God. Fearing God is more valuable than great treasure and living with little is well worth it if you must choose between the two. Seek after the fear of God. For prayer today, thank God for time in the study of His word and the meditation of its meaning. Pray that God would increase our fear of Him continually.

Wednesday, September 22

Read Proverbs 15:24-33

THINK: Wisdom is gained two ways, by hearing it or by seeing it. Foolishness also influences us by these senses (along with a heart that is born foolish already). Read through the section and notice words like eyes, ears, listens, hears, etc. The senses are the pathway to the mind, which then convinces our hearts. The Scriptures place a premium on the mind. This is where the world, the flesh, and the devil wage war. The primary means by which this is done is through the eyes or the ears.

PRAY: The senses are a wonderful gift from God. With them, we worship and enjoy God. So, the point is not forsaking the senses, but guarding them, and Solomon does not leave us empty-handed. In the final verse of this section, he lists two virtues: the fear of the Lord and humility. If we have consciences filled with the fear of God and humility, guarding the senses becomes much easier. As you think about prayer today, consider your hearing and your sight and the way the world impacts them. Pray for courage and discipline to guard your senses.

Thursday, September 23

Read Proverbs 16:1-15

THINK: It appears that Solomon had one thing on his mind - the Lord. He views everything in relation to Him. Count how many times Solomon says, "the Lord." What do these verses say about Him? What attributes or doctrines of God are mentioned here? There is a sense of awe from the overwhelming teaching about God in this passage, and our admiration for Him dramatically escalates as we read it.

PRAY: "By steadfast love and faithfulness, iniquity is atoned for..." This is exactly what Christ did for believers. On the cross, Christ took our sins, our evil, our wickedness and our folly, and died. This is atonement. It is the covering of sin. He then rose from this death so that He not only atoned for our sin, but made us alive in Him. We went from spiritually dead to spiritually alive. So, what's the next step? Solomon tells us in the next line - fear God. Develop a reverent, holy, God-fearing conscience so as to turn away from the evil we once lived in. As you move to prayer, define the gospel. Thank God for His steadfast love and faithfulness, and pray for a reverent, God-fearing conscience for your mind.

Friday, September 24

Read Proverbs 16:16-24

THINK: The value of virtue, the pitfall of pride, and the soundness of speech are some of the high points of this section as Solomon continues his contrast of the wise and the foolish. What are some of the virtues he lists? What does he say of humility? How does he define wise speech?

PRAY: As you think about what to pray for, what (from these verses) do you aspire to? What do you wish to avoid? Where in your life do you desire to grow in godliness? Write them down. As you ponder these things, practice verse 20. Give thought to what these words mean, that you may discover what is good, be it negative or positive, that your trust in the Lord may grow, and blessing would come from it. Pray that pride would be kept far from you and thank God for His gracious words of wisdom to us through the Holy Scriptures.

Weekend, September 25-26

Read Colossians 1:9-14

If you've fallen behind this week, consider using these extra days to catch up. You can also prepare your heart and mind for this Sunday's worship service. Read the planned sermon text above and the thoughts below in advance of Sunday morning's message. If you are in a Faith Group, consider discussing the questions below together.

THINK: List the prayer requests that Paul prayed for the church:

What do you suppose a "manner worthy" walk looks like? Do you experience God's power in your daily walk with Christ? (It may not be obvious, so ponder how that might happen.) How does it feel to be a saint? Do you think of yourself that way? When did you get delivered from one domain to a new kingdom?

Do you pray like this? What can you learn about prayer from reflecting on Paul's prayer for the Colossians?

PRAY: Pray for Pastor Dana and Pastor Jayson as they preach on this text on Sunday morning. Pray for their preparation and for discernment in delivering the message of the text. Pray for every listener. Ask God to help you grow in prayer through your own study of this passage. "Lord, teach us to pray!" Ask God to help you walk in a manner worthy of your calling, and to bear good fruit.

Pray for our nation and its leaders. Pray for a movement of God in our land to deliver many from the domain of darkness into God's eternal kingdom.

FAITH GROUP: Discuss why we don't pray this way more often. How can learning to pray Scripture help us pray with much more insight and discernment and depth?

Put it into practice! Spend some time praying the phrases and insights of this passage, praying for one another in the group and praying for children and grandchildren.