

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 27

Read Proverbs 16:25-33

THINK: Verse 25 describes that person we have all met who is absolutely convinced they are right, but we know they are wrong, even dead wrong. Such are the folks who believe there is no God or that God may exist but isn't concerned with how we live. Verses 26-30 describe a variety of such people; their "certainty" doesn't end well, their sins bring destruction. In contrast is the older person who attains age by living a righteous life in alignment with God's will (v.31). Better to be slow to anger and exercise self-control than to be physically strong but unable to control oneself. Even in the casting of lots (chance), a sovereign God determines the outcome.

PRAY: As we have prayed already many times in our study of the Proverbs, ask the Father again for wisdom. "Help me, Lord, to make wise choices that align with your will. Help me speak in a way that pleases you and builds up those around me rather than tearing them down. Help me choose today that which is good and will bless others and please you. Please fill me with your Spirit, that I might be slow to anger and self-controlled, rather than angry and self-indulgent. I bend the knee to your Sovereign Lordship in my life."

Tuesday, September 28

Read Proverbs 17:1-10

THINK: Write a sentence or phrase that captures each proverb:

v.1-

2-

3-

4-

5-

6-

7-

8-

9-

10-

PRAY: Now pray through each of the lines you have written, asking God for grace, wisdom, and the help of the Holy Spirit in each instance. Are there two or three which are most challenging for you personally? Share the details with God in earnest, heartfelt prayer. "Father, grant me spiritual maturity and growth in these life matters."

Wednesday, September 29

Read Proverbs 17:11-19

THINK: Continue the pattern as above. Take your time. Ponder.

11-

12-

13-

14-

15-

16-

17-

18-

19-

PRAY: Follow the instructions for yesterday, asking God for growth and wisdom in the areas of special concern to you. Thank God that he willingly gives wisdom to those who ask him: James 1:5.

Thursday, September 30

Read Proverbs 17:20-28

THINK: Continue the previous pattern of writing a pithy comment that captures the heart of the proverb. What is God saying to you?

20-

21-

22-

23-

24-

25-

26-

27-

28-

PRAY: Follow the previous instructions, asking God for growth and wisdom in the areas of special concern to you. Thank God that he willingly gives wisdom to those who ask him: James 1:5.

Friday, October 1

Read Proverbs 18:1-12

THINK: v.1- Seeking wise counsel results in sound judgment.

2- The perfect proverb to ponder for social media users.

3- Sin results in contempt and disgrace. Watch out.

4- Choose wisdom every time. Wisdom refreshes.

5- An important word for judges and others who play favorites.

6- Better to remain quiet than foment trouble with words.

7- Some people reveal their foolishness with their many words.

8- Gossip and flattery may seem delicious. Watch out!

9- Lazy workers are no different than destructive ones.

10- "Oh how I love your name, my God, and find safety there!"

11- Wealth may seem to protect you; it is temporary at best.

12- Choose humility over pride, which brings destruction.

PRAY: Pray through these proverbs, seeking to apply each one to your daily walk in these difficult days. Do you see any patterns in the proverbs you have thought about and written about this week? Is God speaking to you about something in particular? Take that back to him in prayer. Talk it over with your heavenly Father.

A new month! Ask God to bless your October! Ask God to help your children and grandchildren choose Christ-centered wisdom.

Weekend, October 2-3

Read Colossians 1:15-23

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: Many people today have a very limited and shallow understanding of Jesus Christ. People speak so casually of Jesus, and swear his name, and mock his church. The church at Colossae was threatened by false teaching that had a totally inadequate view of Jesus. An inadequate view of Jesus is widespread in our nation and our world.

Let it not be said of us! Paul's words to that church must inform our church so that we grasp the fulness of who Jesus is! Be stunned by this description. Don't pass quickly or casually over it. Ponder the words and phrases. Expand your understanding of the risen and returning Christ!

PRAY: Pray for our pastors preaching on the magnificence and preeminence of Jesus Christ. These sentences could each take a full sermon, even a complete book! Pray a prayer of praise to God for the gift of his Son, and ask God to expand your view of the Lord and King of your life. Praise God also for the promise of Christ's return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Pray that our youth and children would come to understand the beauty of all that Christ is for us, and would believe of gospel of Jesus and be saved.

FAITH GROUP: Tell about an encounter you've had with someone who clearly had an inadequate view of Jesus. What stood out to you about that encounter? Why do you think so many people take Jesus lightly, or ignore him altogether? Discuss that, then discuss what Paul is telling us here about the glory of Christ.

Pray for a complete and comprehensive understanding of the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray by name for those who don't know him.