

# 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](http://www.faithsf.com). Enjoy your time in God's Word and Prayer!*

## Monday, November 1

Read Proverbs 25:1-10

**THINK:** *ESV SB: "The present form of the book of Proverbs came into existence, at earliest, in the reign of Hezekiah...[who] is credited with reviving Judah's religious traditions (2 Kings 18:3-7). A new, expanded edition of Solomon's proverbs was apparently part of that revival."* A wise king seeks the wisdom of God, righteous and godly advisors (rather than wicked ones), and values humility over pride and self-promotion. It is better to work out disagreements with your neighbor directly than to turn to civil magistrates and end up shamed or embarrassed.

**PRAY:** How do the values of kingly wisdom expressed here compare with our governmental leaders today? Pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:2), asking God to work powerfully in their lives, that they might trust God, seek his wisdom, righteousness in Christ, pursue godliness, and walk humbly with God. Pray this way not only for national leaders but also for our mayor, our governor, and other local authorities. Ask God to lead you in this way as well, valuing those things that are of the kingdom of God. (Pray for the **West Campus Anticipating Change** items.)

## Tuesday, November 2

Read Proverbs 25:11-19

**THINK:** Take time to reflect on those items valued in the first four verses: *a word fitly spoken; a wise reprovor to a listening ear; a faithful messenger; a grateful receiver of a precious gift.* “Fitly spoken words” seem rare in our day, do they not? Yet God’s word is full of them! Likewise, loud people who harangue others seem very common; but they seldom persuade (v 15). “Too much of a good thing” comes to mind reading vv 16-17. We will do much better to avoid liars and those who are dishonest dealers (vv 18-19). Doesn’t it strike you that these proverbs are badly needed today? How much better to walk humbly with Christ, living a godly life of faith.

**PRAY:** “Heavenly Father, we live in loud, rash, self-centered times. Help me to turn down the volume of life! Please help me value those things that you most value: a wise and true word, the ability to listen to faithful and godly counsel, and the joy of a precious gift. Help me be thankful to you and to those in my sphere of life. May I not seek attention but rather pay attention to the needs of others and my daily walk with Christ. Give me discernment in my dealings with people. I love you, Lord, above all else. Amen.” (Pray for the **South Campus Anticipating Change** items.)

## Wednesday, November 3

Read Proverbs 25:20-28

**THINK:** Verse 18 dealt with a liar, v 19 an untrustworthy man, and now v 20 rebukes an insensitive person with vivid imagery. Verses 21-22 are quoted by the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:20; doing good comes as a surprise to an undeserving enemy and may win his favor. Either way, God will reward you; looking to God’s reward is always a good idea and brings perspective. Bad things to avoid: a backbiting tongue, a quarrelsome spouse, a “righteous” person who compromises with sin, a vain person, a lack of self-control. But good news is always good. The gospel is the very BEST news of all! PTL.

**PRAY:** Pray through these very practical proverbs, asking the Father for grace to choose that which is godly and helpful rather than evil and self-centered. Is there any “enemy” whom you could bless in an unexpected way today? Pray for wisdom and the gumption to do it! Tell God of the ungodly things you want to avoid. Thank him for the good news of Jesus! (Pray for our **Finances--AC**).

## Thursday, November 4

Read Proverbs 26:1-19

**THINK:** Our passage today is an entire series on fools. It seems we are surrounded today by people making foolish choices. Walking with Jesus, we seek to make wise, godly choices. Pick three of these “fool” proverbs that most strike you, and comment here:

1-

2-

3-

**PRAY:** Ask God to enable you, by grace and the Holy Spirit, and the guidance of the word of God, to make wise and godly choices today. Pray through each of the three proverbs you chose to comment on above. Tell God why you think this proverb applies to your situation, and invite his guidance and blessing. (Pray for our **Focus Anticipating Change** items.)

## Friday, November 5

Read Proverbs 26:20-28

**THINK:** We can choose to “put out the fire” of quarreling by refusing to gossip and slander and by keeping silent when tempted to stoke the fire of a spat (whether at home or workplace or church). We all know how wicked words can wound, how deeply they are felt in the core of our being. Flattery, lying, gossip, slander: these are the tools of Satan to disrupt families, break up marriages, cause division in the workplace and in the church. Read James 3 and reflect!

**PRAY:** Reflect on all that the scriptures teach us about our speech, both the world of good (“speaking the truth in love”) and the harmful injury (“how great a forest is set on fire”). Ask God to give you a strong bridle and a keen rudder on your tongue, for silence when that is best, and for wise use when it is called for. Confess any sin related to wounding others with your tongue. Pray for our church to put away gossip, but put on encouragement and wise counsel and love. (Pray for our **Direction Anticipating Change** items.)

## Weekend, November 6-7

Read Colossians 2:16-23

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:** What can we learn about the false teachers bothering the church at Colossae from this passage? Evidently, they "passed judgment" on the Christians for technical things like foods and holidays and the like. They claimed hidden knowledge about "secret" things involving angels, fasting, and visions. But Paul says, "Not so!" These are shadowy things; ***the substance belongs to Christ!*** Hold fast to the Head, Jesus. He'll take care of the spiritual health and growth of the body. Do we want to live under the weight of a complex maze of human regulations? Or do we want to walk with Jesus? We choose Jesus, because the complex maze of human regulations is of no value in the battle with the flesh.

**PRAY:** What a passage! What a Christ! Pray for Nate Walter and Pastor Dana preaching on this vital text this Sunday morning. Ask God to give us grace to grasp the truth here: the substance belongs to Christ! Pray that those who are caught up in "the complex maze" might be set free to love the Lord Jesus and walk with him in the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for freedom from sin and freedom to walk with Jesus, who loves us and gave his life for us.

**FAITH GROUP:** Have a discussion on the cult that was bothering the Colossians. Why are people so attracted to a set of regulations rather than the freedom of walking with Jesus? When did you first recognize that the gospel was freeing and not just a set of regulations, a "walk" and not a "religion"? Talk about why a set of regulations actually spurs people to sin rather than helping them overcome it.

Pray for joy in freedom and delight in holiness. Pray for those trapped in legalism or those trapped in secularism. Pray for a winsome testimony of freedom in Christ.