

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, October 18 *(This week's readings by Elder Bob Sneller)*
Read Proverbs 22:1

THINK: "You can't buy a good name!" was a favorite saying of my father. I would surmise that much thought was given by your parents on what your name would be. So, one could say it had much value to them. Of many things to come, it was the one thing they could favor you with. Yet it is up to us to choose what that name will represent. Not only can it not be bought, it is of more value than money and stuff. How did you get your name?

PRAY: Pray that our name will give glory to God. Pray that we refocus on what is important to God, not what is important to our culture.

Tuesday, October 19

Read Proverbs 22:2-5

THINK: Have you ever wondered what your life would be like if you were born in North Korea, Pakistan, or Peru? Or if you were a royal duke or a Rockefeller? Regardless of where we are from or what our financial status is, God made us, and the same dangers and rewards apply. Humility, discernment, a healthy heart defense, and most importantly, fear of the Lord again glorify our heavenly Father. All add up to a life that is rich not burdened, secure not in fear. Can you think of actions that can cause burdened minds and fears? Bring them to God in prayer, be honest with your failures, ask him for spiritual protection for your soul.

PRAY: Pray for our youth who live in a world that does not know or fear God. Pray that they may know the God who made them and has a great promise for their lives.

Wednesday, October 20

Read Proverbs 22:6-16

THINK: Discipline. You thought that was going to end when you were an adult. Au contraire, those foundational values will now be tested on an epic scale. So how does discipline prepare us in living life? Those early lessons of acknowledging authority, saying please and thank you, determine how we relate and react to others. Disobedience always has a cost. Our disobedience will affect us financially, our health, strength, relationships, and above all, our God. Sin is what it is called spiritual poverty. God's eyes are upon us (v. 12), angry with our sin but loving the sinner. We need correction and restoration. Christ provides forgiveness sought, reconciliation, and a fresh start. How have you experienced God's discipline?

PRAY: Pray thankfully, that God loves us as spiritual children and disciplines us in love.

Thursday, October 21

Read Proverbs 22:17-29

THINK: What's in your mind will come out on your lips. They tell you a lot about the person. How much better to trust God's truths to be ready when they are challenged? In our culture today, the mantra is equal everything out. The Bible gives us a differing interesting perspective on that. Christ mentions in Matthew 26:11 that the poor will always be with you, and Solomon says respect the poor and afflicted. Perhaps God is looking at our heart attitude to see if it reflects his heart.

PRAY: Pray that you desire the need to be knowledgeable of our Lord, and that we trust him to write it on our hearts and minds.

Friday, October 22

Read Proverbs 23:1-21

THINK: Have you ever been "wined and dined?" I have, and I truly believe they were thinking about their best interests and not mine. It takes wisdom and discipline to say, "No thanks!" Sometimes it may seem painful to say that, but our instruction growing up was sometimes painful too, wasn't it? Yes, some of us have experienced the "rod" so to speak, and it is remembered. There is tenderness expressed by the father in v. 15. He says, "My son." He claims his son in the middle of disobedience and gives reason to his discipline. So it is with our heavenly Father, his heart is glad and joyful when we do right. Fear of the Lord provides a future that is sure.

PRAY: Pray that pressures of this world will not sway nor deceive you.

Weekend, October 23-24

Read Colossians 2:1-5

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: For whom does the apostle struggle? What do you think he means by that? What outcome is Paul desiring to see in these saints? The treasures of Christ! Life-changing, future-altering, strength-giving treasure, the treasure that will bless every believer now and forever and ever. For now, an "argument" that seems reasonable on the surface but actually turns us away from Christ is in fact, a grave danger. False teaching, if it turns us from a firm faith in Christ and faithful walk with him, can do great harm. Even from a distance, Paul wants to rejoice in their obedience and faith.

PRAY: Pray for our pastors preaching on this crucial, important text. Ask God to protect our flock from the harm of false teaching or anything that hinders our firm faith in Jesus Christ. Rejoice as a Christian that Christ is in you, the hope of glory!

Pray for our important all-church ministry/business meeting Sunday afternoon at 4 pm at West Campus. Come for a tour of the new facility and stay after the gathering for soup and pie and friendship with others of Faith! The "Anticipating Change" Prayer Guide will be distributed.

FAITH GROUP: How could Paul "struggle" for people he had never met or seen? Do you struggle for anyone you have never met? What would that be like?

When you read about Christ as a great treasure, what other Scripture passages come to mind? Do you view your daily walk with Christ as a treasure hunt?

Pray that our next generation would see in us the great treasure hunt that is living for Christ, worshipping him and obeying him. Pray that they too would come to treasure Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.