

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 faithsf.com. Enjoy your time in God's Word and Prayer!

Monday, October 25

Read Proverbs 23:22-28

THINK: The strength of a Christian family, one committed to God's word and walking with God, is portrayed here. A child is wise and discerning who heeds the wise parenting of godly fathers and mothers. That child pursues wisdom and godly instruction and as they grow older seek to please their loving parents, making them glad. (How tragic when children have ungodly, self-centered, worldly parents who neither model nor teach the way of godliness.) Watch out! Today, sexual temptations abound. Temporary pleasures will result in a sudden and destructive end. Don't be robbed!

PRAY: First, pray for parents. Pray for moms and dads to be filled with the wisdom of God's word, ready to model and teach the way of righteousness and following Jesus Christ. Second, pray for the children. Ask God to powerfully work in the lives of our children so that they come to be born again, love Jesus, and walk in the way of the Lord. Third, pray for our children (and adults too!) to be protected from the sexual licentiousness of our day. Pray that they would choose godliness and not be robbed of eternal pleasure. Pray through the West Campus **Anticipating Change** prayer requests.

Tuesday, October 26

Read Proverbs 23:29-35

THINK: *ESVSB: "This exposition on the folly of drunkenness opens with a poignant question and answer; commands those who would listen to heed a warning; and, in order to communicate the tragic consequences of overindulgence with wine, presents a painfully comedic image of the drunkard deluded about his self-harm."*

Note the vivid imagery of verse 32. These lines anticipate the New Testament's clear prohibitions against drunkenness in Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:21; I Peter 4:3. All of us would be wise to think carefully about the use of alcohol given its destructive power.

PRAY: Ask God to give you wisdom about the use of alcohol and other tempting substances that can be a destructive force in our lives. How much better to be filled with the Holy Spirit! (Eph. 5:18) Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit today as you walk with Christ. Pray for friends, relatives, co-workers, neighbors, or others in your sphere who struggle with alcohol. Ask God to free them from alcohol abuse by giving them joy in knowing and following Jesus Christ. Pray for the Union Gospel Mission, ministering to those whose lives have been damaged by alcohol/drug abuse. Pray through the South Campus **Anticipating Change** prayer requests.

Wednesday, October 27

Read Proverbs 24:1-9

THINK: There are 5 sayings here. Write a brief response to each:

1-2

3-4

5-6

7

8-9

PRAY: Pray through each line of your responses to these Proverbial sayings. Ask God to give you wisdom and grace where you need it most. Pray through the financial **Anticipating Change** prayer items.

Thursday, October 28

Read Proverbs 24:10-22

THINK: Seven more proverbial sayings. Write your brief response:

10

11-12

13-14

15-16

17-18

19-20

21-22

PRAY: Pray through each line of your responses to these Proverbial sayings. Ask God to give you wisdom and grace where you need it most. Pray through the “Focus” ***Anticipating Change*** prayer items.

Friday, October 29

Read Proverbs 24:23-34

THINK: More miscellaneous proverbial sayings. Jot down a very personal response to each one.

23-25

26

27

28-29

30-34

PRAY: Pray through each line of your responses to these Proverbial sayings. Ask God to give you wisdom and grace where you need it most. These are such important character issues for the Christ-follower: impartiality, honesty, preparation, integrity, steadfast labor.

Pray through the “Direction” ***Anticipating Change*** prayer items.

Weekend, October 30-31

Read Colossians 2:6-15

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: Chapter 2:6-7 might be termed *the normal Christian life*: receive Christ, walk with him, getting deeply rooted, established, and built up, then abound in thankful living. Why is this crucial? Because there are those who want to take you captive! What methods will they use to divert your attention from Christ? (Think of the "plausible arguments" of last Sunday's text.) Answer those "captors" by refocusing on Jesus Christ: who he is, what he has done for us, and how God the Father through Christ has saved us. (Heart transplant surgery!) What has been nailed to the cross? The enemy and his minions have been utterly defeated! Hallelujah!

PRAY: Ask God to grant great grace to Pastor Dana and Pastor Jayson as they preach on this awesome passage from God's word. Can you think of examples of the enemy trying to take you captive? Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the grand salvation that is yours in Jesus Christ our Lord. Rejoice in prayer over the full implications of your baptism: dead to sin, raised to new life in Christ, the enemy overcome, and the victory won! Hallelujah. What a Savior!

Pray for the moving of God's Spirit in our worship at both West and South this Sunday morning.

FAITH GROUP: In Colossians, Paul is addressing certain false teachings that threatened the church with captivity. Can you think of some captors who want to take believers captive to falsehood and away from Christ? Share those in the group. How does the true gospel dispel those lies? How can we best walk away from them toward Jesus?

Pray for one another and for our children and grandchildren. Ask God to enable us by his Spirit to shun the captors and walk in faith and thanksgiving to Christ.