

BIBLE READING HELPS FOR DECEMBER 2020

*Anchored*  
IN THE WORD



# Reading the Word Together

Following the plan provided in the *Anchored in the Word* booklets will allow you to read through the entire Bible in 2020. Since you'll be reading along with others in our church, it will be easier to discuss what you are reading with other believers. Sharing your insights and questions will greatly encourage others to dive into God's life-giving Word.

Here is what you will find inside:

- A weekly section to keep track of your Bible reading, record insights, and review the weekly memory verse.
- Introductions to each Biblical book that will be read during the month.
- A brief overview of how to do more in-depth Bible study.
- A listing of church events for the month.
- Blank note pages to record key blessings & lessons

Nothing will impact your life like consistently reading and reflecting on God's Word. You will grow in your knowledge of God and His ways. You will find strength and insight for each day. There is abundant hope and help in God's Word for you!

"Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night."

Psalm 1:1–2 (NKJV)

# Introduction to Paul's Epistles to Churches

**1st Corinthians** confronts a carnal, factious, and chaotic church and corrects through the application of sound doctrine on both the individual and corporate level.

**2nd Corinthians** defends Paul's apostleship while confronting false apostles, and expresses relief that the Corinthians had repented from their rebellion against Paul's instructions.

**Galatians** is an urgent correction of legalism and a defense of justification by faith alone, which is neither legalism nor antinomianism and must be lived out according to the rule of the Spirit, not the flesh.

**Ephesians** helps believers understand that their daily conduct must come as a result of their great spiritual privileges in accordance with their heavenly calling in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians** conveys Paul's love and gratitude for the Philippian believers and exhorts them to a lifestyle of unity, holiness, and joy regardless of their circumstances.

**Colossians** combats false teaching with the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ.

**1st Thessalonians** encourages a young, persecuted church in their vibrant, influential faith, and to exhort them in the basic ecclesiology and eschatology.

**2nd Thessalonians** comforts a young, persecuted church with the promise of the final vindication, to correct confusion about the end time and the practices that had arisen concerning the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

# Introduction to Paul's Epistles to Individuals

**1<sup>st</sup> Timothy** instructs the young pastor Timothy how he and the church are to conduct themselves in the corporate assembly.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy** conveys Paul's personal, final instructions and exhortations before his death to his son in the faith, exhorting him to persevere as a faithful man of God until the very end.

**Titus** instructs a pastor how to develop order, godliness, and doctrinal understanding in newly established churches.

**Philemon** makes a personal request to Philemon to forgive and restore his runaway slave, Onesimus.

## Introduction to Hebrews

The letter to the Hebrews was written to encourage Christians in a time of trial. It does so by focusing on the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ. While God spoke in the past "many times and in many ways," he has now spoken to us "by his Son," Jesus Christ, who is the "exact imprint" of God's nature and who "upholds the universe by the word of his power" (1:1-3). Jesus accomplished complete salvation for all who trust in him (1:1-10:18). We dare not "neglect such a great salvation" (2:3; 5:12-6:20; 10:19-39). Rather, in our faith and in our everyday living, we should imitate the example of Christ and of those on the honor roll of faith (chs. 11-13). This letter, whose author is unknown, was probably written between a.d. 60 and 70.



## Introduction to James



Sometimes called "the Proverbs of the New Testament," the book of James practically and faithfully reminds Christians how to live. From perseverance to true faith to controlling one's tongue, submitting to God's will, and having patience, this book aids readers in living authentically and wisely for Christ. Many have claimed that James and the apostle Paul differed on the question of faith versus works, but in reality the spiritual fruit that James talks about simply demonstrates the true faith of which Paul wrote. Their writings are complementary rather than contradictory. Possibly one of the earliest of the New Testament writings (AD 40-50), the book is believed to have been written by Jesus' brother James (Gal. 1:19).

## Introduction to Peter's Letters



**First Peter** exhorts some confused and persecuted believers to stand strong in their faith; repeatedly reminding them of Christ's example, the riches of their inheritance in him, and the hope of his returning again to take them to heaven.

**Second Peter** confronts some twisted versions of Christian truth being taught and reminds Christians that they have a "more sure word" of truth that as an antidote to heresy: the Scriptures. Christians should, therefore, live in holiness and godliness as we await Christ's return and the salvation He has promised to all believers.

## Introduction to John's Letters



**First John** confronts false teachers who denied the divinity and humanity of Christ.

Furthermore, he promotes biblical fellowship and explains how it being rooted in truth and love, provides reassurance of our union with Christ

**Second John** guides believers in the correct use of Christian hospitality and warns about helping those who distort the apostolic teachings of Christ.

**Third John** encourages an individual named Gaius to continue showing loving hospitality and to deal with the autocratic and selfish Diotrephes.

## Introduction to Revelation



"The revelation of Jesus Christ" was probably written by the apostle John while in exile on the island of Patmos, off the coast of present-day Turkey. It was addressed to seven actual churches. Revelation begins with letters from Christ himself to these churches, letters that include commendation, criticism, and comfort. Then comes a long series of visions of judgment on the wicked, all in highly symbolic language. The church is depicted under great distress, but is assured of the final triumph of Jesus as "King of kings and Lord of lords" (19:16), bringing to an end the rebellion of humanity and ushering in "a new heaven and a new earth" (21:1), where God himself will reign forever and ever (11:15).

# Week Forty-Nine

## Memory Verse

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

## Reading Schedule

✓	Date	Day	Text
	12/6	Sunday	2 Corinthians 1-4
	12/7	Monday	2 Corinthians 5-8
	12/8	Tuesday	2 Corinthians 9-13
	12/9	Wednesday	Galatians 1-4
	12/10	Thursday	Galatians 5 - Ephesians 2
	12/11	Friday	Ephesians 3-6
	12/12	Saturday	Philippians 1-4

## Discovery Questions

*According to 2 Corinthians 4:17,18, how should we think about the problems that we encounter from serving Christ?*

*According to Galatians 5:14, the entire law is fulfilled in what one statement?*

[illegible]



# Week Fifty

## Memory Verse

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

Matthew 28:19–20

## Reading Schedule

✓	Date	Day	Text
	12/13	Sunday	Colossians 1-4
	12/14	Monday	I Thessalonians
	12/15	Tuesday	II Thessalonians
	12/16	Wednesday	I Timothy 1-4
	12/17	Thursday	I Timothy 5-6
	12/18	Friday	II Timothy 1-4
	12/19	Saturday	Titus - Philemon

## Discovery Questions

*What are the two church “offices” mentioned in I Timothy 3 and what requirements do they have in common?*

*What advice does Paul give to the rich in I Timothy 6?*

[illegible]

# Week Fifty-One

## Memory Verse

All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:6

## Reading Schedule

✓	Date	Day	Text
	12/20	Sunday	Hebrews 1-5
	12/21	Monday	Hebrews 6-9
	12/22	Tuesday	Hebrews 10-11
	12/23	Wednesday	Hebrews 12-13
	12/24	Thursday	James 1-5
	12/25	Friday	I Peter 1-4
	12/26	Saturday	I Peter 5 - II Peter 3

## Discovery Questions

*According to Hebrews 10:24 & 25, what should motivate us to do our best to be faithful to God's House?*

*What two illustrations are used in James 3 to show the potential of our words.*

[illegible]

# Week Fifty-Two

## Memory Verse

But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”

Matthew 4:4

## Reading Schedule

✓	Date	Day	Text
	12/27	Sunday	I John 1-5
	12/28	Monday	II John - Jude
	12/29	Tuesday	Revelation 1-3
	12/30	Wednesday	Revelation 4-8
	12/31	Thursday	Revelation 9-12
	1/1	Friday	Revelation 13-16
	1/2	Saturday	Revelation 17-19

## Discovery Questions

*The letters to the seven churches of Asia all end with what common admonition?*

*What key was given to the fifth angel?*

[illegible]

# Appendix A - The Inductive Study Method

## Observation – What do I see?

Start by reading the passage once through to get the big picture. Then read it again slower: noticing punctuation, identifying grammar, and observing how thoughts connect. Let the scene develop in your mind.

Now, “zoom out” in stages to get the **context**

- Immediate context – What is going on?
- Surrounding context – What happened before and after?
- Larger context – What is this book all about?

Next, consider how the **literary style** might be contributing

- Historical narrative – Factual retellings of events
- Law – God’s commands to His covenant people
- Poetry – Scripture written in verse
- Wisdom – Principles from generations of godly people
- Prophecy – Revelation from God about the future
- Argument – Ideas built upon each other to make a whole

Finally, “**interview**” the passage with these questions:

- Who? – What is significant to know about each person?
- What? – What is happening? What is being said or done?
- Where? – Lookup every location you encounter!
- When? – When did this occur? In other Scripture?
- Why? – Look for reasons and explanations. Connect them!
- How? – Are methods described or instructions given?

## Interpretation – What does it mean?

When interpreting Scripture, always keep in mind that “meaning” is not our subjective thoughts read into the text, but God’s objective truth read out of the text. Using the analogy of a puzzle, try applying the “four C’s” of accurate interpretation:

- **Content** – Do I have all the pieces? Observation is critical
- **Context** – Where does this piece belong in the big picture?
  - Literary context* – what type of literature is this?
  - Historical context* – what events surround this text?
  - Cultural context* – what were the “norms” then?
  - Geographic context* – does location matter?
  - Theological context* – what did they know of God?
- **Comparison** – Where does this piece fit with the others?
  - The greatest interpreter of Scripture is Scripture
- **Consultation** – Does this piece really fit here?
  - Commentaries are great consultation resources

And never forget the golden rule of interpretation:

*“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense...or it will be nonsense.”*

## Application – How does it affect me?

To find out how the principles you’ve discovered might apply to you, it helps to restate them as a question to yourself like this:

*“How does that fact that [...principle from the Bible...] affect me?”*

Then ask yourself what action you should take based on what you now know. Seek God’s will in prayer for this. Permit the Holy Spirit to answer these questions for you and open your eyes to God’s perspective.



## Weekly Gatherings

Sunday Worship Service	Sundays @ 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Service	Sundays @ 5:00 PM
West Covina Fellowship Group*	Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM
Covina Fellowship Group*	Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM

*\*Meeting locations and times subject to change. Please see a pastor for information and to enroll.*

## Contact

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