

A hand holding a wooden mallet over a coffee cup with an open Bible in the background. The Bible text is partially visible, mentioning 'I pray with great faith for you, because I'm fully convinced that the One who began this glorious work in you will faithfully continue the process of maturing you' and 'It's no wonder I pray with such confidence, since you are my beloved child'.

ANCHORED

in the Word

September 2023

About Anchored in the Word

Anchored in the Word is a resource to help you read the Bible more consistently and fruitfully. Following this guide will lead you to read thoughtfully through the entire New Testament over the year. You can do this by reading five days per week. If you want to read the whole Bible, appropriate passages from Old Testament are listed.

The guide is organized by week. Each week includes:

- A key verse taken from the week's reading. This is for you to meditate on and try to memorize.
- A brief introduction to the content of the week's reading.
- A space for notes for the week – you might use it for prayer requests, key lessons from the week, key ideas from Sunday's sermon, etc.

Then you will find a page for each day with the passage to read along with three questions. The passages are divided into roughly equal sections. Sometimes you will only read part of a chapter, or you might read parts of two chapters. Our goal was to make each reading about the same length, but make sure we ended at the end of a story or key idea.

Don't let the questions overwhelm you, they are just tools to help you. There are two main goals for the questions: (1) to stimulate our thinking, and (2) to help us discuss what we read together.

Remember to pray before, during and in response to reading. May God bless you as you read His Word!

All quotations are the from the Legacy Standard Bible (LSB) which you can read online at read.lsbible.org or in many Bible apps.

Week 36 (September 4-10)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away." (Matthew 24:35)

In Matthew 24:32-27:25, pivotal events and teachings unfold in the culmination of Jesus' ministry. Through the parables of the fig tree and the ten virgins, Jesus emphasizes the need for vigilance and preparedness for the end times. He teaches about accountability through the parables of the talents and the judgment of the nations. The religious leaders plot to betray and arrest Jesus. He is anointed at Bethany in an act of profound devotion. Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper, predicting His betrayal and Peter's denial. Jesus's agonizing prayer in Gethsemane captures His submission to God's will amidst immense suffering. Betrayal, arrest, trials before religious and Roman authorities, Peter's denial, and the crowd's choice of Barabbas over Jesus all contribute to the crescendo of Jesus' journey towards crucifixion. This section reflects Jesus' teachings on preparation, stewardship, and love, while shedding light on the inevitable fulfillment of His redemptive mission.

NOTES

Week 36 / Day 1

□ Matthew 24:32-25:13

How does Jesus indicate the suddenness of His return?

How can you tell if you are being watchful? What differences would it make in your life?

With what warning did Jesus conclude today's reading? Why?

OT Readings for the day: 2 Chronicles 29-31

Week 36 / Day 2

□ Matthew 25:14-46

What kind of return on his investment did the servant with two talents get?

What "well done" statement would you like to hear Jesus say?

What defense will those on Christ's left use to justify themselves?

OT Readings for the day: 2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chronicles 32; Psalm 67

Week 36 / Day 3

□ Matthew 26:1-29

What did the disciples claim would have been a better use for the perfume? How did Jesus respond?

What motives or feelings would prompt someone to betray a man like Jesus? In what ways are we vulnerable to the temptations that snagged Judas?

When did Jesus say He would eat with His disciples again?

OT Readings for the day: Isaiah 36-37; Psalm 123

Week 36 / Day 4

□ Matthew 26:30-68

What is admirable about a promise never to abandon Christ? What is foolish about it?

What is amazing about Christ's attitude towards His disciples?

How can we respond when attacked for no just reason?

OT Readings for the day: 2 Kings 20; Isaiah 38-40; Psalm 68

Week 36 / Day 5

□ Matthew 26:69-27:25

When do you find you are most tempted to downplay or even deny your Christian beliefs?

What would you say to someone who was feeling extremely guilty and depressed?

What attitudes, emotions, or perspective must a person have in order to stay calm while being attacked?

OT Readings for the day: Isaiah 41-44

Week 37 (September 11-17)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

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

(Matthew 28:19-20)

This week we finish reading Matthew which contains the climax of Jesus's life and mission. He is crucified alongside criminals, endures mockery, and dies. Jesus does not stay in the grave, His resurrection is revealed to Mary Magdalene and others by an angel. Jesus appears to the disciples in Galilee, entrusting the Great Commission to them, commanding global discipleship and promising His eternal presence.

Then we will read how Paul addresses the Corinthians' divisions and emphasizes unity in Christ, underscoring the contrast between God's wisdom and worldly wisdom. He highlights his preaching of Christ crucified and the revelation of spiritual wisdom through the Holy Spirit. Paul points out the Corinthians' spiritual immaturity and uses the analogy of a spiritual building to stress growth and unity. He also discusses the role of apostles as stewards of God's mysteries, touching on their challenges and sufferings endured for the sake of Christ.

NOTES

Week 37 / Day 1

□ Matthew 27:26-55

List all the things done to mock Jesus.

Does Matthew record any reaction by Jesus to all the mockery? What do you think was going through His mind?

What is the significance of the veil in the temple tearing in two as Jesus died?

OT Readings for the day: Isaiah 45-48

Week 37 / Day 2

□ Matthew 27:57-28:20

What did Joseph think about Jesus and His message?

What words of Jesus did the chief priests remember and report to Pilate?

What does it mean to us that Jesus has "all authority"?

OT Reading for the day: Isaiah 49-52; Psalm 69

Week 37 / Day 3

☐ 1 Corinthians 1

What did the Corinthian Christians have?

What can result from preaching the gospel with words of human wisdom?

How does God use the foolish and weak things of the world?

OT Reading for the day: Isaiah 53-55; Psalm 128

Week 37 / Day 4

□ 1 Corinthians 2:1-3:4

How did Paul's regard for the world's wisdom affect his preaching and testimony?

What characteristics will the wisdom that the Spirit teaches us have?

What does it mean to have the mind of Christ?

OT Readings for the day: Isaiah 56-59; Psalm 70

Week 37 / Day 5

□ 1 Corinthians 3:5-4:13

What is the root of the Corinthians problem?

What does it mean to plant and water God's Word in others?

What attitudes should Christian leaders have?

OT Readings for the day: Isaiah 60-63

Week 38 (September 18-24)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. (1 Corinthians 6:12)

In this week's reading, Paul guides the Corinthian church through a variety of topics crucial for healthy Christian living and community. He adopts a fatherly role, urging them to follow his example and to avoid becoming arrogant in their spiritual knowledge. The need for church discipline emerges as Paul confronts a case of sexual immorality, advising separation from the unrepentant offender. He emphasizes the importance of resolving disputes within the church and condemns believers taking each other to secular courts. The sanctity of the body becomes a focal point in his discussion about sexual immorality, encouraging believers to flee from such behaviors. Paul addresses matters related to marriage, singleness, and the ethical concerns surrounding food offered to idols. He highlights the balance between knowledge and love, showcasing how self-restraint for the sake of the gospel can be a powerful testimony. Paul also warns against idolatry, drawing lessons from Israel's history, and concludes by stressing the principle of doing all things for God's glory. Throughout, he underscores the significance of imitating Christ in all aspects of life.

NOTES

Week 38 / Day 1

□ 1 Corinthians 4:14-6:11

Why was it necessary for the Corinthian church to expel a man from their congregation?

What did the Corinthians need to do when they were wronged by other Christians?

Who will not inherit the kingdom of God? Is there any hope for them?

OT Readings for the day: Isaiah 64-66

Week 38 / Day 2

□ 1 Corinthians 6:12-7:24

What did Paul mean by saying, "I will not be mastered by anything"?

What can you do to master areas of your life that could cause you to sin against your body?

What is more important than whether a person is married or single?

OT Readings for the day: 2 Kings 21; 2 Chronicles 33; Psalm 71

Week 38 / Day 3

□ 1 Corinthians 7:25-8:13

What perspective can help us serve God well whether married or single?

How can we build up others in a loving way?

What overriding principle should govern our freedom?

OT Readings for the day: Nahum; Psalm 149

Week 38 / Day 4

□ 1 Corinthians 9

Under what circumstances should we take advantage of our rights, and when should we willingly waive them?

What motivated Paul to preach as he did?

Why is it necessary to live with purpose and discipline?

OT Readings for the day: 2 Kings 22-23; Psalm 73

Week 38 / Day 5

□ 1 Corinthians 10:1-11:1

How do the Israelites serve as examples to us?

How does God help us escape temptation?

How does this chapter affect your attitude toward the Lord's Supper?

OT Readings for the day: 2 Chronicles 34-35

Week 39 (September 25 – Oct. 1)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, (1 Corinthians 15:2-3)

In this week's reading, Paul addresses a range of issues pertinent to the Corinthian church. When the church gathers, believers must show respect for one another and be careful not to dishonor the Lord. God has established order in the home and the church and we must not disrespect it. Paul emphasizes the solemnity of the Lord's Supper and the need for self-examination. Moving on, he delves into the diverse spiritual gifts and their role in the body of Christ, while underscoring the unity and love that should prevail among believers. Then Paul reaffirms the foundational belief in Christ's resurrection, explaining its significance and countering those who deny it. Throughout Paul's guidance revolves around maintaining proper conduct in worship, fostering unity, and grounding faith in the fundamental truths of the faith, especially the resurrection.

NOTES

Week 39 / Day 1

□ 1 Corinthians 11:2-34

What public worship practices did Paul rebuke?

How does Paul describe the differences between men and women? What is their relationship to one another?

Why should Christians celebrate Communion?

OT Readings for the day: Habakkuk

Week 39 / Day 2

□ 1 Corinthians 12

Who works through the various gifts Christians have?

If you do not know what your spiritual gift is, what can you do to find out?

How can we honor the contributions of others in our church?

OT Readings for the day: Zephaniah; Psalm 74

Week 39 / Day 3

□ 1 Corinthians 13:1-14:19

What do we gain if we don't have love?

Why might it be easy to use a spiritual gift without love?

Why were the Corinthians to desire the gift of prophecy more than the gift of tongues?

OT Readings for the day: Jeremiah 1-4; Psalm 130

Week 39 / Day 4

□ 1 Corinthians 14:20-40

How does the quotation from Isaiah 28:11–12 clarify the purpose of the spiritual gift of tongues?

What kind of order were the Corinthians to observe when speaking in tongues?

What makes order essential to Christian worship?

OT Readings for the day: Jeremiah 5-7; Psalm 75

Week 39 / Day 5

□ 1 Corinthians 15:1-34

How is the gospel made known to us today?

Why is faith in Christ useless and pitiable if Jesus has not been raised?

What hope does Jesus' resurrection provide for your daily life?

OT Readings for the day: Jeremiah 8-10

