



Bible Reading Journey

Key Study Points by Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann

Each day, using the notes on this page:

- Pray for Spirit-filled insight as you read God's Word.
- Look for Law and Gospel themes that point us to Jesus.
- Apply the readings to your life.
- Pray to Jesus, as the readings inspire you, for yourself, your family, your church and your world.

Historical Context: John, one of the twelve Apostles, wrote his Gospel account ~90 AD.

Acts was written by the physician, Luke, ~60-62 AD.

Law & Gospel Themes:

Especially in Chs. 2-12, John records many miraculous "signs" performed by Jesus to reveal that He is the Messiah, fulfilling all the prophecies of the OT. Yet, as noted in 20:30, His greatest "sign" was His resurrection from the dead, which proves His unique power to save all men from death and hell (note also 11:25). John conveys an important teaching about Jesus' "kingdom," esp. that it is not of this world (18:36f). A powerful gift, Confession and

Absolution (the "Keys"), is given to the Apostles and the Church by Jesus as noted in 20:23. In Acts, Luke provides clear examples to illustrate the truth conveyed in his Gospel account...that all are justified by faith in Jesus alone and not by works of the law. Both Peter and Paul led the way to proclaim this message in word and deed. Acts 1:8 describes this mission that began then and continues for us now...to all people!

Life Application Starters:

Why is the resurrection of Jesus so important? What other "signs" performed by Jesus stand out to you

and why? How is Jesus' "kingdom" different from all those of this world? Why is Confession and Absolution such a valuable gift? How are the Gospel of Luke and Acts tied together? How is the miracle of Pentecost still impacting us? When/how have you received the Spirit's power for Jesus' mission?

Prayer Starters: In thanks to Jesus for rising in victory from the dead to save us & give us Holy Absolution. In thankfulness that we are not required to earn our salvation. For the Spirit's power to make us bold witnesses of the Gospel to the end of the earth.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: John 15:1-16:33

Tuesday: John 17:1-26

Wednesday: John 18:1-19:42

Thursday: John 20:1-21:25

Friday: Acts 1:1-26

Saturday: Acts 2:1-47

August's Memory Verses:

Acts 1:8, Jesus said, "...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Romans 1:16-17, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for ... 'The righteous shall live by faith.'"

Romans 3:23-24, "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ..."

Romans 5:1, "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God...."

Romans 6:4, "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death...."

Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Romans 12:1, "...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God...."

Author of John: John, one of the twelve Apostles; the only one who was not martyred. **Date:** ~90 AD

Author of Acts: Luke, the physician, who knew and worked with Jesus' eyewitnesses. **Date:** ~60-62 AD

New Insights:

Questions to Pursue Further:

Insights from My Accountability Partners:

My Personal Prayers:

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Faith Lutheran Church + Grand Blanc, MI + www.faitgb.org

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Historical Context: Acts was written by the physician, Luke, ~60-62 AD, as a continuation of the accurate historical account in the Gospel of Luke.

Law & Gospel Themes: Luke makes clear in Ch. 2 that Pentecost was focused on clear proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the earth, not on us and any special powers we possess. Peter shows this truth in action as he heals a lame beggar "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" (3:6) and teaches of Jesus and not himself (3:12-16). Stephen is stoned to death as he remains a faithful martyr (Greek for "witness") for

Jesus. [SEE TLSB P. 1850 on martyrdom.] The "grace and power" (6:8) of the Holy Spirit compelled him with joy to the end. The zealous Jewish persecutor of Christians, Saul, is graciously & miraculously converted by Jesus and His Spirit to be the dynamic apostle, Paul, (Ch. 9). Peter has a vision and divine appointments that make it clear the Gospel is for Jews and Gentiles (Ch. 10).

Life Application Starters: What's the significance of Luke listing Jews from 12 geographic regions being present in Jerusalem to hear the Gospel in their own language on

Pentecost? Are you a martyr for Jesus? Should you be? Who is unworthy to be a witness for Jesus and why? Which gentile sinners are the most difficult ones for you to accept as worthy recipients of God's grace? Do you relate more with Peter or Paul and why?

Prayer Starters: That the Holy Spirit will fill us with the grace and power to be faithful witnesses for Jesus, even in the face of opposition or death itself. To accept all people as worthy recipients of God's mercy and grace. For many to be moved to faith in Jesus by the Spirit as they hear our witness.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Acts 3:1-4:37

Tuesday: Acts 5:1-42

Wednesday: Acts 6:1-8:40

Thursday: Acts 9:1-43

Friday: Acts 10:1-11:30

Saturday: Acts 12:1-25

August's Memory Verses:

Acts 1:8, Jesus said, "...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Romans 1:16-17, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for ... 'The righteous shall live by faith.'"

Romans 3:23-24, "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ..."

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Romans 12:1, "...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God...."

Author of Acts: Luke, the physician, who knew and worked with Jesus' eyewitnesses. **Date:** ~60-62 AD

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Historical Context: Acts was written by the physician, Luke, ~60-62 AD, as a continuation of the accurate historical account in the Gospel of Luke.

Law & Gospel Themes: Paul boldly travels along and near the northeast shore of the Mediterranean Sea on his three missionary journeys with various companions, including Luke. He makes it explicitly clear that salvation is also for the Gentiles. The conversion of many Gentiles leads to conflict as many Jewish Christians insist that these Gentiles must be circumcised in keeping with the law of Moses. A Council of the believers in Jerusalem

in 49 AD works through the conflict in a wise and caring manner [SEE TLSB P. 1867], ending with the conclusion by James, based on OT Scriptures, that the Gentiles are saved by grace and are free from the restrictions of the law. They must only act with respect for their Jewish brothers and sisters (Ch. 15). Paul and Barnabas also act in love to forgive each other after they have a conflict (Ch. 15:39+; 1 Cor. 9:6).

Life Application Starters: What issues cause the greatest division among Christians today? What do we learn about

reconciliation from the Jerusalem Council? How can we apply these lessons to the inevitable conflicts in our homes, with our closest family and friends? In what ways, then and now, does God turn setbacks to our mission endeavors into productive opportunities for witness?

Prayer Starters: That we will be quick to confess our guilt in conflict and be reconciled with others in the name of Jesus. For God's Word to always be our guide as we arbitrate our disputes. For eyes to see and faith to follow where God is leading us as His witnesses.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Acts 13:1-14:28

Tuesday: Acts 15:1-35

Wednesday: Acts 15:36-16:40

Thursday: Acts 17:1-18:23

Friday: Acts 18:24-21:16

Saturday: Acts 21:17-23:35

August's Memory Verses:

Acts 1:8, Jesus said, "...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

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Historical Context: Acts was written by the physician, Luke, ~60-62 AD. Romans was written by the Apostle Paul in 55 AD to the saints in Rome.

Law & Gospel Themes:

Paul is kept for several years (55-68 AD) in Roman custody in Caesarea and Rome. He uses this time to continue his mission by proclaiming the Gospel in letters to the churches and audiences with Roman leaders. He illustrates our real life practice of the Fourth Commandment as he obeys the governing authorities while STILL putting God first in his life. Paul's letter to the saints in Rome is the Bible's clearest

summary of the Gospel, in short, "The righteous shall live by faith." (1:17) All have sinned, but are justified by God's grace as a gift for Jesus' sake (3:23f). Still, only those who repent and receive the gift will be saved (5:1f). Through the gift of Holy Baptism we die to sin, but rise to newness of life empowered by the Holy Spirit (6:1-4). [SEE TLSB P. 1920]

Life Application Starters:

Can we obey the government today and, at the same time, not compromise on our observance of any of God's commandments? What

opportunities are there for you to be a bold witness for Jesus WHILE you are also living as a good citizen of your country? Try to speak the Gospel in less than ten words and explain what it means in less than two minutes. Whom has Jesus made righteous? Whom has Jesus saved from hell? How are you living out your Baptism?

Prayer Starters: For the wisdom to properly obey the government while not compromising on our obedience to God. To know the simple Gospel and speak it boldly and regularly. To live out our Baptism daily.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Acts 24:1-26:32

Tuesday: Acts 27:1-28:31

Wednesday: Romans 1:1-2:29

Thursday: Romans 3:1-4:25

Friday: Romans 5:1-21

Saturday: Romans 6:1-23

August's Memory Verses:

Acts 1:8, Jesus said, "...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

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Author of Acts: Luke, the physician, who knew and worked with Jesus' eyewitnesses. **Date:** ~60-62 AD

Author of Romans: Paul, the Apostle, formerly Saul the zealous Jewish persecutor of Christians. **Date:** 55 AD

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Historical Context: Romans was written by the Apostle Paul in 55 AD to the saints in Rome as a clear summary of the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ alone.

Law & Gospel Themes: Paul often draws on military imagery to illustrate the Gospel. Though evil will ever assail us in this world, we are "complete conquerors" through faith in Jesus (8:37). Saving faith is created and sustained in us by hearing the Word of Jesus recorded in Holy Scripture (10:17). Salvation is a gift to "all Israel," which is not descendants by blood (9:8), but all who have been adopted as children of Jacob

through repentance and faith in Jesus (11:25-27). Having been saved as a free gift from our merciful God, we are to "present [our] bodies as a living sacrifice," bearing witness to Jesus through incarnate love (12:1-2). [SEE TLSB P. 1934] Good Christians are also good citizens, humbly and daily subjecting ourselves "to the governing authorities" (13:1), even if we don't condone all their actions.

Life Application Starters: In what sense are you already victorious over evil? Why is it so important to daily study and speak God's Word as

it is recorded in the Bible? In what sense are you an Israelite? What, according to Paul, has replaced the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament (keeping in mind the actions of Jesus and, now, every Christian)? Is sanctification an option or an obligation for us? Why? (SEE 15:1)

Prayer Starters: That we live FROM our victory with Jesus. To be faithful in hearing and speaking the Word of Jesus. In thanks for being adopted into Israel. To obediently, and joyfully, put our faith into actions of the flesh as a sacrifice to God.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Romans 7:1-25

Tuesday: Romans 8:1-39

Wednesday: Romans 9:1-11:36

Thursday: Romans 12:1-21

Friday: Romans 13:1-14:23

Saturday: Romans 15:1-16:27

August's Memory Verses:

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