



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

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: 1

Corinthians was written by the Apostle Paul before Pentecost in 55 AD.

Law & Gospel Themes:

Paul's primary focus in this letter is to condemn the division that has arisen among the Corinthian Christians as they have foolishly followed their own wisdom instead of that of Jesus Christ alone. It is faith in Jesus and the power of His love that will unite them again. (1:10-13) God specifically chooses what is foolish in this world to show that it is only His power and wisdom that will save us (1:27). The crucifixion of Jesus is the prime example of

God using what seems foolish to achieve His plan of salvation. (2:2) God alone will build the church, not any man, including Paul. (3:6-7) Man's sinful wisdom yields arrogance, unchastity (Ch 5), strife in the public courts (Ch 6), a lack of respect for godly marriage (Ch 7), & selfish trust in our knowledge (Ch 8). Like Paul, we humbly make ourselves servants to all for the sake of Christ & God's glory (9:19, 10:31).

Life Application Starters:

When has following your selfish wisdom caused you to be divided from a fellow Christian? What division have you seen in the

church due to bold trust in our own sinful wisdom and knowledge? Ask a trusted Christian friend(s) to hold you accountable to not trust in your own ways, but to humbly follow Jesus in all things. Whom do you need to forgive, love and serve in humble obedience to Jesus?

Prayer Starters: That the divisions among Christians will be removed as we humbly confess our sin and call on our crucified Savior, Jesus, to forgive and unite us in His sacrificial love. To be a courageous fool for the Lord, reaching out in His power to save fellow sinners.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 1:1-2:16

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 3:1-4:21

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 5:1-6:20

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 7:1-40

Friday: 1 Corinthians 8:1-9:27

Saturday: 1 Corinthians 10:1-33

**September's
Memory
Verses:**

1 Corinthians 1:27, "But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ..."
1 Cor. 2:2, "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."
2 Cor. 4:16, "Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day."
2 Cor. 5:20, "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us."
2 Cor. 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
Galatians 2:16, "...a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ...."
Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Author of 1 Corinthians: Paul, the Apostle, and humble servant of Jesus Christ. **Date:** 55 AD

New Insights:

Questions to Pursue Further:

Insights from My Accountability Partners:

My Personal Prayers:

Share insights & Ask Questions on Facebook: "Faith Bible Reading Journey"
Faithfully Living Every Relationship in God's Way...
...to Unite Everyone with Jesus for Eternity





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Historical Context: The Apostle Paul wrote 1 Corinthians before Pentecost in 55 AD and 2 Corinthians before winter that same year.

Law & Gospel Themes: Paul celebrates the gifts God gives for the good and unity of the church, esp. love (Ch 13). Humble use of these gifts, esp. by the leaders of the church, will strengthen the church and glorify God. (SEE TLSB pg. 1969 on "Tongues") Paul's direction for women to keep silent in the church (14:34) is all about such humble service in our God-given roles. God and Paul still value women and set them free, just like men, through the Gospel. (15:1-10;

TLSB pg. 1972) Jesus' bodily resurrection, and ours, is central to our faith. (Ch 15) 2 Corinthians is primarily a letter of Gospel comfort to those cut to the heart by the Law. (1:3-4) He tells us to forgive repentant sinners (2:7-8). He also points out that faithful ministers are still sinners ("jars of clay" in 4:7) who must point to Jesus alone as our source of power and comfort.

Life Application Starters: How are we to prepare for the reception of the Lord's Supper per 1 Cor. 11 (and SEE TLSB pg. 1965)? Why is it important to hear Paul's teaching about women

from the perspective of the Gospel, not Law...and how do we do that? Even if we can't fully understand it, why is our bodily resurrection with Jesus so important and comforting? Where do we receive the power to comfort those who are afflicted under the Law of God? How are you a "jar of clay"?

Prayer Starters: To live in the true love of Jesus. That we will properly prepare to receive the Lord's Supper for our good. For all of us to humbly fulfill our vocations in a way that points to our crucified and risen Savior, Jesus, and comforts sinners.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 11:1-12:31

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 13:1-14:40

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-58

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 16:1-24

Friday: 2 Corinthians 1:1-2:17

Saturday: 2 Corinthians 3:1-4:18

**September's
Memory
Verses:**

1 Corinthians 1:27, "But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ..."

1 Cor. 2:2, "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

2 Cor. 4:16, "Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day."

2 Cor. 5:20, "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us."

2 Cor. 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Galatians 2:16, "...a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ...."

Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Author of 1 & 2 Corinthians: Paul, the Apostle, and humble servant of Jesus Christ. **Date:** 55 AD

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Historical Context: The Apostle Paul wrote 2 Corinthians in 55 AD and Galatians in ~51-53 AD.

Law & Gospel Themes: In Christ we are a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17) and ambassadors for Christ, imploring sinners to be reconciled with God (5:20). In any relationship, esp. marriage, Christians are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers (6:14). Rich in Christ, we are to share our treasures of body and soul with all (Chs 8-9). False apostles boast in themselves, but true apostles boast only in Christ and His gracious power (12:9). Paul ends 2 Corinthians with a powerful

and instructive Trinitarian blessing (13:14). As with the Corinthian Christians, Paul is galled with the Galatians that they have foolishly given up the Gospel truth for a lie (Gal. 1:6-9, 3:1). We can never justify ourselves by works of the Law (2:16). Paul even opposed Peter for leading others into such legalism by his hypocrisy (2:11-14). SEE TLSB pg. 2005 on "Legalism."

Life Application Starters: What "thorn in the flesh" have you endured that the Spirit has used to turn you to Jesus? What key advice does 2 Cor. 6:14 give to those desiring to marry?

Describe the comfort and power in Paul's blessing in 2 Cor. 13:14. How does it sometimes seem easier to live by a set of laws (legalism) rather than humbly trusting in Jesus alone (Gospel)? What warning do we receive from Peter's fall into legalism and the need for Paul to rebuke him?

Prayer Starters: To rejoice that we are a new creation in Jesus. For courage to call sinners to be reconciled with God in Christ alone. For godly marriage between Christians. To never fall into legalism. To humbly receive a loving rebuke and repent when we are rightly rebuked.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 2 Corinthians 5:1-21

Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 6:1-7:16

Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15

Thursday: 2 Corinthians 10:1-11:33

Friday: 2 Corinthians 12:1-13:14

Saturday: Galatians 1:1-2:21

**September's
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Verses:**

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Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Author of 2 Corinthians: Paul, the Apostle, and humble servant of Jesus Christ **Date:** 55 AD
Author of Galatians: Paul, the Apostle **Date:** ~51-53 AD

<p><i>New Insights:</i></p>	<p><i>Questions to Pursue Further:</i></p>
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Historical Context: The Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians in ~51-53 AD and to the Ephesians in ~60 AD.

Law & Gospel Themes: As Paul warns the Galatians against the foolish sin of legalism (3:1), he still calls them to live out their Gospel freedom with works of love, esp. in Chs. 5 & 6. When Paul says in 3:28 that there is "no male and female," he is speaking in the context of the Gospel. We are all equally forgiven by grace through faith in Jesus. This verse is not a guide for the roles we are each, individually, called to fulfill in our sanctified living AFTER we are set free by the Gospel. In these roles,

there are differences between those of men and women, parents and children, pastors and disciples...as we've heard throughout Scripture. Ephesians is filled with deep theological teaching, such as all that's packed into 1:3-14. Paul is esp. clear on the distinction between grace & good works, justification and sanctification, in Ch 2.

Life Application Starters: Having the assurance of free salvation by grace (justification), what works of love do you fail to fulfill (sanctification)? How is it dangerous to take verses of Scripture out of context,

such as is often true for Gal. 3:28? What is Paul teaching with these words in Eph. 1, "predestined... adoption... redemption... mystery... inheritance... hope... guarantee...." Be prepared to use Eph. 2:8-9 as the core of a clear Gospel witness...and NOW practice it with someone.

Prayer Starters: To rejoice in our assurance of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus. That we will follow the assurance of salvation with bold works of love to God's glory. To rightly understand the truths of Scripture from their context and then rightly apply them in our life and witness.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Galatians 3:1-29

Tuesday: Galatians 4:1-31

Wednesday: Galatians 5:1-6:18

Thursday: Ephesians 1:1-23

Friday: Ephesians 2:1-22

Saturday: Ephesians 3:1-21

**September's
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Author of Galatians: Paul, the Apostle. **Date:** ~51-53 AD
Author of Ephesians: Paul, the Apostle. **Date:** ~60 AD

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