



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: The Apostle Paul wrote to both the Ephesians and the Philippians in ~60 AD.

Law & Gospel Themes: In Ephesians, esp. Ch 4, Paul notes that all Christians are united as the one body of Christ in Baptism and should be free from rivalry. We carry out our given vocations for the good of all in our new life together. This is clearly seen in life-long marriage between one man and one woman, which is to be a living Gospel witness for the world to see the loving relationship between Jesus and His bride, the church (5:31-32). Jesus' love also shapes the Christian home and all relationships

(6:1-9 & TLSB Pg. 2025). Writing to the Christians in the Roman city of Philippi, Paul thanks them for their faith and loving mission support, also encouraging them to strain forward, living in a manner worthy of the gospel they have received from Jesus (1:27). Our true citizenship, better than "Roman" or any other, is in heaven (3:20).

Life Application Starters: Based on Eph. 5:31-32, describe how the love of Jesus for us is sacrificial, unconditional and incarnational. Explain how Christian marriage, and all relationships, are to be guided by such love as we

live out a sanctified life. What armor does God give us for our life as Christians in a sinful world (Eph. 6:10-20)? How do we balance the gospel of free salvation by grace with our duty to live in love and service all our days? How is Paul's call to be "straining forward" accurate for the challenge of living in faith and love for our entire life?

Prayer Starters: In thanks to Jesus for loving us as our perfect husband. To reflect the love of Jesus in all our relationships. That, being covered by God's armor, we will strain forward all our days in faith and loving service.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Ephesians 4:1-32

Tuesday: Ephesians 5:1-6:24

Wednesday: Philippians 1:1-30

Thursday: Philippians 2:1-30

Friday: Philippians 3:1-4:1

Saturday: Philippians 4:2-23

October's Memory Verses:

*Eph. 5:31f, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound...it refers to Christ and the church."
Philip. 1:21, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."
1 Thes. 4:13, "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope."
1 Tim. 2:5f, "...there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...."
2 Tim. 3:16f, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."*

Author of Ephesians: Paul, the Apostle. **Date:** ~60 AD
Author of Philippians: Paul, the Apostle. **Date:** ~60 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...
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Historical Context: The Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians in ~60 AD and to the Thessalonians (the first of two letters) in ~51 AD.

Law & Gospel Themes: Paul's letter to the Colossians is similar in outline and content to his letter to the Ephesians. He expresses deep theological concepts that celebrate our sure salvation, strength, power, joy and eternal inheritance for Jesus' sake (1:3-23). He notes that suffering by Christians for the faith can bring life and hope to others (1:24). The key to Christian living is that we "do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through

him" (3:17). This is seen clearly in families marked by Christian submission, love and obedience (3:18-25). Paul writes his first letter to the truly faithful Thessalonian Christians to support them in his forced absence. He answers questions about life after death, bodily resurrection and Jesus' return (NOT teaching the false idea of the "Rapture"). (4:13-5:11)

Life Application Starters: What treasures have you already inherited through your baptism into Christ? Although Jesus is fully, eternal God, in what sense is He "the firstborn of all creation" (1:15-20)? What

activities in your life are the most difficult for you to do in the name of Jesus? What will happen to our body and soul when we die? How does Paul refute the false teaching of the "Rapture" of believers before Judgment Day?

Prayer Starters: That our sure salvation in Christ will fill us with strength, power and joy even in suffering. To respond to the gospel by doing everything in the name of Jesus. For Christian families to persevere in God's way even when under attack by Satan and the sinful world. To trust that our souls are eternal and we WILL rise in the flesh on Judgment Day.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Colossians 1:1-29

Tuesday: Colossians 2:1-23

Wednesday: Colossians 3:1-4:18

Thursday: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Friday: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

Saturday: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

October's Memory Verses:

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1 Tim. 2:5f, "...there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...."
2 Tim. 3:16f, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."*

Author of Colossians: Paul, the Apostle. **Date:** ~60 AD

Author of 1 Thessalonians: Paul, the Apostle. **Date:** ~51 AD

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Historical Context: The Apostle Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians in ~51 AD and 2 Thessalonians in ~52 AD. He wrote his first letter to Timothy in 65 AD.

Law & Gospel Themes: In 2 Thessalonians, Paul picks up where he left off in his 1st letter to them by praising their faith. He encourages patience in the face of suffering. He clarifies his teaching in his first letter about the sudden return of Jesus, noting this has not yet happened and it is not imminent. Rome will fall and "the man of lawlessness" must be revealed before Jesus returns (2:3-4). They are to rebuke those who are

idle because they think the end is at hand...a warning still valid for all Christians until Judgment Day. Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy, a young pastor and his "true child in the faith," as guidance for the early church, its pastors and all its members. He gives specific guidance for the conduct of Christian women based on ethical (what's good in that context), theological (what's per God's good order) and missiological (what promotes Gospel witness) perspectives.

Life Application Starters: Do you and/or other Christians today ever

become tempted to stop serving and witnessing because Jesus is surely coming back at any moment? Where do we receive the strength to persevere in faith and service until Jesus returns? Practice articulating the way God (and Paul) values women while still calling them to unique vocations that are distinct from those of men?

Prayer Starters: That we not be lazy or indifferent in living out our faith as we await Jesus' return. That all Christians will daily spur one another on to love and good works. For good order in the church as we fulfill our godly vocations.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

Tuesday: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-28

Wednesday: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Thursday: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3:18

Friday: 1 Timothy 1:1-20

Saturday: 1 Timothy 2:1-15

October's Memory Verses:

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Author of 1 & 2 Thessalonians: Paul, the Apostle **Date of 1 Thes.:** ~51 AD **Date of 2 Thes.:** ~52 AD
Author of 1 Timothy: Paul, the Apostle **Date:** 65 AD , three years prior to Paul's death as a martyr

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Historical Context: The Apostle Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy in 65 AD and the second in 68 AD (his final known letter).

Law & Gospel Themes: In his first letter to Timothy (and later in Titus), Paul explains key qualifications for pastors (referred to as overseers or elders). SEE the helpful chart on TLSB Pg. 2080. He also warns against false teaching and guides Christians to proper conduct with contentment (6:6). In his second letter to Timothy, Paul encourages him in the face of Roman persecution... which would soon lead to Paul's death as a martyr. Paul celebrates the power of

God's Word (3:16-17) to make us righteous and to empower our good works. He commends Timothy's grandmother Lois and mother Eunice (1:5) for having instructed him in God's Word from childhood. That Word made him wise (often used as a synonym for faith) "for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (3:15).

Life Application Starters: As the qualifications for pastors are also good for all Christians, how well are you doing at living as God intends? How content are you in your godly life? How well would you stand up in the face of persecution,

esp. if threatened with death for your faith in Jesus? Summarize the power of God's Word as described in 2 Tim. 3:16-17. What role can faithful moms and grandmas play in the raising up of Christian children, even if no men are present in the home? Where can they find support for their task?

Prayer Starters: For faithful pastors and other church leaders who are qualified for service by the power of the Spirit. To avoid false teachers. For Christian contentment. To cherish God's Word and teach it in the home, from birth, to our children and all generations to come.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 1 Timothy 3:1-16

Tuesday: 1 Timothy 4:1-16

Wednesday: 1 Timothy 5:1-25

Thursday: 1 Timothy 6:1-21

Friday: 2 Timothy 1:1-18

Saturday: 2 Timothy 2:1-26

October's Memory Verses:

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Author of 1 Timothy: Paul, the Apostle **Date:** 65 AD

Author of 2 Timothy: Paul, the Apostle **Date:** 68 AD, his final known letter, written just before his death as a martyr

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