



# 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 his second letter to Timothy in 68 AD, his letter to Titus earlier in that same year, and his letter to Philemon in ~60 AD. It's not clear who wrote the letter to the Hebrews, at some time prior to 70 AD.

**Law & Gospel Themes:** In his letter to Titus, a pastor serving on the island of Crete, Paul directs him to condemn the gluttonous excess of the Cretans (1:12-13), esp. their craving for false doctrines that appeal to our desire to please self. He directs modest and Christ-like living for all...bishops (pastors), all ages, spouses, masters and servants...that

the Gospel will bless every part of life. That Gospel is beautifully stated in one long sentence, Titus 3:4-7. Paul's letter to a Christian master, Philemon, is an appeal for him to forgive and receive his runaway slave, Onesimus (meaning "useful"), who has been led to faith in Jesus by Paul. Paul acts like Jesus who has interceded with His heavenly Father to forgive and receive us since we are justified through faith in Jesus. (*Hebrews will be covered in the next two weeks.*)

**Life Application Starters:** Using the prompting of 2 Tim. 3:2-6, what selfish

excesses tempt you to wander from your faith in Jesus like a Cretan? How do Paul's words in Titus 3:4-7 show that we already have what matters "in excess"? Does your life reflect your gratitude for these gifts? How does the love of Jesus, received and shared, break down all social barriers, as shown in Paul's letter to Philemon?

**Prayer Starters:** For freedom from the selfish excesses of life that draw us away from all we have in Jesus. To live humbly with Christian love in whatever stations we fill. To receive all fellow Christians as our equals.

### Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 2 Timothy 3:1-4:22

Tuesday: Titus 1:1-16

Wednesday: Titus 2:1-15

Thursday: Titus 3:1-15

Friday: Philemon 1-25

Saturday: Hebrews 1:1-14

**November's  
Memory  
Verses:**

*Titus 3:4-7, "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*

*Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is living and active, discerning the thoughts ... of the heart."  
James 5:16, "...confess your sins to one another & pray for one another, that you may be healed."  
1 Peter 3:21, "Baptism...now saves you...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ..."  
2 Peter 3:13, "But according to his promise, we are waiting for new heavens & a new earth..."*

**Author of 2 Timothy, Titus & Philemon:** Paul, the Apostle **Dates:** 2 Tim. in 68 AD (his final known letter, written just before his death as a martyr), Titus earlier in 68 AD, and Philemon in ~60 AD

<p><i>New Insights:</i></p>	<p><i>Questions to Pursue Further:</i></p>
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*Insights from My Accountability Partners:*

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**Historical Context:** The letter to the Hebrews was written sometime prior to 70 AD when Jerusalem, including the temple, was destroyed by the Romans. The author is a well educated Christian disciple, likely not Paul or one of the twelve apostles (SEE 2:3). Although it has difficult statements, it has been recognized by the church as being an authoritative part of the Bible since the 2nd ct.

### Law & Gospel Themes:

Written most likely at first to a Jewish-Christian audience, Hebrews exalts Jesus as the clearest revelation of God, above the OT prophets (1:1-2). Jesus is also exalted as the greatest High Priest who

offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice to end all the sacrifices of the OT system (7:27, 9:12). Jesus' blood now covers us in Baptism so we are fully justified before God. Our need for Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf is made clear by the Word of God (including in the OT) which is "living and active... discerning the thoughts and intention of the heart" (4:12).

### Life Application Starters:

In light of the OT blood-sacrifices that were required to pay for sin, what daily gratitude should you show to Jesus, the sacrifice to end all

sacrifices? What richer imagery do we gain regarding Holy Baptism as it is tied to Jesus' sacrifice for us? Why is it valuable to study God's Word even when the truth hurts sometimes? What challenges will come our way when we faithfully speak God's Word as His witnesses to the world... esp. in our own homes?

**Prayer Starters:** To speak and show our thanks to Jesus daily for His perfect sacrifice on our behalf. Thanks that Baptism covers our sins in the blood of Jesus so we have risen with Him to eternal life. To be bold witnesses of God's Word always.

### Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Hebrews 2:1-18

Tuesday: Hebrews 3:1-19

Wednesday: Hebrews 4:1-16

Thursday: Hebrews 5:1-14

Friday: Hebrews 6:1-20

Saturday: Hebrews 7:1-28

**Novem-  
ber's  
Memory  
Verses:**

*Titus 3:4-7, "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*

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1 Peter 3:21, "Baptism...now saves you...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ..."  
2 Peter 3:13, "But according to his promise, we are waiting for new heavens & a new earth..."*

**Author of Hebrews:** An anonymous Christian disciple who was well versed in the OT Scriptures **Date:** Prior to 70 AD

*New Insights:*

*Questions to Pursue Further:*

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**Historical Context:** The letter to the Hebrews was written prior to 70 AD by an anonymous, but well educated Christian disciple.

**Law & Gospel Themes:** Now that we are justified through the blood-sacrifice of Jesus, our High Priest (10:12), we have a pure "sanctified" conscience that's able to guide us to good works that honor God (9:14, 10:14). Once we know the truth of God's Word, we're to turn from sin by the power of the Holy Spirit. To continue sinning deliberately puts at risk our faith in Jesus and the benefit of his sacrifice for us (10:26-27). The faith of OT martyrs and saints (as

described in Ch. 11) leads us to praise God, trust Him more and imitate their faith. However, we have something they did not, "Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith," who not only justifies us, but empowers us to run with endurance our race of faith (12:1-2). We know Jesus will not forsake us and man can not harm us, so we need not fear the power of men (13:5-6).

**Life Application Starters:** Is there any sin in your life that you deliberately continue to practice even though you know you shouldn't? How does this "harden your conscience"

and threaten your faith? Where should you turn first for help in this battle against sin? How can you empower fellow Christians, esp. in your own family, to help you in recognizing and battling sin? Who alone will judge you for your sin? What comfort does that give you?

**Prayer Starters:** For wisdom and courage to recognize and sincerely confess the persistent sin in your life. To rejoice in the free forgiveness of Jesus and live in holiness out of thankfulness. To be accountable to fellow Christians who are helping you turn from sin to sanctified living.

### Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Hebrews 8:1-13

Tuesday: Hebrews 9:1-28

Wednesday: Hebrews 10:1-18

Thursday: Hebrews 10:19-39

Friday: Hebrews 11:1-40

Saturday: Hebrews 12:1-29

**Novem-  
ber's  
Memory  
Verses:**

*Titus 3:4-7, "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*

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**Author of Hebrews:** An anonymous Christian disciple who was well versed in the OT Scriptures **Date:** Prior to 70 AD

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**Historical Context:** For info. on Hebrews, SEE week 98. James was most likely written by James, a half-brother of our Lord, Jesus, in ~50 AD to Christian congregations dispersed among the Gentile nations beyond Jerusalem.

**Law & Gospel Themes:** This book has many critics as it makes statements like, "...faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." (2:17) However, such teachings are fitting when they follow our justification by grace alone, through the work of Jesus. James properly starts at this point as he says of our heavenly Father, "...he brought us forth by the word of truth..." (1:18). A Christian

who HAS BEEN justified by Jesus SHOULD do good works that thank and honor Jesus in every part of life. SEE the articles on this topic on TLSB pages 2138f. We should guard our tongues, be humble, avoid lust for wealth, be patient in suffering and pray for each other. When we do fall, we must confess our sin and flee to Jesus for healing...and strength to do good again (5:15f).

**Life Application Starters:** Is there any part of your life in which you are not fully living by faith, following Jesus' Word and ways? What impact will it

have on your faith and certainty of salvation if you deny Jesus control of any part of your life? Which yields more truly good works in your life...the Law or the Gospel? What is "the prayer of faith" (5:15-16) and does this match your typical prayers?

**Prayer Starters:** In sincere confession of the sin that infects any part of your life. In thanks for being declared righteous because of what Jesus HAS done for us. To faithfully live every part of your life in good works that honor Jesus. To always pray FROM your faith in Jesus, your Savior.

### Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Hebrews 13:1-25

Tuesday: James 1:1-27

Wednesday: James 2:1-26

Thursday: James 3:1-18

Friday: James 4:1-17

Saturday: James 5:1-20

**Novem-  
ber's  
Memory  
Verses:**

*Titus 3:4-7, "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*

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**Author of James:** James, a half-brother of our Lord, Jesus **Date:** ~50 AD

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**Historical Context:** The apostle, Simon Peter, wrote 1 Peter to primarily Gentile Christians in Asia Minor, with Silvanus as his scribe & assistant, sometime before 67 AD. Peter wrote 2 Pet. to a similar audience ~68 AD, just before his death as a martyr.

**Law & Gospel Themes:** In 1 Peter, the apostle is encouraging new Christians in Asia Minor to endure & grow in faith, even in the face of persecution for their righteousness. He points to the assurance of their salvation since they are baptized into Christ (3:21). He draws heavily on OT imagery, such as Noah's deliverance through the ark

corresponding to baptism & their holy election by God (2:9). He gives specific direction for Christian living in society & in the home, clearly guiding wives & husbands (3:1-7). Just before his execution, Peter warns, in 2 Peter, of false teachers who foster sinful living, thinking Jesus will not return to judge. We trust God's Word (1:21) to guide our faith & life until, at Jesus' return, we enter the new heavens & new earth (3:13).

**Life Application Starters:** How is our situation as Christians today similar to that of the new Gentile believers in Asia Minor

who received Peter's two letters? How do OT promises & our baptism still strengthen our faith? What Gospel witness do wives & husbands (& ALL of us) give to the world when we follow Peter's guidance? Confident Jesus will come in judgment, what hope & compulsion do we have today?

**Prayer Starters:** For courage in the face of ridicule from a sinful world & misdirection from false teachers. To live in the sacrificial love of Jesus in all our relationships as Gospel witnesses. For joy & hope as we live assured of our place in the new heavens & new earth.

### Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 1 Peter 1:1-25

Tuesday: 1 Peter 2:1-25

Wednesday: 1 Peter 3:1-4:19

Thursday: 1 Peter 5:1-14

Friday: 2 Peter 1:1-2:22

Saturday: 2 Peter 3:1-18

**Novem-ber's Memory Verses:**

*Titus 3:4-7, "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*

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**Author of 1 Peter:** Simon Peter, the Apostle, with the aid of Silvanus **Date:** Before 67 AD

**Author of 2 Peter:** Simon Peter, the Apostle, with the aid of another scribe **Date:** Just before his death in ~68 AD

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