

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week #1 Reading from <u>Acts of the Apostles</u>: Chapter 25, “The Thessalonian Letters”						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1 Thess. 1:1-10	1 Thess. 2:1-12	1 Thess. 4:13-5:11	2 Thess. 2:1-12	2 Thess. 3:3-15	

8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	1 Corinthians 3:5-17	1 Corinthians 6:1-11	1 Corinthians 10:23-33	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	2 Corinthians 2:5-11, 14-17	2 Corinthians 4:1-12	2 Corinthians 5:11-21	2 Corinthians 8:1-15	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	

22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Romans 3:9-26	Romans 5:1-11	Romans 8:1-17	Romans 9:6-29	Romans 11:11-32	Romans 12:1-21	

“Dear Church” readings for September

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“Dear Church” readings for September

The Apostle Paul is an enormous figure in the New Testament. Though he doesn't arrive in the story until a third of the way through the book of Acts, his ministry quickly becomes the focus of the records of the early Christian church. His missionary journeys through Asia and Europe laid the foundation for Christianity in numerous major cities. Unlike pastors today, however, Paul rarely stayed with his congregations for more than a few months (and seemingly never more than 3 years). He would give them a solid foundation and move along to the next community. But that doesn't mean that he had forgotten those congregations; quite the opposite, in fact. Sometimes they would ask him a question for clarification, or he would receive a report from his traveling companions, or he would feel impressed by God to share something with them. Whatever the case, he would write them a deep and personal letter which we today call "Epistles".

As you read through the selected passages from Paul's earliest Epistles this month, remember that the goal of these devotionals isn't just information. The goal is relationship. This isn't measured on how well you remember what Paul said to these congregations in his centuries-old letters; this is measured on how well you're connecting with God today *through* what Paul said to these cities. To help you in this relationship-building, here are 3 different approaches you can use when reading through your passages each day. The first steps in each are the same: after asking for the Spirit to be with you, prayerfully read through the selection slowly.

Straight to the Point (~5 minutes)

- 1) What did the passage say?
- 2) What did the passage mean?
- 3) What did the passage mean to me?

SOAP (~10 minutes)

Scripture – What was your favorite verse?
Observation – What do you observe in the passage?
Application – How does this passage apply to my life?
Prayer – Especially be mindful of your O'a and A's.

The Alphabet Method (~15 mins.)

A – A Title (What would you call this passage?)
B – Best Verse (Your favorite verse.)
C – "Christ is..." (What do you learn about Jesus from what is said and done?)
D – Difficulties (What is hard to understand or explain?)
E – Essentials (What do you need to know?)
F – Final Thoughts (What does this mean to me?)



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