

# **Lutheran Church of Australia**

## **How to read the Bible**

### **October**

## **Read through the New Testament**

Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer

□ Pastor Richard Haar

*Get Into It Any Way You Can!*

#### **October 1st - Romans 4:1-25.**

Reflect: Abraham is the great example from the Old Testament of trusting in God's promises. Abraham is the father of faith and we too are children of the promise!

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to be sure that you faithfully keep all your promises. Amen."*

#### **October 2nd - Romans 5:1-21.**

Reflect: God reached out in love and forgiveness while we were still his enemies (sinners). Our salvation is based on grace (undeserved mercy) from beginning to end!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to trust in, and to live by, your forgiving love. Amen."*

#### **October 3rd - Romans 6:1-23.**

Reflect: At our baptism we shared in Jesus' death (we received forgiveness) and in Jesus' resurrection (we received new life). Now our destiny is forever linked with his!

*Prayer: "Lord God, may I remain dead to sin and alive to you in Christ Jesus. Amen."*

#### **October 4th - Romans 7:1-25.**

Reflect: Do you find it hard to struggle against sin? If so, then you're in good company! Like saint Paul, we find our hope and victory in the forgiveness of Jesus!

*Prayer: "Lord, I often fail you! Thank you for your unending mercy and love. Amen."*

#### **October 5th - Romans 8:1-17.**

Reflect: Without faith in Jesus (by the Holy Spirit), it is impossible to please God. Now we have the Spirit (faith in Jesus) we please him as his beloved children!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to honour and please you in all that I do. Amen."*

**October 6th - Romans 8:18-39.**

Reflect: Despite all evidence to the contrary, we Christians are on the winning team! Our victory is sure, because it's not based on what we do but on God's love in Christ!

*Prayer: "Lord, I know you will never leave me or let me down. Thank you! Amen."*

**October 7th - Romans 9:1-33.**

Reflect: Do you have loved ones (friends or relations) who don't believe in Jesus? Paul knew this pain too. In the end, all Paul can do is keep pointing people to God's mercy.

*Prayer: "Lord, use me to draw others to you, as I share your love with them. Amen."*

**October 8th - Romans 10:1-21.**

Reflect: Saving faith means believing in you heart and confessing with your lips that Jesus is Lord and Saviour. Such faith comes through hearing the Gospel message.

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me both to believe and to spread your Gospel. Amen."*

**October 9th - Romans 11:1-36.**

Reflect: Membership in God's kingdom is only by grace. No one deserves to belong. The unbelief of the Jews stands as a warning that we shouldn't neglect our own faith.

*Prayer: "Saviour, all I have is by your mercy. Keep me close to you. Amen."*

**October 10th - Romans 12:1-21.**

Reflect: God's great mercy is the motivation for dedicating our lives to God; serving and worshipping him. This means living a life of love and service together, by grace.

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to use my gifts to build up your Body. Amen."*

**October 11th - Romans 13:1-14.**

Reflect: Part of God's blessing of Creation is the gift of government. We Christians are to be good citizens, and a blessing to society as we live by and share Christ's love.

*Prayer: "Lord God, bless and guide our nation in justice and truth. Amen."*

**October 12th - Romans 14:1-23.**

Reflect: We have great freedom as Christians, but we must use that freedom in a loving way. Acceptance and mutual encouragement are to replace judging each other.

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, fill me with your accepting, caring, healing love. Amen."*

**October 13th - Romans 15:1-33.**

Reflect: The characteristics of Christian faith and living are: joy, peace, faith and hope - all by the power of the Holy Spirit. How well can others see these things in you?

*Prayer: "Lord, fill me with joy, peace, faith and hope, by the Spirit's power. Amen."*

**October 14th - Romans 16:1-27.**

Reflect: Paul greets the Christians he knew at Rome. He commends and encourages them in their faith. Who could you encourage in the faith this week? How?

*Prayer: "Lord, make me wise about the good and innocent about the evil. Amen."*

**October 15th - 1 Corinthians 1:1-31.**

Reflect: Our message is about Christ crucified. Although nonsense to some, it is the power of God to save those who believe in Jesus.

Let's keep our focus on this!

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to keep my focus what you did for me on the cross. Amen."*

**October 16th - 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.**

Reflect: Only the Holy Spirit can reveal to us the mind of God. By the Spirit (in the Bible) God has revealed his secret wisdom - his plan to save us through faith in Jesus.

*Prayer: "Fill me with your Spirit, Lord so I can know you and your salvation. Amen."*

**October 17th - 1 Corinthians 3:1-23.**

Reflect: We all have a role in God's Church, but only God can make it grow. This is a call for humility; trust; patient service; and faithful prayer that God will bring growth.

*Prayer: "Lord, make your Church grow. Use me to make it happen. Amen."*

**October 18th - 1 Corinthians 4:1-21.**

Reflect: The Christian's **real** riches, wisdom and strength are seen in the way Paul and his co-workers respond with Christ's grace to the worst life-experiences (verse 12).

*Prayer: "Lord, give me the grace to respond positively in the trials of life! Amen."*

**October 19th - 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.**

Reflect: The goal of correcting an erring fellow Christian ought to be to lead them to repentance. The Church has often failed to do this in a loving, non-judgmental way.

*Prayer: "Lord, give me the love and courage to warn those who are in error. Amen."*

**October 20th - 1 Corinthians 6:1-20.**

Reflect: When the Corinthians claimed, "All things are permissible" Paul countered that "not all things are beneficial." We are to be ruled by God, not by our desires!

*Prayer: "King Jesus, rule over my life and guide my footsteps in all things. Amen."*

**October 21st - 1 Corinthians 7:1-24.**

Reflect: Husbands and wives are to give of themselves to each other, living out the Christian ethic of mutual service in their marriage. It's a recipe for peace and joy!

*Prayer: "Lord, strengthen and bless me and those I am closest to. Amen."*

**October 22nd - 1 Corinthians 7:25-40.**

Reflect: Paul's attitude towards marriage was shaped by persecution and the belief that Christ would return very soon. Whatever decision is made, God is to be honoured.

*Prayer: "Heavenly Father, in all my life-choices, may I serve and honour you. Amen."*

**October 23rd - 1 Corinthians 8:1-13.**

Reflect: It's not how much you know that counts, but being known by God and living by his love. This love is what enriches our own lives and builds others up in the faith.

*Prayer: "Lord, may love guide and enrich all my relationships in your name. Amen."*

**October 24th - 1 Corinthians 9:1-27.**

Reflect: Christians shouldn't function on the basis of "rights" in their lives together, but rather we are to function on the basis of mutual love, service and self-sacrifice.

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to spend my life in the loving service of others. Amen."*

**October 25th - 1 Corinthians 10:1-33.**

Reflect: God will not let us be tempted beyond our strength to resist. However, that doesn't excuse us from the hard work of resisting the temptation as best we can!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, lead me not into temptation and save me from evil. Amen."*

**October 26th - 1 Corinthians 11:1-34.**

Reflect: Paul urges us to reflect in our community life together (worship and fellowship times) the same unity of faith and love we celebrate together in the Lord's Supper.

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to show your love towards others. Amen."*

**October 27th - 1 Corinthians 12:1-31.**

Reflect: The Spirit both brings us to faith (so we can say, "Jesus is Lord") and he enables us to live out that faith in Christ's Body (using our spiritual gifts in love).

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to use my spiritual gifts for the benefit of others. Amen."*

**October 28th - 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.**

Reflect: Read verses 4-7 again and replace the word "love" with "Jesus". Jesus is patient and kind etc! If we want to be able to love like this, we need to be full of Jesus!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, fill me with your presence and your love. Amen."*

**October 29th - 1 Corinthians 14:1-25.**

Reflect: Verses 1 and 12 summarise Paul's guidelines for the use of all spiritual gifts, including speaking in tongues: It is to be done **in love** and **to build up** the Church.

*Prayer: "Lord, thank you for the forgiveness and new life you bring. Amen."*

**October 30th - 1 Corinthians 14:26-40.**

Reflect: Worship is to be done decently and in an orderly way. Is a woman speaking (= prophesying) still "indecent" today? Also compare Paul's thoughts in 11:5 & 11:13.

*Prayer: "Lord, grant us wisdom as we re-think the role of women in worship. Amen."*

**October 31st - 1 Corinthians 15:1-34.**

Reflect: If Jesus didn't rise again at Easter then there's no point in us being Christians. But because Jesus **truly did** rise back to life, our faith is valid and we also will be raised!

*Prayer: "Risen Lord Jesus, I praise you for the new life you give me. Amen."*