

# Lutheran Church of Australia

## How to read the Bible

### November

## Read through the New Testament

Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer

□ Pastor Richard Haar

*Get Into It Any Way You Can!*

#### **November 1st - 1 Corinthians 15:35-58.**

Reflect: God will raise us back to life with a physical body (we will still be human - still "us") but we will be changed - we will have glorified, eternal bodies (v. 42-43).

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for your victory over death for me. Amen."*

#### **November 2nd - 1 Corinthians 16:1-24.**

Reflect: Paul gives us sound advice on Christian (financial) giving. It should be weekly (regular) and in proportion to our income (according to how God has blessed us).

*Prayer: "Lord, give me the grace to give faithfully and generously. Amen."*

#### **November 3rd - 2 Corinthians 1:1-24.**

Reflect: **God's** comfort and help to us in our struggles is a blessing **we** can pass on to others. It empowers us to care for others with compassion and understanding.

*Prayer: "Heavenly Father, may I show to others the care you show me. Amen."*

#### **November 4th - 2 Corinthians 2:1-17.**

Reflect: How should we deal with sin in Christian community? Paul gives us an example of loving honesty, a forgiving/compassionate heart, and a desire for healing.

*Prayer: "Lord, I often fail! Help me to be loving towards others who fail too. Amen."*

#### **November 5th - 2 Corinthians 3:1-18.**

Reflect: The Holy Spirit creates **life** (verse 6); **understanding** (verse 16); **freedom** (verse 17); and **sanctified lives** which are modelled on our Lord Jesus (verse 18).

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, fill me with your Spirit and make me more like*

*you. Amen."*

**November 6th - 2 Corinthians 4:1-18.**

Reflect: When witnessing and ministering to others, we need to keep our focus on Jesus (verse 5), for it is **his** ministry! Thus we won't lose heart (verses 1 & 7-9 & 16).

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to focus on you and to rely on you in all things. Amen."*

**November 7th - 2 Corinthians 5:1-21.**

Reflect: We live by faith, not by sight. We can not prove that our faith is true, but we **do** have the Holy Spirit as God's guarantee (encouragement) that he keeps his promises!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may I live no longer for myself but for you. Amen."*

**November 8th - 2 Corinthians 6:1-18.**

Reflect: Paul warns us not to receive God's grace in vain. Instead we should allow God's grace to shape our whole lives (just as grace determines our eternal destiny!)

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to trust in your grace and to allow it to shape my life. Amen."*

**November 9th - 2 Corinthians 7:1-16.**

Reflect: "Godly" (God inspired) sorrow regrets the sin and repents (changes). But "worldly" sorrow merely regrets the consequences of sin **without** wanting to change.

*Prayer: "Saviour, keep me close to you through daily repentance and faith. Amen."*

**November 10th - 2 Corinthians 8:1-24.**

Reflect: Paul commends and encourages these attitudes to Christian giving: Giving generously; thinking it a joy and privilege to give; and giving for Jesus' sake.

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to give generously, with faith and joy. Amen."*

**November 11th - 2 Corinthians 9:1-15.**

Reflect: Christian giving is to be from the heart, being motivated by joy and gratitude (motivated by the Gospel), rather than only giving when you are forced to give (motivated by the Law).

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, make me a cheerful giver. Amen."*

**November 12th - 2 Corinthians 10:1-18.**

Reflect: Where do you anchor your self-esteem? In your popularity or achievements? It's God's approval (**in Christ**) that counts the most! (Verses 17-18.)

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to accept myself because of your acceptance of me in Jesus. Amen."*

**November 13th - 2 Corinthians 11:1-15.**

Reflect: Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (as if he were from God). False teachers do the same. We need to judge everything by the message of Jesus, as taught in the Bible.

*Prayer: "Lord, guide me in the truth, your Word is truth! Amen."*

**November 14th - 2 Corinthians 11:16-33.**

Reflect: Paul establishes his authority as an apostle not by pointing to (boasting) about miracles and wonders, but by his willingness to suffer for the Gospel [see 12:9-10].

*Prayer: "Lord, give me humility; patience in suffering; and trust in you. Amen."*

**November 15th - 2 Corinthians 12:1-21.**

Reflect: Spiritual strength is found in dependence on God, not by the removal of human weaknesses. God is with us in our troubles - this is what will get us through!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to be confident that you will never let me down. Amen."*

**November 16th - 2 Corinthians 13:1-13.**

Reflect: When we have the **grace** of Christ, the **love** of God, and the **fellowship** (presence) of the Holy Spirit, what more do we need in this life or the next? Nothing!

*Prayer: "Lord, thank you for your grace, love and presence in my life. Amen."*

**November 17th - Galatians 1:1-24.**

Reflect: There is only one Gospel. To accept another "gospel" is to reject the message of Jesus and thus exclude yourself from the blessings of his salvation. Don't do it!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to always remain true and loyal to you. Amen."*

**November 18th - Galatians 2:1-21.** Reflect: Our relationship with God is not based on performance! It is based on **grace**! We are saved by faith in Jesus not by observing the law (trying to earn salvation).

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for your forgiving love, that saves me. Amen."*

**November 19th - Galatians 3:1-29.**

Reflect: The Law was put in charge of us until Christ came. Its purpose was not to save us (which it can't do) but to show us our need of salvation (something only Jesus' forgiveness can do!)

*Prayer: "Saviour Jesus, strengthen my faith in you. Amen."*

**November 20th - Galatians 4:1-31.**

Reflect: Jesus redeemed us from the law (paid its penalty) so that we

might become God's sons and daughters and by the Spirit be able to pray to God as our dear Father.

*Prayer: "Father God, thank you for making me your child through Jesus. Amen."*

**November 21st - Galatians 5:1-26.**

Reflect: The most important thing in Christian living is **faith** in Jesus Christ which is expressed in **love** toward other people: Shown specifically by the fruit of the Spirit (verses 22-26).

*Prayer: "Lord, strengthen my faith and increase my love. Amen."*

**November 22nd - Galatians 6:1-18.**

Reflect: We are called to mutual responsibility: We are to carry the burdens of others (verse 2). But this does **not** negate our responsibility for our own lives (verses 4-5).

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may I not grow weary of doing good in your name. Amen."*

**November 23rd - Ephesians 1:1-23.**

Reflect: When we are united to Christ in faith, we are share in all he did for us. We receive **every** spiritual blessing in Christ! What better reason for thanksgiving?!?

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, all thanks, and praise, and glory to you! Amen."*

**November 24th - Ephesians 2:1-22.**

Reflect: Our faith in a nutshell: We have been saved **by** grace, **through** faith, **because of** Christ, and **in order that** we might do good works (honour God and love others.)

*Prayer: "Merciful Lord, thank you for saving me by your forgiving love. Amen."*

**November 25th - Ephesians 3:1-21.**

Reflect: In and through Christ we can approach God with confidence. Forgiveness brings both freedom and confidence. In Christ, we discover the wonder of God's love.

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may I be full of you and your love. Amen."*

**November 26th - Ephesians 4:1-32.**

Reflect: Paul shows us what our community life as Christians ought to be like. The Body is to grow and be built up in love (Christ's love in us reaching out to others.)

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to live my life worthy of being part of your Body. Amen."*

**November 27th - Ephesians 5:1-33.**

Reflect: Jesus calls us to live by his love and values in society; in our congregation; and most of all in our family relationships. This love is most clearly shown in service.

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, give me a grateful heart which is willing to serve others. Amen."*

**November 28th - Ephesians 6:1-24.**

Reflect: Have you put on your full set of armour? We will not be able to "stand firm" without it! We also need to use the sword (God's Word) and the power of prayer!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, fill me with peace, love, faith and grace. Amen."*

**November 29th - Philippians 1:1-30.**

Reflect: Why not make Paul's prayer for the Philippians in verses 9-11 your own? Who else could you pray this prayer for? Who does verse 6 encourage you?

*Prayer: "Lord, thank you for all those who have helped me grow in faith. Amen."*

**November 30th - Philippians 2:1-30.** Reflect: Jesus humbly gave himself, suffered, and died to save you. Worship him! Confess that he is Lord! And ask him to give you the same spirit of love and service.

*Prayer: "Lord, you gave yourself for me, now I give myself to you and others! Amen."*