

Knowing & Enjoying Christ in 2007



Daily Readings & Studies for the Christian

Introduction

This manual is intended to be used by God's people for reading and study. It is comprised of 4 sections. The first is a daily reading schedule which if followed will take you through the whole Bible in one year. The second section is in the form of a question with the answer provided. This is the common catechism method for study and learning. The questions and answers follow the Westminster Shorter Catechism, but have been revised to reflect our understanding of baptism and some other minor points. It also has been modernized in language usage to make it easily understandable. The third section comprises the doctrinal content of the 1689 London Baptist Confession and the 1744 Philadelphia Confession of Faith. These are essentially the same document, the one reflecting the English and the other, the American Baptist Confession of Faith. The 1689 Confession of Faith is an outstanding document, very similar to the great Westminster Confession of Faith, differing again mainly in our view of baptism. The final section is the Bible Study section and can be used to study a portion of God's Word everyday.

The advantage that this manual has is to be seen in that it offers a variety of sections to be used. These may be used completely independent of each other or they may be combined with any of the others to give a deeper and richer study. A person can therefore do his or her daily reading only, or add one of the other sections, or add all the other sections.

As with all reading and study, the key to success is daily discipline. Most believers fail in any kind of study because they are quickly overwhelmed with either the volume required, or the intensity of thought required to understand the material. This manual provides for all believers at various stages of their Christian growth. All Christians should make it their goal to read at a minimum the Bible through once in a year. If this is not possible, then the time period should be extended to two or even three years. The questions and answers given in Section Two are the standard questions and answers required of every child for the last 300 years in Reformed Churches. The power of Section Two and also Section Three is that they can be reviewed on an ongoing basis. In fact both sections would provide a firm theological foundation for any Christian.

It is desired that all believers would make use of this manual in the church. This will promote recognition of doctrine when it is preached and also provides the elders a means whereby they can know what people are reading, studying and meditating on.

The manual is divided by the weeks of the year. This manual forms the first quarter of the year covering from January to March 2007. The remaining sections will be added as they become due. The title on the front cover is the theme of this manual. By using this manual it is our prayer that you would know and enjoy the Savior.

Soli Deo Gloria

The daily Bible Reading Program is designed by Russ Atmore along with the Bible Study Section. The Question and Answers Section and the Doctrinal Study section are derived from the Westminster Shorter Catechism and the London Baptist Confession of 1689 and the Philadelphia Confession of 1744. These have been modernized and adapted for easy reading by Russ Atmore.

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SECTION 1

By following the daily readings you will read through the Bible in one year.

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

1. The Bible should be read regularly to have the most benefit.
2. The Bible should be read prayerfully asking that God would bless His Word to mind and heart.
3. Find a location that remains consistent whenever you read.
4. Ask questions of the passage that you are reading. What does the passage say about God? What does it say about man and sin? What does it say about the Lord Jesus Christ? Does it apply to you only or is it broad in its application? Are there commandments to be obeyed?
5. Meditate on the Word of God – don't be in a rush to read. Take the time to think about God and what the Bible is saying to you.
6. Always look for and consider the context of what you are reading.
7. Share what you have read with your husband, wife, children or friends.
8. Seek to practice what Scripture teaches?
9. If possible, use a notebook and take notes. There may be words that you don't know the meaning of. Make a note of them so you can look them up later.

SECTIONS 2 & 3

These 2 sections are loaded with Scripture references. Make use of them in reading and studying these sections. There are only 2 questions with answers for each week, so the load is not heavy, and there are 3 parts to the Doctrinal section for each week. These may be studied together or separately depending on time available and preference.

SECTION 4

BIBLE STUDY

This manual begins with a study of the book of Proverbs and Titus during the first quarter. The proverbs are easy to read and very practical. Titus is a short pastoral book with great practical lessons also.

Daily Reading:

Jan. 1	Genesis 1, 2	Matthew 1
Jan. 2	Genesis 3, 4	Matthew 2
Jan. 3	Genesis 5, 6	Matthew 3
Jan. 4	Genesis 6, 8	Matthew 4
Jan. 5	Genesis 9, 10	Matthew 5
Jan. 6	Genesis 11, 12	Matthew 6

Questions & Answers:

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

ANS. The chief end of man is to glorify God, [a] and to enjoy God for ever. [b]

[a]. Ps. 86:9; Isa. 60:21; Rom. 11:36; I Cor. 6:20; 10:31; Rev. 4:11

[b]. Ps. 16:5-11; 144:15; Isa. 12:2; Luke 2:10; Phil. 4:4; Rev. 21:3-4

Q. 2. What rule or standard has God given to us so that we may know how to glorify and enjoy him?

ANS. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, [a] is the only rule that God has given to us in order for us to glorify and enjoy him. [b]

[a]. Matt. 19:4-5 with Gen. 2:24; Luke 24:27, 44; I Cor. 2:13; 14:37; II Pet. 1:20-21; 3:2, 15-16

[b]. Deut. 4:2; Ps. 19:7-11; Isa. 18:20; John 15:11; 20:30, 31; Acts 17:11; II Tim. 3:15-17; I John 1:4

Doctrinal Study:**Holy Scripture**

1. The Holy Scripture is the only and all sufficient, certain or inerrant, and infallible rule or standard of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience. The light of nature, and the works of creation and providence manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, yet they leave men inexcusable; they are not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and His will which is necessary unto salvation.

It has pleased God in his mercy and grace to reveal Himself and to make known His will to his church. In order to better preserve and spread the truth, and to ensure the establishment and comfort of the church against the corrupt nature of man, the malice of Satan, and the world, God has committed the revelation of Himself to writing.

This makes the Holy Scriptures absolutely necessary because God's former ways of revealing His will to His people has now ceased.

(2 Timothy 3:15-17; Isaiah 8:20; Luke 16:29, 31; Ephesians 2:20; Romans 1:19-21; Romans 2:14, 15; Psalms 19:1-3; Hebrews 1:1; Proverbs 22:19-21; Romans 15:4; 2 Peter 1:19, 20)

2. The Holy Scripture, or the Word of God written, consists only of the following list books known as the Old and New Testaments. These are the following:

THE OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, The Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

THE NEW TESTAMENT: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, The Acts of the Apostles, Paul's Epistle to the Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, To Titus, To Philemon, The Epistle to the Hebrews, Epistle of James, The first and second Epistles of Peter, The first, second, and third Epistles of John, The Epistle of Jude, The Revelation

All of these books which we call the Word of God (the Holy Bible) are given by the inspiration of God to be our only rule or standard for faith and life.

(2 Timothy 3:16)

3. The books which are known as the Apocrypha are not inspired by God, nor do they form part of the canon or rule of Scripture. Therefore, they are of no authority to and in the church of God and should only be viewed as the normal writings of men and women.

(Luke 24:27, 44; Romans 3:2)

Bible Study:

Proverbs 1- 3

1. The purpose of the book is expressed in Prov. 1:1 – 6. By considering these verses, what do you think or expect to gain from a study of the Proverbs? Is it possible to be a wise or foolish person, and if so, in what way can we be wise or foolish?

2. In Proverbs 2 and 3, how can a person become wise (get wisdom)? Can you outline the directions in these chapters that will help you become wise?

3. Does wisdom protect us, and if it does, what does it protect us from? Can you identify where you have failed or succeeded?

Daily Reading:

Jan. 7	Genesis 13, 14	Matthew 7
Jan. 8	Genesis 15, 16	Matthew 8
Jan. 9	Genesis 17, 18	Matthew 9
Jan. 10	Genesis 19, 20	Matthew 10
Jan. 11	Genesis 21, 22	Matthew 11
Jan. 12	Genesis 23, 24	Matthew 12
Jan. 13	Genesis 25, 26	Matthew 13

Questions & Answers:**Q. 3. What do the Scriptures primarily teach?**

ANS. The Scriptures teach what we are to believe concerning God, [a] and what duty God requires of us [b].

[a]. Gen. 1:1; John 5:39; 20:31; Rom. 10:17; II Tim. 3:15

[b]. Deut. 10:12-13; Josh. 1:8; Ps. 119:105; Mic. 6:8; II Tim. 3:16-17

Q. 4. Who or What is God?

ANS. God is a Spirit [a], infinite [b], eternal [c], and unchangeable [d] in his being [e], wisdom [f], power [g], holiness [h], justice [i], goodness [j], and truth [k].

[a]. Deut. 4:15-19; Luke 24:39; John 1:18; 4:24; Acts 17:29

[b]. I Kings 8:27; Ps. 139:7-10; 145:3; 147:5; Jer. 23:24; Rom. 11:33-36

[c]. Deut. 33:27; Ps. 90:2; 102:12, 24-27; Rev. 1:4, 8

[d]. Ps. 33:11; Mal. 3:6; Heb. 1:12; 6:17-18; 13:8; Jas. 1:17

[e]. Ex. 3:14; Ps. 115:2-3; I Tim. 1:17; 6:15-16

[f]. Ps. 104:24; Rom. 11:33, 34; Heb. 4:13; I John 3:20

[g]. Gen. 17:1; Ps. 62:11; Jer. 32:17; Mat. 19:26; Rev. 1:8

[h]. Heb. 1:13; I Pet. 1:15, 16; I John 3:3, 5; Rev. 15:4

[i]. Gen. 18:25; Ex. 34:6, 7; Deut. 32:4; Ps. 96:13; Rom. 3:5, 26

[j]. Ps. 103:5; 107:8; Matt. 19:17; Rom. 2:4

[k]. Ex. 34:6; Deut. 32:4; Ps. 86:15; 117:2; Heb. 6:18

Doctrinal Study:**Holy Scripture**

4. The authority of Holy Scripture does not depend upon the testimony of any man or church, but completely upon God (who is truth itself), its only author; The Bible is to be received because it is the Word of God.

(2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 John 5:9)

5. We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the church of God to an high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scriptures; to the heavenliness of its content, the efficacy of its doctrine, and the majesty of its style, the agreement between all its parts, the scope of all of Scripture which is to give all glory to God, the most complete revelation that it makes of the only way by which man can be saved, and many other incomparable excellencies and perfections, are the arguments that Scripture abundantly gives as evidence of itself to be the Word of God; yet in view of this, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth, and divine authority of this Scripture, is only from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word of God in our hearts.

(John 16:13,14; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12; 1 John 2:20, 27)

6. The complete revelation of God concerning all things essential for his own glory, for man's salvation, faith and life, is both expressly set down and necessarily contained in the Holy Scripture: To this nothing may be added at any time, whether by new revelation of the Spirit, or traditions of men. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word, and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the church, common to human practice, which are to be ordered by the light of nature and Christian common sense, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed and never departed from.

(2 Timothy 3:15-17; Galatians 1:8, 9; John 6:45; 1 Corinthians 2:9-12; 1 Corinthians 11:13, 14; 1 Corinthians 14:26, 40)

Bible Study:

Proverbs 4 – 6

1. Look for the main lessons found in these chapters. Can you develop better ways to heed the counsel offered?
2. Righteous living is successful living. Notice Prov. 4:23 – 27. What directions are provided regarding our hearts, lips, eyes and feet? (compare also 4:18)
3. Chapter 5 provides directions for sexual purity. Does God observe our sexual actions? (compare 5:21). How can you improve in this area of your life? Meditate on Proverbs 6:20 – 35.
4. We are bombarded with financial advice, but what does Proverbs 6 say about debt?

Daily Reading:

Jan. 14	Genesis 27, 28	Matthew 14
Jan. 15	Genesis 29, 30	Matthew 15
Jan. 16	Genesis 31, 32	Matthew 16
Jan. 17	Genesis 33, 34	Matthew 17
Jan. 18	Genesis 35, 36	Matthew 18
Jan. 19	Genesis 37, 38	Matthew 19
Jan. 20	Genesis 39, 40	Matthew 20

Questions & Answers:**Q. 5. How many Gods are there?**

ANS. There is only one God [a], the living and true God [b].

[a]. Deut. 6:4; Isa. 44:6; 45:21-22; I Cor. 8:4-6

[b]. Jer. 10:10; John 17:3; I Thess. 1:9; I John 5:20

Q. 6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

ANS. There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit [a]; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. [b]

[a]. Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; I Pet. 1:2

[b]. Ps. 45:6; John 1:1; 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9; Jude 24-25

Doctrinal Study:**Holy Scripture**

7. Not everything in Scripture is absolutely clear to all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed and observed for salvation, are so clearly set forth and opened in the Holy Scripture that not only the educated, but the uneducated, not only young or old, may attain to sufficient understanding of them.

(2 Peter 3:16; Psalms 19:7; Psalms 119:130)

8. The Old Testament in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek (which were the original languages at the time of the writing), were inspired by God, at first hand, and by his singular care and providence has been kept pure in all ages, and is therefore authentic; so in all controversies of religion, the church is finally to appeal to them. But because these original languages are not known to all people, who have a right (and by the grace of God) interest in the Scriptures, and who are commanded in the fear of God to read and search them, they should be translated into the common languages of every nation, so that the Word of God and the knowledge of God may become known

to all, in order that they may worship God in an acceptable manner, and through patience and comfort of the Scriptures have hope.

(Romans 3:2; Isaiah 8:20; Acts 15:15; John 5:39; 1 Corinthians 14:6, 9, 11, 12, 24, 28; Colossians 3:16)

9. The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself; and therefore when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture, it must be searched in other passages that speak more clearly. Scripture must be compared with Scripture.

(2 Peter 1:20, 21; Acts 15:15, 16)

Bible Study

Proverbs 7 – 9

1. How should men and women behave among themselves? Is flirting acceptable Christian behavior and where does it or can it lead? How can a husband and wife take delight in each other for the glory of God?
2. What are some of the benefits of wisdom in Proverbs 8 & 9 when compared with Proverbs 7?
3. Who or what is wisdom? (compare 8:22 – 31; see also Matt. 11:29; Luke 11:28; John 14:21)
4. Who or what is Folly in 9:13 – 18?

Daily Reading:

Jan. 21	Genesis 41, 42	Matthew 21
Jan. 22	Genesis 43, 44	Matthew 22
Jan. 23	Genesis 45, 46	Matthew 23
Jan. 24	Genesis 47, 48	Matthew 24
Jan. 25	Genesis 49, 50	Matthew 25
Jan. 26	Job 1, 2	Matthew 26
Jan. 27	Job 3, 4	Matthew 27

Questions & Answers:**Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?**

ANS. The decrees of God are, His eternal purpose, according to the counsel of His holy will, whereby, for His own glory, God has foreordained whatever comes to pass [a].

[a]. Ps. 33:11; Isa. 14:24; Acts 2:23; Eph. 1:11-12

Q. 8. How does God execute his decrees?

ANS. God executes His decrees in the works of creation and providence [a].

[a]. Ps. 148:8; Isa. 40:26; Dan. 4:35; Acts 4:24-28; Rev. 4:11

Doctrinal Study:**Holy Scripture**

10. The supreme judge, by which all religious controversies are to be determined and resolved, by which all decrees of councils, all opinions of ancient writers, all doctrines of men, collectively and privately, are to be either accepted or rejected according to the verdict of the Holy Scripture given to us by the Holy Spirit. When this occurs, our faith is settled.

(Matthew 22:29, 31, 32; Ephesians 2:20; Acts 28:23)

The Holy Trinity

1. There is only one living and true God. He is self-existent and infinite in His being and perfections. His essence cannot be comprehended by any person except Himself. He is a most pure spirit, invisible, without body parts, or the changeable feelings of men. He alone has immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto. He is immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, infinite, most holy, most wise, most free, and most absolute. He works all things according to the counsel of His own immutable and righteous will for His own glory. He is completely loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, and He rewards those who diligently seek him. He is also completely just and terrible in his judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.

(1 Corinthians 8:4, 6; Deuteronomy 6:4; Jeremiah 10:10; Isaiah 48:12; Exodus 3:14; John 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17; Deuteronomy 4:15, 16; Malachi 3:6; 1 Kings 8:27; Jeremiah 23:23; Psalms 90:2; Genesis 17:1; Isaiah 6:3; Psalms 115:3; Isaiah 46:10; Proverbs 16:4; Romans 11:36; Exodus 34:6, 7; Hebrews 11:6; Nehemiah 9:32, 33; Psalms 5:5, 6; Exodus 34:7; Nahum 1:2, 3)

2. God, who has all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of Himself, is all-sufficient. He does not need anything from any creature which He has made, nor does He derive any glory from them, but only manifesting his own glory in, by, unto, and upon them. He alone is the fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things, and He alone has complete and total sovereign dominion over all creatures, to do to them, for them, or upon them, whatever pleases Him. In His sight all things are open and revealed. His knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent of all creatures. There is nothing contingent or uncertain to God. He alone is holy in all His counsels, in all His works, and in all His commands. To God alone, is due from all angels and men, whatever worship, service, or obedience, as creatures they owe to Him as their Creator, and whatever He is further pleased to require of them.

(John 5:26; Psalms 148:13; Psalms 119:68; Job 22:2, 3; Romans 11:34-36; Daniel 4:25, 34, 35; Hebrews 4:13; Ezekiel 11:5; Acts 15:18; Psalms 145:17; Revelation 5:12-14)

Bible Study

Proverbs 10 – 12

1. Identify the four conditions of well-being in 10:2 – 6.
2. Notice all the contrasts in Proverbs 10, 11, 12. Try and memorize a few of them and meditate on them regularly.
3. What advantages are there to speaking the truth?

WEEK 5

January 28 – February 3

Daily Reading:

Jan. 28	Job 5, 6	Matthew 28
Jan. 29	Job 7, 8	Mark 1
Jan. 30	Job 8, 10	Mark 2
Jan. 31	Job 11, 12	Mark 3
Feb. 1	Job 13, 14	Mark 4
Feb. 2	Job 15, 16	Mark 5
Feb. 3	Job 17, 18	Mark 6

Questions & Answers:

Q. 9. What is the work of creation?

ANS. The work of creation is, God's making all things out of nothing (ex nihilo), by the word of his power [a], in the space of six days, with everything being very good. [b]

[a]. Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6, 9; Heb. 11:3

[b]. Gen. 1:31

Q. 10. How did God create man?

ANS. God created man male and female, in His own image [a], in knowledge [b], righteousness, and holiness [c], with dominion over the other creatures that God has made [d].

[a]. Gen. 1:27

[b]. Col. 3:10

[c]. Eph. 4:24

[d]. Gen. 1:28; see Ps. 8

Doctrinal Study:

The Holy Trinity

3. There are three Persons in the Godhead - the Father, the Son (or Word), and Holy Spirit. They are one in substance, power, and eternity. Each is fully God, and yet the Godhead is undivided and one. The Father owes His being to none. The eternal Son is eternally begotten of the Father. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. All are infinite, without beginning, being therefore one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being, but distinguished by their personal relations within the Godhead. Their tri-unity, (the doctrine of the Trinity) is the foundation of all our communion with God, and the comfort we receive in our dependence upon Him.

(1 John 5:7; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Exodus 3:14; John 14:11; 1 Corinthians 8:6; John 1:14,18; John 15:26; Galatians 4:6)

The Decrees of God

1. God has decreed from all eternity, all that shall occur in time and He did this by His most wise and holy will. He did this freely and unchangeably. All things therefore and whatever comes to pass is from God. However, God is not the author of sin nor does He share responsibility for sin with sinners. God never commits violence against the will of man by His Sovereign decrees. God establishes all second causes and these do not impinge on the will of man, but rather man's will performs what God has established from eternity. Man does this freely and without coercion from God. God accomplishes His purpose through the means He has established. This displays the power and wisdom of God

(Isaiah 46:10; Ephesians 1:11; Hebrews 6:17; Romans 9:15, 18; James 1:13; 1 John 1:5; Acts 4:27, 28; John 19:11; Numbers 23:19; Ephesians 1:3-5)

2. Although God knows everything that may or can come to pass, under all supposed conditions, yet He has not decreed anything because He foresaw it as future, or as that which would come to pass under such conditions. Foreknowledge is not foresight with God but rather intimate knowledge.

(Acts 15:18; Romans 9:11, 13, 16, 18)

Bible Study

Proverbs 13 – 15

1. What will happen to the righteous and the wicked as a result of their way of life?
2. Look at all the passages about being foolish or “what folly does.” What must we avoid to be wise Christians?
3. Proverbs 15 offers some sage advice about our speech? Are you an angry person whose words display your anger? How can you learn to speak and live in the fear of the Lord?

Daily Reading:

Feb. 4	Job 19, 20	Mark 7
Feb. 5	Job 21, 22	Mark 8
Feb. 6	Job 23, 24	Mark 9
Feb. 7	Job 25, 26	Mark 10
Feb. 8	Job 27, 28	Mark 11
Feb. 9	Job 29, 30	Mark 12
Feb. 10	Job 31, 32	Mark 13

Questions & Answers:**Q. 11. What are God's works of providence?**

ANS. God's works of providence are, his most holy [a], wise [b], and powerful [c] preserving [d] and governing [e] of all his creatures, and all their actions [f].

[a]. Ps. 145:17

[b]. Ps. 104:24

[c]. Heb. 1:3

[d]. Neh. 9:6

[e]. Eph. 1:19-22

[f]. Ps. 36:6; Prov. 16:33; Matt. 10:30

Q. 12. What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the estate wherein he was created?

ANS. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death. [a]

[a]. Gen. 2:16-17; Jas. 2:10

Doctrinal Study:**The Decrees of God**

3. By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestined, or foreordained to eternal life through Jesus Christ, to the praise of His glorious grace, and others are left to act in their sin to their just condemnation. This is all done for the glory of God and manifests His love and justice.

(1 Timothy 5:21; Matthew 25:34; Ephesians 1:5, 6; Romans 9:22, 23; Jude 4)

4. These angels and men who predestined and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designated, and their number is so certain and definite, that it cannot be either increased or diminished.

(2 Timothy 2:19; John 13:18)

5. Those whom God has predestined to life, He has also from before the foundation of the world, according to His eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, chosen in Christ unto everlasting glory. This is simply out of His free grace and love, without any other thing in the creature as a condition or cause moving him to act in this way.

(Ephesians 1:4, 9, 11; Romans 8:30; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; Romans 9:13, 16; Ephesians 2:5, 12)

Bible Study

Proverbs 16 – 18

1. What does Proverbs 16:4 mean to you and how do you apply it when things go wrong in your life? Where does suffering fit in the Christian life?
2. How can Christian friends help each other in the light of Proverbs 17?
3. Compare the “strong tower or fortress” in Proverbs 18:10 with the “strong city” of verse 11. Meditate on John 10:27, 28 & Luke 12:15 – 21.

Daily Reading:

Feb. 11	Job 33, 34	Mark 14
Feb. 12	Job 35, 36	Mark 15
Feb. 13	Job 37, 38	Mark 16
Feb. 14	Job 39, 40	Romans 1
Feb. 15	Job 41, 42	Romans 2
Feb. 16	Exodus 1, 2	Romans 3
Feb. 17	Exodus 3, 4	Romans 4

Questions & Answers:

Q. 13. Did our Adam and Eve, as our first parents continue in the state in which they were created?

ANS. Both Adam and Eve, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the state in which they were created, by sinning against God [a].

[a]. Gen. 3:6-8, 13; II Cor. 11:3

Q. 14. What is sin?

ANS. Sin is any lack or want of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of God. Sin is lawlessness.[a].

[a]. Lev. 5:17; Jas. 4:17; I John 3:4

Doctrinal Study:**The Decrees of God**

6. God has appointed the elect (those predestined, foreknown and foreordained) unto glory. He has therefore, by His free and eternal purpose, foreordained all the necessary means in order for them, though fallen and ruined in Adam, to be redeemed by Christ, to be effectually called to faith in Christ, by the Sovereign working of the Holy Spirit. These only are thus justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by his power through faith unto salvation.

(1 Peter 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:9, 10; Romans 8:30; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:5; John 10:26; John 17:9; John 6:64)

7. The doctrine of the high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special care, so that men may be directed to the will of God as revealed in his Word, and therefore, yield obedience to it. They also may know for certain their effectual calling, and be assured of their eternal election, so that this doctrine will be the means of praising God, giving Him due reverence and admiration, and the means of promoting humility, diligence, and abundant consolation to all who sincerely obey the gospel.

(1 Thessalonians 1:4, 5; 2 Peter 1:10; Ephesians 1:6; Romans 11:33; Romans 11:5, 6, 20; Luke 10:20)

Creation

1. In the beginning, it pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, to create the world, and everything in it, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, with everything being very good.

(John 1:2, 3; Hebrews 1:2; Job 26:13; Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16; Genesis 1:31)

Bible Study

Proverbs 19 – 21

1. Identify the warnings in Proverbs 19. Can you change some area of your life to correct what this chapter speaks against?
2. What must you avoid in Proverbs 20:17 – 25?
3. How can you do that which is righteous in a practical way from Proverbs 21?

Daily Reading:

Feb. 18	Exodus 5, 6	Romans 5
Feb. 19	Exodus 7, 8	Romans 6
Feb. 20	Exodus 9, 10	Romans 7
Feb. 21	Exodus 11, 12	Romans 8
Feb. 22	Exodus 13, 14	Romans 9
Feb. 23	Exodus 15, 16	Romans 10
Feb. 24	Exodus 17, 18	Romans 11

Questions & Answers:

Q. 15. What was the sin of our first parents by which they fell from the state in which they were created?

ANS. The sin by which our first parents fell was their eating the forbidden fruit [a].

[a]. Gen. 3:6

Q. 16. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?

ANS. The covenant of life made with Adam, [a] was not only for himself, but for all his descendents, descending from him by ordinary generation. They sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression [b].

[a]. Gen. 2:16-17; Jas. 2:10

[b]. Rom. 5:12-21; I Cor. 15:22

Doctrinal Study:**Creation**

2. After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female, with rational and immortal souls, rendering them fit for that life to God for which they were created. They were made in the image of God, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, having the law of God written in their hearts, and the power to keep it, yet at the same time, they were under a possibility of transgressing God's law and were, thus left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject to change.

(Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:7; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 1:26; Romans 2:14, 15; Genesis 3:6)

3. In addition to the law written in their hearts, they received a command not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which whilst they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.

(Genesis 2:17; Genesis 1:26, 28)

The Providence of God

1. God, as the good Creator of all things, does according to his infinite power and wisdom uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, to the end for the which they were created, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will. This is to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, infinite goodness, and mercy.

(Hebrews 1:3; Job 38:11; Isaiah 46:10, 11; Psalms 135:6; Matthew 10:29-31; Ephesians 1:11)

Bible Study

Proverbs 22 – 24

1. How can you receive the Word of God and how can you apply Proverbs 22:17 – 21 when you listen to a sermon or reading the Bible?
2. What are the effects of drinking too much? How can a Christian be self-controlled in eating food and drinking alcohol? Does the New Testament say anything about these areas of our lives?
3. Can a wise person learn from a foolish person? If so, how? (compare Proverbs 24:23 – 34)

Daily Reading:

Feb. 25	Exodus 19, 20	Romans 12
Feb. 26	Exodus 21, 22	Romans 13
Feb. 27	Exodus 23, 24	Romans 14
Feb. 28	Exodus 25, 26	Romans 15
Mar. 1	Exodus 27, 28	Romans 16
Mar. 2	Exodus 29, 30	Luke 1
Mar. 3	Exodus 31, 32	Luke 2

Questions & Answers:**Q. 17. What happened when Adam and Eve sinned?**

ANS. The fall brought all men into a state of sin and misery [a].

[a]. Gen. 3:16-19, 23; Rom. 3:16; 5:12; Eph. 2:1

Q. 18. What does this state consist into man fell?

ANS. The state into man fell consists of the guilt of Adam's first sin [a], the lack of original righteousness [b], and the corruption of his whole nature [c], which is commonly called original sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it [d].

[a]. Rom. 5:12, 19

[b]. Rom. 3:10; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24

[c]. Ps. 51:5; John 3:6; Rom. 3:18; 8:7-8; Eph. 2:3

[d]. Gen. 6:5; Ps. 53:1-3; Matt. 15:19; Rom. 3:10-18, 23; Gal. 5:19-21; Jas. 1:14-15

Doctrinal Study:**The Providence of God**

2. Although in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, the first cause, all things come to pass immutably and infallibly; so that nothing happens by chance, or without God's providence; yet by the same providence He orders all things to happen according to the nature of second causes, either necessarily, freely, or contingently.

(Acts 2:23; Proverbs 16:33; Genesis 8:22)

3. God, in his gracious providence makes use of means, yet He is free to work without, above, and against them at His pleasure (Miracles occur in this way).

(Acts 27:31, 44; Isaiah 55:10, 11; Hosea 1:7; Romans 4:19-21; Daniel 3:27)

4. The almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and infinite goodness of God, does reveal itself in His providence, so that his determined counsel extends even to the first fall, and all other sinful actions

both of angels and men. It is not that He only gives His bare permission, but in a variety of ways, He wisely and powerfully limits, orders and governs sinful actions, so that they accomplish His holy will. The sinfulness of such actions only comes from the creatures and not from God, because He is absolutely holy and righteous, neither is nor can God be the author or approver of sin.

(Romans 11:32-34; 2 Samuel 24:1, 1 Chronicles 21:1; 2 Kings 19:28; Psalms 76;10; Genesis 1:20; Isaiah 10:6, 7, 12; Psalms 1:21; 1 John 2:16)

Bible Study

Proverbs 25 – 27

1. Are there different kinds of bad speech in Proverbs 26:18 – 27? How can you avoid them?
2. Who or what is a “fool?” Compare what Jesus said in Matthew 7:26; 23:17; 25:2; Luke 11:40; 12:20; 24:25.
3. What is the reward of diligence in Proverbs 27?

Daily Reading:

Mar. 4	Exodus 33, 34	Luke 3
Mar. 5	Exodus 35, 36	Luke 4
Mar. 6	Exodus 37, 38	Luke 5
Mar. 7	Exodus 39, 40	Luke 6
Mar. 8	Ezra 1, 2	Luke 7
Mar. 9	Ezra 3, 4	Luke 8
Mar. 10	Ezra 5, 6	Luke 9

Questions & Answers:**Q. 19. What is the misery of that state into which man fell?**

ANS. All mankind by their fall lost communion with God [a], are under His wrath [b] and curse [c], and thus are liable to all miseries in this life [d], to death [e] itself, and to the pains of hell for ever [f].

[a]. Gen. 3:8, 24; John 8:34, 42, 44; Eph. 2:12; 4:18

[b]. John 3:36; Rom. 1:18; Eph. 2:3; 5:6

[c]. Gal. 3:10; Rev. 22:3

[d]. Gen. 3:16-19; Job 5:7; Eccl. 2:22-23; Rom. 8:18-23

[e]. Ezek. 18:4; Rom. 5:12; 6:23

[f]. Matt. 25:41, 46; II Thess. 1:9; Rev. 14:9-11

Q. 20. Did God leave all mankind to perish in this state of sin and misery?

ANS. God did out of His mere good pleasure, from all eternity, did elect some to everlasting life, [a] and did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of their state of sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a Redeemer [b].

[a]. Acts 13:48; Eph. 1:4-5; II Thess. 2:13-14

[b]. Gen. 3:15; 17:7; Ex. 19:5-6; Jer. 31:31-34; Matt. 20:28; I Cor. 11:25; Heb. 9:15

Doctrinal Study:**The Providence of God**

5. God being completely wise, righteous, and gracious does oftentimes leave for a season His own children to many temptations and the corruptions of their own hearts, to chastise them for their former sins, or to reveal to them the hidden strength of the corruption and deceitfulness of their hearts, so that they may be humbled. He does this in order to bring them to a closer and constant dependence for their support upon Himself, thus making them more watchful against all future occasions of sin. Whatever befalls His elect is by His appointment, for His glory, and their good. **(2 Chronicles 32:25, 26, 31; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9; Romans 8:28)**

6. As for those wicked and ungodly men whom God, as the righteous judge, for former sin does blind and harden, from them He withholds His grace, lest they might be enlightened in their understanding, and their hearts exercised. Sometimes God also withdraws the gifts which they had, and exposes them to their own corruption by which they sin. God thus gives them over to their own lusts, to the temptations of the world, and the power of Satan, by which it comes to pass that they harden themselves, under those means which God uses for the softening of others.

(Romans 1:24-26, 28; Romans 11:7, 8; Deuteronomy 29:4; Matthew 13:12; Deuteronomy 2:30; 2 Kings 8:12, 13; Psalms 81:11, 12; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; Exodus 8:15, 32; Isaiah 6:9, 10; 1 Peter 2:7, 8)

7. The providence of God reaches to all creatures. In a special manner God takes care of His church, and disposes of all things for their good.

(1 Timothy 4:10; Amos 9:8, 9; Isaiah 43:3-5)

Bible Study

Proverbs 28 – 30

1. Identify differences between the character and conduct of the righteous and the wicked.
2. What is your attitude towards poor people? How do you respond to poor people when you are in church? Is there a difference between when you are in church and when you are about your daily work?
3. How can we soften our hearts? Refer to Proverbs 28:14.

Daily Reading:

Mar. 11	Ezra 7, 8	Luke 3
Mar. 12	Ezra 9, 10	Luke 4
Mar. 13	Nehemiah 11, 12	Luke 5
Mar. 14	Nehemiah 13, 14	Luke 6
Mar. 15	Nehemiah 5, 6	Luke 7
Mar. 16	Nehemiah 7, 8	Luke 8
Mar. 17	Nehemiah 9, 10	Luke 9

Questions & Answers:**Q. 21. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?**

ANS. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ [a], who, being the eternal Son of God [b], became man [c] and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever [d].

[a]. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; I Tim. 2:5-6

[b]. Ps. 2:7; Matt. 3:17; 17:5; John 1:18

[c]. Isa. 9:6; Matt. 1:23; John 1:14; Gal. 4:4

[d]. Acts 1:11; Heb. 7:24-25

Q. 22. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

ANS. Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a rational soul [a], was conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, and was born of her [b] yet without sin [c].

[a]. Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14, 17

[b]. Luke 1:27, 31, 35

[c]. II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 7:26; I John 3:5

Doctrinal Study:**The Fall of Man & Sin**

1. Although God created man upright and perfect, and gave him a righteous law, which would have given him life had he kept it, and which threatened death upon the breaking of His law, Satan using the subtlety of the serpent deceived Eve, who in turn seduced Adam, who, without any compulsion, willfully transgressed the law of their creation, and the command given to them by God, by eating the forbidden fruit. God was pleased, according to His wise and holy counsel to permit Adam and Eve to do this, having purposed it for his own glory.

(Genesis 2:16, 17; Genesis 3:12, 13; 2 Corinthians 11:3)

2. Our first parents, by this sin, fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and we in them, so that death came upon all men. We are all therefore dead in sin, and totally defiled in all the faculties and parts of our souls and bodies.

(Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12, etc; Titus 1:15; Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-19)

3. Adam, being the root, and by God's appointment, stood in our room and stead. The guilt of his sin was imputed to us, and his corrupt nature conveyed to all his posterity, who are now conceived in sin, and by nature children of wrath, the servants of sin, the subjects of death, and all other miseries, spiritual, temporal, and eternal, unless the Lord Jesus sets them free.

(Romans 5:12-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21, 22, 45, 49; Psalms 51:5; Job 14:4; Ephesians 2:3; Romans 6:20 Romans 5:12; Hebrews 2:14, 15; 1 Thessalonians 1:10)

Bible Study

Proverbs 31

1. King Lemuel's mother urged her son to consider three very important virtues. What are they? (see 31: 1 - 9)
2. List all the characteristics of the godly woman in this chapter.
3. If a man were looking for a wife, what three characteristics would you say he ought to look for in a woman?

Daily Reading:

Mar. 18	Nehemiah 11, 12	Luke 10
Mar. 19	Nehemiah 13	Luke 11
Mar. 20	Leviticus 1, 2	Luke 12
Mar. 21	Leviticus 3, 4	Luke 13
Mar. 22	Leviticus 4, 5	Luke 14
Mar. 23	Leviticus 6, 7	Luke 15
Mar. 24	Leviticus 8, 9	Luke 16

Questions & Answers:**Q. 23. What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?**

ANS. Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet [a], priest [b], and king [c], both in his states of humiliation and exaltation.

[a]. Deut. 18:18; Acts 2:33; 3:22-23; Heb. 1:1-2

[b]. Heb. 4:14-15; 5:5-6

[c]. Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33; John 18:37; I Cor. 15:25

Q. 24. How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?

ANS. Christ executes the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word [a] and Spirit [b,] the will of God for our salvation [c].

[a]. Luke 4:18-19, 21; Acts 1:1-2; Heb. 2:3

[b]. John 15:26-27; Acts 1:8; I Pet. 1:11

[c]. John 4:41-42; 20:30-31

Doctrinal Study:**The Fall of Man & Sin**

4. It is from this original corruption, by which we all are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, that all actual transgressions proceed. (Romans 8:7; Colossians 1:21; James 1:14, 15; Matthew 15:19)

5. The corruption of nature, during this life, remains in those that are regenerated. By reason of this corruption, all men become completely inclined to all evil. Sin disables them and they become utterly indisposed to and the opposite of all that is good.

(Romans 7:18, 23; Ecclesiastes 7:20; 1 John 1:8; Romans 7:23-25; Galatians 5:17)

God's Covenant

1. The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable men owe obedience to God as their Creator, yet they can never attain the reward of life. It is only due to some voluntary condescension on God's part, that God has been pleased to reveal to man by making a covenant of grace.

(Luke 17:10; Job 35:7, 8)

Bible Study

Titus 1 – 2

1. What did God promise before the world began? (compare Titus 1:1 – 4)
2. Look at the list of characteristics mentioned in 1:10 – 16. How does a person who says they are a Christian deny God?
3. Who must be able to teach sound doctrine and why?
4. Identify the different groups of people mentioned in Titus 2:1 -10. (Compare verses 1 and 10).
5. What does it mean to wait for the blessed hope and what is the blessed hope? (Titus 2:11 – 14)

Daily Reading:

Mar. 25	Leviticus 10, 11	Luke 10
Mar. 26	Leviticus 12, 13	Luke 11
Mar. 27	Leviticus 14, 15	Luke 12
Mar. 28	Leviticus 16, 17	Luke 13
Mar. 29	Leviticus 18, 19	Luke 14
Mar. 30	Leviticus 20, 21	Luke 15
Mar. 31	Leviticus 22, 23	Luke 16

Questions & Answers:**Q. 25. How does Christ execute the office of a priest?**

ANS. Christ executes the office of a priest, by His offering up of Himself a once for all sacrifice to satisfy divine justice [a], and reconcile us to God [b]; and in making continual intercession for us [c].

[a]. Isa. 53; Acts 8:32-35; Heb. 9:26-28; 10:12

[b]. Rom. 5:10-11; II Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:21-22

[c]. Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24

Q. 26. How does Christ execute the office of a king?

ANS. Christ executes the office of a king, by subduing us to Himself, by ruling and defending us [a], and by restraining and conquering all His and our enemies [b].

[a]. Ps. 110:3; Matt. 28:18-20; John 17:2; Col. 1:13

[b]. Ps. 2:6-9; 110:1-2; Matt. 12:28; I Cor. 15:24-26; Col. 2:15

Doctrinal Study:**God's Covenant**

2. Since man has brought himself under the curse of the law by his fall, it has pleased the Lord to make a covenant of grace, by which he freely offers to sinners life and salvation in Jesus Christ. God requires of them faith in Him, so that they may be saved. He promises to give to all those that are ordained to eternal life, His gracious Holy Spirit, so as to make them willing and able to believe. Unless God does this, man will not and cannot believe.

(Genesis 2:17; Galatians 3:10; Romans 3:20, 21; Romans 8:3; Mark 16:15, 16; John 3:16; Ezekiel 36:26, 27; John 6:44, 45; Psalms 110:3)

3. The covenant of grace is revealed in the gospel. It is revealed to Adam in the promise of salvation by the seed of the woman, coming to fruition in the New Testament, and it is founded upon that eternal covenant transaction that was between the Father and the Son about the redemption of the elect. It is by the grace of this covenant that all the posterity of fallen Adam, are saved and attain life

and blessed immortality. At present, all men are utterly incapable of accepting God upon those terms on which Adam stood in his state of innocence, before he fell into sin.

(Genesis 3:15; Hebrews 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 11:6, 13; Romans 4:1, 2, &c.; Acts 4:12; John 8:56)

Jesus Christ As Our Mediator

1. It has pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them both in eternity, to be the mediator between God and man, to be prophet, priest, and king, to be the Head and Savior of the church, to be the heir of all things, and the judge of the world. It has also pleased God to give to the Son from all eternity a people to be His seed and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

(Isaiah 42:1; 1 Peter 1:19, 20; Acts 3:22; Hebrews 5:5, 6; Psalms 2:6; Luke 1:33; Ephesians 1:22, 23; Hebrews 1:2; Acts 17:31; Isaiah 53:10; John 17:6; Romans 8:30)

Bible Study

Titus 3

1. How should Christians behave before civil authorities? Do Christians have any rights?
2. Where does our salvation come from and how are we saved in Titus 3: 4 – 7? Compare this with Titus 2:11 – 14?
3. How must the church deal with a divisive person?