

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE FOR NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 4, 2011

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2011 Read Acts 24:1-26:32

Paul's arrest didn't disrupt the Lord's plan for Paul's life; it furthered the ministry God had entrusted to Paul. As you read, think about "detours" in your own life, detours you'd rather not have taken. What do you and Paul have in common in that regard?

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2011 Read Acts 27:1-28:31

"Who's the mom here?" a friend of mine sometimes asks her children this question when they have pushed too hard against her authority. As you read the last two chapters of Acts, you might ask a similar question: "Who's the prisoner here?" Paul, as you will see, speaks and acts with determined confidence. He doesn't derive these qualities from his circumstance! From where, then, do they come from?

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011 Read Romans 1:1-2:29

Black holes are stars that have collapsed in on themselves. Gravity pulls the star's matter into a tighter and tighter mass, which in turn intensifies the gravitational pull. Finally, the force of gravity grows so great that not even light can escape- thus the term "black hole." A teaspoon of matter from such a star has a mass of thousands of kilotons! Romans 1 is just that densely packed. BU instead of trapping light, this chapter shines with eternal brilliance. Read EACH WORD with care!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011 Read Romans 3:1-4:25

In 3:1-20, Paul drives the final nail into the gallows the Law has become for us sinners. He quotes verse after verse from the Hebrew Scriptures proving that all have sinned; no one can claim to be innocent. The story doesn't end there, though. Note the two little words that begin 3:21: "*But now.*" And let your heart melt in the light of your Lord's forgiving love for us.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011 Read Romans 5:1-21

Like a lawyer delivering his closing statement to the judge or jury, Paul summarizes the truths of chapter 1-4 and draws out their implications. As you read, notice the interplay between objective truth (facts) and subjective reality (feelings). Why are *both* important, especially when life is hard?

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2011 Read Romans 6:1-23

"Paul's Gospel will lead to anarchy! Everyone will sin, sin, and sin some more if his teachings catch on!" So went the argument of Paul's critics. The apostle, inspired by the Spirit, answers these accusations in chapter 6. What does he say?

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2011 ATTEND ADVENT 2 SERVICES AND CATCH UP ON THE DAYS YOU MISSED.