

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE SCHEDULE FOR 12/12/11 THROUGH 12/18/11

1. MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011 READ I CORINTHIANS 1:1-2:16

How could Paul write the words of 1:1-9 and 1:10-17 to the same group of people? The contrast jumps off the page. How would you explain it?

2. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011 READ I CORINTHIANS 3:1-4:21

One huge issue in the Corinthian church seems to have been the loyal of many people to one or another church leader. If someone claimed to be a "Paulist" Christian, that person looked down on someone whom Apollos had led to faith. Some who observed this sparring dismissed it with an arrogant, "I'm from Christ" (1:12-13). None of this bickering had much to do with doctrine. Instead, it proves that the question "who is the greatest in the kingdom of Christ" had not disappeared. How does Paul address this situation?

3. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011 READ I CORINTHIANS 5:1-6:20

Have you ever felt uncomfortable in a group because someone else's emotional response was out of sync? Perhaps that person laughed out loud during a solemn ceremony. Or perhaps the person, ran, crying from a celebration- a wedding or a graduation, for instance. In today's text you will read about another kind of inappropriate response. What made it so?

4. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011 READ I CORINTHIANS 7:1-40

The believers at Corinth had written to Paul with several questions. In chapters 7-11, the apostle answers them. One of their questions involved marriage. In an effort to make themselves "spiritual," some people down through time have avoided marriage. Even among Christians this idea has often gained a toehold. As you read now, notice carefully what the apostle says about holiness in marriage and *outside* marriage.

5. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2011 READ I CORINTHIANS 8:1-9:27

We have encountered the "meat offered to idols" question before (Romans 14). In the worship rituals of the ancient pagan world, the sacrificial animals were not completely burned up. After the worship ended, the remaining meat was often distributed and eaten at the temple. Or it was taken to the market where residents could buy it for consumption at home. Should Christians participate in any of this? As you look for the answer to that question, look for parallel situations today.

6. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011 READ I CORINTHIANS 10:1-33

Freedom without self-control soon becomes license. If you need proof, consider ancient Israel's experience in the wilderness. Freed from slaving for Egypt's taskmasters, God's people soon began to use their freedom as an excuse to commit idolatry, toy with sexual sin, tempt God, and grumble about His "lack" of care. As you read about that now, ask yourself if you ever abuse your freedom in the Gospel.

7. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011 ATTEND ADVENT 4 SERVICES AND CATCH UP ON YOUR READING FOR THE WEEK.