

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE SCHEDULE FOR 01/09/12 TO 01/15/12

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012 Read Ephesians 4: 1-32

Remember Pontius Pilate's question? He asked, "What is truth?" (John 18:38). Our culture answers that question much like many in Pilate's day would have. "It's imaginary, an illusion," they would say. "Your truth is your truth, but it may not be truth to me." A Christian worldview differs markedly from this, of course, but in saying so we're sometimes accused of being unloving. As you read today's text, watch as Paul shows how Christian maturity includes both truth and love.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012 Read Ephesians 5:1 to 6:24

The light of the Gospel transforms all our earthly relationships. Chapter 5 looks at relationships between husbands and wives. Chapter 6 is about parents and children. He also addresses slaves and masters; these words translate in our culture to relationships on the job. As you read, consider what the Holy Spirit might be saying about any of your relationships.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012 Read Philippians 1:1-30

In some situations, perspective means everything. As Paul penned Philippians, he sat in prison. Still, had he had not mentioned it, we might never guess it from his words, his attitude. He overflows with joy and hope. Look for evidence of this as you read. Also notice the exhortations to united love. We saw this them in Ephesians, and it undergirds Philippians as well.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012 Read Philippians 2: 1-30

Picture the Olympic torch passed from one runner to the next across continents until it reaches the site of the opening ceremony. What an honor to carry the torch! What a joy! And yet that honor dims next to the privilege of bearing the flame of the Gospel. As you read, watch Christ's life, death, and resurrection light that flame. Then see it pass from Christ to Paul, to the Philippians, to you and to me.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012 Read Philippians 3:1-21

If you've ever thrown away a key or a credit card, you know what it's like to pick through the garbage looking for it. Last night's fish bones, this morning's coffee grounds, and the "mystery liquid" that dampens the whole mess make such a treasure hunt unpleasant. As Paul begins chapter 3, we get the sense he's "picking through the garbage" of his life. What makes these good things so disgusting?

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2012 Read Philippians 4:1-23

For several decades psychologists have affirmed the impact one's thought life has on mental health. Harvard University produces the "Mind-Body Newsletter," in part, to report research about ways our thoughts can affect our physical health. All this come as no surprise to Christians. As you read now, look for Paul's comments about our thought lives.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012 ATTEND WORSHIP ON EPHIPHANY 2 AND CATCH UP ON READINGS YOU MISSED THIS WEEK.