

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE SCHEDULE 1/23/12 TO 1/29/12

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012 Read I Thessalonians 4:1-18

Those who believe in the rapture of the church prior to the great tribulation look to I Thessalonians 4:13-18 for proof. They fail to consider Paul's purpose, Paul's focus. Here the apostle writes to comfort believers concerning their loved ones who have died. He does not write to explain each event in the series of events on the Last Day. Because of his focus, Paul never mentions the unbelievers. This omission does not mean that the events of I Thessalonians 4 must occur at a different time than those our Lord foretold in Matthew 24:30-31. As you read now, look for the comfort, not the controversy.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012 Read I Thessalonians 4:1-28

"When, Paul? When will all this happen?" We can almost hear the Thessalonians shouting out those questions as chapter 4 ends with its discussion of the Lord's return. We want to shout those questions too. Read to hear Paul's answer.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2012 Read II Thessalonians 1:1-12

The scene: a courtroom where a lawyer questions a witness. Q: You say the stairs went down to the basement?
A: Yes. Q: And these stairs, did they also go up?

Exchanges as ridiculous as this one go on in earthly courtrooms every day, and despite that, justice is still often done. Even so, individuals are often denied justice, either by corruption or prejudice or laziness on the part of human courts. Justice here on earth will never be perfectly or completely realized. Nonetheless, justice will one day be done. Concentrate on that promise as you read now.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012 Read II Thessalonians 2:1-3:18

Questions about the coming of the Lord and the end times continued to trouble the believers in Thessalonica. So Paul wrote a second letter to quell their fears. That letter also tells us what to expect. As you read now, pay attention to the "man of lawlessness" (2:3) and the faithful promises of God.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2012 Read I Timothy 1:1-20

Once again Paul must address the wicked mischief worked by self-proclaimed teachers who touted salvation by works. The Law! This was their rallying cry. As you read, notice the proper place Paul gives the Law.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012 Read I Timothy 2:1-15

Life in the day-to-day challenges and opportunities of the church-- Paul addresses specific details of that life in I Timothy, reminding Timothy of what he already knows and encouraging him in it. Of which of these truths do you need to be reminded today? Where in these words do you find encouragement?

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012

ATTEND WORSHIP AND THEN USE THE REST OF THE DAY TO CATCH UP ON ANY READINGS YOU MISSED DURING THE WEEK.