

Bible Reading Plan

Here's the plan — beginning today, and continuing through the first Sunday in January 2009, we'll be publishing a list of readings that, if followed diligently, will take us through the entire New Testament. It's only 51 verses every day. Find a Bible you'll read and let the Spirit of God speak.



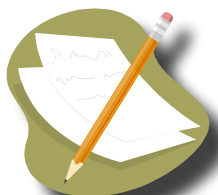
- Today (Matthew 1:1 – 2:23)
- Monday (Matthew 3:1 – 5:12)
- Tuesday (Matthew 5:13 – 6:15)
- Wednesday (Matthew 6:16 – 7:29)
- Thursday (Matthew 8:1 – 9:17)
- Friday (Matthew 9:18 – 10:25)
- Saturday (Matthew 10:26 – 11:30)

Church Family News & Notes

SUFFERING FROM VARIOUS ILLNESSES (Jas. 5:16)

Jo Byrnes * Sister Cannon's son-in-law, Tom Bachman
Joyce Coones * Andy & Carol Davis * Sleatha Gore
Barbra Hammock * Essielene Henderson
Hildreth Johnson * Faye Kilpatrick * Ray Knisley

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY
Ethel Jones (THURSDAY)



Church of Christ

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in beautiful Chiefland, Florida
PO Box 2539, Chiefland FL 32644 • (352) 493-1242

THINGS REVEALED

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

— Colossians 3:1-2 —

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ELDERS Buddy Johnson • Devoise Lord

DEACONS Tony Beach • H.C. Henderson • Jerry Smith

PREACHER Jamey Hinds

www.chieflandchurchofchrist.com

Our Interest Is Showing!

By Jamey Hinds

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, *zealous for good deeds*" (Titus 2:11-14).

Being zealous for good deeds should describe each one of us who identifies themselves as Christians. Obviously, Christ

Himself was zealous for good deeds — “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which were written” (John 21:25).

Another fine example we have of someone who was zealous for good deeds was Tabitha — “Now in Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity, which she continually did. . . . And all the widows stood beside [Peter] weeping, and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them” (Acts 9:36, 39).

Defending himself before King Agrippa, the apostle Paul said, “I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance” (Acts 26:19–20).

Paul wrote, “It is good to be zealous in a good thing always” (Galatians 4:18). The thing is, we can be zealous (or excited about) those things that are not good. So, we need to be wise in choosing what to be excited about. Our English word *zealous* comes from the Greek word *zelotés* which literally sounds very similar to *zealous*. In 1 Corinthians 14:1 the word is desire. In Revelation 3:19 the Lord said to the Laodicean congregation of believers, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”

Being zealous means that we are *eager* for something; and that “something” becomes for us a *priority*. The apostle John advises us all, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. . . . And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:15, 17). Yes, we live in the world, but we’re supposed to, as Christians, be zealous for good works. “We walk by faith and not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Zeal should affect how we live daily. It shouldn’t be limited to our worship — how we sing, how we pray, how well we listen to the lessons offered, how we examine ourselves when we partake of the Lord’s Supper, or how we give our money into the treasury. Yes, absolutely, these things matter; and it matters that we do these things with zeal (*cf.* Psalm 122:1). But we should also zealously pursue “love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22–23).

How we drive in traffic, how we pay our bills, how we greet and treat our neighbors, that we greet one another in the community, how we courteously behave among outsiders, *etc.* Our zeal for God should show everyday. Like Jesus, zeal for God’s house should consume us, and define us as a people for God’s own (*cf.* Titus 2:11–14; Psalm 69:9; John 2:17).

Being a Christian is a way of life. “As He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:15–16).

