

Bible Reading Plan – Week 2

If you haven't kept up with last week's readings, don't get discouraged; just pick up where we are now. If you miss a day, you can try to catch up the following day; or, if you get too far behind, just pick up right where you are with the current day's reading.

Remember, each day only has fifty-one verses. Depending, of course, on how fast you read (but reading with the view to *understanding* what you're reading) each day's readings should only require ten to fifteen minutes.

- ☐ SUN = Matthew 12:22 – 13:23
- ☐ MON = Matthew 13:24 – 14:12
- ☐ TUE = Matthew 14:13 – 15:28
- ☐ WED = Matthew 15:29 – 17:13
- ☐ THU = Matthew 17:14 – 18:35
- ☐ FRI = Matthew 19:1 – 20:19
- ☐ SAT = Matthew 20:20 – 21:32



News & Notes

Jo Byrnes * Betty Cannon's son-in-law, Tom Bachman
Joyce Coones * Sleatha Gore * Essielene Henderson
Faye Kilpatrick * Ronnie & Bonnie Lord are in Alabama;
her father is going to have knee surgery.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS & AN ANNIVERSARY
Flint Smith (*today*) * Kelsey Hinds (*tomorrow*)
Jamey Hinds (*Wednesday*)
H.C. & Faye Henderson (*Friday*)

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

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It's Time to Wake Up

By Leslie Diestelkamp • The Preceptor (Dec. 1955)

Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting" was the warning God gave the King in the long ago as He wrote the message upon the wall of the dining hall where the feast was in progress. Have you ever considered what God would write today if he were warning his people? Of course, it would be folly to speculate. We have no idea what he would write. But I know what I would write if I should be asked to write a sentence upon the church house walls all over the world. I would write, "It's Time to Wake Up." Paul wrote, "That now it is high time to awake out of sleep" (Romans 13:11), and it is that message that I would write, if I could, where it would remain to be

read until the walls of the church building crumble down into the dust.

They used to tell the story about a Missouri farmer who would call his four sons very early Monday morning with these words: “Hurry! Today’s Monday, tomorrow’s Tuesday, the next day’s Wednesday and the week is half gone and nothing done yet.” Today we might urge: “This is 1955, next year will be 1956, the next will be 1957 and the century is over half gone, and so little done yet!”

Wake Up to Needs of Lost Souls

Indeed, it is time that *Christians everywhere awake* to the necessity of saving the lost by preaching the pure, unadulterated truth to them. Think of the millions in Europe who know not the truth; think of the 100,000 in South America without the help of one, even one, gospel preacher; think of millions and millions in Africa and Asia who have not even heard that Jesus lived and died — yes millions who, if you mention Jesus Christ, would not know if he were stabbed with a butcher knife or if he were hanged on a cross. Then think of the millions of lost souls in our own dear America! Do you realize that about six million lost souls live within thirty miles of my residence (I live in suburban Chicago). Think of it — more people within 30 miles of me than live in New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana, all combined! Not just souls, but *lost* souls! And, they are everywhere; in your neighborhood, too!

Preachers need to wake up. We quote the “great commission” almost every week. Do we mean it — for ourselves? Oh, that the words might sting our lips and burn our tongues every time we quote it until we intend to listen to it ourselves! *Elders need to wake up* to their

responsibility in rescuing those wayward souls under their care. Indeed, they should become so concerned with their duty that they would not rest until they had done their very best to guide every wandering sheep back into the fold of safety.

Teachers need to wake up to their opportunities to prepare themselves so as to be able to sow some seed in each class and make some impression, even if it is upon the youngest child, that will last for eternity. They should be so concerned with this responsibility that they let nothing hinder their preparation and presentation of great lessons in truth to those tender minds that they teach. Song leaders need to wake up to opportunity to make the song service really edifying. Christian parents need to wake up to the task that is theirs alone, to mold and make character and, as Hannah of old, to give their children to the Lord.

Wake Up to Dangers

Christian people must wake up to the danger of division. To close our eyes to such danger does not make it less real, but only more actual. Division does not have to come, but if we do not awake to its possibility — yea, it’s *probability* — then we will surely be rudely awakened by its reality one of these days. Differences of opinion will not divide us, but *attitudes* about those differences may! The gravest danger right now is not differences, but *attitudes*. Closed minds that will not study objectively — and dictatorial attitudes that bind and loose, quarantine and boycott, vilify and slander — will hasten division today as has been true in other days.

[To be concluded next week]