

## Weekly Bible Reading – Week 16

- ◆ SUN — 1 CORINTHIANS 3:1 – 4:21
- ◆ MON — 1 CORINTHIANS 5:1 – 6:20
- ◆ TUE — 1 CORINTHIANS 7:1–40
- ◆ WED — 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1 – 10:13
- ◆ THU — 1 CORINTHIANS 10:14 – 11:34
- ◆ FRI — 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1 – 14:5
- ◆ SAT — 1 CORINTHIANS 14:6 – 15:11

### REQUESTING PRAYERS

Jo Byrnes ✽ Joyce Coones ✽ Sleatha Gore ✽ Faye Kilpatrick ✽ Sally Smith ✽ Gary Ogden ✽ Woody Story ✽ Ginny Beach Rutter

### TRAVELING

Jerad & Marissa Black are in Plant City. ✽ Al & Jo Byrnes are planning to go to El Paso, Texas, for a while. Al is looking for respite in caring for Jo. They are to be staying with their son and daughter-in-law.

### SHANE BREWER

Brother Shane Brewer is moving to Alabama. He is planning to pack up November 25, and actually move November 26, just before Thanksgiving. We bid him Godspeed. When we have his updated information we'll be sure to pass it along.

### BIRTHDAYS

Tony Beach—Tuesday ✽ Carrell Arrington—Friday

↪ Chiefland Church of Christ ↪

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

# THINGS ABOVE

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth..”

— Colossians 3:1–2 —

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## Now

by Jamey Hinds

It's amazing how eager we can be to put things off. God says now and we say later. “Anyone who knows the right thing to do, but does not do it, is sinning” (James 4:17). So, why do we put off for tomorrow the things we know we should do today?

The fact is, there's no guarantee of tomorrow, is there? Tomorrow may never come. But, somehow, we bank on tomorrow.

Jesus said, “The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you. So don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will have its own worries. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:33–34).

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## A B R A H A M

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!”

And he said, “Here I am.”

Then He said, “Take **now** your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

So Abraham rose **early in the morning** and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him (Genesis 22:1–3).

We would do well to notice that Abraham didn’t put off God’s command; he went to it first thing in the morning. I sometimes wonder how he slept, but we’re not told. What we *are* told is that Abraham “never doubted that God would keep his promise, and he never stopped believing. He grew stronger in his faith and gave praise to God. Abraham felt sure that God was able to do what he had promised” (Romans 4:20–21). And the point from the apostle Paul is made clear to us when he wrote, being moved by the Holy Spirit, “Those words — “God accepted Abraham’s faith” — were written not only for Abraham but also for us. God will accept us also because we believe in the One who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. Jesus was given to die for our sins, and he was raised from the dead to make us right with God” (Romans 4:23–25).

## T H E G O S P E L

God’s mouthpiece Isaiah prophesied of a glorious future — “This is what the LORD says: ‘At the right time I will hear your prayers. On the day of salvation I will help you. I will protect you, and you will be the sign of my agreement with the people.

You will bring back the people to the land and give the land that is now ruined back to its owners. You will tell the prisoners, ‘Come out of your prison.’ You will tell those in darkness, ‘Come into the light’” (Isaiah 49:8–9).

In the New Testament, Paul references this passage and declares that it is fulfilled: “We are workers together with God, so we beg you: Do not let the grace that you received from God be for nothing. God says,

‘At the right time I heard your prayers.

On the day of salvation I helped you.’

I tell you that the ‘right time’ is **now**, and the ‘day of salvation’ is **now**” (2 Corinthians 6:1–2).

Don’t debate God when He commands — whether it is something we want to do, but especially when it’s something we don’t want to do. The difficulty ultimately is conforming our will to God’s — “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:1–2).

Oswald Chambers wrote, “Abraham did not choose what the sacrifice would be. Always guard against self-chosen service for God. Self-sacrifice may be a disease that impairs your service. If God has made your cup sweet, drink it with grace; or even if He has made it bitter, drink it in communion with Him. If the providential will of God means a hard and difficult time for you, go through it. But never decide the place of your own martyrdom, as if to say, ‘I will only go to there, but no farther’” (“The Supreme Climb,” *My Utmost for His Highest*).

