



Bible Readings

August 2008

Anchor Park & East Anchorage UMC's

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p>As you read the Bible, if you have any questions and/or reflections, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Pastors: Pastor Jon: jdisburg@gmail.com Pastor Leila: ldisburg@gmail.com Office: 277-0152</p> | | | | | 1 1 Cor. 16 2 Kings 12-13 Micah 3 | 2 2 Cor. 1:1-2:4 2 King 14 Micah 4:1-5:1 |
| 3 2 Cor. 2:5-3:18 2 Kings 15-16 Micah 5:2-15 | 4 2 Cor. 4:1-5:10 2 Kings 17 Micah 6 | 5 2 Cor. 5:11-6:13 2 Kings 18 Micah 7 | 6 2 Cor. 6:14-7:16 2 Kings 19 Nahum 1 | 7 2 Cor. 8 2 Kings 20-21 Nahum 2 | 8 2 Cor. 9 2 Kings 22:1-23:35 Nahum 3 | 9 2 Cor. 10 2 Kings 23:36-24:20 Habakkuk 1 |
| 10 2 Cor. 11 2 Kings 25 Habakkuk 2 | 11 2 Cor. 12 1 Chron. 1-2 Habakkuk 3 | 12 2 Cor. 13 1 Chron. 3-4 Zephaniah 1 | 13 John 1:1-18 1 Chron. 5-6 Zephaniah 2 | 14 John 1:19-34 1 Chron. 7-8 Zephaniah 3 | 15 John 1:35-51 1 Chron. 9 Haggai 1-2 | 16 John 2 1 Chron. 10-11 Zechariah 1 |
| 17 John 3:1-21 1 Chron. 12 Zechariah 2 | 18 John 3:22-36 1 Chron. 13-14 Zechariah 3 | 19 John 4:1-26 1 Chron. 15:1-16:6 Zechariah 4 | 20 John 4:27-42 1 Chron. 16:7-43 Zechariah 5 | 21 John 4:43-54 1 Chron. 17 Zechariah 6 | 22 John 5:1-18 1 Chron. 18-19 Zechariah 7 | 23 John 5:19-47 1 Chron. 20:1-22:1 Zechariah 8 |
| 24 John 6:1-21 1 Chron. 22:2-23:32 Zechariah 9 | 25 John 6:22-59 1 Chron. 24 Zechariah 10 | 26 John 6:60-71 1 Chron. 25-26 Zechariah 11 | 27 John 7:1-24 1 Chron. 27-28 Zechariah 12 | 28 John 7:25-52 1 Chron. 29 Zechariah 13 | 29 John 8:1-20 2 Chron. 1:1-2:16 Zechariah 14 | 30 John 8:21-47 2 Chron. 2:17-5:1 Malachi 1:1-2:9 |
| 31 John 8:48-59 2 Chron. 5:2-14 Malachi 2:10-4:7 | <p><u>A Prayer before Reading Scripture</u> <i>Almighty God, send your Holy Spirit upon me so that I may perfectly love you and faithfully follow you today and always. In the name and spirit of Christ. Amen. - Bishop Rueben Job</i></p> | | | | | |



► Bible Reading Resources for August, 2008

What's Up in Corinth?

As we finish the readings of 1 & 2 Corinthians, it might be interesting to learn more about the city itself and the issues that gave rise to the letters from Paul. Corinth is located on a very narrow isthmus between the Aegean Sea and the Adriatic Sea. The isthmus connects the main part of Greece with the Peloponnesian peninsula.

In the first century A.D. Corinth was a cosmopolitan city swarming with traders from all over the world—Romans, Greeks, Asians and Jews. Its population was about 600,000. Though there was great wealth in Corinth, it was the privilege of a few. The rest of the citizens experienced Corinth as a tough city full of drunkenness, prostitution, thievery and murder.

It was in this context that Paul established one of his most successful, yet troubled, churches. Like the community in which it was located, the Corinthian church struggled with issues arising from the class differences and varied backgrounds of its members.

The problems Paul addressed in the Corinthian church were:

1) **Factions.** Arguments arose among members as to rank based upon by whom they were baptized (1 Cor. 1). Further, some were mixing

Greek philosophy with the Gospel message. Paul strongly restates the teaching of the power of the cross (1 Cor. 1) and urges spiritual maturity (1 Cor. 3)

2) **Sexual immorality.** This behavior not only caused broken relationships within the community of faith, it also weakened its witness to non-believers. Paul challenged the church to stand in contrast to the ways of the larger society.

3) **Meat offered to idols.** Since idols were meaningless, some Christians bought meat that was first offered to idols because it was economical. Others were offended by the act supporting idolatry. Paul urged mutual respect and love must rule within the church. Though some would believe a certain act meaningless, sensitivity to those new in the faith also must be considered.

4) **Worship and communion.** Because members came from such different backgrounds ethnically and economically, appearance and other social practices became divisive. Some could arrive early because of their economic privilege and would consume the communion meal (then it was an entire meal) before the poorer members could arrive. Jewelry and hairstyles also became distracting and divisive. Paul

urged moderation of social customs so they would no longer distract. He also urged the wealthier and more powerful to be considerate of those who had to come to worship later due to their economic situation in life. Again, Paul urges the individual members of the church to place the needs and feelings of others ahead of their own.

5) **Spiritual gifts.** The church was also divided by the behavior of some who claimed spiritual superiority based upon their spiritual gifts. Paul teaches that God endows us all with gifts which are given for a specific purpose. Also, these varying gifts we have should not be used to disrupt others' spiritual growth. Finally, Paul teaches, the greatest gift is love, claiming that gift will ensure a community bound by mutual servanthood.

Though some of these issues seem antiquated to us, similar issues concerning new age practices, changing styles of worship music and economic differences still impact and, sometimes, divide the church today. Paul's admonitions of mutual love and servanthood are timeless.