

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a grey button-down shirt. The Bible is open to a page with text, and the person's fingers are resting on the pages. The lighting is warm and focused on the hands and the book.

NEW TESTAMENT

in a year - April

Daily Bible Reading Plan

APRIL 1

ROMANS 3:1-20

DONE

1. In verses 1-8 the apostle answers four objections which men raised against the gospel. (The objections are stated in verses 1, 3, 5 and 7-8. The answers to these objections are found in verses 2, 4, 6 and 8.) Notice these three things (1) how Paul describes the Old Testament Scriptures, (2) the two attributes of God he holds fast to, and (3) what kind of conduct he strenuously repudiates.

2. In verses 10-18 Paul gives the general verdict of Scripture on man in his fallen condition. What does the Scripture say about (1) the general trend of human life (verses 10-12, cf. Isa 53:6), (2) about man's speech (verses 13-14), and (3) about his conduct and attitude towards God (verses 15-18).

APRIL 2

ROMANS 3:21-31

DONE

1. The answer to the question 'How can a guilty man be saved?' is found in a righteousness provided by God. This paragraph (verses 21-26) greatly clarifies what this righteousness is. There are 12 to 15 points, see if you can find them.

2. After this discussion on the righteousness of God, what two questions does Paul ask (first one verses 27-28 and the second one verses 29-30)? Cf. 1 Cor 1:29-31 and Gal 3:28. What would Paul's answer be to someone who might say that the gospel of salvation by faith nullified the law?

APRIL 3

ROMANS 4

DONE

Thus far in Romans, Paul has made three statements that contradict the traditional Jewish interpretation of the Scriptures.

- The first was in 3:20, that by the works of the law no man can be justified.
- The second was in 3:30, that God justifies the Gentiles through faith without circumcision.
- And the last was in 3:19 and 28, that salvation granted independent of the law.

Now in chapter 4 Paul will prove how the Old Testament supports these truths.

1. On what basis was the righteousness of God reckoned to Abraham and David? See verses 1-8.

2. At what time in Abraham's life was his faith reckoned to him as righteousness? How does this affect the question regarding the admission of Gentiles? See verses 9-12.

3. Verses 25. In what sense are our sins the reason for Christ's death and our justification the purpose of his resurrection? Cf. Isa 53:4-6 and 8 and 11; 1 Pet 2:24; 1 Cor 15:17.

APRIL 4

ROMANS 5:1-11

DONE

1. Verses 1, 2, 9-11. What blessings does justification bring with it? List them. How should the awareness of these blessings affect our lives?

2. Someone my object, 'But what of the sufferings in the Christian life? Do they not detract from its

blessedness?' How does Paul answer this? See verses 3-5. What is the value of suffering and how can we be sure that our hopes are not mere wishful thinking?

3. Verses 5-8. By what evidence can we be doubly sure that God loves us? In what ways are the witnesses mentioned here different and complementary?

APRIL 5

ROMANS 5:12-21

DONE

1. What are the consequences for men and women of Adam's fall into sin? And of Christ's obedience or act of righteousness? How are these similar and different from one another? What are we to understand about the benefit that becomes ours in Christ?

2. What four 'reigns' are spoken of in this passage? Two of them are the sad experience of all people. The other two, what benefits do they bring and how can we enter into their enjoyment?

APRIL 6

ROMANS 6:1-14

DONE

1. What is the position of those who are spiritually united with Christ in relation to sin and in relation to God?

2. If this is our position in Christ, how are we to enjoy and express it in order to live a life of victory over sin? See verses 11-14 and note the key words: 'consider', 'let not' and 'yield'.

APRIL 7

ROMANS 6:15 - 7:6

DONE

Paul foresees two questions arising out of his statements thus far:

- the first, "Can we then continue to sin?" and
- the second, "How is it possible to not be under the law?"

Paul answers the first question in 6:15-23 and the second one in 7:1-6.

1. In verses 6:15-23, what two masters are contrasted? What do these two masters demand and with what result? In view of this, what is the only possible answer to the questions whether we should continue to sin?

2. Verses 7:1-6. To answer the second question Paul uses the illustration of being bound in marriage for the person who is under the law. In the case of the Christian, by whose death is his old position under the law brought to an end? Who is the new husband? What are the fruits of this new union, as contrasted with those of the old? See verses 5-6.

APRIL 8

ROMANS 7:7-25

DONE

1. Verses 7-13. Paul explains here that the law (1) reveals our sin, (2) provokes us to sin and (3) results in our death. However, Paul warns us to not wrongly conclude that the law itself is sinful, but rather it is holy and good. The fact that the law arouses passions in us is not a flaw of the law but brings to light the character and nature of sin. What do you learn about the character of sin in these verses?

2. Verses 14-25. Which is the stronger force in a man's life, the law or sin? What, then, is the inevitable result of life under the law, even at its best?

APRIL 9

ROMANS 8

DONE

1. Verses 1-4. What is the happy condition of those who are 'in Christ Jesus'? How has their deliverance been brought about, and what is God's purpose in effecting it?

2. Verses 5-17. Life according to the flesh and life according to the Spirit are contrasted here. If this life is ours what is our present duty and why? And what are our present privileges?

3. Verses 18-27. What three things does Paul tell us that gives us confidence that the present time of suffering will issue in glory?

4. Verses 28-39. What reasons does Paul give for the Christian to rejoice even though everything in this world seems to be against him?

APRIL 10

ROMANS 9

DONE

Paul anticipates the questions many would be asking about the rejection of their Messiah by the Jewish nation and God's consequent rejection of them. These questions are:

- "Has God broken His promises to them?" and
- "If not, how will He fulfill these promises?"

The first question is answered in chapters 9 and 10. The second question is answered in chapter 11.

1. After speaking of all the triumphant joy the Christian is to experience (chapter 8) Paul now speaks of having great sorrow and unceasing pain in his heart (see 9:3). What made Paul so sorrowful? How much of this Christian joy and Christian sorrow do you experience?

2. Verse 9-13. The question Paul is dealing with here is, "If God rejects those Jews who rejected the Messiah, has not his promises been broken?" What were the promises made to the Jews (verse 4)? How does Paul answer this question?

3. Paul speaks of God's election of the nation of Israel. What two principles of God's election does he find in the Old Testament stories of the births of Isaac and of Jacob and Esau?

4. What is the purpose of God's election of Israel, and how do the scriptures, which Paul quotes, illuminate that purpose?

APRIL 11

ROMANS 9:30 – 10:21

DONE

1. What are the two ways of seeking acceptance with God that are contrasted here? How are they shown to be mutually exclusive? See 9:30 – 10:9. What was the cause of Israel's failure?

2. Righteousness by faith (10:8-15). What does the apostle say regarding (1) its simplicity, (2) its universal application, and (3) the necessity of proclaiming it?

3. What light does 10:14-21 throw on man's responsibility (1) in proclaiming the gospel and (2) in hearing it?

APRIL 12

ROMANS 11:1-24

DONE

1. What three reasons are given in this passage to show that God has not cast Israel wholly away?
2. If a man trips and stumbles, he may either rise again or fall and perish. What reasons does Paul give here for his confidence that Israel's rejection is not final?
3. Against what spirit does he warn Gentile believers? What lessons ought we to learn for ourselves from God's dealings with Israel?

APRIL 13

ROMANS 11:25-36

DONE

1. What is God's ultimate purpose of Israel, and how do the Scriptures cited confirm that purpose?
2. Consider the plan of God as revealed in chapters 9-11. By what successive steps has God acted, and will He still act, to bring about the results stated in verse 32? Do the truths found in this passage make you well up with praise as it did Paul at the end of this chapter (see verses 33-36)?

APRIL 14

ROMANS 12

DONE

Paul now takes us into the practical part of his letter. After presenting all of the truths of the Gospel in chapters 1-11, he now states 'Therefore' live in this way...

1. What should be the believer's attitude: (1) to God, and (2) to the world? What results should such an attitude produce?
2. It has been suggested that the teaching of verses 3-8 might be summed up in the word 'humility', and that verses 9-21 in the word 'love'. Do you agree? And how do I come short of these standards?

APRIL 15

ROMANS 13

DONE

1. What three main reasons does Paul give in verses 1-7 as to why we should submit to the civil power? How does this submission express itself in practice?
2. What single guiding principle should control the Christian's life in society? See verses 8-10.
3. Verses 11-14. Paul stated in verse 1 that the 'mercy of God' is the most powerful motive for living the Christian life. What further motive does he present here in verses 11-14? What will wearing the armor of light mean for you, both positively and negatively?

APR 16

ROMANS 14

DONE

1. 'A Christian man is a most free lord of all, subject to none' (Luther). What do verses 1-12 teach about Christian liberty?
2. 'A Christian man is a most dutiful servant of all, subject to all' (Luther). For what reasons should Christian liberty be qualified? What are the most important things to be preserved at all costs in the Christian community?
3. If in doubt about the lawfulness of a thing, can we do it because we see other true Christian people doing it? If not, why not?

APR 17

ROMANS 15

DONE

1. The counsel given in verses 1-2 is by no means easy to follow. What three sources of help and encouragement are suggested in verses 3-5?
2. What does following Christ's example involved (verses 7-12)?
3. What should characterize the life of the Christian church? See verses 2, 5-7, 13.
4. How does Paul in verses 15-21 describe his work – in relation to its nature, scope, power and results? How far is this description applicable to our own work in connection with the gospel?

APR 18

ROMANS 16:1-16

DONE

1. Verse 1 – The name Phoebe, being that of a goddess, suggests that Phoebe had a heathen background. Cenchrea, the eastern port of Corinth, was not an easy place in which to live as a Christian. What can we learn about Phoebe from her name and the place where she lived, from the description of her as a 'sister' and 'deaconess of the church', and from the service that she rendered?
2. Looking down the list of names, note the references to: (1) diligent service, (2) sufferings borne for Christ, and (3) Christian character. Cf. 2 Cor 5:9-10.
3. How often do you find the phrase 'in the Lord' or 'in Christ Jesus' or 'in Christ'? Also notice all the different connotations in which it is used. What significance do you attach to the phrase?

APR 19

ROMANS 16:17-27

DONE

1. How can perverters of the Gospel be recognized? Cf. 1 Tim 6:3; Matt 7:15-20. How can we safeguard against them? Cf. 2 John 10; 2 Tim 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.
2. How is God described? How does the present age differ from all that went before? What is the one all-important end to be achieved? Cf 1:5. What is the method to be adopted?

EPISTLE OF 1 CORINTHIANS

DONE

The epistle was written by Paul from Ephesus during the third missionary journey (Acts 19:1-10) at about AD 56 or 57. Corinth was a city of great pride of intellect, idolatries and immoralities, and was also a busy center of commerce. The purpose of the epistle was partly to answer questions sent to Paul by the Corinthians (7:1; 8:1; 12:1), partly to deal with distressing news that had come to him from Corinth about factions and other abuses in the church (1:11; 5:1; 6:1; 11:18-20). Paul had already written a least one letter to this church (5:9).

The book can be divided as follows:

- I. Introduction (1:1-9)
- II. Rebukes (1:10 – 6:20)
 - Rebukes their divisiveness (1:10 – 4:21)
 - Rebukes their permissiveness (5)
 - Rebukes their vindictiveness (6:1-11)
 - Rebukes their licentiousness (6:12-20)
- III. Replies (1:10 – 6:20)
 - Questions about marriage and divorce (7)
 - Questions about liberty and licenses (6:1 – 11:1)
 - Questions about women and worship (11:2-34)
 - Questions about gifts and the body (12 – 14)
 - Questions about death and the resurrection (15)
 - Questions about giving and offerings (16:1-9)
- IV. Conclusion (16:10-24)

APR 20

1 COR 1:1-17

DONE

1. Paul is preparing to deal with various divisive factors in the life of the church at Corinth. What is significant, therefore, about his approach in verses 1-9? What can we learn from these verses about our privileges and prospects as Christians?

2. What were the main causes of the dissensions in the church at Corinth? Reread verses 10-17 (see also 3:3-4 and 3:21)? How can similar dissensions arise in church life today? According to this passage why are they fundamentally wrong and what is the remedy for them?

APR 21

1 COR 1:18 – 2:16

DONE

1. List Paul's reasons for preaching the word of the cross in the way he did. See verses 1:17-2:5.

2. See verses 2:6 – 3:2. What does Paul teach here about (1) 'human wisdom' and (2) 'a secret hidden wisdom of God'? How is the latter to be possessed and by whom alone is it understood?

3. Looking back over the passage, pick out the work of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit and the human preacher respectively in man's salvation. Is the Lord Jesus Christ to you all that Paul speaks of in 1:30-31?

APR 22

1 COR 3 & 4

DONE

1. 3:1 – 4:2. Discover and summarize all that this section has to teach concerning the place and tasks of Christian workers. What is, or should be, their relationship to (1) God, (2) each other, and (3) those among whom they work?

2. 4:1-21. Why are men's judgments concerning the worth of Christian ministers' work of such little value? How and when will the real worth of man's work for God be made plain? Can the value of what he does affect his own salvation? Or what will it affect? See 3:13-15.

APR 23

1 COR 5 & 6

DONE

1. Notice in chapter 5 the distinction in the attitudes commanded towards sinning Christians and sinning non-Christians. What special actions are demanded here of the local church, and why are such actions necessary?

2. 6:12-20. These verses stress the permanent significance of the Christian's body. List the points mentioned here. What does it mean to glorify God in your body? What kind of actions are (1) appropriate, and (2) undesirable or even unthinkable?

3. 6:1-11. What reasons does Paul give here for viewing the public washing by Christians of their dirty linen as a denial of the church's mission in the world?

APR 24

1 COR 7

DONE

In this chapter Paul begins answering specific questions about marriage. These questions had been sent to him by the church at Corinth. His instructions are strict in view of the moral laxity of pagan Corinth. Paul shows that marriage and the single life are equally permissible and that each person must find out in which state God intends them to live.

1. Why did Paul remain single (verses 7-8)? See verses 25-35. Are his reasons relevant for us today?

2. In verses 17-24 Paul is dealing with the wider question of the Christian's position in the society of his day. What rule is laid down for the Christian three times in these verses? How does this apply to us?

3. What is Paul's practical teaching about married life (2-5, 10-16) and compare his more theological treatment of the same matter in Eph 5:22-33.

APR 25

1 COR 8 & 9

DONE

The church in Corinth had asked about the eating of food which had been offered before an idol. Picture yourself as a Christian in Corinth, invited to a social banquet in a temple, or seated as a guest in the house of a non-Christian friend, and offered food which had been presented in sacrifice to an idol.

1. 8:1-13. Using the knowledge of truth as their sole guide (verses 4-6), what decision did the Corinthians come to about eating food offered to idols? Did Paul agree? List the reasons why he also says that in certain circumstances he would abstain from such eating.
2. 9:1-27. What basic principles which should govern Christian action does Paul illustrate here from his own conduct? In particular what rights does he show Christian workers to have, and what are his reasons for not using them?

APR 26

1 COR 10:1 – 11:1

DONE

1. 10:1-13. The people of Israel, who came out of Egypt, enjoyed similar privileges to those of Christians. What lessons then can we learn from their failures? What is the inevitability of temptation no occasion for despair?
2. Paul distinguishes between eating in an idol's temple (verse 14-22), and eating meats bought in the market, which had been offered from an idol (verses 23-30). Why does he condemn the former, but permit the latter, except in the circumstances of verses 28-29? What principles does he lay down, in conclusion, to guide Christians in all such matters?

APR 27

1 COR 11:2-34

DONE

This chapter deals with two irregularities in public worship. The first concerns the proper way for women to dress when they take part in public worship. The second concerns unchristian behavior at the social meal, which was the occasion of the observance of the Lord's Supper.

1. What were the arguments that Paul brought forward to insist that in Corinth women should be veiled in public worship? How far are there arguments of permanent validity? Can their application vary where prevailing social customs differ from those of Paul's day?
2. What is the central significance of the Lord's Supper (according to verses 23-26)? What were the causes of some receiving unworthily? How can we make our reception more worthy?

APR 28

1 COR 12

DONE

1. List the different kinds of gift and of service that Paul mentions in this chapter. On what principle are they given, and for what purpose? What responsibility does the possession of such a gift put on the person who has it?

2. Consider how the character of the human body illustrates both the unity and the diversity of the church. What other lessons does the apostle draw from this illustration?

APR 29

1 COR 13

DONE

The apostle has urged the believers at Corinth to be zealous to possess the more excellent of the gifts (12:31), but before going on to explain what he means by this (chapter 14), he pauses to point out that spiritual gift are of profit only when exercised in love.

1. Verses 1-3. Why is love so all-important? In what ways does Paul show further in verses 8-13 that love is greater than all other gifts? How can it find expression in my life? Cf. 1 John 4:7, 12; Gal 5:22-23.

2. In verses 4-7 there are fifteen ways of describing love. Write them in a column and then try to put opposite each a single word summarizing it, and if possible, an incident in Jesus' life illustrating it. Then ask yourself: Is this found in me?

APR 30

1 COR 14

DONE

1. Try to form a mental picture of the church's worship in Corinth. In what ways did it differ from the church's worship today? Did it include any features, no longer familiar, which it would be good to see restored?

2. What two principles should govern the conduct of public worship and of church gatherings? How did Paul apply these principles in his directions about public worship in Corinth?

3. Many in the church at Corinth seem to have wanted to speak in tongues. What assessment does Paul make of this gift? What was Paul's counsel to those who were eager for manifestations of the Spirit? Which gift do you eagerly desire?