

# Read the New Testament in a Year

(Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer)

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## August 24th. - 1 Corinthians 4:1-21.

Reflect: The Christian's **real** riches, wisdom and strength are seen in the way Paul and his co-workers respond with Christ's grace to the worst life-experiences (verse 12). *Prayer: "Lord, give me the grace to respond positively in the trials of life! Amen."*

## August 25th. - 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.

Reflect: The goal of correcting an erring fellow Christian ought to be to lead them to repentance. The Church has often failed to do this in a loving, non-judgmental way. *Prayer: "Lord, give me the love and courage to warn those who are in error. Amen."*

## August 26th. - 1 Corinthians 6:1-20.

Reflect: When the Corinthians claimed, "All things are permissible" Paul countered that "not all things are beneficial." We are to be ruled by God, not by our desires! *Prayer: "King Jesus, rule over my life and guide my footsteps in all things. Amen."*

## August 27th. - 1 Corinthians 7:1-24.

Reflect: Husbands and wives are to give of themselves to each other, living out the Christian ethic of mutual service in their marriage. It's a recipe for peace and joy! *Prayer: "Lord, strengthen and bless me and those I love. Amen."*

## August 28th. - 1 Corinthians 7:25-40.

Reflect: Paul's attitude towards marriage was shaped by persecution and the belief that Christ would return very soon. Whatever decision is made, God is to be honoured. *Prayer: "Heavenly Father, in all my life-choices, may I serve and honour you. Amen."*

## August 29th. - 1 Corinthians 8:1-13.

Reflect: It's not how much you know that counts, but being known by God and living by his love. This love is what enriches our own lives and builds others up in the faith. *Prayer: "Lord, may love guide and enrich all my relationships in your name. Amen."*

## August 30th. - 1 Corinthians 9:1-27.

Reflect: Christians shouldn't function on the basis of "rights" in their lives together, but rather we are to function on the basis of mutual love, service and self-sacrifice. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to spend my life in the loving service of others. Amen."*

## August 31st. - 1 Corinthians 10:1-33.

Reflect: God will not let us be tempted beyond our strength to resist. However, that doesn't excuse us from the hard work of resisting the temptation as best we can! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, lead me not into temptation and save me from evil. Amen."*

## August 1st. - Acts 27:27-44.

Reflect: Paul remained calm under great pressure/danger. His faith in God's protection gave hope to the others and enabled him to think clearly in the midst of much panic. *Prayer: "Lord, help me to look to you as my anchor in the storms of life. Amen."*

## August 2nd. - Acts 28:1-16.

Reflect: Once ashore, Paul continued to minister to the others - gathering firewood; healing the sick. How has God worked through you in times of disaster or need? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to care for people in need and distress. Amen."*

## August 3rd. - Acts 28:17-31.

Reflect: Note the spread and growth of God's Kingdom throughout Acts: Starting in Jerusalem and finally reaching Rome. See Acts 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:28. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may I too boldly spread the good news about you. Amen."*

## August 4th. - Romans 1:1-32.

Reflect: The righteous live by faith! We are made righteous (**forgiven**) through faith in Jesus. Living rightly with God (**being righteous**) is characterised by trust (**faith**). *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for the forgiveness and new life you bring. Amen."*

## August 5th. - Romans 2:1-29.

Reflect: None of us measure up to the requirements of the law. Therefore we should not pass judgment on others but instead repent as we focus on God's mercy (verse 4). *Prayer: "Lord, help me to repent and to call others to repent, by your mercy. Amen."*

## August 6th. - Romans 3:1-31.

Reflect: The law shows that we are all sinners. The good news is that our relationship with God is not based on performance but on what Jesus has done for us (forgiveness). *Prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank you that you forgive and accept me in Jesus. Amen."*

## August 7th. - Romans 4:1-25.

Reflect: Abraham is the great example from the Old Testament of trusting in God's promises. Abraham is the father of faith and we too are children of the promise. *Prayer: "Lord, help me to be sure that you faithfully keep all your promises. Amen."*

**August 8th. - Romans 5:1-21.**

Reflect: God reached out in love and forgiveness while we were still his enemies (sinners). Our salvation is based on grace from beginning to end! *Prayer: "Lord, help me to trust in, and to live by, your forgiving love. Amen."*

**August 9th. - Romans 6:1-23.**

Reflect: At our baptism we shared in Jesus' death (we received forgiveness) and in Jesus' resurrection (we received new life). Now our destiny is forever linked with his! *Prayer: "Lord God, may I remain dead to sin and alive to you in Christ Jesus. Amen."*

**August 10th. - Romans 7:1-25.**

Reflect: Do you find it hard to struggle against sin? If so, then you're in good company! Like saint Paul, we find our hope and victory in the forgiveness of Jesus. *Prayer: "Lord, I often fail you! Thank you for your unending mercy and love. Amen."*

**August 11th. - Romans 8:1-17.**

Reflect: Without faith in Jesus (by the Holy Spirit), it is impossible to please God. Now we have the Spirit (faith in Jesus) we please him as his beloved children. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to honour and please you in all that I do. Amen."*

**August 12th. - Romans 8:18-39.**

Reflect: Despite all evidence to the contrary, we Christians are on the winning team! Our victory is sure, because it's not based on what we do but on God's love in Christ. *Prayer: "Lord, I know you will never leave me or let me down. Thank you! Amen."*

**August 13th. - Romans 9:1-33.**

Reflect: Do you have loved ones (friends or relations) who don't believe in Jesus? Paul knew this pain too. In the end, all Paul can do is keep pointing people to God's mercy. *Prayer: "Lord, use me to draw others to you, as I share your love with them. Amen."*

**August 14th. - Romans 10:1-21.**

Reflect: Saving faith means believing in your heart and confessing with your lips that Jesus is Lord and Saviour. Such faith comes through hearing the Gospel message. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me both to believe and to spread your Gospel. Amen."*

**August 15th. - Romans 11:1-36.**

Reflect: Membership in God's kingdom is only by grace. The unbelief of the Jews stands as a warning that we shouldn't neglect our own faith. *Prayer: "Saviour, all I have is by your mercy. Keep me close to you. Amen."*

**August 16th. - Romans 12:1-21.**

Reflect: God's great mercy is the motivation for dedicating our lives to God; serving and worshipping him. This means living a life of love and service. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to use my gifts to build up your Body. Amen."*

**August 17th. - Romans 13:1-14.**

Reflect: Part of God's blessing of Creation is the gift of government. We Christians are to be good citizens, and a blessing to society as we live by and share Christ's love. *Prayer: "Lord God, bless and guide our nation in justice and truth. Amen."*

**August 18th. - Romans 14:1-23.**

Reflect: We have great freedom as Christians, but we must use that freedom in a loving way. Acceptance and mutual encouragement are to replace judging others. *Prayer: "Jesus, fill me with your accepting, caring, healing love. Amen."*

**August 19th. - Romans 15:1-33.**

Reflect: Christian faith and life are marked by joy, peace, faith and hope - all by the power of the Spirit. How well can others see these in you? *Prayer: "Lord, fill me with joy, peace, faith and hope, by the Spirit's power. Amen."*

**August 20th. - Romans 16:1-27.**

Reflect: Paul greets the Christians he knew at Rome and encourages them in their faith. Who could you encourage in the faith this week? How? *Prayer: "Lord, make me wise about the good and innocent about evil. Amen."*

**August 21st. - 1 Corinthians 1:1-31.**

Reflect: Our message is about Christ crucified. Although nonsense to some, it is the power of God to save those who believe in Jesus. Keep your focus on this! *Prayer: "Lord, help me to keep my focus on you and your cross. Amen."*

**August 22nd. - 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.**

Reflect: Only the Holy Spirit can reveal to us the mind of God. By the Spirit (in the Bible) God has revealed his secret wisdom - his plan to save us through faith in Jesus. *Prayer: "Fill me with your Spirit, Lord so I can know you and your salvation. Amen."*

**August 23rd. 1 Corinthians 3:1-23.**

Reflect: We all have a role in God's Church, but only God can make it grow. This is a call for humility; trust; patient service; and faithful prayer. *Prayer: "Lord, make your Church grow. Use me to make it happen. Amen."*