

Read the New Testament in a Year

(Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer)

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October 24th. - 1 Timothy 4:1-16.

Reflect: We too are challenged to set an example for other Christians in the way we speak; how we live our lives; the love we show; our depth of faith; and in being pure. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, by your grace and power, help me to grow in godliness. Amen."*

October 25th. - 1 Timothy 5:1-25.

Reflect: We are to treat our fellow Christians like beloved family members: with love and respect. The first place for Christian service is within our own family (verse 8). *Prayer: "Lord, make me a blessing to my family and my congregation. Amen."*

October 26th. - 1 Timothy 6:1-21.

Reflect: Our world tells us to love money and to find happiness through it. God tells us that the love of money is destructive. Instead strive for godliness and contentment. *Prayer: "Lord, break the control money has over my life. Amen."*

October 27th. - 2 Timothy 1:1-18.

Reflect: We don't need to be ashamed or frightened about witnessing to Christ. The Spirit **empowers** us to do it, and grace **motivates** us to do it. *Prayer: "Lord, help me not to be ashamed because I know and trust you. Amen."*

October 28th. - 2 Timothy 2:1-26.

Reflect: We might be limited, but God's Word isn't! We might be faithless, but God never will be! This gives us the courage to keep on serving God. *Prayer: "Lord, use me in your service despite my weaknesses and sin. Amen."*

October 29th. - 2 Timothy 3:1-17.

Reflect: Verses 1-4 could have come straight from today's newspaper. In this sea of uncertainty and godlessness, God's Word alone is a sure guide and anchor. *Prayer: "Lord God, teach me to love and obey your Word. Amen."*

October 30th. - 2 Timothy 4:1-22.

Reflect: If your life were coming to an end, could you confidently say with Paul, "I have fought the fight, finished the race, kept the faith"? If not, what needs to change? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, stand by my side and give me strength to follow you. Amen."*

October 31st. - Titus 1:1-16.

Reflect: Paul lists the qualities needed for Christian leadership in terms of "being" (character), out of which flows the "doing" (behaviour). So too for every Christian. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, grant me a godly character, which acts in love. Amen."*

October 1st. - Ephesians 3:1-21.

Reflect: We can approach God with confidence in Christ. Forgiveness brings both freedom and confidence. In Christ, we discover the wonder of God's love. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may I be full of you and your love. Amen."*

October 2nd. - Ephesians 4:1-32.

Reflect: Our community life as Christians ought to be like this: The Body is to grow and be built up in love (Christ's love in us reaching out to others.) *Prayer: "Lord, help me to live my life worthy of being part of your Body. Amen."*

October 3rd. - Ephesians 5:1-33.

Reflect: Jesus calls us to live by his love and values in society; in our congregation; and most of all in our family relationships. This love is most clearly shown in service. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, give me a grateful heart which is willing to serve others. Amen."*

October 4th. - Ephesians 6:1-24.

Reflect: Have you put on your full set of armour? We will not be able to "stand firm" without it! We also need to use the sword (God's Word) and the power of prayer. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, fill me with peace, love, faith and grace. Amen."*

October 5th. - Philippians 1:1-30.

Reflect: Why not make Paul's prayer in verses 9-11 your own? Who else could you pray this prayer for? How does verse 6 encourage you? *Prayer: "Lord, thank you for all those who have helped me grow in faith. Amen."*

October 6th. - Philippians 2:1-30.

Reflect: Jesus humbly gave himself, suffered, and died to save you. Worship him! Confess that he is Lord! And ask him to give you the same spirit of love and service. *Prayer: "Lord, you gave yourself for me, now I give myself to you and others! Amen."*

October 7th. - Philippians 3:1-21.

Reflect: Being right with God comes only through faith in Christ. This message is the greatest treasure in life - to be trusted and celebrated! *Prayer: "Saviour, help me to treasure your Gospel and to live by it. Amen."*

October 8th. - Philippians 4:1-23.

Reflect: Joy is more than mere happiness. It is knowing that we are loved, forgiven, and cared for by Christ. Focusing on Jesus enables us to **rejoice always** in his love. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, give me your healing peace and fill me with your joy. Amen."*

October 9th. - Colossians 1:1-29.

Reflect: The Gospel is that God, **in Christ**, has brought us redemption (forgiveness of sins), revealed himself to us (verse 15); and reconciled us to himself, making us holy. *Prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank you for your saving grace in Christ. Amen."*

October 10th. - Colossians 2:1-23.

Reflect: Through our baptism, we have been buried with Christ and raised with Christ. This means forgiveness, new life, and freedom from human rules and regulations. *Prayer: "Lord, help me to faithfully and joyfully live in you. Amen."*

October 11th. - Colossians 3:1-25.

Reflect: Only when we become heavenly minded, do we become any earthly use! Christ's love and forgiveness brings unity, peace and transformed relationships. *Prayer: "Lord, help me to always keep my focus on you! Amen."*

October 12th. - Colossians 4:1-18.

Reflect: We should undergird our efforts in witnessing with much prayer (verses 2-4 & 12). We also need to be ready make full use of every witnessing opportunity we get. *Prayer: "Lord, may my life and my words faithfully point others to you. Amen."*

October 13th. - 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.

Reflect: The blessings of **faith, hope** and **love** are something we can give thanks for continuously. They also empower us for Christian service and witnessing to Jesus. *Prayer: "Gracious Lord, make my life an example of faith, hope and love. Amen."*

October 14th. - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20.

Reflect: All too often we are influenced by human opinions of us rather than doing what pleases God. Paul urges us to live lives worthy of God, despite any opposition to it. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to honour and please you in all that I do. Amen."*

October 15th. - 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13.

Reflect: Ultimately what counts most is faith and love (compare verse 6 with 12-13). It is the Lord himself who alone can increase love and strengthen faith. Ask him to! *Prayer: "Saviour, use me as a channel of your saving love in the world. Amen."*

October 16th. - 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18.

Reflect: We do not grieve as those without hope of life beyond death. On the contrary, although death is still painful, we can face it with the sure hope of the resurrection. *Prayer: "Risen Lord Jesus, help me to face death with faith and hope in you. Amen."*

October 17th. - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-28.

Reflect: Paul's recipe for a God-pleasing life is: Live as people of the day; be always joyful; be constant in prayer; be thankful in everything; and remain open to the Spirit. *Prayer: "Lord, sanctify me through and through and keep me faithful to you. Amen."*

October 18th. - 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12.

Reflect: To reject the Gospel means to embrace the alternative: God's righteous judgment! But accepting the Gospel means living with a sure hope for eternity. *Prayer: "Lord, make my faith, love and hope all increase. Amen."*

October 19th. - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17.

Reflect: Some people will try to deceive us or persecute us so that we give up our faith in Christ. So be on your guard, stand firm and hold on to the teaching of the Gospel. *Prayer: "Lord, thank you for your love, grace, encouragement, and hope. Amen."*

October 20th. - 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18.

Reflect: Paul warns us against being idle or lazy. Instead we should energetically do what is good, in Jesus' name. Remember: God is faithful, even when we are not! *Prayer: "Lord, help me to faithfully obey you and to serve others. Amen."*

October 21st. - 1 Timothy 1:1-20.

Reflect: The true mark of spiritual maturity is love, which grows out of a pure heart; a good conscience; a sincere faith; and admitting to being the "chief of sinners". *Prayer: "Lord, I do not deserve your forgiveness. Thank you for your mercy. Amen."*

October 22nd. - 1 Timothy 2:1-15.

Reflect: When was the last time you prayed for the government and our nation? When was the last time you prayed for the salvation of your fellow citizens? Do it now. *Prayer: "Lord, you want everyone to be saved. Make me want that too. Amen."*

October 23rd. 1 Timothy 3:1-16.

Reflect: These obligations for Church leaders are what God expects of **every** Christian. Leaders are especially urged to live like this, so they can be good **examples** for others. *Prayer: "Lord, help me to act in ways that encourage others to believe in you. Amen."*