

THE GLORIOUS EPIPHANY
JANUARY 6TH

Titus 2:11-3:7 **Transformation of Life**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

The grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all,
training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,
and in the present age
to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,
while we wait for the blessed hope
and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior,
Jesus Christ.

He it is who gave himself for us
that he might redeem us from all iniquity
and purify for himself
a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Declare these things;
exhort and reprove with all authority.

Let no one look down on you.

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities,
to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,
to speak evil of no one,
to avoid quarreling, to be gentle,
and to show every courtesy to everyone.

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray,
slaves to various passions and pleasures,

passing our days in malice and envy, despicable,
hating one another.

But when the goodness
and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,
he saved us,
not because of any works of righteousness that we had done,
but according to his mercy,
through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.
This Spirit he poured out on us richly
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
so that, having been justified by his grace,
we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Praise be to God always!

JANUARY 7TH: PRAISES TO JOHN THE BAPTIST

Colossians 1:24-29 **Christ in Us**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

Praise be to God always!

JANUARY 8TH

Colossians 2:1-7 **A General Admonition**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I want you to know how much I am struggling for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me face to face. I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I am saying this so that no one may deceive you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Praise be to God always!

JANUARY 9TH

Galatians 5:2-15 **The Importance of Faith/Be not Misled/ Freedom for Service**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love. You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? Such persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough. I am confident about you in the Lord that you will not think otherwise. But whoever it is that is confusing you will pay the penalty. But my friends, why am I still being persecuted if I am still preaching circumcision? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. I wish those who unsettle you would castrate themselves! For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Praise be to God always!

JANUARY 10TH

Galatians 5:16-26 **Freedom for Service**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Praise be to God always!

JANUARY 11TH

Galatians 6:1-10 *Life in the Community of Christ*

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. *Pause for the blessing, then read:*

My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads. Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

Praise be to God always!

JANUARY 12TH

Galatians 6:11-18 **Final Appeal**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised — only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule — peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Praise be to God always!

FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
WEEK OF THE REVELATION OF CHRIST'S MYSTERY
TO JOHN THE BAPTIST

2Corinthians 10:1-11 *Accusation of Weakness*

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. *Pause for the blessing, then read:*

Brothers and Sisters:

I myself, Paul,

appeal to you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ

— I who am humble when face to face with you,

but bold toward you when I am away! —

I ask that when I am present

I need not show boldness

by daring to oppose those who think we are acting

according to human standards.

Indeed, we live as human beings,

but we do not wage war according to human standards;

for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human,

but they have divine power to destroy strongholds.

We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle

raised up against the knowledge of God,

and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.

We are ready to punish every disobedience

when your obedience is complete.

Look at what is before your eyes.

If you are confident that you belong to Christ,

remind yourself of this,

that just as you belong to Christ,
so also do we.

Now, even if I boast a little too much of our authority,
which the Lord gave for building you up
and not for tearing you down,
I will not be ashamed of it.

I do not want to seem as though I am trying to frighten you
with my letters.

For they say,

“His letters are weighty and strong,
but his bodily presence is weak,
and his speech contemptible.”

Let such people understand
that what we say by letter when absent,
we will also do when present.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: FIRST WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 10:12-18 *Accusation of Weakness*

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. *Pause for the blessing, then read:*

Brothers and Sisters:

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another, and compare themselves with one another, they do not show good sense. We, however, will not boast beyond limits, but will keep within the field that God has assigned to us, to reach out even as far as you. For we were not overstepping our limits when we reached you; we were the first to come all the way to you with the good news of Christ. We do not boast beyond limits, that is, in the labors of others; but our hope is that, as your faith increases, our sphere of action among you may be greatly enlarged, so that we may proclaim the good news in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in someone else's sphere of action. "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." For it is not those who commend themselves that are approved, but those whom the Lord commends.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: FIRST WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 11:1-6 **Preaching without Charge**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I promised you in marriage to one husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by its cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you submit to it readily enough. I think that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. I may be untrained in speech, but not in knowledge; certainly in every way and in all things we have made this evident to you.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: FIRST WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 11:7-15 **Preaching without Charge**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Did I commit a sin by humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I proclaimed God's good news to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for my needs were supplied by the friends who came from Macedonia. So I refrained and will continue to refrain from burdening you in any way. As the truth of Christ is in me, this boast of mine will not be silenced in the regions of Achaia. And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do! And what I do I will also continue to do, in order to deny an opportunity to those who want an opportunity to be recognized as our equals in what they boast about. For such boasters are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is not strange if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness. Their end will match their deeds.

Praise be to God always

THURSDAY: FIRST WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 11:18, 22-30 **Paul's Boast: His Labors**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Since many boast according to human standards, I will also boast. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? I am talking like a madman — I am a better one: with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless floggings, and often near death. Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not indignant? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: FIRST WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 12:1-10 **Paul's Boast**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

It is necessary to boast; nothing is to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows — was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: FIRST WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 12:11-16 **Selfless Concern for the Church**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I have been a fool! You forced me to it. Indeed you should have been the ones commending me, for I am not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing. The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, signs and wonders and mighty works. How have you been worse off than the other churches, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong! Here I am, ready to come to you this third time. And I will not be a burden, because I do not want what is yours but you; for children ought not to lay up for their parents, but parents for their children. I will most gladly spend and be spent for you. If I love you more, am I to be loved less? Let it be assumed that I did not burden you. Nevertheless (you say) since I was crafty, I took you in by deceit.

Praise be to God always!

SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
WEEK OF THE REVELATION OF CHRIST'S MYSTERY TO THE APOSTLES

2Corinthians 4:5-15 **The Paradox of the Ministry**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We do not proclaim ourselves;
we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord
and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.

For it is the God who said,
"Let light shine out of darkness,"
who has shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars,
so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power
belongs to God and does not come from us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not driven to despair;
persecuted, but not forsaken;
struck down, but not destroyed;
always carrying in the body the death of Jesus,
so that the life of Jesus
may also be made visible in our bodies.

For while we live,
we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake,
so that the life of Jesus

may be made visible in our mortal flesh.
So death is at work in us, but life in you.
But just as we have the same spirit of faith
that is in accordance with scripture —
“I believed, and so I spoke” —
we also believe, and so we speak,
because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus,
and will bring us with you into his presence.
Yes, everything is for your sake,
so that grace, as it extends to more and more people,
may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: SECOND WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 1:1-11 **Greeting/Thanksgiving**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is in Corinth, including all the saints throughout Achaia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation. We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, of the affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we would rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He who rescued us from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope that he will rescue us again, as you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: SECOND WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 1:12-24 **Paul's Sincerity and Constancy**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Indeed, this is our boast, the testimony of our conscience: we have behaved in the world with frankness and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God — and all the more toward you. For we write you nothing other than what you can read and also understand; I hope you will understand until the end — as you have already understood us in part — that on the day of the Lord Jesus we are your boast even as you are our boast. Since I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a double favor; I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on to Judea. Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to ordinary human standards, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been “Yes and No.” For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not “Yes and No”; but in him it is always “Yes.” For in him every one of God’s promises is a “Yes.” For this reason it is through him that we say the “Amen,” to the glory of God. But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, by putting his seal on us and giving us his Spirit in our hearts as a first installment. But I call on God as witness against me: it was to spare you that I did not come again to Corinth. I do not mean to imply that we lord it over your faith; rather, we are workers with you for your joy, because you stand firm in the faith.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: SECOND WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 2:1-11 **The Offender**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

So I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came, I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice; for I am confident about all of you, that my joy would be the joy of all of you. For I wrote you out of much distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain, but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you. But if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but to some extent — not to exaggerate it — to all of you. This punishment by the majority is enough for such a person; so now instead you should forgive and console him, so that he may not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I urge you to reaffirm your love for him. I wrote for this reason: to test you and to know whether you are obedient in everything. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ. And we do this so that we may not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: SECOND WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 2:12-17 **Paul's Anxiety /
Ministers of a New Covenant**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

When I came to Troas to proclaim the good news of Christ, a door was opened for me in the Lord; but my mind could not rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said farewell to them and went on to Macedonia. But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not peddlers of God's word like so many; but in Christ we speak as persons of sincerity, as persons sent from God and standing in his presence.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: SECOND WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 12:17-13:4 **Ministers of a New Covenant**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Did I take advantage of you through any of those whom I sent to you? I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Titus did not take advantage of you, did he? Did we not conduct ourselves with the same spirit? Did we not take the same steps? Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves before you? We are speaking in Christ before God. Everything we do, beloved, is for the sake of building you up. For I fear that when I come, I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish; I fear that there may perhaps be quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder. I fear that when I come again, my God may humble me before you, and that I may have to mourn over many who previously sinned and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and licentiousness that they have practiced. This is the third time I am coming to you. “Any charge must be sustained by the evidence of two or three witnesses.” I warned those who sinned previously and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again, I will not be lenient — since you desire proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful in you. For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: SECOND WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 13:5-13 **Contrast with the Old Covenant**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed. But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong — not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect. So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down. Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Praise be to God always!

THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
WEEK OF THE REVELATION OF CHRIST'S MYSTERY
TO NICODEMUS & THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Galatians 3:23-29 **What Faith Has Brought Us**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Before faith came,

we were imprisoned and guarded under the law
until faith would be revealed.

Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came,
so that we might be justified by faith.

But now that faith has come,

we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian,
for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.

As many of you as were baptized into Christ
have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is no longer Jew or Greek,

there is no longer slave or free,

there is no longer male and female;

for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

And if you belong to Christ,

then you are Abraham's offspring,

heirs according to the promise.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: THIRD WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 4:16-5:1-5, 10 **The Paradox of the Ministry /
Our Future Destiny**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord — for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: THIRD WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 5:11-21 **The Ministry of Reconciliation**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: THIRD WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 6:1-13 **The Experience of the Ministry**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return — I speak as to children — open wide your hearts also.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: THIRD WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 6:14-7:1 **Call to Holiness**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship is there between light and darkness? What agreement does Christ have with Beliar? Or what does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be your father, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and of spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: THIRD WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 7:2-10 Paul's Joy in Macedonia

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Make room in your hearts for us; we have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. I often boast about you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with consolation; I am overjoyed in all our affliction. For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted in every way — disputes without and fears within. But God, who consoles the downcast, consoled us by the arrival of Titus, and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was consoled about you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it, for I see that I grieved you with that letter, though only briefly). Now I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because your grief led to repentance; for you felt a godly grief, so that you were not harmed in any way by us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: THIRD WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 7:11-16 Paul's Joy in Macedonia

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

See what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves guiltless in the matter. So although I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong, nor on account of the one who was wronged, but in order that your zeal for us might be made known to you before God. In this we find comfort. In addition to our own consolation, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his mind has been set at rest by all of you. For if I have been somewhat boastful about you to him, I was not disgraced; but just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting to Titus has proved true as well. And his heart goes out all the more to you, as he remembers the obedience of all of you, and how you welcomed him with fear and trembling. I rejoice, because I have complete confidence in you.

Praise be to God always!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
WEEK OF THE REVELATION OF CHRIST'S MYSTERY
TO THE SAMARITAN WOMAN & SAMARITAN PEOPLE

Romans 7:1-6 **Freedom from the Law**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Do you not know

—for I am speaking to those who know the law—

that the law is binding on a person

only during that person's lifetime?

Thus a married woman is bound by the law to her husband
as long as he lives;

but if her husband dies,

she is discharged from the law concerning the husband.

Accordingly,

she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man
while her husband is alive.

But if her husband dies, she is free from that law,

and if she marries another man, she is not an adulteress.

In the same way, my friends,

you have died to the law through the body of Christ,

so that you may belong to another,

to him who has been raised from the dead

in order that we may bear fruit for God.

While we were living in the flesh,

our sinful passions, aroused by the law,

were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.
But now we are discharged from the law,
dead to that which held us captive,
so that we are slaves not under the old written code
but in the new life of the Spirit.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF EPIPHANY

Romans 7:7-13 Acquaintance with Sin through the Law

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

What then should we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet, if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." But sin, seizing an opportunity in the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law sin lies dead. I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died, and the very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, seizing an opportunity in the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good. Did what is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, working death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF EPIPHANY

Romans 7:14-25 **Sin and Death**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF EPIPHANY

Acts 8:4-13 **Philip in Samaria**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralyzed or lame were cured. So there was great joy in that city. Now a certain man named Simon had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he was someone great. All of them, from the least to the greatest, listened to him eagerly, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." And they listened eagerly to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. But when they believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF EPIPHANY

Acts 8:14-25 **Simon the Magician**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness." Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may happen to me." Now after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the good news to many villages of the Samaritans.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 3:1-6 **Ministers of a New Covenant**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Surely we do not need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF EPIPHANY

2Corinthians 3:7-14 **Contrast with the Old Covenant**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

If the ministry of death, chiseled in letters on stone tablets, came in glory so that the people of Israel could not gaze at Moses' face because of the glory of his face, a glory now set aside, how much more will the ministry of the Spirit come in glory? For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, much more does the ministry of justification abound in glory! Indeed, what once had glory has lost its glory because of the greater glory; for if what was set aside came through glory, much more has the permanent come in glory! Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside.

Praise be to God always!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
WEEK OF THE REVELATION OF CHRIST'S MYSTERY
TO A ROYAL OFFICIAL & TO ALL PEOPLE

Galatians 1:11-17 **His Call by Christ**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I want you to know that the gospel
that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin;
for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it,
but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism.

I was violently persecuting the church of God
and was trying to destroy it.

I advanced in Judaism

beyond many among my people of the same age,
for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors.

But when God,

who had set me apart before I was born
and called me through his grace,

was pleased to reveal his Son to me,
so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles,

I did not confer with any human being,

nor did I go up to Jerusalem

to those who were already apostles before me,

but I went away at once into Arabia,

and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF EPIPHANY

Galatians 1:1-5 **Greeting**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Paul an apostle — sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead — and all the members of God's family who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF EPIPHANY

Galatians 1:6-10 **Greeting**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, so now I repeat, if anyone proclaims to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let that one be accursed! Am I now seeking human approval, or God's approval? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF EPIPHANY

Galatians 1:18-24 **His Call by Christ**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF EPIPHANY

Galatians 2:1-10 **The Council of Jerusalem**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up in response to a revelation. Then I laid before them (though only in a private meeting with the acknowledged leaders) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure that I was not running, or had not run, in vain. But even Titus, who was with me, was not compelled to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. But because of false believers secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might enslave us — we did not submit to them even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might always remain with you. And from those who were supposed to be acknowledged leaders (what they actually were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality) — those leaders contributed nothing to me. On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel for the circumcised (for he who worked through Peter making him an apostle to the circumcised also worked through me in sending me to the Gentiles), and when James and Cephas and John, who were acknowledged pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me, they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. They asked only one thing, that we remember the poor, which was actually what I was eager to do.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF EPIPHANY

Galatians 2:11-14 **Peter's Inconsistency at Antioch**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood self-condemned; for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction. And the other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF EPIPHANY

Galatians 2:15-21 **Faith and Works**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

Praise be to God always!

WEEK OF THE PRIESTS
SUNDAY

1 Timothy 4:6-16 **Counsel to Timothy**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters,
you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus,
nourished on the words of the faith
and of the sound teaching that you have followed.
Have nothing to do with profane myths and old wives' tales.
Train yourself in godliness,
for, while physical training is of some value,
godliness is valuable in every way,
holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.
The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance.
For to this end we toil and struggle,
because we have our hope set on the living God,
who is the Savior of all people,
especially of those who believe.
These are the things you must insist on and teach.
Let no one despise your youth,
but set the believers an example in speech and conduct,
in love, in faith, in purity.
Until I arrive,
give attention to the public reading of scripture,
to exhorting, to teaching.
Do not neglect the gift that is in you,

which was given to you through prophecy
with the laying on of hands by the council of elders.
Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them,
so that all may see your progress.
Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching;
continue in these things,
for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Praise be to God always!



MONDAY: WEEK OF THE PRIESTS

2Timothy 1:1-11 **Greeting**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I am grateful to God — whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did — when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: WEEK OF THE PRIESTS

2Timothy 2:1-13 Timothy's Conduct

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David — that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful — for he cannot deny himself.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: WEEK OF THE PRIESTS

2Timothy 2:14-26 **Warning Against Useless Disputes**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth. Avoid profane chatter, for it will lead people into more and more impiety, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth by claiming that the resurrection has already taken place. They are upsetting the faith of some. But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness." In a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for special use, some for ordinary. All who cleanse themselves of the things I have mentioned will become special utensils, dedicated and useful to the owner of the house, ready for every good work. Shun youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with stupid and senseless controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, correcting opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to

know the truth, and that they may escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: WEEK OF THE PRIESTS

2Timothy 3:10-17 Pauls' Example and Teaching

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

You have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: WEEK OF THE PRIESTS

2Timothy 4:1-8 **Solemn Charge**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: WEEK OF THE PRIESTS

Titus 1:1-9 **Greeting**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that is in accordance with godliness, in the hope of eternal life that God, who never lies, promised before the ages began — in due time he revealed his word through the proclamation with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior, To Titus, my loyal child in the faith we share: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. I left you behind in Crete for this reason, so that you should put in order what remained to be done, and should appoint elders in every town, as I directed you: someone who is blameless, married only once, whose children are believers, not accused of debauchery and not rebellious. For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain; but he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled. He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching, so that he may be able both to preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it.

Praise be to God always!

WEEK OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE JUST SUNDAY

Hebrews 12:18-24 **Penalties of Disobedience**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

You have not come to something that can be touched,
a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom,
and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet,
and a voice whose words
made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them.
(For they could not endure the order that was given,
“If even an animal touches the mountain,
it shall be stoned to death.”)

Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said,
“I tremble with fear.”)

But you have come to Mount Zion
and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,
and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,
and to God the judge of all,
and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,
and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word
than the blood of Abel.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: WEEK OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE JUST

Hebrews 12:1-13 **God our Father**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children — “My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished by him; for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts.” Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? If you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children. Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share his holiness. Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have

been trained by it. Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: WEEK OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE JUST

Hebrews 12:14-17 **Penalties of Disobedience**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled. See to it that no one becomes like Esau, an immoral and godless person, who sold his birthright for a single meal. You know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, even though he sought the blessing with tears.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: WEEK OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE JUST

Hebrews 12:25-29 **Penalties of Disobedience**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: WEEK OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE JUST

Hebrews 13:1-8 **Final Exhortation, Blessing, Greetings**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: WEEK OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE JUST

Hebrews 13:9-16 **Final Exhortation, Blessing, Greetings**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings; for it is well for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by regulations about food, which have not benefited those who observe them. We have an altar from which those who officiate in the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to sanctify the people by his own blood. Let us then go to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: WEEK OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE JUST

Hebrews 13:17-25 **Final Exhortation, Blessing, Greetings**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing — for that would be harmful to you. Pray for us; we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you very soon. Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been set free; and if he comes in time, he will be with me when I see you. Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy send you greetings. Grace be with all of you.

Praise be to God always!

**WEEK OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED
SUNDAY**

1Thessalonians 5:1-11 **Vigilance**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Concerning the times and the seasons,
you do not need to have anything written to you.
For you yourselves know very well
that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
When they say, "There is peace and security,"
then sudden destruction will come upon them,
as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman,
and there will be no escape!
But you, beloved, are not in darkness,
for that day to surprise you like a thief;
for you are all children of light and children of the day;
we are not of the night or of darkness.
So then let us not fall asleep as others do,
but let us keep awake and be sober;
for those who sleep sleep at night,
and those who are drunk get drunk at night.
But since we belong to the day, let us be sober,
and put on the breastplate of faith and love,
and for a helmet the hope of salvation.
For God has destined us not for wrath
but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who died for us,
so that whether we are awake or asleep
we may live with him.
Therefore encourage one another
and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: WEEK OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

1Thessalonians 4:13-18 **Hope for the Christian Dead**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We do not want you to be uninformed about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: WEEK OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

2Thessalonians 1:1-12 Greeting/Thanksgiving

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, and is intended to make you worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering. For it is indeed just of God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to the afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes to be glorified by his saints and to be marveled at on that day among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: WEEK OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

2Thessalonians 2:1-12 **Christ and the Lawless One**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you? And you know what is now restraining him, so that he may be revealed when his time comes. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but only until the one who now restrains it is removed. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will destroy with the breath of his mouth, annihilating him by the manifestation of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is apparent in the working of Satan, who uses all power, signs, lying wonders, and every kind of wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion, leading them to believe what is false, so that all who have not believed the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness will be condemned.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: WEEK OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

2Thessalonians 2:13-3:5 **Christ and the Lawless One**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

We must always give thanks to God for you, beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word. Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere, just as it is among you, and that we may be rescued from wicked and evil people; for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will go on doing the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: WEEK OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

1Corinthians 15:35-44a **The Resurrection of the Body**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: WEEK OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

1Corinthians 15:51-58 **The Resurrection Event**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Praise be to God always!