

# DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

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## 10-15-2023 // WEEK 41 NOTES

### Galatians, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1 Corinthians 1-11

#### Galatians

As you read through **Galatians**, realize that it's probably Paul's first missionary letter. After he left his region (Galatia is a region that included cities like Lystra and Derbe – present day Turkey), a certain group of supposed Christian Jews followed Paul and stated that the Galatians needed to be circumcised (the way that Jews outwardly are proved to be members of the Old Testament community of faith), while also receiving Jesus for salvation by grace and not works of the law.

The Galatians were confused if this was true. Paul's letter to the Galatians is primarily addressing this issue. **Basically, Paul is telling the Galatians that they were saved by grace** and not any work — including what the Jewish law used to demand. Grace and law are opposites, as are living your life by grace under the promise of the Spirit versus trying to find God's approval by the works of the flesh.

The letter is divided into **orthodoxy** (God's right doctrine) in **chapters 1-4**. Then there is **orthopraxy** (how to live out God's right doctrine) in **chapters 5-6**.

#### Bottom line:

Paul says that if circumcision is necessary for salvation, then we have to obey every one of the Jewish laws for salvation. And, of course, we can't. **That's why Jesus came - to save us by grace, not works of the law.** The two are opposite one another. Grace/law. Flesh/spirit. We are and can be only saved by grace.

#### 1 Thessalonians

You are now reading through **1 Thessalonians**. The story of the founding of **this church** is found in the **book of Acts**. Paul is primarily addressing the issue that many people in this church had loved ones who had died and they were wondering what would happen to them (and us) when Jesus returns at his Second Coming.

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Paul was also addressing the problem of how some Christians aren't working and depending on wealthier Christians to take care of them. Paul directly and strongly speaks to this indolence and social dependence.

## 2 Thessalonians

This letter was probably written soon after Paul's first letter to this city. Amazingly, the people had adopted a **strange view that Jesus had already returned**. Paul addresses this concern specifically and forthrightly.

He also gives some **fascinating insights into end times** particularities, especially in **chapter 2**, of what's going to precede Jesus's 2nd Coming as it relates to the Antichrist (and what he will do in the 3rd rebuilt temple when he declares himself to be God).

## 1 Corinthians 1 - 11

You are now reading through **1 Corinthians**. If there was a city that most resembles American large cities today, it's Corinth. Paul's letter, as an apostle, addresses many issues we deal with today. It was a church that had much financial prosperity. It also fell prey to a lot of spiritual craziness, as you will see in **chapters 12-14**.

Paul spends time in the first chapters defending himself and the cross, refuting the wisdom of this world that ridicules the cross and grace. He also affirms how the power of God doesn't need fine speech - but faith.

Pay attention to **chapters 5-6** which address the **theology of the human body** in specificity. It talks of the beauty of what God intended with sex and how it becomes misused, abused, and hurtful when taken outside God's boundaries.

*I pray you are encouraged as you continue to read through the New Testament.*

*David*