

Morning Watch Readings

2018
JUNE



This Morning Watch Calendar follows the

Believe
His Prophets

Daily Bible Reading Guide.

Each chapter has a study verse to be used as the Youth
Morning Watch verse of the day.

Daily chapter summary statements are provided.

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June 1

Chapter: Romans 10

Theme: God's Call to Israel

Study Verse: Romans 10:4

Statement: Paul continues to write out his sorrow over his people. He shares passage after passage from the Old Testament showing that God has called this people to repentance for centuries. Jesus' message about love and grace is nothing new; it is what God has always tried to say. In verses 8-13 Paul lays out the simplicity of the gospel again, and in 14 turns to a call to go out and tell the world. What part of the world are you telling?

Response:

Prayer: *Mighty God of the nations, You have given me my own small part to play. Make me faithful.*



June 2

Chapter: Romans 11

Theme: Jews and Gentiles

Study Verse: Romans 11:36

Statement: This chapter has two parts. First, Paul encourages his readers by reminding them that no matter how much opposition he or they see among the Jews, many of them *do* accept and believe. After all, those early thousands at Pentecost were Jews. Then he turns to the non-Jews. The very fact that the Jewish nation, as a whole, is rejecting the gospel makes it possible for Paul and others to move on to the rest of the world. What do you think he means when he speaks of branches grafted in? He ends with his own little song of praise. Try learning it all—from 33-36. You could set it to music.

Response:

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, I have been grafted to You from my childhood. I long to grow and produce fruit from Your great power.*



June 3

Chapter: Romans 12

Theme: Living Sacrifices

Study Verse: Romans 12:1

Statement: Now Paul turns the remainder of his letter to practical instructions for learning to live in this new grace. This chapter alone is full of enough to keep us busy for a long time. There are instructions for how to treat each other, and instructions for determining and using spiritual gifts. Paul ends by repeating Jesus' teaching on loving those who are not acting loving toward you. Write down your favorite three instructions and try to put them into practice today.

Response:

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, I thank You for those who love me. And I also thank You for those who do not act loving toward me, because they give me practice in being loving anyway. Help me to see them as You see them.*



June 4

Chapter: Romans 13

Theme: More Instructions

Study Verse: Romans 13:10

Statement: Here Paul even turns to admonitions to obey authorities, under God. That is, not to obey when it would mean breaking God's law, but as far as possible, to be law-abiding citizens. Then he points out (again, because we can never hear it too much) that it's *all* about love. Love God, love others, period. And finally, he reminds us that Jesus will come soon. How can love help us to be ready?

Response:

Prayer: *Lord of Love, remind me all day every day that obedience is simply loving You and those around me.*



June 5

Chapter: Romans 14

Theme: Weak and Strong

Study Verse: Romans 14:4

Statement: This chapter must be learned from experience by our brother Paul. He used to judge everybody, first as a legalistic Pharisee, then as a persecutor of Christians, and even in some ways after he became a Christian. But Paul is learning what all Jesus' followers learn—I am the chief of sinners. We are not to look at anybody else, or even judge ourselves too much. We are simply to look to Jesus. What do you think would happen in your church, school, and neighborhood if the admonitions in this chapter, of leaving each one's conscience to that person and God, were taken seriously?

Response:

Prayer: *Great Lawgiver and Judge, how glad I am that only You will be judging me, with perfect righteousness. Help me to remember that You can help even those I may think are weak to stand in You.*



June 6

Chapter: Romans 15

Theme: Help Each Other

Study Verse: Romans 15:5, 6

Statement: Paul sees himself, and rightly so, as a strong person, humanly speaking. He is no doubt tempted at times to be impatient with weaker souls, but he says we are not here to please ourselves, but each other. He points out that all of us are nothing compared to Jesus, and He accepted us, so let's accept each other. Then he turns to the personal part of his letter. These ending salutations are very interesting, through all the letters we will be reading, because they give us a personal insight into the lives of the people. What things does he say he wants?

Response:

Prayer: *Dear God, whether I am strong or weak, I am grateful for Your acceptance, and I choose to accept others as You have accepted me.*



June 7

Chapter: Roman 16

Theme: Personal Greetings

Study Verse: Romans 16:27

Statement: Sometimes we are tempted to skip over these personal greetings, but you can learn some things about the early church from reading them carefully. What kinds of church work do you see listed here? How many men are named, and how many women? What kinds of personal instructions or warnings does Paul send his friends? How would you have felt if your name were in a letter like this, sent by a highly-respected church leader for the whole church to share?

Response:

Prayer: *Dear God, I don't need public recognition, just Your approval. Each day help me to do what You ask me to do, seeking only Your smile.*



June 8

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 1

Theme: A Fatherly Letter

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 1:9

Statement: Here is a letter from Paul to you! Look at verse 2—that's you, right? Because of internal details we can actually date this letter to spring of AD 57. Paul wrote it while he was based in Ephesus, to the church he had started in Corinth. It's going to have some fatherly rebuke in it, so pay attention to how Paul goes about the delicate task of pointing out sins. First, what does he do in verses 4 through 9? Why do you think Paul takes the time and compassion to do this before he scolds? Do you think it helps? Why?

Response:

Prayer: *Lord, when You have to rebuke me, You usually do it through other people. I pray that they (and I, if I am ever in the position) will point out the good first.*



June 9

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 2

Theme: The Spirit's Wisdom

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 2:11

Statement: After Paul takes the time to speak affirmingly about the good things he is proud of in the Corinthian people, he also lays out his own credentials for speaking. How many points can you find that show why he has the right to correct their course? Next, he calls on the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, pointing out that only He knows people's hearts and God's heart. What happens when human beings rebuke each other without the Spirit's wisdom? Have you seen or experienced that?

Response:

Prayer: *Father, You have both the right and the perfect wisdom to say what we need to hear. Help us not to run ahead of You, judging things we know nothing about.*



June 10

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 3

Theme: Safe Building Practices

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 3:10, 11

Statement: What is the trouble among the Corinthians, according to what you have read so far? Have you seen that kind of trouble among people that you know? Paul lays out the only safe way to build a church. What is the foundation? Who builds the walls? How do God's people work together to raise a church (the group of worshipers, that is, not the physical building) that will honor and glorify God?

Response:

Prayer: *Master Builder, You are not only the ONLY safe foundation, but You are the designer and builder, too. Help us remember we are only co-workers, general laborers, following Your instructions humbly.*



June 11

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 4

Theme: Immature Christians

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 4:20

Statement: See how gently Paul rebukes the Corinthians. He could shout and thunder, but he doesn't. Think of it this way: there are two good reasons for being an immature Christian. One is being young. Of course children, even though they are just as committed and just as loved by God, are not going to be as experienced as older followers of Jesus. Second, they may not be young, but merely new Christians. Well, during Paul's time, *all* Christians were new! Some were very experienced in being godly people who had always followed what God taught, but some came from paganism, and they had to learn, like all of us. What are some things you are learning?

Response:

Prayer: *Great Teacher, give me the lessons You know I need, just right for my level of experience and understanding. Remind me that, immature or mature, I am completely covered in and loved by You.*



June 12

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 5

Theme: Serious Sin

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 5:7b, 8

Statement: Now Paul has passed on from the childish infighting to something far more serious. There is sexual immorality in the church and they are fine with it! There is a difficult passage here, in verse 5. It obviously can't mean just to give the person over to Satan and give up on him, or to literally destroy his flesh, or he wouldn't be able to be saved. Paul must mean to allow him to face the consequences of his actions so that he will make better choices, and come back a better man. Notice how Paul says to be sure the power of Christ is present before such serious action. How could they make sure of that?

Response:

Prayer: *Jesus, I hope I never have to sit in such serious judgment, but prepare me now to listen closely to Your voice, so that I will have Your wisdom no matter what I face.*



June 13

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 6

Theme: Washed, Sanctified, Justified

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 6:11b

Statement: Sometimes, once someone learns about the freedom of God's unlimited and astonishing grace, at first they go too far in the opposite direction. As in verses 12 and 13, people say, "I can do anything—God will love me!" Yes, He will. What you do doesn't make Him love you more or less. But you can certainly miss a blessing, and worse, hurt others as well. What are some of the sins listed in this chapter, and why do you think they are particularly dangerous?

Response:

Prayer: *Dear Father, help me to love others as You do, and myself, too. Help me to treat my body and soul like the temple for You that they really are.*



June 14

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 7

Theme: Practical Instructions

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 7:10

Statement: Here Paul gives specific advice. Some is good for all time, and some is for the situation of those people at that time. Make a list of the things you think are good for your situation where you live. Notice how soon Paul thinks Jesus is coming. All of God's people through the ages live as if He were coming tomorrow. This is what we are asked to do. One saying is, "Plan as though you would live forever; live as though you will die tomorrow." What do you think of this saying and how well it goes with Paul's advice?

Response:

Prayer: *Lord of Life, I know that You will raise all who love You in the last day. Let me live my life for you now, and if I die before You come, let me live again in Your last triumphant day.*



June 15

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 8

Theme: Food and Idols

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 8:3

Statement: Here, again, Paul is speaking for his own people in his own time. Many people in today's world have no concept of what it means to sacrifice food to idols. They don't know that this was the way people asked a blessing on their food. They dedicated it to the idol of their choice, then ate it. Paul says, idols don't know anything—there's no actual change in the food. But the attitude of the eater is everything. He makes clear that what matters most—always—is love and compassion for the one who is weaker. Do you live in an area where food is offered to other gods? How do you handle this situation?

Response:

Prayer: *Only true God, I dedicate my food, my body, my strength, my heart, and all that I am only to You. Help me to lovingly share that with those who need to know.*



June 16

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 9

Theme: The Rights of the Laborer

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 9:14

Statement: Here, Paul turns to the right of God's workers to be paid for their work. This is a sticky subject. It is certain that God has millions, maybe billions of workers who do all they do for love of Him and their brothers and sisters and ask no pay. Even Paul points out that he doesn't insist on his rights, so that he can speak freely without sounding like he's demanding his own pay. But we do know that full-time workers for God deserve full-time pay. That's one of the reasons we tithe. Notice, too, verses 19 to 23. What does Paul do? That's hard! Have you tried it? How can we safeguard ourselves when "being like" someone to reach them?

Response:

Prayer: *Dear Father, help me to be faithful to whatever work You call me to. Keep me faithful only to You when I reach out to people who believe differently, so that I can be safe from being sucked into their lifestyle.*



June 17

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 10

Theme: Practical Spirituality

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:12, 13

Statement: Paul points back to the history of the people for lessons for today. We have 2,000 more years of history to look back on. We can see the blessings that came when people were faithful and trusting, and the dangers when they weren't. Notice verse 24 and verses 31 to 33. What dangers would it save us from if we kept those principles clearly in our minds, and why?

Response:

Prayer: *Dear God, help me to seek always for the good of those around me. When I am tempted to be selfish, help me remember that seeking the joy of others will give me great joy, too?*



June 18

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 11

Theme: Traditions and Principles

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 11:1

Statement: Notice in verse 2 that Paul is now talking about traditions, not actual laws of God. The traditions, such as head covering, which he speaks of in the first half of the chapter are no longer relevant in some areas of the world, and are very relevant in others.

(Interestingly, among the Jews, it's the men who cover their heads while praying.) What are the underlying principles that are universal, and how do the people where you live honor them? The second half of the chapter is about Communion, which is one of the universal things in Christianity. Different communities have different customs *about* the Lord's Supper, but we all have the Lord's Supper. Why is that so universal?

Response:

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, here is what I know: You lived and died and live again for me. How can I ever thank You?*



June 19

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 12

Theme: Spiritual Gifts

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Statement: Just as he did for the Romans, Paul here explains the concept of spiritual gifts and how important they are to the church. In this chapter, he gives a helpful analogy of the human body. Which parts of you do you think are the most important? Which would you be willing to live without? None, right? It's possible, by God's grace, to live without some parts, and some people do—perhaps you are one of them. But you can't live without your heart and your brain. Those are the parts that represent God in this picture, and we couldn't have a church without Him! Maybe the head could represent Christ and the heart the Holy Spirit? What do you think?

Response:

Prayer: *Headmaster of my soul, You are in charge! I will do whatever You say to do. I'm glad You love diversity within unity.*



June 20

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 13

Theme: Love Above All

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:13

Statement: Here is one of the favorite Bible chapters of all time! It is easier than you think to memorize the whole thing. Why don't you try it? We often forget that there were no chapter divisions in the Bible until centuries later. This is part of the spiritual gifts dissertation Paul has been giving. He is saying, all of those gifts are important, and the church needs them all. But by far the most important thing is love. True, godly, impartial love for all humanity. We could get by without a preacher, or without a teacher, or without a treasurer. But we can't get by without love! What will you do to show God's love to someone today?

Response:

Prayer: *Loving Lord, You pour Your love on us like sunshine. Help me to overflow with it, all over everyone I meet.*



June 21

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 14

Theme: More on Spiritual Gifts

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 14:26

Statement: Paul continues to write about the gifts of the Spirit. In this chapter he concentrates on two that have continued to be problematic for God's people to this day: speaking in tongues, and prophecy. Some Christians believe speaking in an unknown tongue—that is, not a real, earthly language—is the guarantee that one has the Holy Spirit. But Paul clearly sets limits on speaking in tongues (and clearly is speaking of real languages, which have meaning) and sets prophecy above tongues in importance. Again, too many think prophecy is foretelling the future, when prophecy is simply speaking the words of God in a powerful way.

Response:

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, You can give me any gifts You want to. Show me how to use them well for You and for Your people.*



June 22

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 15

Theme: The Most Important Thing

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4

Statement: After the practical advice, rebuke, encouragement, and instruction on gifts that Paul has given in this long letter, he turns the readers' minds back to the thing that is "of first importance": the resurrection of Jesus. Apparently, some Corinthians are arguing that there is no resurrection for the dead, but Paul says if that's the case, there's no gospel! Why do you think this teaching about Jesus is the most important truth of all truths? Did you know that verses 3 through 8 are sometimes called the earliest "creed," or statement of belief, of the early church?

Response:

Prayer: *Dear God, nothing else matters except Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. All our hopes are based on that, and we can't thank You enough for it!*



June 23

Chapter: 1 Corinthians 16

Theme: Farewells

Study Verse: 1 Corinthians 16:13, 14

Statement: Again, Paul finishes up with farewells, last bits of advice, and hopes of seeing his friends again. He has advice about saving up their offerings until he comes to collect the money for Jerusalem. He mentions certain people by name, and asks them all to be kind to each other. He signs his own name; apparently the letter was written by a scribe, possibly because Paul had poor vision. And he closes, just as we do today, with “love to all of you.” What things can you learn about Paul and his friendships from this final chapter?

Response:

Prayer: *Father, help me to be as faithful and loving as Paul and the rest of the early Christians. Please come soon, and take us home so I can meet them all!*



June 24

Chapter: 2 Corinthians 1

Theme: Paul's Love for the Corinthians

Study Verse: 2 Corinthians 1:21, 22

Statement: According to the Bible Commentary (BC 822) Titus returned to Paul with good news about the Corinthians, that they had accepted his rebuke and instruction. Paul had hoped to visit them himself, but had to leave Ephesus in a hurry, possibly because of the riot of the idol-makers that we learned of in Acts 19. So he sends his encouragement and joy in another letter. It may have only been a few weeks between the first letter and this second one. He apologizes for not coming, and reassures them that even when human plans are contrary, God's word to us is always "yes."

Response:

Prayer: *Father, thank You for making me stand firm, setting Your seal of ownership on me, and putting Your Spirit in my heart.*



June 25

Chapter: 2 Corinthians 2

Theme: Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Study Verse: 2 Corinthians 2:7

Statement: Here is a rare chance to see “the rest of the story” in a Bible passage. Remember the man who was sinning in 1 Corinthians 7, and how Paul said to “turn him over to Satan”? Remember how we said he couldn’t mean it in the absolute way it sounds to our modern ears? Here is the proof. In verses 5 through 11, Paul makes a great point of saying that now the brothers and sisters must forgive and comfort the man, since he has turned from his sin. Paul believes we must love and forgive as readily as Jesus does. If you were the sinner, and you had been rebuked, what would you need to reassure you? Do that for someone else.

Response:

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, You even forgave those who were nailing You to the cross! Help me never to withhold forgiveness and comfort from a fellow sinner.*



June 26

Chapter: 2 Corinthians 3

Theme: Increasing Glory

Study Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18

Statement: Once again, Paul looks to history. He reminds the people that when Moses had spoken with God, his face glowed, and the people were afraid to look at him. Paul says that the new covenant, sealed in Jesus' blood, is even more glorious, but that they shouldn't veil their faces from it. He reminds them of the freedom that is only to be found in Jesus. Do you think he is seeking to reassure them, after the last letter of rebuke?

Response:

Prayer: *Dear Lord, I don't want to hide from the glory of Your salvation. And I don't want to hide it from any of my friends, either.*



June 27

Chapter: 2 Corinthians 4

Theme: Jars of Clay

Study Verse: 2 Corinthians 4:7

Statement: In this chapter, it looks as if Paul is seeking to reassure himself, too. He has been through some very hard times of criticism and oppression. Have you ever noticed that when you're feeling down or bad, if you talk to someone else both about your troubles and about Jesus, it makes you both feel better? Look at the list of troubles in verses 7 through 12, then look at the positive affirmations Paul gets even from that list. Can you do that when you are in trouble? Isn't it a nice image, the light of the Holy Spirit shining through the cracks in our broken "jars of clay"?

Response:

Prayer: *Jesus, hold us close when we are in trouble, and thank You for giving us friends to talk to, to encourage us.*



June 28

Chapter: 2 Corinthians 5

Theme: A New Creation

Study Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Statement: Right now, while we're still in "jars of clay," we're waiting, longing so much for Jesus to come, the world to be made new, and our bodies to be changed into the glorious, immortal ones God has promised. In the meantime, we're charged with a "ministry of reconciliation," sharing the work God in Christ did on the cross and does in every heart. Isn't it amazing? "The new creation," Paul says, "is already here!" We can "become the righteousness of God"! That's impossible—except with God, for Whom all things are possible.

Response:

Prayer: *God, make me a new creation! Turn me, day by day, into Your righteousness, through the blood of Christ and the power of the Spirit.*



June 29

Chapter: 2 Corinthians 6

Theme: Sons and Daughters of God

Study Verse: 2 Corinthians 6:18

Statement: Again, Paul lists the difficulties and trials he and his companions have gone through, and try to show how they are letting the Holy Spirit shine through even in the midst of those trials. Go through the list and find the ones that have happened to you. Have you let the Spirit shine through them? In our study verse, 18, Paul is kind of quoting from 2 Samuel 7: 8 and 14. There are lots of other verses in the Bible, too, where God promises to be a Father to us, and of course Jesus modeled that with every day of His life. How does it feel to know that you are the son or daughter of God?

Response:

Prayer: *Father God, I see so many around me who do not know You are willing to be their Abba, Daddy. Help me to share that incredible blessing.*



June 30

Chapter: 2 Corinthians 7

Theme: Repentance Leads to Joy

Study Verse: 2 Corinthians 7:1

Statement: Paul repeats in more detail how happy he is that the Corinthians have repented and shown eager joy to turn their lives around and be obedient to Paul, but most of all, to God. He speaks very personally to them about how sorry he was to have to rebuke them, but how glad he is for the results. Have you ever been in a situation where you made wrong choices, were rebuked, and ended up in a much better and more loving situation not only in spite of that trouble, but because of it?

Response:

Prayer: *Loving Lord, thank You for Your forgiveness, and also for those around me who love me enough to tell me difficult truths when it is necessary, and to forgive me, too. I want to be like that.*

