



1 Dec – 7 Dec

Monday
1 Dec

☐ II Corinthians 5:1
to 9:15

Chapter 5 contains lofty discussions of eternity, judgment, and reconciliation. Chapter 6 deals with Paul's suffering for the welfare of others and his charge to be separate from sinners. In chapter 7, Paul refers again to all the emotions he had in learning of the problems he dealt with in I Corinthians; and in waiting to hear of their response—a response which brought him great comfort. Chapters 8 and 9 are a discussion of the motives and results of giving according to the New Testament pattern (see I Corinthians 16:1-3).

Tuesday
2 Dec

☐ II Corinthians 10:1
to 13:14

In chapters 10-12, Paul's theme is the vindication of his apostleship against false charges. He is clearly uncomfortable with having to talk about himself, but he knows that as Christ's ambassadors (5:20), the apostles had to stand up for themselves, or the gospel would be discredited. Chapter 13 begins with a stern warning and ends with a genuinely loving farewell.

Wednesday
3 Dec

☐ Acts 20:2,3;

Paul resumes his travels at this time, during which time he wrote Galatians and Romans.

☐ Galatians 1:1 to
6:18

More attacks were being made against Paul, which led the Christians in the congregations of Galatia (south-east Turkey) to believe they had to observe the law of Moses. This letter has three sections. In the first two chapters, Paul vindicates his apostleship. In the second two chapters, he shows the purposes of the law and the true place of the gospel. In the third two chapters he contrasts the life that follows the flesh with the life that follows the spirit. It is significant that in 1:6,7 Paul clearly emphasizes there is no other gospel, which eliminates any modern day revelation.

Thursday 4 Dec	☐ Romans 1:1 to 4:25	At the time of this writing, Paul had never been to Rome, but had a longstanding desire to go. He requested their prayers in this regard. The book has three major sections: Sin and salvation (1-8); Jew and Gentile (9-11); Your reasonable service (12-16). Today's reading covers his thesis (1:1-17), a long discussion about sin (1:18-3:31), and a chapter about faith (4:1-25).
Friday 5 Dec	☐ Romans 5:1 to 8:39	Chapter 5 teaches that true peace is the result of justification by faith, and that justification is possible because of the “much more” that God did through Christ. Chapter 6 proves that true death to sin cannot take place apart from immersion into Christ, where newness of life is. Chapter 7 illustrates the futility of life apart from Christ. Chapter 8 contrasts the flesh and spirit (see Galatians 5,6).
Saturday 6 Dec	☐ Romans 9:1 to 12:21	Chapters 9-11 are the source of much unneeded controversy in the religious world. Read these chapters with the understanding (from chapters 1-8) that the only way to be saved is for people to come to Christ individually. God does not save nations or ethnic groups <i>as groups</i> ! Of course, if all of the individuals obey Him, the whole group would be saved. Chapter 12 begins the section on our “reasonable (logical) service” by listing many ways of serving God.
Sunday 7 Dec	☐ Romans 13:1 to 16:27	Chapter 13 stresses the Christian's responsibility toward the authorities in his country. Chapter 14 teaches us to be considerate of one another toward matters of option (and also teaches that a matter <i>cannot</i> be optional unless it is first <i>right</i> ; verse 23; see also I Thessalonians 5:21). Chapter 15 teaches about the oneness that comes from spiritual service. Chapter 16 illustrates the beauty of spiritual service by listing people who lived the way they should!