

READING ASSIGNMENT, WEEK 6: THE LETTERS (for July 8 sermon)

BOOKS COVERED: Acts, Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude

SNAPSHOT OF THE EARLY CHURCH | ACTS 2:42-47

What four things did they devote themselves to according to v. 42?
How are you devoted to these things today?

How do vv. 44-45 describe the community? Where do you see these things happening today? Should we live the same way?

In what spirit did they do these things (v. 46)? Why were they feeling that way?

What was the result of their lifestyle according to v. 47?

THE GREAT LOVE CHAPTER | 1 CORINTHIANS 13

What is the context of Paul's words on love (see 2:31)? What does this tell us about the intended meaning of these beautiful words about love?

What do vv. 1-3 mean? Can you do things for God without loving God?
Do you sense this in your life?

Slowly read aloud vv. 4-7. Which of those qualities sounded unlike you?
Which of them sounded like you?

THE ARMOR OF GOD | EPHESIANS 6:10-18

What does it mean to “be strong in the Lord?” Why do we put on the armor of God (v. 11)?

How do we extinguish attacks from the evil one (v. 16)?

What is the only offensive piece of armor mentioned (v. 17)? Can you think
of some examples of how this works, either from Scripture or your own life?

What does v. 18 exhort us to do? How do these things keep us alert?

Paul closes by asking for prayers for boldness to proclaim the gospel. Do you ever ask for this kind of prayer? Do you ever offer it?

THE GREAT FAITH CHAPTER | HEBREWS 11

What is faith (v. 1)? How is this different from the common definition of faith?

What is the author's point in showing that the various characters throughout biblical history made their decisions "by faith?"

Read v. 13. Think about your own life. Does this sound like how you live, or are you far more comfortable in the world?

In what ways do we live in a better time than those who lived and died before Jesus?

FAITH AND DEEDS | JAMES 2:14-26

What's the answer to the question in v. 16? What good is it to offer good wishes but no practical help?

What are the two kinds of faith described in v. 18? What is the pronouncement about “faith without works” in v. 19?

How do good deeds fit in with faith (see v. 26)? Can you be a follower of Christ and never do anything based on your belief?

Is your faith mostly internal or external? Do your neighbors, coworkers, friends and family know that you believe in Jesus? How do they know?

What are “good deeds” or “good works?”

What were you created for (see Ephesians 2:10)?
