



BELMONT CHURCH BIBLE STUDY READING MEMORIZATION REFLECTION JOURNALING PLAN









BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN OVERVIEW

We are excited that you are walking through the Bible with us this year.

At Belmont, we are committed to being anchored in the Word and led by the Spirit.

Our goal is love and joy as promised by Jesus in John 15:9–11 when He said, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your **joy may be full.**"

This is our hope in learning to abide in His love:

- 1. We want to invest in **reading** the whole context of the Bible.
- 2. We want to **memorize** Scripture so we can apply it to our lives.
- 3. We want to reflect on Scripture so we can pray and abide.
- 4. We want to journal about what the Lord is teaching us from His word.
- 5. We want to summarize the week in a magnificat by combining verses.

READING PLAN SCHEDULE

Here is how this reading plan is organized:

1. There are eight sessions laid out in approximately 40-day sections.

2. Each week includes **five days of reading.** There is an optional reading that relates to the theme of the week.

3. Each week will include Old and New Testament readings with key verses to reflect on and a passage to memorize as a church family:

- 1. Jan 2 Feb 21 In the Beginning An Overview of the Old Testament
- 2. Feb 26 April 7 Follow Me The Life of Jesus in the Gospels
- 3. April 10 May 28 We are Witnesses The study of Acts and Connected Letters
- 4. May 29 July 30 I Shall not Want Poetry and Praise
- 5. JULY 31 SEPT 3 FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS STORIES OF COURAGE
- 6. Sept 4 Oct 22 Be Careful- Old Testament Exhortations to Trust
- 7. Oct 23 Dec 2 The Time is Near- The End and the New Beginning
- 8. Dec 3- Dec 31 Consider Jesus The Beginning of Grace

SESSION THEME - "FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS"

As we start a new school year, we will explore our theme: **"For Such a Time as This."** This phrase, taken from the book of Esther, represents God's purpose, a call to action, and a need for courage for many different people in many different challenges.

We will focus this session on men and women who stepped into their divine purposes for their time. Ephesians 2:10 says that we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, to do good works. Philippians 1:6 says that "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Over the next eight weeks, we will read stories of courage and of God's faithfulness to build walls, gather exiles, lead people across rivers, and stand in the face of persecution and rebellion. God has a call for your life as well. May God encourage you as you hear these stories to surrender your plans and heed His call.

MEMORIZE

Each week includes a passage to memorize that connects to the theme of the week. Our hope is that these short verses will be both practical and helpful in your walk with Jesus. We encourage a consistent rhythm of reviewing and meditating on the verses.

PASSAGE FOR SUNDAY

We have provided the Bible passage that is being preached the upcoming Sunday to help you prepare, pray, and reflect for each upcoming worship service. The first four weeks connect with Belmont's four core values, and then we will be begin a book study through Philippians which will last until Advent.

OUTLINE AND BOOK NOTES

We provide a section in the reading plan that will provide notes and an outline of the Bible books that we will be reading.

JOURNAL & REFLECTION

How is God speaking to you and how do you need to obey? What insights is the Spirit showing you? Take time to journal your thoughts on the Scriptures. Journaling is a powerful tool for growth in your relationship with God. We are also asking a reflection question at the end of each week.

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN SESSION 5: WEEK 1 (July 31)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - DANIEL

	/e are starting this session by looking at the story of the Babylonian Captivity nd the return to Jerusalem. The Jewish people had been captured and had	
suffered the ultimate humiliation of losing their land, identity, and pride of being the treasured children of God. The book of Daniel tells the story of how Daniel and his friends trust the Lord and continue in their faithfulness to God. We will also see prophecy about the future and how Israel will return to their land. The following weeks we will read Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah which demonstrate how God continues to keep His promises to His people. As we start a new school year, we will be wise to learn from those who faced great persecution and risk, trusted the Lord, and worshiped Him above the culture, politics, and the kings of their age.		Dan. 1-2
		Dan. 3-4
		Dan. 5-7 🗌
		Dan. 8-10 🗌
		Dan. 11-12
Extra Reading:	Ps. 10, 53, 67	

DANIEL: OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

The book of Daniel bridges the entire 70 years of the Babylonian captivity (ca. 605–536 B.C.). Nine of the 12 chapters describe revelation through dreams/visions. Daniel was God's mouthpiece to the Gentile and Jewish world, declaring God's current and future plans.

Time Line:

- 605 B.C. Jerusalem taken by Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel and his three friends taken to Babylon.
- 602 B.C. Daniel and his friends complete their three years of training; Nebuchadnezzar has his dream and Daniel explains it (Dan. 2).
- 586 B.C. Jerusalem and the temple destroyed by the Babylonians.
- 539 B.C. Belshazzar's feast (Dan. 5). Cyrus, King of Persia, conquers Babylon and reigns until 530.
- 538 B.C. Cyrus decrees that the Jews can return to Judea and rebuild the temple.
- 537 B.C. About 50,000 Jews return, led by Zerubbabel and Joshua the high priest.
- 530–522 B.C. Cambyses reigns. The rebuilding of the temple is stopped.
- 522-486 B.C. Darius I reigns. The temple is completed and dedicated in 515.

MEMORIZE

Daniel 3:17–18 ...Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.

PASSAGE FOR SUNDAY - CORE VALUE: WORSHIP

Daniel 4:28-35 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, and the king answered and said, "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?" While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will." Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws. At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

JOURNAL AND REFLECTION

RELFECTION: HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO WORSHIP HIM?

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN SESSION 5: WEEK 2 (August 7)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - ESTHER

	FINISHED
Our second week takes place in the book of Esther during the time of the Persian Captivity. The theme "For Such a Time as This" is taken from the book of Esther when Mordecai, Esther's adopted father, gives her the vision of the times and the purpose for her life. Amidst great fear and trepidation, Esther saves her people	Es. 1-2
from annihilation by walking by faith, seeking wisdom, and committing herself to God.	Es. 3-4
While the book of Esther doesn't mention the name of God, we see the sovereign hand of God using a faithful man and a courageous woman to save His people.	Es. 5-6
Where has God put you for such a time as this? What is your mission?	Es. 7-8
Extra Reading: Ps. 48, 106	Es. 9-10

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER

- I. Esther Replaces Vashti (1:1–2:18)
 - A. Vashti's Insubordination (1:1–22)
 - B. Esther's Coronation (2:1–18)
- II. Mordecai Overcomes Haman (2:19-7:10)
 - A. Mordecai's Loyalty (2:19–23)
 - B. Haman's Promotion and Decree (3:1-15)
 - C. Esther's Intervention (4:1–5:14)
 - D. Mordecai's Recognition (6:1–13)
 - E. Haman's Fall (6:14–7:10)

III. Israel Survives Haman's Genocide Attempt (8:1–10:3)

- A. Esther and Mordecai's Advocacy (8:1–17)
- B. The Jews' Victory (9:1–19)
- C. Purim's Beginning (9:20-23)
- D. Mordecai's Fame (10:1–3)

MEMORIZE

Esther 4:14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom **for such a time as this?**

PASSAGE FOR SUNDAY - CORE VALUE: MISSION

Esther 4:13-5:2 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief, and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, in front of the king's quarters, while the king was sitting on his royal throne inside the throne room opposite the entrance to the palace. And when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won favor in his sight, and he held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter. And the king said to her, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you..."

JOURNAL AND REFLECTION

REFLECTION: WHAT MISSION IS GOD CALLING YOU TO?

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN SESSION 5: WEEK 3 (AUGUST 14)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah is an incredible story of how God uses one man to encourage and			
hile rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem, Nehemiah le, teaching them how to worship, repent, study the	Neh. 1-3		
	Neh. 4-6 🗌		
Nehemiah helped rebuild the spiritual landscape of the Jewish people. Everything that Nehemiah did was born of out who he was. Nehemiah loved the Lord, was passionate for his people and believed God was enough to			
		He promised to do.	Neh. 10-11 🗌
		an individual we are called to disciple and rebuild	
our lives in other people.	Neh. 12-13		
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	hile rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem, Nehemiah le, teaching them how to worship, repent, study the I the spiritual landscape of the Jewish people. h did was born of out who he was. Nehemiah loved for his people and believed God was enough to He promised to do.		

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

- I. Nehemiah's first term as governor (1:1–12:47)
 - A. Nehemiah's return and reconstruction (1:1–7:73a)
 - 1. Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem (1:1-2:20)
 - 2. Nehemiah and the people rebuild the walls (3:1–7:3)
 - 3. Nehemiah recalls the first return under Zerubbabel (7:4–73a)
 - B. Ezra's revival and renewal (7:73b–10:39)
 - 1. Ezra expounds the law (7:73b-8:12)
 - 2. The people worship and repent (8:13–9:37)
 - 3. Ezra and the priests renew the covenant (9:38–10:39)
 - C. Nehemiah's resettlement and rejoicing (11:1–12:47)
 - 1. Jerusalem is resettled (11:1–12:26)
 - 2. The people dedicate the walls (12:27–47)
- II. Nehemiah's second term as governor (13:1–31)

MEMORIZE

Nehemiah 1:5–6 And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant."

PASSAGE FOR SUNDAY - CORE VALUE: DISCIPLESHIP

Nehemiah 8:9-12 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

JOURNAL AND REFLECTIONS

REFLECTION: HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO DISCIPLE?

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN SESSION 5: WEEK 4 -(August 21)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - EZRA

Israel had been captured and humiliated by the Babylonians because of their sin and rebellion against the Lord. But, after 68 years in captivity, the Israelites are	FINISHED
being encouraged by the King of Persia to go back to their land and rebuild their temple. There were 50,000 Jews who left their "home" in Babylon to return to Israel and rebuild the temple.	Ez. 1-2
They faced oppression and persecution but persevered to see it completed. Over sixty years separate the first part of the book of Ezra (ch. 1–6) and last part (ch. 7–	Ez. 3-4
10). No verse captures the heart and passion of Ezra better than Ezra 7:10 which describes Ezra as a man who set his heart to study the Law of the Lord and teach his statutes. Ezra 9 and 10 show the commitment to teach the Word of God to	Ez. 5-6
the Israelites and the repentance that followed.	Ez. 7-8
Ezra is a great picture of a community coming together in and under Christ.	Ez. 9-10

Extra Reading: Ps. 117, 125, 129

AN OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF EZRA

- I. The first return under Zerubbabel (1:1–6:22)
 - A. Cyrus' decree to return (1:1–4)
 - B. Treasures to rebuild the temple (1:5–11)
 - C. Those who returned (2:1–70)
 - D. Construction of the second temple (3:1–6:22)
 - 1. Building begins (3:1–13)
 - 2. Opposition surfaces (4:1–5)
 - 3. Opposition continues (4:6–23)
 - 4. Construction renewed (4:24–5:2)
 - 5. Opposition renewed (5:3-6:12)
 - 6. Temple completed and dedicated (6:13–22)
- II. The Second return under Ezra (7:1–10:44)
 - A. Ezra arrives (7:1–8:36)
 - B. Ezra leads revival (9:1–10:44)

MEMORIZE

Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

PASSAGE FOR SUNDAY - CORE VALUE : COMMUNITY

Ezra 3:10–13 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel.

And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel." And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.

JOURNAL AND REFLECTION

REFLECTION: HOW WILL YOU CONNECT IN OUR COMMUNITY?

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN SESSION 5: WEEK 5 - (AUGUST 28)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - JOSHUA, PT. I

We now start a two week study of the Book of Joshua. During the forty years	FINIS	HED
that Moses led Israel, Joshua was a faithful, committed disciple of Moses. Not only did he serve Moses diligently, he was also passionate and committed to	Josh. 1-2	
the Lord. In Exodus 33:11 it is written that, "When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent."	Josh. 3-4	
Joshua was a man who was faithful where the Lord planted him and was	Josh. 5-6	
obedient where the Lord called Him. There is so much to learn from this humble, faithful servant of the Lord. May we be faithful to serve the Lord wherever he has us and wherever he leads us.		
	Josh. 10-12	

Extra Reading: Acts 7

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

- Leadership Transition: The book begins with the death of Moses and God appoints Joshua as his successor. Joshua receives divine instructions and encouragement to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land, which is Canaan.
- **Conquest of Canaan:** The central focus of the book is the military campaign of the Israelites to conquer the land of Canaan, which God promised them. Joshua leads the Israelite armies in various battles against the Canaanite nations, including the famous battle of Jericho, where the walls of the city collapse after the Israelites march around it for seven days.

Outline:

- I. Entering the Promised Land (1:1–5:15)
- II. Conquering the Promised Land (6:1–12:24)
 - A. The central campaign (6:1–8:35)
 - B. The southern campaign (9:1–10:43)
 - C. The northern campaign (11:1–15)
 - D. The summary of conquests (11:16–12:24)

MEMORIZE

Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:1–6 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION AND JOURNALING

REFLECTION: WHERE IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE?

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN SESSION 5: WEEK 6 - (SEPTEMBER 4)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - JOSHUA, PART II

We finish the book of Joshua this week. With the exciting story of crossing the	FINISHED
Jordan river is now in the rear-view mirror, we will now read about the division	
of the land and the renewing of the covenant. Joshua is faithful to lead and	Jo. 13-15 🗌
listen to the Lord. I can't help but come back to the importance of the words	
before He crossed the Jordan in Joshua 1:7–8 "Only be strong and very	Jo. 16-17 📃
courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant	
commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you	Jo. 18-20 🖳
may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart	
from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may	Jo. 21-22 🖳
be careful to do according to all that is written in it. "	

May it be true of us as well to fulfill what God calls each of us to do for His glory! Jo. 23-24

Extra Reading: Hebrews 4

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

- Division of the Land: After securing numerous victories, the land of Canaan is divided among the twelve tribes of Israel. The allocation of territories is outlined in detail, highlighting the fulfillment of God's promise to the Israelites.
- III. Distributing portions in the Promised Land (13:1–22:34)
 - A. Summary of instructions (13:1–33)
 - B. West of the Jordan (14:1–19:51)
 - C. Cities of refuge (20:1–9)
 - D. Cities of the Levites (21:1–45)
 - E. East of the Jordan (22:1–34)
- IV. Retaining the Promised Land (23:1–24:28)
 - A. The first speech by Joshua (23:1–16)
 - B. The second speech by Joshua (24:1–28)
- V. Postscript (24:29-33)

MEMORIZE

Philippians 1:9–10 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

Philippians 1:8–11 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

JOURNAL & REFLECTION

REFLECTION: WHO IS GOD CALLING YOU TO LOVE?

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN SESSION 5: WEEK 7 - (SEPTEMBER 11)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - JUDGES, PART I

In Judges 2:10, there is a verse that causes great grief and fear: "And all that	FINISHED
generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had	Ju. 1-2
done for Israel."	
	Ju. 3-4 🗌
The future looked promising for the Israelites as they crossed the Jordan and	
trusted God for victory over their enemies. But, without discipleship and parents training their children in the way of the Lord, the nation began to	Ju. 5-6 🗌
follow the culture and their gods. Over the 350 years spanned in the book of Judges, God raised up 12 individuals to deliver the Israelites from themselves.	Ju. 7-8 🗌
Let's pray that Judges 2:10 never be attributed to our generation.	
Extra Reading: Ps. 36-37	Ju. 9-10 🗌

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES

- I. Introduction and summary—The disobedience of Israel (1:1–3:6)
 - A. Incomplete conquest over the Canaanites (1:1–36)
 - B. The decline and judgment of Israel (2:1–3:6)
- II. A selected history of the judges—The deliverance of Israel (3:7–16:31)
 - A. First period: Othniel vs. Mesopotamians (3:7–11)
 - B. Second period: Ehud and Shamgar vs. Moabites (3:12–31)
 - C. Third period: Deborah vs. Canaanites (4:1–5:31)
 - D. Fourth period: Gideon vs. Midianites (6:1-8:32)
 - E. Fifth period: Tola and Jair vs. Abimelech's Effects (8:33–10:5)

MEMORIZE

Philippians 1:12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.

Philippians 1:12–18 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice.

JOURNAL AND REFLECTION

REFLECTION: WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR LIFE THAT IS, OR COULD BE ADVANCING THE GOSPEL?

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN SESSION 5: WEEK 8 - (SEPTEMBER 18)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - JUDGES, PART II

	FINISHED
We continue on with part II of the book of Judges. We will see more rebellion and a few more Judges who help deliver the Israelites from their sin.	Ju. 11-12
The final story of Samson is a great example of how God can use broken and sinful people for His glory. Even if we start on the wrong track, what matters is how we finish. God isn't looking for perfect saints, but humble and repentant people to accomplish the work He has planned for our lives.	Ju. 13-14
	Ju. 15-16
	Ju. 17-18
	Ju. 19-21

Extra Reading: Ps. 65, 138 OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES

- II. A selected history of the judges—The deliverance of Israel (3:7–16:31)
 - F. Sixth period: Jephthah vs. Philistines and Ammonites (10:6–12:15)
 - G. Seventh period: Samson vs. Philistines (13:1–16:31)
- III. Epilogue—The dereliction of Israel (17:1–21:25)
 - A. The idolatry of Micah and the Danites (17:1–18:31)
 - B. The crime at Gibeah and war against Benjamin (19:1–21:25)

MEMORIZE

Philippians 1:20–21 ...it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:18–26 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

JOURNALING AND REFLECTION

REFLECTION: IS IT FAR BETTER FOR YOU TO BE WITH CHRIST THAN HERE ON EARTH? DO YOU LIVE FOR CHRIST?

