

Week 36

<p>September 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 19</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The church at Corinth was full of problems: division, immorality, lawsuits, idol practices. Paul contrasts two ways to try to solve these problems: the wisdom of man or the wisdom of God. ? Why does the wisdom of God appear foolish to the world? Look back across your life. What was the result when you have lived by man’s wisdom alone? What was the result when you lived by God’s wisdom? ? According to 1 Cor 2:11-13, God’s Spirit must reveal the message of Scripture to us. Each day this week, begin your Bible reading time by praying, “God, please open my eyes to your Word.” * 1 Corinthians 2 is sometimes used to support a mindless approach to the Bible. A teacher asked, “What is faith?” A teenager answered, “Faith is believing in your heart what your mind knows is not true.” That is not Paul’s message. Paul valued wisdom! But he knew that true wisdom doesn’t look like worldly wisdom. “Wisdom” to the Corinthians was glory, prestige, position, etc. Wisdom to Paul was God’s love shown through the cross. ? Evaluate how you are spending your life. Look at your biggest accomplishments and ask, “What will be the impact of this in 100 years? Am I building with gold or with straw?”
<p>September 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? When you read 1 Corinthians 3, I asked you to evaluate your life’s accomplishments. Now do something even more difficult; ask, “How will <i>God</i> judge my life’s accomplishments? Am I living by His will?” (1 Cor 4:4-5) ? Read 1 Corinthians 6:11 – “And such were some of you. But you were washed....” Think back to your life before Christ. When you came to Christ did he wash you from those sins? Are you living a life that shows this transformation? * 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 gives a principle that should guide our life. We do not belong to ourselves; we have been “bought” by God. Because of this, we must live in a way that will bring glory and honor to God. * Paul’s instruction in 1 Corinthians 7:25-26 has often caused confusion. Notice two limits that Paul puts on his advice to those who are unmarried. 1) Paul specifies that this is his personal judgment, <i>not</i> a “command from the Lord.” 2) The advice is limited to the “present distress.” Apparently there were specific problems faced in Corinth (some scholars believe it was a time of famine; others believe that the “distress” was persecution by the Romans) that may have caused Paul to fear the extra responsibilities of marriage.
<p>September 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 9</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? 1 Corinthians 8:11-13 gives an important principle for Christians. Out of love for one another, a Christian will give up his or her freedoms to help a weaker brother. As you read this, ask God, “Is there anything in my life that hinders the faith of others?” Then read 1 Corinthians 9 to see how Paul applied this principle in his own life. ? Meditate on the imagery of an athlete in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. Are you running the Christian “race” with faithfulness and with self-discipline? Do you strive as hard to follow God as an athlete strives to win his race? ? Notice the principle in 1 Corinthians 10:31. Evaluate your daily life: “Am I bringing glory to God with my talk, my attitudes, my business ethics, and my example in front of other people?” ? 1 Corinthians 11:1 is a convicting verse. Could you say to a young believer, “Follow me just like I follow Christ”?

<p>September 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 12</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 13</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 14</p>	<p>? Every Christian is given a spiritual gift to be used for building up the body of Christ. Do you know what your spiritual gift is? Are you using your gift to serve your local church? If not, please talk with a pastor or church leader to find how you can serve your church.</p> <p>? Read 1 Corinthians 13 aloud, substituting your name for “love” or “it” in verses 4-7. Do these verses describe you? If not, pray that God will fill you with His love. Godly love is not something we can force in our own power; we must have God’s love working through us.</p> <p>* Even though some of the Christians at Corinth were misusing their gifts, Paul does not forbid the use of spiritual gifts. Instead, in 1 Corinthians 14, he reminds them that the greatest gifts are those that serve the church and honor God. Spiritual gifts are not given as “evidence” of superior spiritual blessing or to bring honor to the person with the gift. Instead, spiritual gifts are given to build up the body of Christ.</p>
<p>September 7</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 16</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 1</p>	<p>? As you read 1 Corinthians 15, what aspect of life in heaven is most exciting to you?</p> <p>? Notice 1 Cor 15:58. One reason for meditating on the resurrection and life in heaven is to encourage us to faithfulness now. When you realize that you will have eternal life, does it give more meaning to what you do to serve God in this life?</p> <p>* After sending 1 Corinthians, Paul visited Corinth to address the problems in the church. He also wrote a letter addressing these problems. This letter is lost and is not part of our New Testament (2 Cor 2:3-4 and 7:7-8). Many of the people in the church repented, but a few members continued to rebel against Paul and his gospel. In response, Paul wrote 2 Corinthians to defend the legitimacy of his ministry and to bring the rebellious members to repentance.</p> <p>? Paul says that God comforted him so that he could comfort the Corinthians. God comforts us so that we can comfort others. Do you bless others with the blessings that God sends you?</p>
<p>September 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 7</p>	<p>? Meditate on 2 Corinthians 2:15-16. Do you carry the “aroma of Christ”? Do others see Jesus in you?</p> <p>? 2 Corinthians 3:18 shows God’s purpose for His children. Day by day we are being transformed into His image. Review how God has worked in your life during the past year. Do you look more like Him now than you did one year ago? Are you growing in His image?</p> <p>* In defending his ministry, Paul rejoices that God has chosen to work through a weak vessel. Because we are “jars of clay,” God receives glory for our ministry. We do not receive any honor for what God does through us.</p> <p>? As you think of the difficulties you face, meditate on 2 Cor 4:16-18. Your afflictions are “momentary”; the glory is “eternal.” Are you focusing on the eternal or the temporary?</p> <p>? Paul contrasted “godly grief” that produces repentance with “worldly sorrow” that brings only regrets and death. Repentance is more than sorrow for wrong; it is a change of life. Have you truly repented of your past sins, or do you live with regret while continuing in your sin?</p>
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p> <p>? Each day this week you prayed, “God, please open my eyes to your Word.” Did God answer your prayer? Did you find new insights in Scripture?</p>

Week 37

<p>Sept 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 9 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 10 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 11 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * At the beginning of this week, take time to rejoice in the promise of 2 Cor 8:9. John Calvin wrote: "This is the wonderful exchange which he has made with us; that, becoming Son of man with us, he has made us sons of God with him; by taking on our mortality, he has conferred his immortality upon us; accepting our weakness, he has strengthened us by his power; receiving our poverty unto himself, he has transferred his wealth to us; taking the weight of our iniquity upon himself, he has clothed us with his righteousness." ? In the early days, many Jewish Christians opposed the Gentile Christians. Now, by sending an offering to Jerusalem to help the Jewish Christians who are suffering, Gentile Christians have the opportunity to demonstrate in a practical way the unity of the church. Paul takes this offering to show that there is truly "no Jew or Gentile" in the body of Christ. Would you give money to help someone who had opposed you as the Jewish Christians opposed the Gentiles? * Notice Paul's "boast" in 1 Cor 11:16-33. While his opponents are boasting in their achievements, Paul boasts in his weakness. Why? That God will receive all glory for his ministry. ? Paul prayed three times for deliverance from a "thorn in the flesh" (some physical or emotional issue that caused him pain). God responded by saying, "I will give you grace" to endure the pain. Will you trust God if He says "No" to your request for healing or deliverance from trouble?
<p>Sept 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Paul probably wrote Romans from Corinth to prepare the way for a visit to Spain. The theme of the letter is the righteousness of God. Paul shows how a righteous God judges sin (1-3), how He justifies sinners and makes them righteous (4-11), and how this righteousness will affect the attitudes and behavior of a Christian (12-15). ? Romans 1:18-32 shows that the visible sins that most offend us are God's judgment on the hidden sin of refusing to honor God as God (1:21). Three times, Paul says that God "gave them up" to vile sins because they "exchanged the truth about God for a lie." Which causes you great pain – the inward sin of refusing God's authority or the outward sins listed in 1:26-31? ? Our world minimizes the reality of sin. We call sin a "mistake," a "weakness," or even personal "choice." God calls it "sin." Rom 3:10-11 concludes that every person is guilty of sin. We cannot be justified and made righteous until we have confessed our sin. Have you confessed, "I am a sinner"? No salvation is possible without confession of sin.
<p>Sept 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * As you read Romans 4-5, take time to thank God for His incredible gift. Although we deserved judgment as the just "wage" for our sins, he gave us life as a free gift. Although we were at war with God, He gave us "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Every blessing we enjoy as God's children is the free gift of God. ? As you read Romans 6, stop and ask each of Paul's questions as a personal question. For example, "Can I continue in sin that grace may abound?" Then read Paul's answer. Allow Paul to speak to you personally. * Commentators in the early church said that Romans 7 was a description of the "awakened sinner." It is a person who knows they are a sinner and have tried to conquer sin in their own power. However, no matter how hard we try, we cannot defeat sin in our own power. In ourselves, we will cry out like Paul, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (Rom 7:24)

<p>Sept 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Thankfully, Paul does not stop at Romans 7. Romans 8:1-2 is the answer to the cry of despair in Romans 7:24. What we cannot do in our own power, the “law of the Spirit of life” can do. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be “free from the law of sin and death.” ? Read Rom 8:5-8 and realize that there are only two ways to live: in the power of the flesh or in the power of the Spirit. Are you relying on the power of the Spirit to give you daily victory over the power of sin? ? God’s goal is to transform each of us into the image of Christ (Rom 8:29). Think of three qualities you have observed in the Bible about Jesus. Ask God to help you be conformed to the image of Jesus in each of those qualities. ? If you struggle with insecurity in your walk with God, memorize Romans 8:38-39. Realize that <i>nothing</i> can separate you from “the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” * In Romans 9-11, Paul assures the Roman Christians that God is fulfilling His purpose for both Jewish and Gentile Christians. God has “grafted” the Gentiles into His family. We are now one body in Christ.
<p>Sept 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? In Romans 1-11, Paul tells what God has done to justify sinners and make us righteous in His eyes. In Romans 12-15, Paul shows how we will live as righteous people. God does more than “count” us righteous; He transforms us to live in a new way. This begins with the willing sacrifice of Rom 12:1-2. Have you “presented” yourself as a “living sacrifice” to God? Are you being “transformed by the renewal of your mind?” This is God’s purpose for you. ? Romans 13:8-14 is a key passage in Romans. The life of the Christian is more than a list of rules. Instead, it is a life of love. When we love one another, we will fulfill all the other commands. (We won’t murder someone if we love them). Do you obey God out of love or out of obligation?
<p>Sept 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 21 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 22 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? If you are a church leader, read Acts 20:17-35 and ask, “Do I serve the church in this way? Is this a picture of my leadership?” If you are a church member, ask, “Do I respect my church leaders who carry this heavy weight of responsibility? Do I support them with my love and prayers?” ? Because he was following God’s call, Paul went to Jerusalem knowing that he would be arrested. Would you obey God even in the face of arrest and death?
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 38

<p>Sept 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 24 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Do you notice that as Paul defends himself, he always returns to the gospel. Proclaiming Christ is more important to Paul than defending his own cause. As you read these chapters, notice how much space is given to the message of the gospel. ? Do you share Paul’s passion for the gospel? Read his final statement to Agrippa, “I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me might become such as I am....” Paul’s overriding passion in life was to win others to Christ.
<p>Sept 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 27 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 28 <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? One of Paul’s great goals was to preach the gospel in Rome. When he wrote Romans, he stated his intention of visiting the capital of the Empire. God’s plan brought Paul to Rome – but as a prisoner. God sometimes works in ways that we do not understand. But, Luke points out, God was accomplishing His purpose. At the end of Acts, Paul was under house arrest in Rome, but was “proclaiming the kingdom of God... without hindrance.” Can you trust God to fulfill His purpose, even if He works in a way different than you expect? * The four letters we will read next were written during Paul’s house arrest in Rome. As you read these letters, remember that they are written while Paul is chained to a Roman guard and facing the possibility of a death sentence. ? Colossians 1:29 is a wonderful testimony. Paul says that he toils and struggles with “all his energy that he powerfully works within me.” Paul works to grow as a disciple – but he works using the spiritual energy that God provides. Are you attempting to live the Christian life in your own strength or do you live in the strength that God provides?
<p>Sept 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Philemon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Paul wrote that we are to “put to death” everything that is sinful (3:5) and “put on” the qualities of godliness (3:12-13). How do you <i>daily</i> put off what is sinful and put on what is godly? ? To “do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus” means to do everything under His authority and for His glory? Do you live life to the glory of Jesus? ? Both Demas and Luke were with Paul when he wrote this letter. Later (in 2 Timothy), we learn that Demas abandoned Paul while Luke remained faithful as a disciple. If Demas is at one end of the discipleship spectrum and Luke at the other (4:14), where are you as a disciple? * Philemon is a tiny masterpiece! Onesimus was a runaway slave who was converted through Paul’s ministry. Paul wrote this letter to appeal to his master, Philemon, to show mercy to Onesimus. Although Roman law allowed Philemon to execute Onesimus for his escape, Paul appealed for mercy. Let me tell you the “rest of the story.” According to early church tradition, Philemon released Onesimus. Onesimus returned to Paul and was trained as a pastor. He later became pastor of the church at Ephesus.
<p>Sept 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * As you read Ephesians 1, highlight each time the phrase “in Christ,” “in him,” or related words appear. Recognize that all the blessings we receive come because we are part of Christ’s body. In the new birth, we become part of Christ and receive all the blessings that belong to Him. ? According to Ephesians 2, you committed sinful acts because of your sinful nature. You “lived in the passions of (your) flesh.” Now that you are made alive in Christ, does your sinful nature continue to rule your life? How can this be overcome? ? Do you remember what it was like to be outside God’s family? How has your life changed now that you are a Christian? ? Eph 3:17 – What would it look like in your life to be “rooted and grounded in love?” ? Compare your speech from the previous week to Paul’s description in Eph 4:25-32. How does it measure up?

<p>Sept 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? The key to Ephesians 5:21-6:9 is 5:21. In the body of Christ, we are all to “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” In your family and in your job, how will this kind of mutual submission look? Are you treating members of your family and your work colleagues as Christ treats you? ? As you read Ephesians 6:10-18, ask, “Am I missing any pieces of this armor?” Am I fighting spiritual battles without the full armor of God? If so, ask God to equip you for effective Christian living. ? A main theme of Philippians is “joy.” Each chapter shows something about Paul’s joy. In Philippians 1, Paul testifies that he rejoices even in prison. In Philippians 2, he testifies that he finds joy in humility. As you read Philippians, highlight the words “joy” and “rejoice.” Notice how important these words are to Paul. Do you rejoice <i>in all things</i>? ? What is the mind of Christ like? What can it look like to have the mind of Christ in your closest relationships this week? Who can you serve as Christ has served you?
<p>Sept 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Philippians 3 shows Paul’s joy as he “strains to the goal” that God has for him. Then Philippians 4 shows a secret to Paul’s joy is a disciplined mind that thinks on the right things (Phil 4:8). ? How will it affect your daily life if you realize that your “citizenship is in heaven” (Phil 3:20)? Will your heavenly citizenship guide your daily decisions? It should! ? What is the secret to obeying Paul’s command to “not be anxious about anything?” The secret is to “let the peace of God……guard your mind.” Throughout today, when you face anxiety, stop and allow God’s peace to fill your mind. ? Read the list in Philippians 4:8. As you go through the day, allow this list to guide your thoughts. Think on things that are uplifting. It will change your perspective on life. * Sometime after writing Philippians, Paul was released from prison (probably around A.D. 62). He then did another missionary journey before being arrested again. 1 Timothy was probably written during this fourth missionary journey. Paul appointed Timothy as pastor at Ephesus. In this letter, Paul warned Timothy of the danger of false teachers and gave him a list of qualifications for choosing church leaders. ? Write your own testimony based on 1 Timothy 1:13-17. “Formerly, I was But I received mercy because....” End, like Paul, with praise “to the King of the ages.” ? Men, as you read the qualifications of an overseer in 1 Timothy 3, realize that these are qualities of all godly men. Ask, “In what areas do I need to grow as a Christian man?” ? Paul taught that the Christian life is a race, a fight, or a battle. It requires discipline. He commanded Timothy to “train yourself for godliness.” Through Scripture reading and memorization, prayer, church attendance, and obedience, are you training for godliness?
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 39

<p>Sept 24</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Titus 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Titus 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Titus 3</p>	<p>? Paul ends his letter to Timothy with a reminder that the Christian life is a “good fight of the faith.” As you begin this week, ask God to strengthen you for godly living. Pledge to discipline yourself for godliness. Pledge to “fight the good fight of the faith.”</p> <p>* Paul probably wrote Titus on the same trip as 1 Timothy. Just as he appointed Timothy at Ephesus, Paul appointed Titus as the overseer for the churches on the island of Crete.</p> <p>? Titus 1 shows that the people of this island were known for their bad character. Paul showed that Christians must live in a way that contrasts with their neighbors. By doing this, they will make the gospel attractive. Read the qualities of the Christian life in Titus 2. Choose an area where you want to grow and ask God to guide you to a more mature Christian life.</p> <p>? Notice the contrast of Titus 2:5 and 2:10. Does your life “revile the word of God” or does your life “adorn the doctrine of God”?</p> <p>* Rejoice in the contrast of Titus 3:3 and 3:4-7. In the past, we were foolish.... “But when the goodness of God appeared, he saved us!” Take time to thank God for the transformation He has made in your life.</p>
<p>Sept 25</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 1</p>	<p>* 2 Timothy is Paul’s “Farewell Letter.” He probably wrote it shortly before his death in A.D. 68. Unlike his earlier house arrest, this time he was held in a prison cell. This time he would not be released. Instead, he was under a death sentence. This is Paul’s last letter before his death as a martyr.</p> <p>* Knowing that these are Paul’s “last words,” notice the themes that are important to him as he faces death:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoiding false doctrine • Faithfulness as a soldier of Christ Jesus • The dangers of godless teachers • The authority of scripture <p>? Read Paul’s final testimony in 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Will you make this your testimony? Will you begin now to prepare for the day when you finish the race?</p> <p>? God had a plan for Jeremiah “before I formed you in the womb.” Do you believe God had a plan for you from the beginning? If you recognize that God had a plan for your life even before you were born, will that affect how you view the circumstances in your life?</p>
<p>Sept 26</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 5</p>	<p>* Jeremiah is one of the most tragic books of the Bible. Jeremiah is called the “Weeping Prophet” because of the sorrow of his message. He preached in Jerusalem from 627 BC to around 586 BC. He was preaching during the years of Babylon’s attacks on Jerusalem. This book warns of God’s judgment and tells the story of the fall of Jerusalem.</p> <p>? Judah sinned in two ways: by forsaking God and by trusting other gods (Jer 2:13). When we do not trust God, we will <i>always</i> trust something in God’s place. Before you were a believer, what did you trust in God’s place? What was the result?</p> <p>? What does it mean to be “wise in doing evil”? (Jer 4:22) What is the end result of that “wisdom”?</p>
<p>Sept 27</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 7</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 9</p>	<p>? Jeremiah 6 tells of God’s repeated warnings to Judah, but they refused to listen. What warnings has God given His people today? Are we listening?</p> <p>* Jeremiah 7 gives the prophet’s “Temple Sermon” in which he warns the people that they cannot trust in the Temple if they do not live godly lives. Judah allowed Temple worship to replace godly living, but God looks for more than ritual.</p> <p>? Jeremiah 7:16-20 is difficult. Why does God forbid Jeremiah from interceding for Judah?</p> <p>? Where do you boast (Jer 9:23-24)? Your wisdom, your might, your riches, or that you know God?</p>

<p>Sept 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? If God has shown you an area of sin in your life, pray the prayer of Jeremiah 10:24. Then read the promise of Psalm 118:17-18. God is faithful to bring His children to repentance, but He is also faithful to forgive and restore us. ? Have you ever felt like Jeremiah in 12:1-4? What was God’s response to your complaint? * Linen was a symbol of purity in the Old Testament. The priests wore linen to represent their purity in God’s eyes. Jeremiah shows that Judah’s purity has been destroyed by her sin. ? True change will not come from good intentions. True change comes only from God’s grace in our life (Jer 13:23). What have you tried to change in your own power? Will you trust God to change you? ? The key to true repentance is confession (Jer 14:20). Have you confessed your sin or have you tried to hide your sin?
<p>Sept 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Jeremiah did not want to bring God’s message of judgment, but God turned his complaint into joy (Jer 15:16). Have you ever obeyed a difficult command from God and found true joy in obedience? ? Notice the contrasts in Jeremiah 17:5-8. Are you like the man in 17:5-6 who trusts in his own strength? Or do you trust in the Lord? * Because our own hearts are deceitful, we can find a way to justify our sin. The answer to our heart’s self-deception is to be open to God’s Word and its convicting power (Heb 4:12-13). Ask God to use His Word to reveal anything in your life that displeases Him. * Jeremiah 18 gives a wonderful promise to Judah (and to us). Even if God has prophesied judgment on a people, He will have mercy if they repent. He is a Potter who will remold the clay if the clay will be pliable in His hands.
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>