



GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

2025

Reading Guide

Grace Bible Church exists as the household of God to make disciples in New Orleans who, together, accurately represent God and faithfully uphold his truth in the world.



This is a free resource from Grace Bible Church.
For Bible teaching and other biblical resources, please visit GraceBibleNOLA.org.

"An ignorant population is a perilous and expensive burden to any nation." What J. C. Ryle (1816-1900) said about nations is equally true of churches. An ignorant congregation is a perilous and expensive burden to the church because all that God demands of his people requires knowledge. Knowledge of God, knowledge of the gospel, knowledge of the Scriptures, knowledge of one another, knowledge of the world, and even knowledge of one's own heart is essential to a God-glorifying life (see Hosea 4:6; Psalm 119:152; John 17:3).

For this reason, our church publishes an annual reading guide with the goal of contributing to a biblically-literate, theologically-sound congregation. Herein, readers will find encouragement for reading God's Word as well as good extra-biblical books. It is my prayer that you would avail yourself to the resources in this reading guide and that, as you do, you would experience the truth of **Proverbs 3:13-18**,

*Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
and who gets understanding,
for the gain from her is better than gain from silver
and her profit better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called blessed.*

Grace to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Omri Miles', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Omri Miles,
Lead Pastor



"Men do not throw off God from being their rule,
till they throw off Scripture from being their guide."

-Stephen Charnock, *The Existence and Attributes of God*

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"A godly man shows his love to the Word written... A godly man's heart is the library to hold the Word of God; it dwells richly in him (Col. 3:16)... As a man would carry an antidote about him when he comes near an infected place, so a godly man carries the Word in his heart as a spritual antidote to preserve him from the infection of sin."

- Thomas Watson, The Godly Man's Picture

Suggestions

FOR BIBLE READING

1. **READ PRAYERFULLY** by asking God to grant you insight into what you read from his word and to cause you to submit to whatever he will teach you in your reading. Psalm 119:33-37 offers an excellent example of this.
2. **READ HUMBLLY** by receiving every word of Scripture as the very voice of almighty God. Humble confidence in God's ability to speak requires us to believe, obey, love, and receive, as inherently good, every word he has spoken (Pro. 30:5-6).
3. **READ TRUSTINGLY** by believing the truth of everything God has spoken. Jesus prayed that the truth would change us (Jn. 17:17); therefore, believing what he has revealed is the key to living a faithful life. For wherever faith is found, faithfulness is sure to follow (see Hebrews chapter 11).
4. **READ SINCERELY** by pursuing holiness of life inwardly in the fear of God. The one who fears God will care most what God thinks about his heart, where only God sees (Pro. 4:23; 1Thess. 2:3-4; Heb. 3:12). This fear of God will make us put on sincerity, which God's word is useful to produce (1Tim. 1:5).
5. **READ PURPOSEFULLY** by planning beforehand for regular, consistent, thoughtful Bible reading. Avoid reading verses or portions of Scripture randomly and, instead, read entire books of the Bible at a time.
6. **READ ENGAGINGLY** by reading from the same physical Bible as often as possible and making marks with a pen or pencil. While the ability to access God's word digitally is an incredible modern blessing from the Lord, the mind and memory seem to be better aided by seeing the written word open before us as we carefully notate it in helpful ways.
7. **READ PATIENTLY** by taking a longterm approach to your Bible reading. The goal of Bible reading isn't so much to master God's word as it is to be mastered by God's Word. This should encourage us to think about our Bible intake in terms of years and decades, rather than seeking life-changing discoveries every time we read.

Do not think you are getting no good from the Bible, merely because you do not see the good day by day.

THE GREATEST EFFECTS
are by no means those which
make the most noise, and are
most easily observed.

THE GREATEST EFFECTS
ARE OFTEN SILENT, QUIET

and hard to detect at the time they are being produced. Think of the influence of the moon upon the Earth, and of the air upon the human lungs. Remember how silently the dew falls, and how imperceptibly the grass grows. There may be far more doing than you think in your soul by your Bible-reading."

- J.C. Ryle, How Readeest Thou?

Bible Reading

PLANS



NAVIGATORS BOOK-AT-A-TIME BIBLE READING PLAN

This reading plan is designed to help readers complete the entire Bible in a year. It guides the reader through an entire book of the Bible at a time, mixing Old and New Testament readings throughout the year and staying in only two different books at once. The Navigators website will require an email address before granting access to the free plan.

ROBERT MURRAY M'CHEYNE READING PLAN

This reading plan was practiced by Robert Murray M'Cheyne, a Scottish preacher in the 1800s, and popularized by modern theologian and author, D.


A. Carson. It includes readings from four places daily, taking the reader through the Old Testament once and the New Testament and Psalms twice. Bookmarks with the readings from each section of Scripture can be downloaded [here](#). Other printable formats can be found [here](#).

FIVE DAY BIBLE READING PLAN

This plan takes the reader through the entire Bible (or just the New Testament) in one year, while only reading five times each week. The Old Testament readings are structured chronologically, as far as possible, instead of straight through from left to right or an entire book at a time. Job is placed at the end of this plan.

CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING PLAN

This plan will take the reader through the entire Bible in a single year, ordering the reading for each day by the order in which it occurs in Scripture historically. Many have found that reading the Bible this way helps to grasp how the people, events, and books of the Bible all fit together. However, those who do utilize this plan should keep a couple factors in mind: (1) the books of Scripture were written as single units rather than to chronicle the order of events; therefore, the reader may find greater difficulty in grasping the author's intention in writing a certain book due to regularly moving between various parts of Scripture; (2) some portions of Scripture (many of the Psalms, for example) are difficult, or even impossible, to order chronologically; (3) at times the interpreter must make a decision about the particular timing of an event, whether it is past, present, or future, or whether (as in the gospels) similar events are the same or different; therefore, with these final factors in mind, the order of the readings is not always beyond debate or discussion.



"Intermeddle with all knowledge, according as you have the time, the opportunity, and the peculiar faculty; and do not hesitate to do so because of any apprehension that you will educate yourselves up to too high a point. When grace abounds, learning will not puff you up, or injure your simplicity in the gospel. Serve God with such education as you have, and thank him for blowing through you if you are a ram's horn, but if there be possibility of your becoming a silver trumpet, choose it rather."

– Charles H. Spurgeon, An All-Round Ministry

HOW DO I KNOW God's Word is My DELIGHT?

(Article published on the [Crook & Nib blog](#), 09/10/24)

The writer of Psalm 119, at times, expresses his own personal delight in God's word (v. 16, 35, 47, 70). At other times in this mammoth portion of Scripture, the psalmist asserts that God's word *is* his delight (see v. 24, 77, 92, 143, 174). The former is a statement about where he finds happiness – in the Scriptures. The latter is a statement about what is the substance of his enduring happiness – the Scriptures. Even this simple observation is instructive for us. God's words are both delightful and able to produce delight in all who humbly receive them (cf. Proverbs 2:1, 10).

So how do we know when we, like the psalmist, have made God's word our delight, when we have placed all our satisfaction in all that the Scriptures promise and require? What follows in this post is eight indications that God's word is our delight.

1. **WHEN WE READ IT REGULARLY.** To have Bibles in our own language and as readily accessible as it is in America is a great privilege. Those with access to the written word are most culpable to know it, believe it, and obey it (cf. Matt. 12:3, 5; 19:4; 21:16, 42; 22:31). God's people ought to be like Job who said, "I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food" (Job 23:12b, ESV). J. C. Ryle wisely warned his readers, "Your neglected Bible is a plain evidence that you do not love God. The health of a man's body may generally be known by his appetite. The health of man's soul may be known by his treatment of the Bible."¹
2. **WHEN WE OBEY IT WHOLEHEARTEDLY.** God made man's heart; therefore, the whole heart belongs to God. Hear the psalmist's refrain: "[Those who observe His testimonies] seek Him with all *their* heart... Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You... Cause me to understand, that I may observe Your law And keep it with all *my* heart... I have sought to please Your face with all *my* heart... May my heart be blameless in Your statutes" (v. 2, 11, 34, 58, 80). We will obey God's word wholeheartedly if God's word has captured our whole heart. "Neither hearing, nor reading, nor reciting the holy Scriptures will save us from false ways, unless with the heart we cordially embrace whatever they teach us. To this work we ought to be greatly stimulated."²

¹J. C. Ryle, *How Readest Thou?* (Moscow, ID: Charles Nolan Publishers, 2002), 53.

²William S. Plumer, *Studies in the Book of Psalms* (Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1975), 1028.

3. **WHEN WE DEFEND IT ZEALOUSLY.** No one needs to tell a loving husband to defend his wife's honor. No mom needs coaching to defend her child being bullied. These things are instinctive because the people being harmed are the objects of strong affection. Similarly, when God's word comes under attack, something must rise up in God's slaves to oppose the besmirching of God's truth, since whatever is said about his word is also a statement about his character. Of Christ it was said, "Zeal for Your house will consume me" (John 2:17).
4. **WHEN WE EXALT IT ONLY.** God's word ought to hold the preeminent position in our lives so that it maintains a peerless place without competitors. We must see it alone as worthy of counseling us (v. 24), of making us afraid (v. 120), of giving us life (v. 93), of our unwavering allegiance (v. 48), and of leaving us in awe while all other things pale in comparison to its perfection (v. 96).
5. **WHEN WE CONSTANTLY REMEMBER IT.** We easily recall those things that most consume our thoughts and direct our concerns. In other words, what we love most, we most easily call to mind. Thus, if we love God's word most, it will constantly be in our thoughts (v. 16, 93).
6. **WHEN WE DEEPLY CONSIDER IT.** I am thankful that the LSB translators chose to use the word "muse" throughout Psalm 119. It occurs in verses 15, 23, 27, 48, 78, and 148. The word (תָּוֶה) describes meditating with thanks and praise.³ This is how God's slaves ought to regard his voice, with deep, worshipful, thankful, and frequent reflection. One who does this because he loves to hear God speak, and not merely for some other obligation or opportunity, has made God's word his delight.
7. **WHEN WE READILY SHARE IT.** People talk about what they love. Or, as Jesus says it, "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34). "When the word of God is really in the *heart*, it will also be found on the *lips*"⁴ (v. 13).
8. **WHEN WE HUMBLY BELIEVE IT.** All of the aforementioned indications of delighting in God's word require this one - humble faith. To sincerely enjoy God's commandments, we must first believe them, which the psalmist expressly states (v. 66). We must believe that what God's word requires of us is best and wise. We must trust it more than we trust our own thoughts (Proverbs 3:5; 26:12). When we practice constantly submitting our opinions to the superior words of God in everything (v. 128), we can be assured that we have delighted ourselves in the Scriptures.

³Ludwig Koehler, Walter Baumgartner, M. E. J. Richardson, and Johann Jakob Stamm, *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994-2000), 1320.

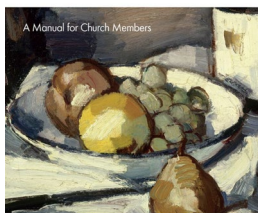
⁴Hengstenberg, quoted in William S. Plumer, *Studies in the Book of Psalms* (Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1975), 1028.

RECOMMENDED Resources

This year's recommended resources include books on church history, bibliology (the study of the Bible), parenting, ecclesiology (the study of the church), theology proper (the nature of God), and sanctification (the doctrine of holiness or becoming more like Christ). The following six books include a total of 1,086 pages. All six books could be completed by reading 90.5 pages per month, an average of about 3 pages every day of the year. Try committing at least 10 minutes a day to reading these resources so that our church might grow in knowledge of these subjects together.

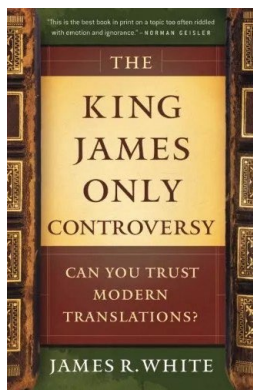
Duties of Christian Fellowship

John Owen



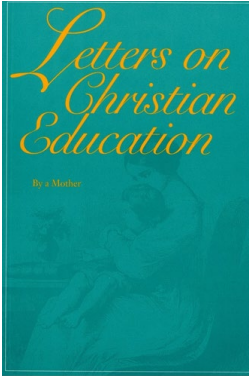
PURITAN PAPERBACKS

JOHN OWEN — *DUTIES OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP* The old Puritan pastor, John Owen (1616-1683), is regarded as the Prince of Puritans due to his depth of thought, exhaustive treatment of the subjects which he undertook in his writings, and also the difficulty which readers so often encounter in comprehending him. Of all that Owen wrote, however, *Duties of Christian Fellowship* is likely the easiest to understand and his most concise work as well. The subject as noted in the title, explains what are the common duties of every church member. I am eager for our members to read this work as we consider faithfully living with and loving one another for the long haul. *95 pages*

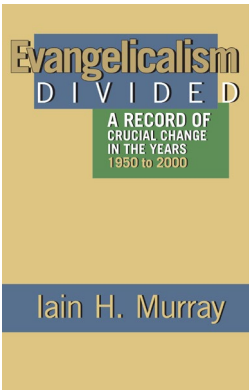


JAMES WHITE — *THE KING JAMES ONLY CONTROVERSY*

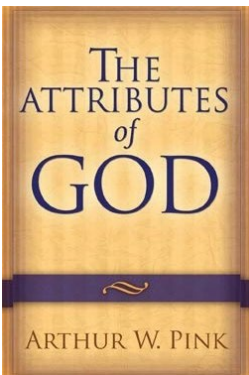
In our day, a small segment of Christendom holds that the King James Version is the only Bible translation worthy of the being called God's Word. The arguments in favor of this view range from mere ignorance about translation practices to outlandish and bizarre claims about the history of the KJV Bible. Whether you are in need of help clarifying this controversy or not, *The King James Only Controversy* is an excellent layman-level introduction to Bible translation, the history of biblical manuscripts, and the original biblical languages. Every Christian who reads it is certain to walk away with a greater love for God and his word, as well as deeper gratitude for what we have in our modern English translations. *340 pages*



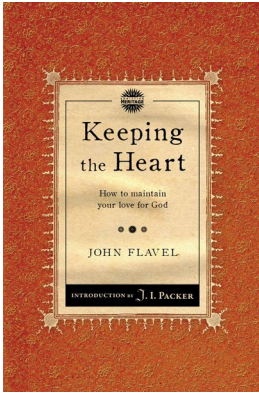
LETTERS ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION An anonymous woman in the 1800s sought to disciple a young mother via letter. Her nine letters were then compiled into a single volume under the title, *Letters on Christian Education*. Though the title makes it sound like a manual about homeschooling, this series of letters simply instruct and exhort readers regarding childhood training within the home; i.e., childrearing or parenting (Ephesians 6:4). With seasoned wisdom and profound insight, this anonymous mother offers timeless advice from which every Christian parent might benefit. *88 pages*



IAIN H. MURRAY — EVANGELICALISM DIVIDED Crucial to understanding one's place in history is knowing something about history itself. *Evangelicalism Divided* will help familiarize readers with the leaders, institutions, and movements that shaped Christianity during the latter half of the 20th century. Iain Murray, a church historian in the best sense, does not offer readers a mere recounting of people, places, and dates. Rather, like biblical chroniclers, he offers readers God's perspective on history. This book ought to strengthen our love for and protection of the truth, as well as move us to stand with courage, patience, charity in the midst of so much Christian compromise in our day. *328 pages*



ARTHUR PINK — THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD There is, perhaps, no extra-biblical book that can rival this one in articulating such a majestic view of the God of the Bible in so few pages. Pink's (1886-1952) reverence for God and regard for the Scriptures are evident on every page. He is not highly philosophical, but rather aims at tying his conclusions to specific texts of Scripture. Christian readers will be left with a smaller opinion of self, a grand vision of God, and incredible thankfulness for the gospel. *117 pages*



JOHN FLAVEL — *KEEPING THE HEART* This book was originally published under the title, *Saint Indeed: Or, The Great Work of a Christian, Opened and Pressed*. It is an explanation and application of Proverbs 4:23, “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.” The double- title gives insight into the importance that Flavel’s (1628-1691) gives to guarding one’s own inner life. *Keeping the Heart* is the best resource I know that explains and then demonstrates for readers what it means to keep the heart. At a time when too few Christians are familiar with this all-important practice, this resource proves to be a most welcome guide to sincere, sanctified living.

118 pages

PAST RECOMMENDED *Resources*

2024

How Readeest Thou? by J. C. Ryle

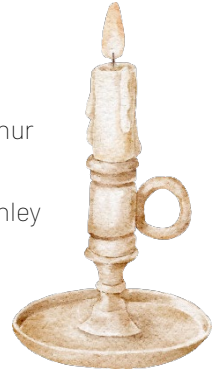
The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness by John MacArthur

The Duties of Parents by J. C. Ryle

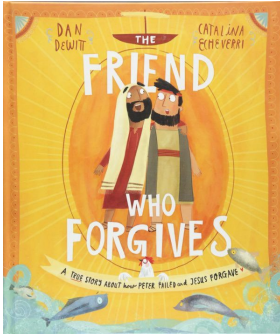
Church in Hard Places by Mez McConnell and Mike McKinley

The Gospel According to Jesus by John MacArthur

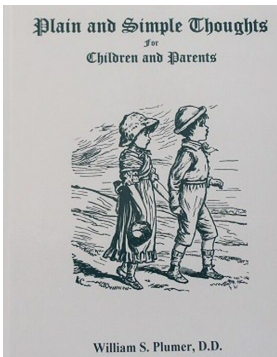
The Gospel and Personal Evangelism by Mark Dever



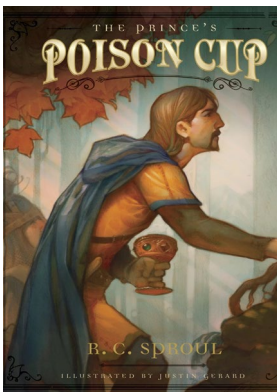
CHILDREN'S *Resources*



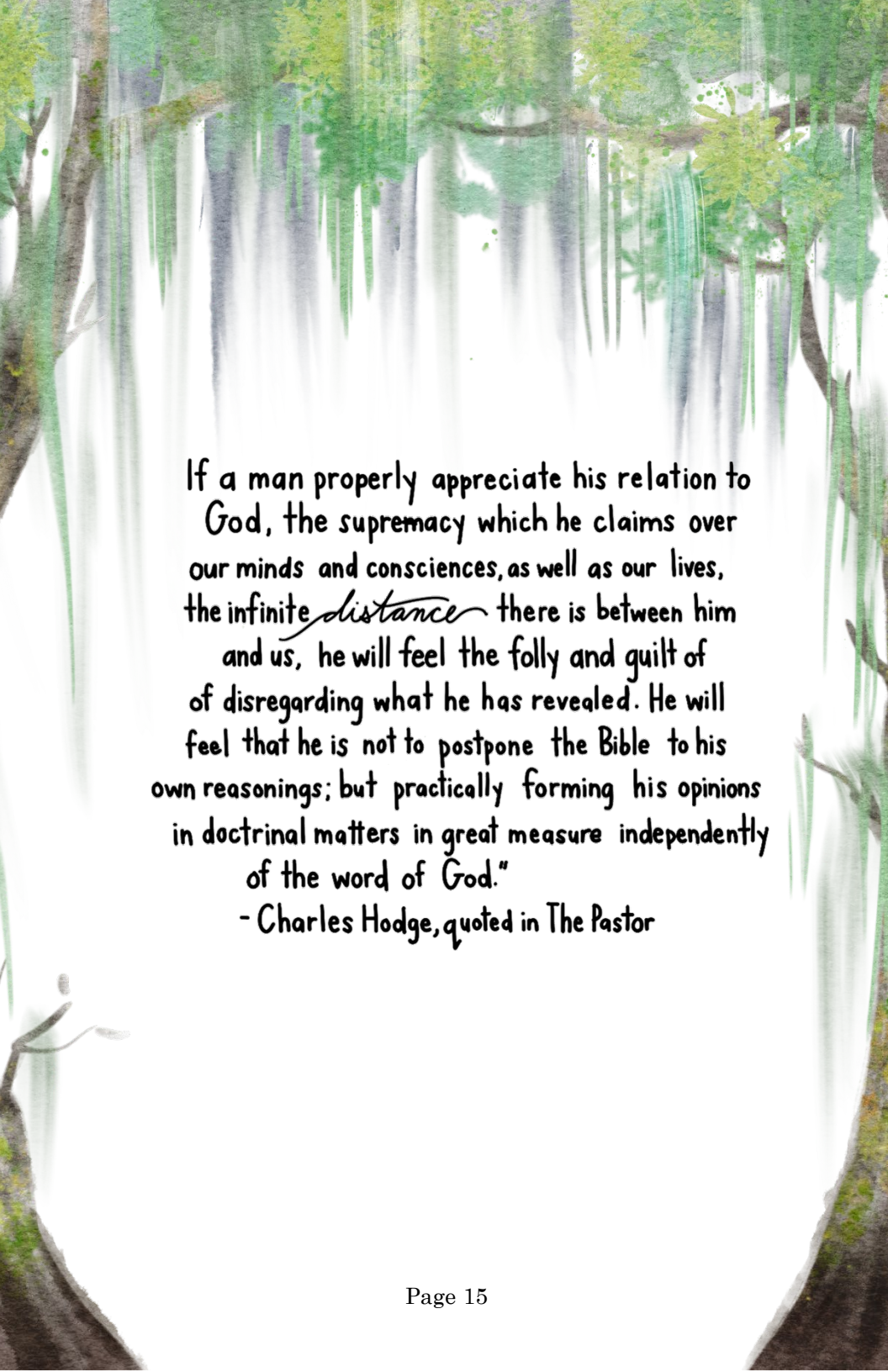
DAN DEWITT AND CATALINA ECHEVERRI — *THE FRIEND WHO FORGIVES* This children's book highlights Jesus' abundant forgiveness by retelling the gospel accounts' testimony of his relationship with the apostle Peter. It is a helpful resource to encourage and teach forgiveness principles.



WILLIAM S. PLUMER — *PLAIN AND SIMPLE THOUGHT FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS* W. S. Plumer (1802-1880), a graduate of old Princeton Seminary and well-known Southern Presbyterian preacher, possessed a profound mind for theology and a tender heart for children. This series of short writings are derived mostly from sermons Plumer preached for children. They are packed with gems of wisdom for both children and their parents.



R. C. SPROUL — *THE PRINCE'S POISON CUP* R. C. Sproul (1939-2017) was a brilliant theologian as well as an excellent storyteller. Both abilities come together in his stories for children that portray the truth of the gospel. With stories in fairytale-like settings, equipped with captivating illustrations, this book about a prince who willingly tastes death for his father's subjects will give parents an opportunity to explain the good news of Christ and him crucified.



If a man properly appreciate his relation to God, the supremacy which he claims over our minds and consciences, as well as our lives, the infinite *distance* there is between him and us, he will feel the folly and guilt of disregarding what he has revealed. He will feel that he is not to postpone the Bible to his own reasonings; but practically forming his opinions in doctrinal matters in great measure independently of the word of God."

- Charles Hodge, quoted in *The Pastor*

Online Resources

Several resources are currently available on our church [website](#). Our catalogue of sermons, blogs, and digital media continues to grow.

[SERMONS](#) | [CROOK & NIB BLOG](#) | [UPDATES BLOG](#) | [YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)

Our Partner Churches

The several churches listed below have supported us financially, pray for us regularly, and/or have shared resources with us to help see this church established. We are incredibly grateful for their sacrificial love for us and their excitement about what God is doing in New Orleans.

 GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

 GILBERT BIBLE CHURCH



FOUNDERS
BAPTIST CHURCH



CORNERSTONE
BIBLE CHURCH • KATY



MISSION
BIBLE CHURCH



Arizona
Community
Church



MISSION ROAD
BIBLE CHURCH



FAITH
COMMUNITY CHURCH

The
Field Church



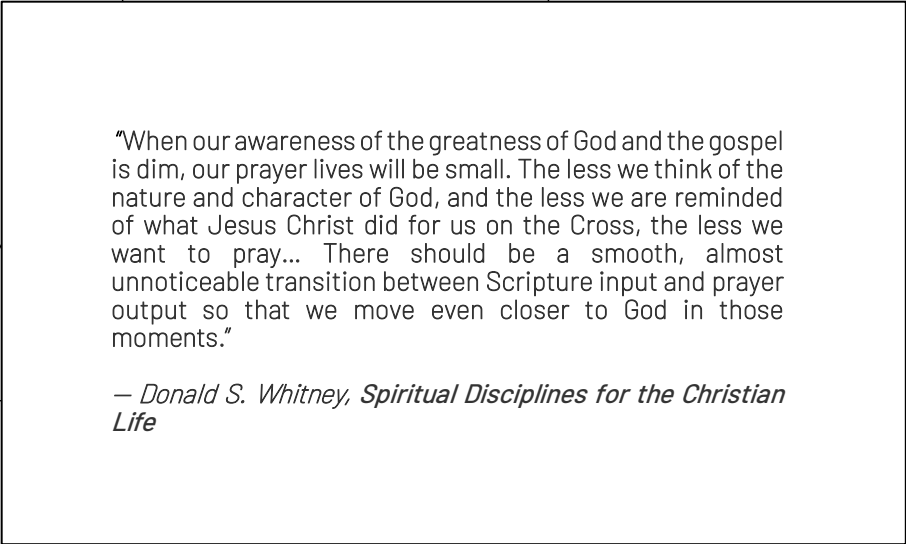
huntsville
Grace Community
CHURCH

CORPORATE Prayer Requests

Please keep our church in prayer regularly. If it's helpful, use the following requests and the accompanying passages of Scripture to inform your prayers.

1. God would receive glory through this church in New Orleans East.
2. Increasing love and unity between our members (1Cor. 1:10; 1Thess. 3:12-13).
3. The preaching and teaching would produce love and godliness in the lives of those who gather with us (1Tim. 1:5).
4. The church's distinctives would become commonplace among us so that the church would be known for these godly virtues (1Thess. 1:8).
5. God would raise up elders and deacons to help lead in shepherding and serving the church body (1Tim. 3:1-13; Ti. 1:5-9).
6. A music leader to lead us in singing during our gatherings (Eph. 5:19).
7. Diligence and wisdom for Omri as he leads the church in preaching, discipleship, and shepherding (1Tim. 4:6-16).
8. Success in our evangelism efforts as we proclaim Christ to those around us, especially in New Orleans East (1Cor. 1:22-31; Col. 1:28).
9. We would become financially self-sustaining, able to support numerous staff for the work of ministry (1Cor. 9:9-11; 1Tim. 5:17-18).





“When our awareness of the greatness of God and the gospel is dim, our prayer lives will be small. The less we think of the nature and character of God, and the less we are reminded of what Jesus Christ did for us on the Cross, the less we want to pray... There should be a smooth, almost unnoticeable transition between Scripture input and prayer output so that we move even closer to God in those moments.”

— *Donald S. Whitney, Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*