

Study Guide for the Week of May 20, 2007

This study guide is designed to help you to become more familiar with the Bible. For 2007 the Study Guide is designed to help you read through the New Testament in a year. Study these passages on your own, with a friend, or with a group. If you or someone you know needs a Bible, please take one from under a chair in the Worship Center. They are there for you to take home and use! Sermon manuscripts are available at www.spwired.com.

Monday, May 21. Read Acts 27:1-12 in the New Testament. Paul is embarking on his last journey, a fact that had not eluded him. We are given a fairly detailed account of the difficulty of the journey. It is fall moving into winter, a dangerous time for sailing in an age without compass or sextant. Something worth noting; Aristarchus probably had to enroll himself as Paul's slave to secure passage and remain with Paul. What was it Jesus said about becoming a slave?

Tuesday, May 22. Read Acts 27:13-44 in the New Testament. Paul's warning went unheeded, and of course disaster struck. They were driven way off course into the open sea. In the deepest moment of despair, God speaks a word of hope. When has this happened in your life? Next came the opportunity for hope to be realized. Can you think of a time when hope led to realization?

Wednesday, May 23. Read Acts 28:1-15 in the New Testament. In a less-than-ideal situation, Paul sees more opportunities to witness. When have you seen opportunity to demonstrate God's love in less than ideal situations? I guess we could ask, is there ever an ideal situation? What excuses do you give for not seizing opportunities for God?

Thursday, May 24. Read Acts 18:16-31 in the New Testament. The story of Paul recorded in Acts ends with disappointment that the Jews hearts were hardened and many would not accept the word of Jesus. There is a challenge for us in this story to not let our hearts become hardened. How can we keep our hearts and lives open to God?

Friday, May 25. Read Romans 1:1-15 in the New Testament. Pre-dating Paul's journey to the church in Rome by approximately 6-7 years is this letter. Typical of letters, Paul sends greetings and blessing. Just from his greeting, we can see some issues that Paul plans to address. What do you think that they are? What good things has Paul heard about this church?

Saturday, May 26. Read Romans 1:16-32 in the New Testament. In the first two verses, Paul talks about the relationship we can have with God through faith. In stark contrast, the remainder of the chapter is about what happens to lives that are deliberately blind to God, who worship their own thoughts or other idols. Notice that Paul never writes that God is angry, only that God has given people over to their own desires.

Sunday, May 27. Read Romans 2:1-3:8 in the New Testament. Paul is writing to the Jews in this passage to tell them that they are no better than the condemned in the previous chapter. Ultimately, Paul is asking, "who is not condemned? Who does not need a savior?" Be careful about judging others.