

**The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – January 9 - 14**  
***Doing Life Together – We ARE!***

**MONDAY:** Matthew 7:24; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 2:20

**KEY VERSE:** Matthew 16:18

**OBSERVATION** What are reasons that people do not go to church? One Christian website lists 10 reasons. Perhaps you have heard some of them: Christians are judgmental and negative. Church is boring. The church is exclusive. Christians are homophobic. 'I don't like organized religion.' Churches are full of hypocrites. The church just wants your money. Life is better without religion. Christians live on another planet. I don't have time. In spite of these types of objections, Jesus stated, "I will build my Church and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." In spite of this, the church is here and it has a purpose. Write down what you think is the purpose of the church?

**TUESDAY:** Acts 8:1; Ephesians 5:27; Ephesians 3:21

**KEY VERSE:** 1 Corinthians 1:2

**OBSERVATION:** What is the Church? The word translated church in the New Testament is from the Greek word *ekklesia* which means an assembly or congregation. It does not refer to a building rather it refers instead to people. In the New Testament, it generally refers to believers Jew or Gentile who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ and have received the Holy Spirit following Pentecost in Acts 2. It may refer to a local assembly such as the church at Thessalonica or the universal church of all believers in Jesus Christ in this age everywhere.

**WEDNESDAY:** Psalm 89:27; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Colossians 2:19

**KEY VERSE:** Colossians 1:18

**OBSERVATION:** Metaphors are expressions of figurative language that are used to communicate truth through analogies. There are several metaphors that are used in reference to the church, which helps to define what the church is and how it functions. How many can you think of? Write them down

**THURSDAY:** Isaiah 22:22; Revelation 1:18; Revelation 3:7

**KEY VERSE:** Matthew 16:18-19

**OBSERVATION:** While some people define the church as God's people of all ages, there are strong implications from the Scriptures that the church did not begin until after the death of Jesus in conjunction with the inauguration of the New Covenant and descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. There are several passages that one can point to that support this view. What do you think ... did the church start after the death and resurrection of Jesus or before?

**FRIDAY:** Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2

**KEY VERSE:** John 4:23-24

**OBSERVATION:** The purpose or function of the church can be summarized into three broad areas: worship of God, edification of the church itself, and evangelization of the world. The worship of God is the highest calling of man. God created us for this purpose and failure to do so will leave a God shaped hole in our lives. Jesus stated, "But a time is coming – and now is here – when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such people to be his worshipers.

**SATURDAY:** Luke 19:9; Galatians 3:9; Galatians 6:16

**KEY VERSE:** Galatians 3:7

**OBSERVATION:** In regard to the church's relationship with Israel, Paul states that Gentiles are grafted into the olive tree (= a symbol for Israel) to participate in blessings while natural branches (= unsaved Jews) are broken off (Rom 11:17). God told Abraham that "in you" all the nations of the earth would be blessed (Gen 12:3). The promise God gave to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 is referred to as the Abrahamic Covenant. In line with this covenant as Gentile members of the church we are a part of the blessing God gave to "all nations" through the Messiah, Jesus Christ.