

## **The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – May 21-26** ***Doing Life Together – Threads of Thrive – Contribution***

### **MONDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** Romans 12:1-2

**OBSERVATION** Paul calls believers to experience ongoing spiritual transformation. This transformation begins by presenting our bodies and renewing our minds. Most people stop reading with 12:2 because these two verses are so familiar. But 12:3 begins with “for” (gar), which is a connecting word signifying that Paul has more to say about transformation. What he says in 12:3-8 is that our commitment to worship and seeking God’s will is incomplete until we are ready to serve. In other words, if your worship does not lead to service, then you haven’t finished worshiping yet. To put it simply: True worship results in service. Paul shares three results of Christian transformation that will enable us to live a transformed life and to apply God’s will.

### **TUESDAY:**

**KEY VERSE** Romans 12:3

**OBSERVATION:** In this single verse, Paul uses one particular Greek word (and its compounds) four different times. It’s the word that is translated “think” (phroneo). A literal translation might read something like this: “Do not super-think [huperphroneo] of yourself more highly than you ought to think [phroneo], but rather think [phroneo] of yourself with sober thinking [sophroneo].” Paul is obviously quite concerned that you and I think humbly about ourselves.

### **WEDNESDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** Romans 12:4-5

**OBSERVATION:** Connection with Christ means connection with each other. If one arm is bleeding badly, every limb in the body will grow weaker, not just the arm. If one arm is working hard to feed the mouth, every limb will be strengthened. Paul emphasizes the importance of unity amidst diversity. No part of the human body can do everything. This is equally true in the spiritual realm. You need the body because you don’t possess all the spiritual gifts. Personally, I find believers who are gifted differently than me fascinating. I tend to respect these individuals in a far greater way than I would if I possessed their gifts.

### **THURSDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** Romans 12:6-8

**OBSERVATION:** Paul says we all have different gifts. Your gift is a God-given capacity to fulfill what He has asked you to accomplish. It is any aspect of your temperament, your position, or any ability given by God, experienced in an unusual measure, through which you are generally used by the Holy Spirit for the benefit of His people. There are the three primary benefits to exercising your spiritual gift: (1) God will be glorified. (2) Others will be edified. (3) You will be satisfied.

### **FRIDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** Ephesians 5:2

**OBSERVATION:** The description of Christ in this verse revolves around four themes. First is Christ's love for mankind. Second is Christ's sacrifice, made on our behalf. Third, this sacrifice is described as "a fragrant offering." This refers to the idea of a sweet-smelling offering in the tabernacle or temple. Fourth, Jesus gave His life for us, as a sacrifice to God, both for our good and as an act of worship to the Father. The book of Hebrews develops this theme in greater detail, showing that Christ offered a once-for-all sacrifice. As a result, believers in Jesus are no longer bound by the sacrifices of the Jewish law (the Torah), but are instead bound to Christ.

### **SATURDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** Hebrews 13:16

**OBSERVATION:** As followers of Jesus Christ, we are often compelled to do good for others even though they don’t always return the favor. Yet we sacrifice with good works and the sharing of our resources as to the Lord and not to men. Our Father in heaven is pleased to see His children doing the right things in spite the pressure to only please themselves.