

## Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

### **Monday (December 11) – Psalm 30, 31, 32**

Psalm 30 is written for the dedication of a future temple for worship. It is written in praise to God for His forgiveness and salvation while giving thanks to His name. His anger is for a moment, but His favor for a lifetime (v. 5). During the night of our lives, weeping may endure, but there is joy in the morning, when God's people awaken to a new eternal day in His presence (v. 5). In Psalm 31 David speaks of rescue as he takes refuge in his Lord (vv. 1–2). This is one of the Messianic Psalms that is quoted directly by our Savior who in taking His dying breath prayed, "Into Your hand I commit My spirit" (v. 5). David in his distress, grief, and sorrow continues to put his trust in God. This points toward the perfect faith of Christ, who after suffering the reproach of His adversaries and even death, rose victorious, conquering the grave! Psalm 32 is a prayer of repentant faith. David knew his sin; he acknowledged it. He confessed his transgressions, and the Lord forgave the iniquity of his sin (v. 5). Like David, we are called each day to repentance and faith.

### **Tuesday (December 12) – Psalm 33, 34**

Psalms 33 and 34 give purpose to praise. In Psalm 33 the righteous shout for joy. Praise befits them (v. 1). The psalmist gives reason for the people's praise: the Lord loves His own, and the earth is full of His steadfast love (v. 5). Indeed, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on all who hope in His steadfast love (v.18). In Psalm 34 David gives praises, for as he sought the Lord he was answered. The Lord delivered him from his fears (v.4). David even speaks of the Angel of the Lord who encamps around those who fear Him. What a blessing that God provides ministering spirits to aid those who are to inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14)!

### **Wednesday (December 13) – Psalm 35, 36**

In Psalm 35 David speaks of the Lord who delivers His people from their enemies. "Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me" (v. 1). Our struggle in this life of faith is not against flesh and blood but against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12). As God's people we rejoice that the battle truly belongs to Him. God fights on behalf of His own through the victory won in our Savior's cross and resurrection. Psalm 36 is a prayer for protection from evil. We remember the Seventh Petition of the Lord's Prayer: "Deliver us from evil." Three times here David speaks of the Lord's steadfast love. In the original language "steadfast love" denotes God's covenant faithfulness and eternal grace. "Oh, continue Your steadfast love to those who know you, and Your righteousness to the upright of heart" (v. 10).

### **Thursday (December 14) – Psalm 37**

This Psalm speaks of the righteous and the wicked. God's people must not fret over evildoers for they will soon fade away (vv. 1–2). Eternal life awaits us in Jesus Christ! The meek will inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace (v. 11). As our Lord says,

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” These are the meek, who in faith trust not in their own goodness but in God who saves them. We walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord. We look to the final revelation of His victory over sin, death, and the devil!

### **Friday (December 15) – Psalm 38, 39**

Psalm 38 is a penitential Psalm. David knows that he is a sinner before his holy God. He approaches in penitence, with a humble and open heart seeking the God of grace. The power of sin will weigh us down until we repent of it. By faith we know that our God will not forsake us. He is not far from any one of us. David confesses his iniquity in sorrow for his sin (v.18). Let our prayer be that of David at the Psalm’s conclusion, “Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation” (v. 22). In Psalm 39 David asks the Lord to make him know his end and the measure of his days. He desires to know how fleeting his life really is (v. 4). This meaningful prayer is a reality check for us today, for what is life but a mist that quickly vanishes (James 4:14)? This world is not our home. We are merely passing through as sojourners (v. 12).

### **Saturday (December 16) – Psalm 40, 41, 42**

In Psalm 40 we see that the Lord is David’s hope and help. David waited with patience, and the Lord heard his cry (v. 1) and gave him a new song to sing (v. 3). In response to God’s salvation, David delights to do the will of God (v. 8). This passage is fulfilled by our Savior, Jesus Christ, who comes to do the Father’s will by offering His very life as the full sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10:5). He alone is our true helper and deliverer (v. 18). Psalm 41 reminds us that the Lord cares for the poor (v. 1). God’s word says that the humble in faith will be exalted (Matthew 23:12). Our Lord says, “Blessed are the poor in spirit” (Matthew 5:3). Psalm 42 beautifully portrays God’s people in their call to seek Him. They desire after His word and presence (vv. 1–2) through all times of difficulty. Their hope is God who lifts up the downcast soul. He alone is their salvation (v. 11).

### **Sunday (December 17) – Psalm 43, 45, 45**

In Psalm 43 David asks God in prayer about the oppression of his enemy. Even so, he takes refuge in God (v. 2). Although oppression from spiritual enemies might make us feel rejected by God, it is His light and truth that lead us to the cross of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the very altar of our God (v. 4). In Psalm 44 the psalmist confesses that it is not by the sword or strength of the people, but rather by God’s right hand and arm that they are rescued (v. 3). Still, he says they have been rejected and disgraced by their God (v.9). Although the people may feel like sheep awaiting slaughter (v. 22), nothing in all creation can separate them from God’s love in Jesus Christ their Lord (Romans 8: 39). Psalm 45 begins a pleasing theme with verses dedicated to the King, the Messiah. He is God enthroned forever and ever and anointed with the oil of gladness above all others (vv. 6–7). As the bride of Christ, we are gloriously robed in righteousness, led along to our Bridegroom with joy and gladness (vv. 13–15).