Weekly Bible Reading - February

//Feb 3//
Colossians 2
This chapter focuses on the truth that our spiritual lives are founded on Christ, we grow as we trust in him more and that Christ and the salvation he offers is all we need. Paul admonishes the Christian to avoid "empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking". In addition, we are set free from rules-based religion that many spiritual leaders will push as substitutes for a true walk with Christ.

- Can you identify the human-thinking ideas which have crept into your spiritual walk with Christ?
- Vs 10 says we are complete in our union with Christ. Do you feel complete or are you trying to add works and actions, which are good, in an attempt to feel better about your relationship with God?
- Paul talks in powerful terms about Christ cutting away our sinful nature, being made alive with Christ, and being set free from the spiritual forces of this world. Are you walking this confident, Spirit-filled life that God has set out for you?

//Feb 10//
John 1
This chapter introduces Jesus in soaring prose about where he came from and why he came to live among us. We also have the testimony by John the Baptist that he is not the messiah but he points to Jesus as the promised messiah. The chapter ends with 3 examples of discipleship and efforts by those who have found Jesus to introduce others to Jesus.

- List all the titles and descriptions given about Jesus in this chapter. Can you use these descriptions as you attempt to introduce others to Jesus?
- What are the common themes in the testimony of John the Baptist, Andrew and Philip as they seek to introduce others to Jesus?
- Do you have some friends, neighbors or coworkers that you can extend an invitation to "come and see"?

grow

//Feb 17//
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12, 1 Peter 1:13-25
These passages teach us about our need/responsibility to live holy lives which are pleasing to God. In the Thessalonians passage, Paul teaches in strong language that we mush avoid sexual immorality and that we have not been called to live impure lives. We live in a highly sexualized society and as followers of Jesus, we have an obligation to resist these temptations which are all around us.

- Are you living a holy life that is God's will for you? If not, what needs to change and what do you need to do differently in order to follow these teachings by Paul and Peter?
- Peter tells us "live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear". Are you comfortable in this world or do you sense you do not really belong here and are looking forward to being in the presence of God?
- Peter also connects being purified and made holy with our ability to "have sincere love for each other" and "to love one another deeply, from the heart". Do you have this type of intense and deep love for your brothers and sisters in Christ?

//Feb 24//
Luke 4:1-13

- What is the longest you have gone without food? Can you imagine the hunger and physical stress Jesus was experiencing after 40 days? This temptation is all about taking control of a situation rather than trusting in God. Can you identify a similar temptation in your life and how you handled it?
- Pride, trusting self rather than God and misplaced desires are the basis of most temptations. Which of the temptations is strong in your life and have caused sin issues in your life?
- Like Jesus, how can you use God' word to overcome sin? Identify some passages that can help you with question #2 and put them in a prominent place as a reminder of God's promise to help you with temptations.