

About Pentecost 15 (September 5-11—Proper 18)

Theme: The Way of the Cross

- *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* -

It is futile to bring godly correction to the godless; such rebuke only arouses hate. (Deuteronomy) On the other hand, those who know the LORD prize rebuke from His holy Word, knowing it is for their good. Faith in the LORD is the root of all wisdom. Thus Philemon, a faithful Christian, received the exhortation and correction from the apostle: He was urged to welcome back his runaway servant not as a rebel, but now as a Christian brother in the Lord. (Philemon) The Lord Jesus invites all of His own to undivided loyalty; nothing or no one in this world is to be prized above the treasures of God's eternal Kingdom. The cost to loyal hearts and souls is often immense, but the prize is worth the struggle: the eternal victory is already won!

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that Psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and Thanksgivings to our Heavenly Father.

Sunday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Who is speaking these words? Are they words of promise or words of warning? What will be the result if Israel follows these words? ...the result if they do not? What does this mean for one's life today?
Monday	Philemon 1-21 How did Paul meet Onesimus? Why does he have such deep affection for him? What change has taken place in his life? Why will Philemon now have not only a slave, but also a dear brother? How is Paul's generosity a reminder of Christ's own work on our behalf? What can you learn from this letter about how to forgive and restore those who have wronged you??
Tuesday	Luke 14:25-35 What is the cost of discipleship? Why do you have to estimate the costs of construction before you proceed to build? Why do you need to consider the size of an army before waging war? What gets in the way of belonging to Christ? Therefore what is the challenge of being a Christian? How is this done?
Wednesday	Psalms 1 Who is the Man who never sinned and meditated on the law (Word) of God day and night? How is He like a tree planted by the side of a stream of water? How is it that we are grafted into Him? What therefore do we produce? What will happen to the wicked? To the righteous? What does this mean?
Thursday	Ezekiel 34:11-24 Who is going to be shepherd of the sheep: rescue, feed, heal, and tend them? How and when was this prophecy fulfilled? Who is the "servant, David" who is prince and shepherd among His church? How is this done? What does this mean?
Friday	1 Timothy 1:12-17 Why did Paul consider himself an unlikely candidate for apostle? How did he explain the fact that he was chosen anyway? Of what, therefore is he an example and public exhibit? How has God's mercy been shown you? So now what?
Saturday	Luke 15:1-10 Jesus here tells two stories which give us insights into His Father's mind and heart. Find the human character in each story which most closely resembles God the Father. What does this tell you about each and every lost soul? ... forgiven soul? ... about yourself?! What does this mean?