



2017 March Bible Reading
by Pastor Mike Barris

This month we read from the wisdom found in Proverbs. Wisdom literature contrasts the foolish or wise choices that individuals make with Proverbs 1:7 serving as a theme verse: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." God's desire is that you would be alert to the foolish choices and thinking that will lead you astray and instead, apply God's wisdom to every arena of your life.

✓	Day	Read	✓	Day	Read
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Prov. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Prov. 5
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Prov. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Prov. 9
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Prov. 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Prov. 10
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Prov. 4			

Next, we move back to the New Testament. In the Book of Acts, we read the story of how Jesus' Great Commission is fulfilled in the birth and expansion of the Christian Church. You will encounter stories describing the power and presence of the Holy Spirit operating in this new spiritual community and providing for the spread of the Gospel. You will see how God orchestrates events and equips his people to proclaim the Good News of Jesus that results in untold numbers coming to faith. And you will see in the life of Paul the power of the Gospel to transform lives in ways that make an eternal difference.

I believe God wants you to see what He can do with people whose hearts are open to his direction, who are obedient to his leading, and who seek Him in prayer for everything.

✓	Day	Read	✓	Day	Read
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Acts 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	Acts 14
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Acts 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	21	Acts 15
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Acts 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	22	Acts 16
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Acts 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	23	Acts 17
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Acts 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	24	Acts 18
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Acts 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	25	Acts 19
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Acts 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	26	Acts 20
<input type="checkbox"/>	15	Acts 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	27	Acts 21
<input type="checkbox"/>	16	Acts 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	28	Acts 22
<input type="checkbox"/>	17	Acts 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	29	Acts 23
<input type="checkbox"/>	18	Acts 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	30	Acts 24
<input type="checkbox"/>	19	Acts 13	<input type="checkbox"/>	31	Acts 25

As previously shared, the focus of our reading is on *depth* and not for *distance*. As you read just one chapter per day (easily done in 5 minutes), you are encouraged to take a greater amount of time allowing your heart and mind to be the good soil in which God’s Word takes root.

For 2017 Bible readings, 365 chapters have been selected from across the entire Bible that I believe God wants to use to strengthen your faith and life. I have grouped the readings by book of the Bible so that the flow of the book is retained even though chapters are skipped. Additionally, readings cycle through the New Testament, Old Testament, and Wisdom literature several times so that the breadth of the Bible can be appreciated. Lastly, the four Gospels are interspersed through the year so that the story of Jesus remains at the center of our reading.

As you read, consider these practical ways to hide God’s Word in your heart:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding and wisdom as you read. Take your time - remember, its depth not speed you are after. Underline or highlight key words or phrases.
- Note the context - who, what, why, when, where, how - and ask questions like “How can my life be changed by the truth of this passage?” or, “What is welling up in my soul as a result of this text (assurance, conviction, encouragement)?”
- Note key principles, promises of God, or life lesson takeaways. Linger on any phrase or sentence that stands out to you. And this is key, be open and invite the Word to do its transforming work in you through your discoveries.
- Finally, thank God for what you received through the text. Tell him what you learned and how you desire to live as a result. Ask that his word be made alive in you.

May God richly bless you and cause you to flourish as you enjoy His Word.

Pastor Mike

*“Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
 or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
 but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
 and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.” Psalm 1:1-3*