

Dear Church Family,

We are excited to introduce a new church-wide endeavor intended to cultivate spiritual growth. **It's called The New Testament Challenge. The challenge is to read the entire New Testament between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.**

This challenge is doable. Everyone has time for it. There are 260 chapters in the New Testament, which works out to 5 chapters per week. You can read one chapter each weekday and finish the New Testament in a year. A chapter can often be read in 5 to 10 minutes. **Check out the schedule of readings here.** If you get ahead of schedule, you can finish early. If you get behind schedule, you can catch up on the weekends.

This challenge is also valuable. Everyone can benefit from it. Whether you have read the New Testament twenty times or have never read it all the way through, everyone can grow through reading Scripture. The Bible itself says, "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim 3:16-17).

We encourage individuals to take the challenge as well as couples and families. An individual might read a chapter each morning. A couple might take turns reading chapters to one another. A family with children might read a chapter together at bedtime. It's a great way to do family devotions. If you prefer audio books, you can meet the challenge by listening to the entire New Testament.

**Are you ready to accept the New Testament Challenge? If so, you can sign up here. Or, you can sign up in the church commons where you will find hardcopy commitment cards that you can fill out and place in the black mailbox.** We would like to know who is taking the challenge because our goal is for 300 persons in our church to read the New Testament next year. When the challenge concludes, each person who has completed it will receive a memento signifying that you met The New Testament Challenge of 2022.

One more thing: once you start reading, please send us questions that arise. You can submit your questions here. We would love to know what you are wondering as you read. The plan is to have a sermon series in 2023 that addresses some of the questions raised. We are always glad to talk with you in person about biblical questions as well.

The challenge has been issued! If you have any questions about it, feel free to call the church office at 740-7101 or contact a minister on staff. We hope you will read Scripture with us so we can all "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet 3:18).

Grace and Peace,

Your Ministerial Staff