

**BIBLE READING NOTES FOR JUNE 2022**  
**Compiled by Rev Dr J Jack for the Congregation of Duddingston Kirk**

You will find reading the Bible rewarding and encouraging,  
but reading the Bible is not always easy!

These guidelines may help you.

Before you read each passage, ask God to speak to you through His Word.

Set aside a special time each day to read the Bible, and stick to it!

Make use of your Bible index to find readings – every Bible has a contents page.

Pray that what you have read will help you live according to God's wishes.

**June 1<sup>st</sup>**

2Corinthians 13:11-13

This is the end of a letter from the Apostle to his Christian friends in Corinth. Note how it ends – v.13. We see Father, Son and Holy Spirit acting together, yet each providing His own special gift to the believer – the GRACE of Christ, the LOVE of God and the FELLOWSHIP of the Holy Spirit. Blessed is the believer who knows all three!

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

1Peter 1:1-5

Again we see Father, Son and Holy Spirit acting together for the good of the believer. Note that they were CHOSEN according to God's purpose and they were MADE A HOLY PEOPLE by the Holy Spirit, in order to OBEY Christ and be PURIFIED by His blood. No wonder Peter continues, 'Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ'.

**THE THESSALONIANS**

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Acts 17:1-4

Here we learn of Paul's stay in the city of Thessalonica (approx. 50AD). When he arrived there he went to the synagogue. His work was always based on the local worshipping community if there was one. He didn't go only to worship, but to prove that Jesus was the Messiah for whom they were waiting. Some were convinced by his teaching, and so was set up the little Christian Church in Thessalonica. TO THINK ABOUT – If you were where no one had ever heard of Jesus – what would **you** do?

**June 4<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 17:5-10

Again we learn that spiritual growth is always accompanied by opposition. It happens in the life of the individual believer who is ridiculed by friends, and subjected to much stronger inner temptations. It happens in a congregation when its progress is opposed (even by some of its own members!). It happened in the life of our Lord who was crucified.

**June 5<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 18:1-6

Paul is in Corinth when Silas and Timothy arrive from Macedonia. Without doubt they would bring news of the congregations Paul had set up there, including the church in Thessalonica which he had to leave before finishing his work. Having received news from Silas and Timothy, Paul wrote to them. He never forgot the small communities he had established, but kept contact by means of later visits, letters, and above all, by prayer.

**June 6<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.1:1-10

In the letter to the church of Thessalonica Paul writes to *the people of the church*. So often we think of the 'church' as a building or an organisation, but it is basically 'people'. The building only has value because of the people who worship there, and the organisation only has relevance if it enables people to be more truly the Church of Christ. For here are people *who*

*belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.* The main feature of people in the church is not what they believe or do, but their relationship with God and His Son. That relationship must be personal and real.

**June 7<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.1:2-10

Paul's prayers were constant – 'always', and all-inclusive – 'for you all'. How constant and inclusive are our prayers? Paul had heard from Timothy and Silas that *the Thessalonians put their faith into practice* and their love made them work hard; that their faith was firm; and they had become an example to others.

**June 8<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.1:3-10

Paul had delivered the Good News not with words only but with power and the Holy Spirit. When Paul, Silas and Timothy lived among them they *imitated the Lord*. How does our Christian living and serving measure up to such standards?

**June 9<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.2:1-9

In one sense Paul's visit to Thessalonica could be seen as a failure. He could only stay there a very short time; his visit aroused a riot; passions were so inflamed that he had to leave secretly during the night (Acts 17:10). From a human point of view his visit was something of a disaster, yet the Good News had been proclaimed, and a small Christian fellowship had been established and was now *an example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia*.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.2:1-9

It is natural for us to want others to speak highly of us. We like to be praised. Sometimes we so act as to secure a favourable response from others. TO THINK ABOUT – What do we mean when we speak of 'popular preachers' or 'popular hymns'? Is it possible that a preacher is unpopular because he tells us truth we don't want to hear? Is it possible that we like a hymn because it appeals to our senses but does nothing for our faith?

**June 11<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.2:10-16

Paul emphasizes that his conduct in Thessalonica had been fair, just and beyond reproach. Whether there were any suggestions that it had been otherwise, we are not told, but a Christian's lifestyle must be above suspicion. The second part of this section refers to the persecutions endured by the Thessalonians. Paul had no doubt that a spiritual force was present whose sole aim was to hinder the spread of the Gospel.

**June 12<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.2:17-20

Paul longed to see his friends in Thessalonica but found it impossible to return. He has no doubt as to the source of that opposition (v.18). He is equally in no doubt that they, together with all others who had discovered Christ through his ministry, were his 'pride and joy'. TO THINK ABOUT – What, in life, gives me my greatest 'pride and joy'?

**June 13<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.3:1-5

It is so easy for criticism and opposition to make us doubt what we once believed. This is the very reason for Satan's opposition. It was to encourage and strengthen them that Timothy was sent to them. TO THINK ABOUT – How would I encourage someone whose faith was slipping?

**June 14<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.3:6-10

Timothy has returned with reassuring news of their steadfastness. Note Paul's genuine joy and gratitude on hearing this news. It is a serious matter when someone loses faith, and the whole congregation should be concerned.

**June 15<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.3:11-13

Paul wanted to see the Thessalonians and they longed to see him. We might think that such mutual desire could easily be met, but Paul would arrange nothing unless convinced that it was the will of God. We are too ready to think that if I want something then it must be God's will for me to have it!! God's will and my desire do not always coincide.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.4:1-8

In Rom.12:1 Paul says *offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him, this is the true worship that you should offer*. Here we touch on something that is fundamental to the spiritual life; a life pleasing to God. Paul knew that the Thessalonians were doing this, but note how in v.1 he urges them to 'do even more'.

**June 17<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.4:1-8

In living a life wholly pleasing to God Paul deals specifically with the matter of sex. This has always posed a problem for all seeking to live a religious life whether Christian or otherwise. Some see sex as something unclean, and so they try to pretend that it doesn't exist. Others take the opposite view that if my soul is pure then it doesn't really matter what I do with my body. The Christian view is to steer between these two extremes, acknowledging the reality of sex and honouring the purpose for which God gave it, yet also realizing that sexual satisfaction must not become a ruling passion in our lives.

**June 18<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.4:9-12

Paul made every effort to support himself by his own trade, yet none could accuse him of living quietly and always minding his own business! Christian concern for others must strike a balance between remaining aloof from their needs and a fussy interference in their affairs. The true follower of Christ must ever be willing to help others, yet remain quiet and modest.

**June 19<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.4:13-14

The early Christians knew that, one day, Christ would return as He had promised. They expected that return to be very soon. It therefore distressed them to find that loved ones were dying before that return. Would they share in the resurrection? Paul reassures them that *God will take back with Jesus those who have died believing in Him*.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.4:15-18

Paul outlines the chain of events on the day of resurrection; a shout of command, the Lord will return, those who died believing in Christ will be raised, then those living at that time will be gathered with them to meet the Lord in the air. Note that his main concern was not to give a detailed account of the event, but to reassure those whose loved ones had died.

**June 21<sup>st</sup>**

1Thess.5:1-11

When we think of Christ's return it is natural that we should ask 'When?' Paul makes three comments about it: it will be as unexpected as a visit from a thief; it will be as inevitable as the beginning of labour pains; and it is an event which will affect all, Christians and non-Christians alike.

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

1Thess.5:1-11

We have seen how the return of Christ will affect us all. However, there will be a difference in how we are affected. Those who do not follow are like those in darkness, while those who do are in the light. As we wait that return we *must wear faith and love as a breastplate, and our hope of salvation as a helmet.*

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

1Thess.5:12-15

Paul was very much aware that we are now living in the end times. This affects conduct and relationships. There is first our relationship with those who guide us and would lead us into even greater truths. We are to honour and respect them. There is also our relationship with those who don't share our faith – we are to warn, encourage and help them. In a time of national crisis personal grudges are forgotten as each seeks to help the other. Paul is urging the same attitude in a time of spiritual crisis.

**June 24<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.5:16-22

Life lived in union with Christ ought to be full of joy, prayer and gratitude. We often pray that 'the Spirit may come upon us' and at the same time are deaf to the Spirit's prompting within our lives. Equally, fellow Christians may impart advice which is inspired by the Holy Spirit. But we may also be influenced by other sources, and so Paul advises to 'put all things to the test' and to follow what is good and shun what is evil.

**June 25<sup>th</sup>**

1Thess.5:23-28

There is a tendency to think of life as made up of parts: part spiritual and part material, and what we do with one part is independent of what we do with others. Life is a unity. Spiritual life, moral life, family life, working life, leisure time – all these are aspects of the one whole being. We create problems for ourselves if one aspect of our life is neglected or does not 'gear in' with all other aspects.

**June 26<sup>th</sup>**

2Thess.1:1-4

Both letters to Thessalonica begin in similar fashion. The remarkable thing about the church was the growth in faith and mutual love. This growth was such that Paul could boast about it to others.

**June 27<sup>th</sup>**

2Thess.1:5-10

Paul can see the outcome of all this. Their growing faith will one day be rewarded by God, while those who cause their suffering will themselves suffer. It is so frightening that we find it hard to believe it can be true. TO THINK ABOUT – Does the threat of 'eternal destruction' fill us with fear as it did our forefathers?

**June 28<sup>th</sup>**

2Thess.1:11-12

Again Paul reassures them of his continual prayer support. Prayer obviously meant a lot to the apostle. Was his emphasis on prayer exaggerated, or is prayer really the power the early Christians thought that it was?

**June 29<sup>th</sup>**

2Thess.2:1-4

Paul deals with a matter which caused much unrest in Thessalonica. Some thought Christ's Second Coming had already happened. Paul admits that they may have misunderstood something he had said. However, he reminds them that the second coming could not come before what he calls the 'final rebellion'. Matt. 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 all record Jesus teaching that before His coming there would be a time of great suffering and persecution,

culminating in 'The Awful Horror standing in the place where he should not be' – Mark 13:14.

**June 30<sup>th</sup>**

2Thess.2:5-12

Paul reminds the Thessalonians of what he had already taught on these matters, that there is a coming world crisis when evil will seem to be in total control. But this evil will finally be destroyed by Jesus. Note that this whole process is to 'weed out' those who have not believed the truth. They will be deceived by all kinds of false miracles and wonders. Only those whose faith is strong will survive those trying times.