

Dec. 29 – Jan. 3

This Week's Memory Verse – Revelation 20:12

*Another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.*

With this week of readings, we will have read the entire New Testament in 2008.

Many of you have told me how blessed you've been by your daily readings in *Treasuring God's Word*. Your feedback is like music to my ears. Over the past twelve months we've been treated with reading how the early church was formed and grew in the Acts of the Apostles. It was in Acts that we learned about a man named Saul and how Jesus transformed his life and gave him a new name – Paul. Reading about Paul's missionary journeys prepared us for reading his letters to the churches he had helped to establish. Other letters were of a more personal letter, like Philemon. We were also treated to letters from Peter, John and James. And, of course, there is the letter to the Hebrews which comes without the author's name. All totaled, we read, meditated on and prayed over 23 books of the Bible.

This week we finish by working our way through the final chapters of Revelation. Again you will read about the enemy who sought to destroy God's people. The persecution described in these chapters is taking place today. Many around the world are being beaten, tortured and killed for the sake of their testimony of the risen Christ. We are living in the last days of the world.

Revelation, however, concludes with good news, the great news of all for those who follow Christ Jesus. In the final two chapters we receive an even greater glimpse of heaven. Although much is symbolic, we are assured that our eternal home is a glorious, wonderful place, full of happiness and free of the pain and stress that we experience in this life. How appropriate that by the time we reach the end of Revelation, we like the apostle John, exclaim, "*Come, Lord Jesus!*"

God be with you this week.  
Pastor George Spicer

**Monday, December 29, 2008** *Read: Revelation, chapter 17* Pastor Frank Starr writes, "Understanding the Revelation given to John 'calls for a mind with wisdom'. (v.9) In the Bible, Wisdom is always a gift of God's Spirit. (see 1 Cor. 2:6-16). **Pray: Gracious God, give us the gift of wisdom as we do our readings this week. Help us to see your Light in the midst of the darkness of evil. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Tuesday, December 30, 2008** *Read: Revelation, chapter 18* Babylon is the spirit of the anti-christ. We see this spirit alive and well in false churches but the anti-christ can infect governments, business and commercial leaders and those who control the media. **Pray: Dear Lord, deliver us from those who would have us believe there is another way to heaven besides faith in You, our Savior God. Amen.**

**Wednesday, December 31, 2008** *Read: Revelation, chapter 19* Here's the invitation you've all been waiting for: the wedding supper of the Lamb! Jesus presents us – His spiritual bridegroom – to His Father so that we might begin living in heavenly glory forever. **Pray: Thank You, Lord Jesus, for Holy Communion, in which we receive a foretaste of the coming heavenly feast. Amen.**

**Thursday, January 1, 2009** *Read: Revelation, chapter 20* In verses 4-5 the entire Christian era is described. Satan is prevented from stopping the Gospel. The souls of the Saints of God are reigning in glory with Christ. **Pray: We praise You, O Lord, by overpowering the devil at the cross and empty tomb. Amen.**

**Friday, January 2, 2009** *Read: Revelation, chapter 21* Here we read about a new heaven and new earth. God will dwell among His people. There will be no more sorrows or frustrations of any kind. What a wonderful place to be! **Pray: Mighty Lord, thank You for preparing a place for me in heaven. Amen.**

**Saturday, January 3, 2009** *Read: Revelation, chapter 22* Jesus cannot make it any clearer – He is coming soon. The date He does not give. The promise He does make and we know that God's Word is trustworthy. Until the Last Day, the church faithfully watches for our Lord's return. **Pray: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Come!**