



Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

Prov. 25-31
Ecclesiastes
1 Kings 10-14
2 Chron. 9-12

Week 48

Daily Reading Plan:

__Acts 20:1-3
__Rom. 1-3
__Romans 4-7
__Romans 8-10
__Romans 14-16
__Acts 20:4-23
__Acts 24-28
__REST*

*Use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

Next week:

Colossians, Philemon
Ephesians, Philippians
1 Timothy, Titus
1 Peter

MEMORY VERSE:

**"Never be lacking in
ZEAL, but keep
your spiritual
fervor, serving the
Lord."
Romans 12:11**

"Hello. My name is Kayann and I'm a sinner."

If you have ever been to a narcotics or alcohol addiction treatment program, you are familiar with the acknowledgement each participant makes that they are an addict. They publicly announce their addiction for a reason. They have to acknowledge the hold it has on them before they can begin to overcome it. That's a tough thing to admit. As Christians we are quick to announce that we consider ourselves sinners, but do we really, really face the hold that sin has on us? What if we considered our Sunday gatherings as a Sinners Anonymous meeting? What would it be like if we introduced ourselves to each other on Sunday mornings as one who has fallen short?

What standard do we use to decide just how sinful we really are? We humbly nod our head in agreement to the statement that we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Do we really believe it? Or do we look around at the sins of others so that we can be assured that our "little" sins really aren't so bad after all? What do we use to measure what is really sinful? How far short we fall depends on our frame of reference. My daughter recently made the A team in basketball. She was a little disappointed not only because she would see less play time, but because she figured when she did play she wouldn't look so good. She would be one of the worst instead of one of the best. We employ similar thinking in our measure of ourselves. We look around for a standard that will show us in a good light.

God doesn't go along with that. It is His character that is the basis for both His written law and the basic moral laws inherent in us. His laws, His standards, His attributes, are going to make us look bad. He sees the righteous deeds that we lift up and console ourselves with as filthy rags. God knew we would blow it when He gave us His standards. As Paul points out, the purpose of the law is to show us what sin is and our slavery to it. God sets us a standard to compare ourselves to so that we can all know that we fall short of the glory of God, in other words, we sin. Then we are ready to receive the grace and freedom that God gives us through Christ. Christ came to fulfill the law that reflects God's character, not abolish it. We still need the standards that tell us we are sinful. We still need the saving grace that redeems us.

"Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin." Romans 3:20

ACTS 20-28

How long did Paul speak the night that Eutychus fell out of the window? _____

What did Paul want to get to Jerusalem in time for? _____

What three things did Paul serve the Lord with in Ephesus?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What do we know about Philip's four daughters? _____

What did Agabus say would happen to Paul in Jerusalem? _____

What did Paul do in Jerusalem to show the Jews that he was not disregarding the laws of Moses? _____

Who exposed a plot against Paul? _____

How many men were sent along to guard Paul on the trip to Caesarea? _____

What part do you think Drusilla had in Felix's knowledge about Jesus? _____

What was Felix's reaction to Paul? _____

How long was Paul in Caesarea? _____

What was meant when Jesus said to Paul "It is hard for you to kick against the goads"? _____

What did Festus have to say about Paul's message? _____

Why did God save the lives of those on Paul's ship? _____

What did Paul do while he was in Rome? _____

NO EXCUSE Rom. 1:18-20

Last week I drove through seven different states, enjoying the blazing expressions of fall color in all of them. From a sunset peeking between the hills of Arkansas, to these really stunning leaves laying on the sidewalk in Tennessee, the beauty of God's creation screamed to be noticed at every turn. God's glory cannot remain silent, and can only go unnoticed when hardened hearts fail to see, or even suppresses the truth.

Whenever truth, or beauty, or goodness is revealed, God is revealed. Can you see Him? Jot down all of God's invisible qualities that you see around you today!



WHO IS SAVED? Romans 1 and 2

If people can know about God by observing nature, even if they have not heard a word about Jesus – then what does God hold them accountable for? _____

What does 2:12-16 say about the Gentiles that do not know the law? _____

"AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME" Rom. 5:6
What made the time that Jesus died for us "just the right" time? _____

LAW AND SPIRIT Romans 7 and 8

With the death of Christ came the death of the law and our obligation to it, just as a wife is released from being legally bound to a marriage when her husband dies. As Christians we have been released from the law to serve in the Spirit. So what then is Paul talking about in 7:13-25? _____

What reassurance is given in 8:1-11? _____

THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION Romans 8:15-17

Adoption is tough. It means there was a loss. It means one identity has to be exchanged for another. It means joining a family that we may feel ill-suited to be a part of. It means calling someone Father when we aren't so sure that He really, really sees us as His true child. How could He possibly love us as much as He does His "real" son, Mr. Perfect?

I struggled with this one. How can I really be a part of God's family? I accepted His offer of grace and salvation, but still felt like an outsider or misfit in the family of God. Then I became an adoptive parent myself. The moment the adoption was final, they became fully and completely my children in every way. They are equal heirs with my biological children. They got new birth certificates that say I am their mother, as if that is the way it has always been. They gained every advantage and disadvantage of being a part of our family. But most profound for me was my love for them. Our story together is different from that of my other children, but the depth of my love is not. Now I understand better why God refers to us as His adopted children – and what a powerful testimony of His love for us that is!

PREDESTINATION Romans 8:29

Have you ever wondered how you ended up as a Christian and the neighbor down the street didn't? Why was I drawn to God before I even knew who He was? What made me seek Him and the next kid in line not? Would I still have been drawn to God if I had been born in a different country? Is being called according to His purpose and being predestined to be conformed to the likeness of Christ mean that I specifically was called, or that God already knew how I would respond to the call that He gives to everyone? If He called me to Him, how hard would it have been to resist that call?

A NEW MIND Romans 12

What does Paul say is our spiritual act of worship? _____

How can we be transformed by the renewing of our mind? _____

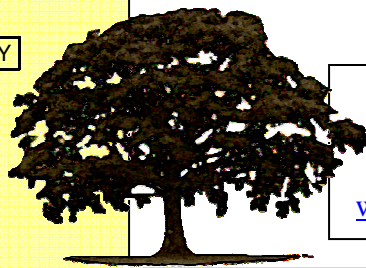
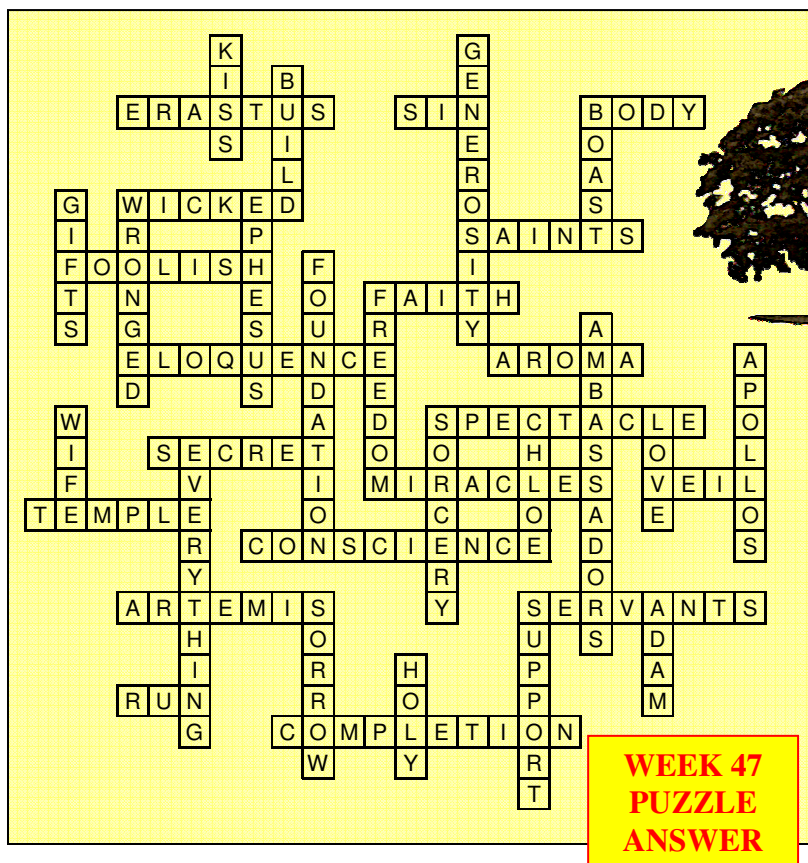
How do we know what God's will for us is? _____

How are we to think of ourselves? _____

What gifts does Paul list here? _____

Which of these do you think you might have? _____

What are some gifts God has given you that are not on this list? _____



To contact me, or for more studies, visit my website at www.downvictoryrd.com

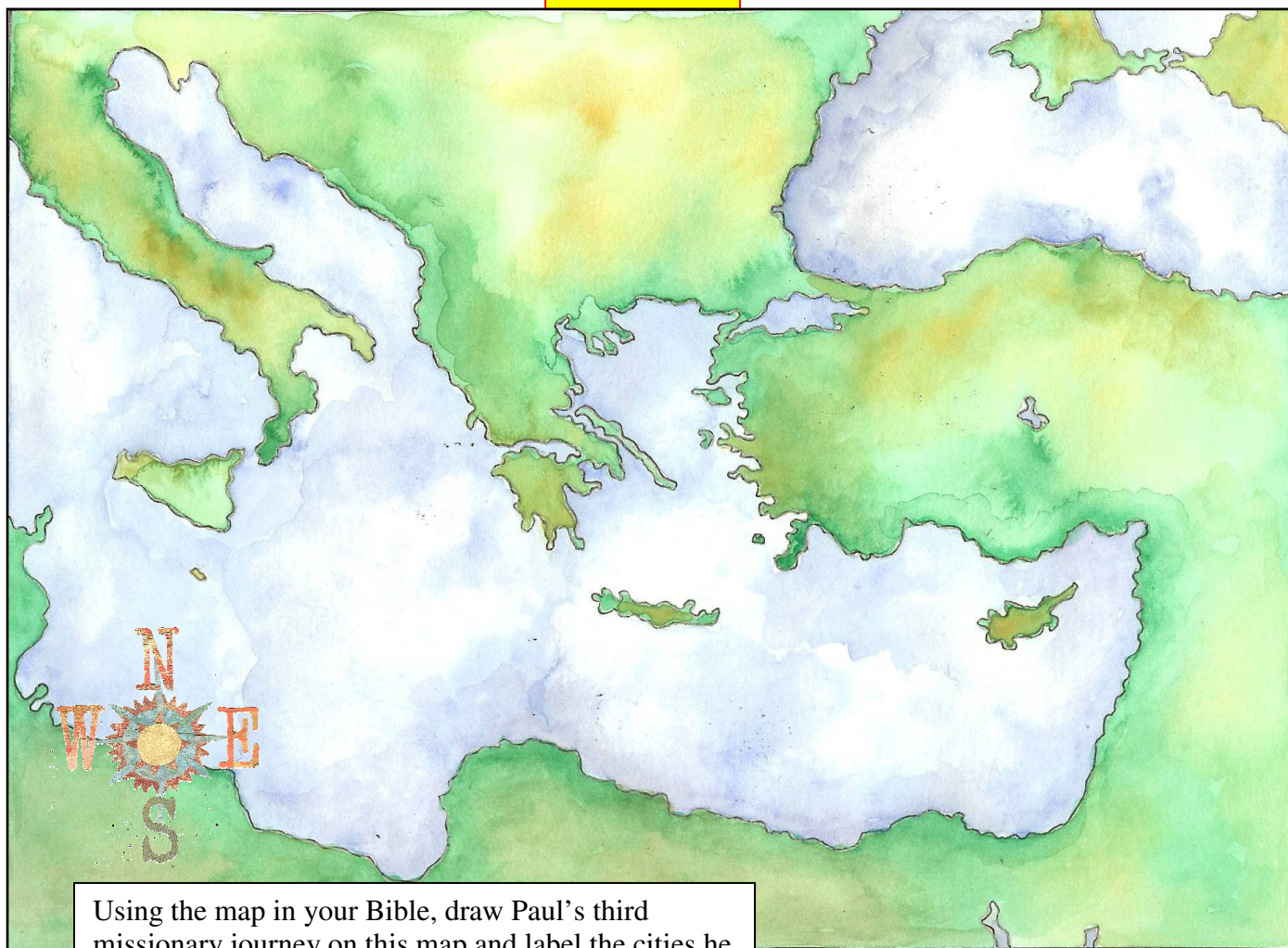
WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

THE WOMEN OF ROMANS 16 p. 6

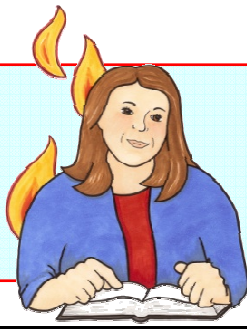
Meyers, Rick. e-sword. 12 Nov 2007
<http://www.e-sword.net>

Epp, Eldon Jay. Junia. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.

Unger, Merrill F.. The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Chicago: Moody Bible Institute, 1988.



Using the map in your Bible, draw Paul's third missionary journey on this map and label the cities he visited in Acts 20-28, including his route to Rome.



PUZZLE PAGE

ROMANS 1:25

I	W			R				
R					O	W	S	P
	S		P			R		
		E			D			
W	O			H		P	E	
	I			W		S	O	R
			D		H		I	O
	E	S		I				W
O	H	I				D	R	

This nine by nine grid contains given letters to get you started. Using just one word from Romans 1:25 (NIV), spell out the word in the nine letters in each column, row and 3 X 3 minigrid. Just like a number Sudoku, make sure that no letter repeats in each column, row or grid.

THE WOMEN OF ROMANS 16

Phoebe – called a servant. The Greek word here is **διάκονος** – diakonos - *dee-ak'-on-o*: Probably from **διάκω** diakō (obsolete, to *run* on errands); an *attendant*, that is, (generally) a *waiter* (at table or in other menial duties); specifically a Christian *teacher* and *pastor* (technically a *deacon* or *deaconess*): - deacon, minister, servant. (Meyers)

Apparently Paul had sent this letter with her to be delivered to the Romans. That seems an unusual and dangerous task for a woman. I wonder if she was accompanied by others.

What does Paul have to say about Phoebe? _____

Priscilla – Where have we met her before, and what do we know about her? _____

Mary – don't know much about this woman except that Paul thought she was hard working.

Junia – your translation may name her in the masculine form Junias, but many scholars think it more likely that this was originally the female Junia. For the first seven centuries, the Greek manuscripts did not use the accents that would indicate whether the name was male or female, but when they did come into use they identified the name as the feminine Junia. All of the earliest theologians assumed that Junia was a female. In fact, while Junia was a somewhat common name, the masculine version is not found in any other source. It was not until much later that it began to appear in the male form. Still, most early translations, like the Tyndale Bible, the Geneva Bible, the King James Bible, all named Junia as a female. It was not until the early twentieth century that there was an almost universal shift to the masculine. Paul referred to both Andronicus (clearly male) and Junia as apostles. In the 1970s Junia returned in many translations, while others

maintained the male Junias. Some translations provide a footnote with the alternative form, while others give no comment.

(Epp)

Does your translation use the male or female form of Junia? _____

Apostle : **ἀπόστολος** – apostolos - *ap-os'-tol-os* a *delegate*; specifically an *ambassador* of the Gospel; officially a *commissioner* of Christ ("apostle"), (with miraculous powers): - apostle, messenger, he that is sent.

Tryphena and **Tryphosa** – I wonder if these women were sisters with their Greek names that mean delicate, luxurius and dainty. (Unger 1310) What did Paul commend them for? _____

Persis – another hard worker. I doubt that Paul had much respect for idle women!

Mother of Rufus – what endearing praise is given to this woman?

Julia – There seems to be no question about whether this name is the female Julia or the also popular male Julius. Perhaps since nothing is said about her, there is no need for controversy.

Sister of Nereus – I wonder if she had never married or maybe was widowed. For that matter only Priscilla and possibly Junia have any mention of their husband. Why do you think that is? _____

After reading this chapter, what do you think Paul's attitude toward women was? _____