

October 2025



GOD can do it again

*For this is what the Lord says: you will see neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water, and you, your cattle and your other animals will drink. This is an easy thing in the eyes of the Lord; he will also deliver Moab into your hands.
(2 Kings 3:17-18)*

In 2 Kings chapters 3 and 4, we read the six miracles that God did through his servant Elisha: water to the thirsty Israelite army and victory over Moab, a miraculous oil flow for the poor widow, fertility to the Shunammite woman, gave life to her dead son, purified the poisoned stew, and a multiplication of food. Each of these miracles says of God's power to meet the needs of his people.

In 2 Kings 3, we read that Joram, the king of Israel, went to attack the revolting Moab with the help of the king of Judah and the king of Edom. Before they set out, the king did not take any effort to know God's will. After a march of seven days through the Desert of Edom, they were left with no water. Even then, the king of Israel was not ready to seek God. However, god-fearing Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, initiated an attempt to hear the word of God for that situation. Then, the three kings went to meet God's prophet Elisha. God spoke through Elisha and gave them a unique promise concerning their need. In a desert, how could they get water without seeing rain? Nothing is impossible with God.

As promised by God, the next morning, they got water, and the dry valley was filled with water. Not only that, God caused a confusion among the Moabites and gave a victory over them as well. With God's intervention, a great tragedy was averted. Otherwise, it could have been a great defeat and death for the three kings and their armies. When they sought God, he did the unthinkable miracle; he provided them with water and victory.

We may have problems related to our health, finances, work, relationships and so on. Whatever it may be, when we are in the midst of a crisis, when we don't know what to do to face the impending and unavoidable situation, it is better for us to seek God. We may have failed or forgotten to seek God before we start to do something. When we realize it, that is the time to seek God earnestly. It is better late than never. After all, it is an easy thing in the eyes of the Lord to help and deliver us. This is our firm belief about our God, isn't it!

- **Bro. Arputharaj Samuel, Bangalore.**



Our Vision

To enlighten, enrich, and empower people to become dependent on God.



Our Mission

GODdependence seeks to help people become dependent on God by engaging with God's Word and prayer.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on behalf of the GODependence Team. I thank God for the opportunity to reconnect with you through this newsletter once again.

With this October 2025 issue, it has been a full year — 12 continuous months — since this newsletter began to be published without interruption, purely by the grace of God. Due to various reasons, there were differences in the dates of release. Yet, in spite of many obstacles and challenges, God graciously enabled us to bring out the newsletter every month for the past twelve months. Let us thank Him for this sustaining grace. In the previous issue, we had published a summary of the readers' feedback about the newsletter. We have included those comments again this month for your reference. As you read them, praise God and continue to pray for the editorial team.

Recently, the parable spoken by Jesus in Matthew 7:24–27 made me reflect deeply: “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock” (v.24)

Hearing the Word of God

Hearing the Word of God is the gateway to our faith. “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”. (Romans 10:17). Every time we open the Holy Bible or listen to God’s servants preach, God speaks to us. But we must listen — not merely hear casually, but with the expectation, “Lord, I want to know Your will.” God is always speaking; it is often we who fail to listen in our hurried pace. Therefore, whenever we read the Word of God, let us do so with the prayerful attitude of Samuel: ‘Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.’ (1 Samuel 3:10)

Doing the Word of God

It is not enough to merely hear God’s Word—we must also do it. Knowledge of Scripture is like a blueprint for a building; only when the building is actually constructed does it become useful. Likewise, doing the Word is what truly builds our spiritual life.

Hearing is easy; doing is harder—it costs us something. Yet, when we allow God’s Word to shape our daily decisions, relationships, and outlook on life, obedience becomes natural. ‘But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves’.(James 1:22)

Being a Wise Man

In verse 26, Jesus said: “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.” The foolish man mentioned here was not someone who had never read or heard the Word. He did hear—but failed to act upon it. Therefore, knowledge alone does not make a man wise. True wisdom comes when we decide to submit ourselves to God’s will and act according to His Word. No matter how beautiful a house may look outwardly, its strength lies in its foundation. During storms, floods, and fierce winds, the house stands or falls depending on its foundation.

When our foundation is laid on Christ the Rock, our life will remain unshaken through every storm, flood, or wind that blows against us. Shall we then commit ourselves to live as such a wise person?

Events connected with the International Day of Bible Reading (IDBR 2025) have already begun. On October 02, 2025, a 12-hour continuous Bible reading session (Bible Readathon) was held in Tamil, with enthusiastic participation from many. In this issue, we have also included details on how individuals, families, churches, and groups can observe this special day meaningfully. This year, we plan to organize national-level events across the 10 languages in which our Bible Reading Challenges are conducted, and in the various countries where participants are residing. We seek your prayerful cooperation and support in all these efforts.

Continue to pray for this ministry and help introduce its services to others. May the name of the Lord be glorified.



**In Christ’s service,
Dr. Pethuru Devadason.**

The Slogans of Protestant Reformation

- R. Stanley



The summary of the Reformers' theological conviction is as follows, in Latin and in English —

1. "Sola Scriptura" - Scripture alone!

2. "Sola Fide" - Faith alone!

3. "Sola Gratia" - Grace alone!

4. "Solo Christo" - Christ alone!

5. "Soli Deo Gloria" - To the Glory of God alone!

Of the nearly 40 Calenders of 2017 I received from various Churches and Christian organisations in India, not one of them has made any reference to 2017 as the 500th Anniversary of Reformation. Even the Reformation Day, 31 October, is not specially marked.

It may not be too much on my part to conclude that we have by and large forgotten the heritage and truths of Reformation. No wonder the present generation has no idea whatsoever about the roots of Reformation. The only Calendar that has carried the theme of Reformation this year (2017) is that of the ministry of "Back to the Bible," known also as Good News Broadcasting Society.

Congratulations to this ministry for living up to its name! Their Calendar is titled as "Defining Moments of our Faith," with these five slogans printed on page one. Each month's page features the places or Church buildings the Reformers were associated with.

Following the Reformation, several denominations were born. Lutheran, Presbyterian, Congregationalists, Methodists and Baptists are some of them. Pentecostals came later. Each denomination has its strengths and weaknesses. No single denomination has the full understanding of all the Biblical truths. There's therefore no place for boasting. Among these denominations, there may be minor differences, but the fundamental truths are stated by these five solas. In the forthcoming pages, let's look at these 5 slogans of Protestant Reformation in the Biblical light and study their practical implications and relevance in the lives of Christians and the Churches.

(Selected from his book "Here I Stand.")

-It will be continued..



Let's Praise God For:

1. His clear direction in the GODependence ministry — for the vision and mission He has given, for the faithful team of admins and volunteers, and for His unchanging faithfulness from its humble beginnings until now.
2. The ongoing Bible Reading Groups, which currently operate under six different plans and in ten languages, with a new group launching each month.
3. The start of the Second Term for CBRC groups on October 6th, and for the children who have begun reading their Bible portions with enthusiasm.
4. The successful 12-hour continuous Bible Reading Program, “Bible Readathon,” held on October 2nd, which had active participation from many readers.
5. The encouraging survey results, showing that God is using the GODependence Newsletter to deepen readers’ commitment and strengthen their walk with Him.



Let's Pray For:

1. God’s protection over the three GODependence WhatsApp numbers, that they would not be flagged or blocked as spam, so that the 10-language Bible Reading Challenges can continue without interruption.
2. The success of the CBRC Second Term — especially for the children reading their Bible portions. Pray that God will bless their efforts, grant them understanding, and help them complete the term with a stronger faith.
3. The Lord’s guidance and timing in the publication of the Newsletter, and for divine wisdom and creativity to be granted to its writers.
4. The restarting of the Bible Meditation Groups, asking God to remove every obstacle and rekindle a fresh desire for His Word among participants.
5. The upcoming International Day of Bible Reading on 16 December 2025 — that all events being planned will go smoothly, and that Christians around the world will participate enthusiastically and celebrate the day meaningfully.

International Day of Bible Reading (IDBR) – 16 December

It was a privilege for the GODependence Team to organise the first-ever International Day of Bible Reading (IDBR) on 16 December 2023, in remembrance of Mary Jones - a little girl whom God used to bring awareness of making the Bible available for all to read and know God’s Word.

Hundreds of participants from GODependence Bible Reading Challenge groups joined the inauguration ceremony held on Zoom, and through various initiatives, more than 5,000 people from different parts of the world became aware of this observance.

On the 2nd International Day of Bible Reading (IDBR 2024), held on 16 December 2024, we were able to arrange Zoom meetings in three languages. We also conducted a Mega Online Bible Quiz in English and Tamil, along with 8-hour Online Bible Readathons in both languages separately.

The 3rd International Day of Bible Reading (IDBR 2025) will be observed on 16 December 2025. Beginning this year, we have decided to extend the observance into an International Day of Bible Reading **(IDBR) Week (10–16 December each year)**, to make it easier for activities to be held regardless of the day on which 16 December falls.

For IDBR 2025, we aim to extend activities to all 10 languages in which GODependence Bible Reading Challenges are conducted, and to as many countries as possible. More details on the action plan and suggested activities will be shared in next month’s newsletter.

Please continue to keep the IDBR 2025 plans in your prayers.

BIBLE READING CHALLENGES - From 01 November 2025 onwards

"From every text in the Bible, there is a road to Jesus." - Charles Spurgeon. We, GODependence, assist you to read the whole Bible at your convenient time and speed.

The following are some of the testimonies of our Bible reading challenge participants who successfully read through the Bible:

 "It was really helpful in bringing me back to the blessed discipline of daily Bible reading. I had become quite irregular for some years. I truly appreciate the GODependence team for their regular inputs, devotions, and prayer points. The weekly quiz was a wonderful motivation. Thank you so much!" - Vijila Isac

 "I praise God because, for the first time, I have completed reading the entire Bible through the guidance of the GODependence Bible Reading Challenge." - Lalmohan Bari

 "I had never read the entire Bible before. For the first time, I had the opportunity to read it completely through the GODependence Bible Reading Challenge. I am filled with great joy to have finished reading the whole Bible." - S. Saro Celgrim

Do you need any assistance to sustain your Bible Reading efforts? If yes, GODependence invites you to join one of the "Bible Reading Challenges" that start from 01 November 2025 onward.

Its Special Features are:

- ✳ Your choice of Challenge Duration ranges from 1 Month to 1 Year [Reading the whole Bible in 1 month / 2 months / 3 months / 4 months / 6 months or 1 Year].
- ✳ Your choice of Language group from 10 Languages [English, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi or Bengali].
- ✳ Bible Reading Portion is given daily on the previous night.
- ✳ Daily Motivational Quotes or Clips on reading the Bible.
- ✳ Weekly, BiWeekly & Monthly Reviews to ensure progress.
- ✳ If you fall behind, jump back in! Our reading plan includes Catch-up days & Changing of Plans because we understand real life!
- ✳ User-friendly WhatsApp groups regulations.
- ✳ Certificate of Appreciation and Prizes (*Conditions apply).

👉 So if you are interested in completing Reading the whole Bible, join in one of the Challenges we designed for your convenience. Please make your choice of convenient Duration plan and Language group and inform us of your decision along with your Name (as to be printed in the Appreciation Certificate on successful completion of the Challenge) and Age to the WhatsApp number +91 95255 95265 by clicking this link: <https://wa.me/919525595265>.

Thank you. God bless you. Amen. 🙏

- Team GODependence

*** 🙏 This message can be shared with all your family members, relatives, Christian friends, and Church members so that they also may get into the habit of reading the Bible in a regular manner!



The poster features the GODependence logo at the top with the tagline "True freedom is being dependent on God". Below it, the title "BIBLE READING CHALLENGES" is prominently displayed. A quote by J C Ryle, "Whatever plan you pursue, let it be a rule of your life to visit the throne of grace and the Bible every day," is included. A graphic of a Bible is shown on the right. The start date "01 November 2025 onwards" is highlighted in a blue box. Three call-to-action buttons are present: "Join one of our Bible reading plans", "Start reading at your own convenience", and "Scan the QR code to Join". A QR code is located on the right side. At the bottom, contact information for GODependence (+91 95255 95265) and a WhatsApp message request format are provided. The website URL "www.godependence.com/brc" is at the very bottom.

Scripture:
Colossians

LET'S PLAY BIBLE GAME - 12

Send the answers with Bible references.
You can use the Bible (NKJV) to find the answers



From the given pictures find the verses/city of Colossians

Find the verses



<https://forms.gle/AP95Q9crYLXvvzTy9>

Click on the given link and send the correct answer before 05/11/2025. The first 10 persons who send the correct answer will be mentioned in the next month's newsletter.

GODependence Social Media sites

GODependence WhatsApp Channel

This is the Official whatsapp channel of GODependence in English...

Kindly keep following this channel for the Daily Quotes in English and the regular updates on Bible Reading Challenges from GODependence. Thank you.

<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaCkY5W72WTqI9nZKW28>



JOIN NOW!

Contact Numbers for the Bible Reading Challenges:

GODependence is using the following contact numbers for Bible Reading Challenges in various languages.

You can contact the appropriate number to enroll into a particular language Bible Reading Challenge groups.

Tamil - +965 6596 2559

English - +91 95255 95265

Other Languages - +91 99628 34944

[Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi or Bengali]

JOIN NOW!

GODependence Youtube Channel

GODependence Youtube Channel has reached 190 Subscribers and 64 Videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/@goddependenceenglish>



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Healthy Body

+



Healthy Mind

=



Happy Human

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know the Bible revealed the relationship between mental health and physical health?

In modern times, this knowledge is attributed to Dr. Brock Chisholm, the first Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) during 1948-53. He was a psychiatrist who believed that mental and physical health were closely linked. He famously said, "Without mental health, there can be no true physical health."

But it is amazing to know that the Bible revealed this information in the 9th century BC itself.

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."
(Proverbs 17:22, Bible).

Are you eager to learn from the Creator of your body and mind? Read the Bible.

Did you know that there was a king named Manasseh who was so evil that he practiced witchcraft, sacrificed his own son, and built altars for idols inside God's temple — yet later repented and was forgiven by God? (2 Chronicles 33:1-13)



Did you know that there was a man called Shamgar who killed 600 Philistines with an oxgoad (a farming tool) Judges 3:31)



Last month let's play Bible game-11 & Bible Crossword Puzzle -11 the correct answers

Let's Play Bible Game -11

Correct Answers

From the given pictures find the verses

- 1) Philippians 2:14
- 2) Philippians 2:4
- 3) Philippians 1:21
- 4) Philippians 4:4
- 5) Philippians 4:6
- 6) Philippians 4:8
- 7) Philippians 4:13
- 8) Philippians 2:2
- 9) Philippians 4:3
- 10) Philippians 1:1

**Scripture:
Philippians**

Bible Crossword Puzzle -11

Correct Answers

Across

- 2 Humility (Phil. 2:3)
- 4 Salvation (Phil. 2:12)
- 6 Prayer (Phil. 4:6)
- 7 Gospel (Phil. 1:5)
- 9 Mind (Phil. 2:5)
- 10 Rejoice (Phil. 4:4)
- 11 Content (Phil. 4:11)
- 13 Christ (Phil. 1:21)

Down

- 1 Joy (Phil. 2:2)
- 3 Unity (Phil. 1:27)
- 5 Peace (Phil. 4:7)
- 6 God. Praise (Phil. 4:20)
- 8 Strength (Phil. 4:13)
- 12 Life (Phil. 2:30)



GODependence Bible Reading Challenges

Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 September 2025



GODependence Bible Reading Challenges
 Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 September 2025

1 Month Bible Reading Challenge

- Akash Subhash dalvi
- Beulah Florence
- Pauline M
- K. Lediakingsly
- R Padmavathi
- Shunmugiah. M

Congratulations!

f X G+ I Y T W A Z GODependence +965 6596 2559

Prize & Certificate will be send to them in due time

GODependence Bible Reading Challenges
 Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 September 2025

2 Months Bible Reading Challenge

1. Paul Chandra Raja G J
2. Sam W
3. D. Helen mercy
4. Anitha Pauline CA
5. P. Pavithra
6. P. Jamunarani

Congratulations!

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Prize & Certificate will be send to them in due time

GODependence Bible Reading Challenges
 Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 September 2025

3 Months Bible Reading Challenge

- Marine Phelsia
- Anil Kumar
- Kumutha
- J. Vembarasi
- S. Pauling Glasstone Durai
- V. Sagaana. BBA.,
- Rev Dr ARUN CHRISTOPHER
- D Esther Annal
- Beaulah Enoch
- M Johnofarc flora
- Arockia Mary Anita. E
- Anuradha
- P Pearlson Samuel
- T. Lilly Florida
- D. PRIMROSE JEBAMARY

Congratulations!

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Certificate will be send to them in due time

GODependence Bible Reading Challenges
 Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 September 2025

4 Months Bible Reading Challenge

- M Johnofarc Flora
- P. DIVYA

Congratulations!

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Certificate will be send to them in due time

GODependence Bible Reading Challenges
 Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 September 2025

6 Months Bible Reading Challenge

- Alfred S
- Brigida S
- A. Gnanabai Gladis
- Gnana Selvi. A
- J Selvarani Perinbam
- P Ruby Helen
- S. Saro Celgrim
- Sujatha Shanthini
- Anitha Joseph

Congratulations!

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Certificate will be send to them in due time

GODependence Bible Reading Challenges
 Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 September 2025

1 Year Bible Reading Challenge

1. Lalmohan Bari
2. Vijila Isac
3. Ajay
4. Regina Joseph
5. Regina Samuel
6. Rose Jeba
7. Sakthipriya. s

Congratulations!

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Certificate will be send to them in due time

David and his men had protected Nabal's shepherds and flocks in the wilderness. When David later requested some provisions, Nabal rudely refused and insulted David. Enraged, David set out with his men to destroy Nabal's household.

When Abigail heard of this, she acted quickly and wisely by generously giving provisions to David and his men. She went to David without telling Nabal, pleading for mercy and acknowledging her husband's folly. She requested David not to take vengeance himself, but to trust God to fight his battles. Her words and demeanour calmed David's anger, and he blessed her for her prudence. Later, when Nabal heard what had happened, he suffered a heart failure and died ten days later. David then sent for Abigail, and she became David's wife.

The examples we can follow from Abigail

- **Wise and Discerning** – She acted with quick, godly judgment (1 Sam. 25:33)

- **Humble** – She took the blame upon herself and approached David respectfully.
- **Peacemaker** – She prevented bloodshed through tactful words and generous action.
- **Courageous** – She risked her life to meet an angry warrior.
- **Faith-filled** – She recognised God's hand on David's life, even before he became king.

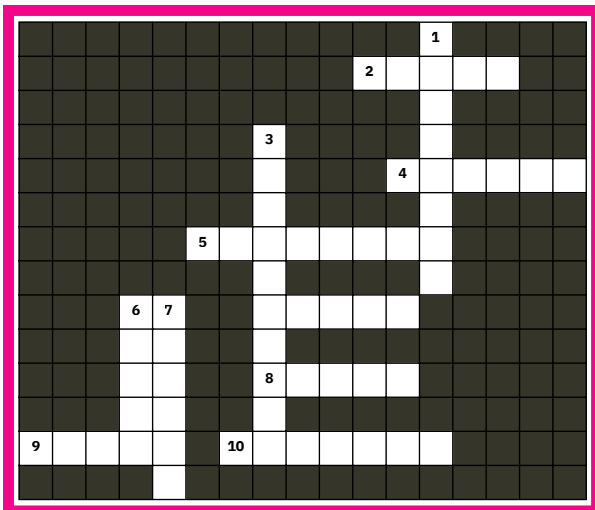
Takeaways from Abigail

1. A gentle word can turn away wrath (Proverbs 15:1).
2. Wisdom and humility can prevent disaster.
3. God honours those who act with righteousness even in difficult relationships.
4. True strength is shown through grace, not aggression.

In a world full of conflicts, let's be peacemakers like Abigail.

- **Bro. A. R. Peter, Palakad, Kerala.**

Bible Crossword Puzzle - 12



Scripture Portion: Colossians

Across

- 2 Set your hearts on things _____, where Christ is seated.
- 4 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all _____.
- 5 the city to which this epistle was written.
- 6 In Christ are hidden all the _____ of wisdom and knowledge.
- 8 Let the _____ of Christ rule in your hearts
- 9 He is the _____ of the invisible God.
- 10 The _____ that has been kept hidden for ages and generations.

Down

- 11 Because of Christ, God has _____ us all our sins.
- 3 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive _____.
- 7 _____ and built up in him, strengthened in the faith



<https://forms.gle/4VsFffZyLnjYn327>

- Send the answers with Bible references.
- You can use the Bible to find the answers

- Click on the given link and send the correct answer before 05/11/2025.
- The first 10 persons who send the correct answer will be mentioned in the next month's newsletter



Bible Reading Challenges

Salient features of GODependence Bible Reading Challenges

1. Your choice of duration ranges from 1 Month to 1 Year.
[Reading the whole Bible in 1 month / 2 months/ 3 months/ 4 months / 6 months or 1 Year].
2. Choice of Language - 10 Languages (English, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi and Bengali).
3. The Bible Reading portion is shared on the previous night itself.
4. Daily motivational quotes on reading the Bible.
5. Weekly, Bi-Weekly & Monthly reviews to check the Bible reading progress.
6. Catch-up days and Choice of changing the duration plans if required.
7. User-friendly WhatsApp group regulations - Exclusive group for Bible Reading.
8. Certificate of Appreciation and Prizes (conditions apply)
9. No fee is involved anywhere in the process, directly or indirectly.
10. Scope for further engagement with the Word of God (Bible Meditation, Bible Memorization, and Bible Study)

**A wonderful opportunity to read the Bible
regularly and systematically at your convenience.**

<https://www.godependence.com/brc>

Your Name, Hometown, Family, Christian Background & Upbringing:

Greetings in the matchless name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I thank God for this opportunity. My name is Beulah Enoch. Since my father was working in Coimbatore, our family lived there. I was brought up by wonderful Christian parents. After my marriage in 1971, I moved to Valliyoor, where my husband worked in a Government High School. We have four children — one daughter and three sons.

How many times have you read the entire Holy Bible so far? And how many of those times were through the GODependence Bible Reading program?

Since Bible reading has been a habit and practice for me from childhood, I really cannot count how many times I have read it completely. As children, we used to use the Balyar Nation book for our Bible reading. Later, I developed a deep interest in reading the Bible, and it became a joyful experience. After I turned thirty, I began using Every Day with Jesus as my daily reading guide. It is one of my favorites, and Selwyn Hughes is my favorite author.

In 2006, we moved to Madras (Chennai) to be near our children. By 2017, my health declined — I became very weak, walking was difficult, and reading was hard. I could only listen to the Audio Bible. Around that time, in 2019, one of my friends introduced me to the GODependence Bible Reading Plan.

In what way has the GODependence group's system helped you??

I began with very little confidence — I think it was in July 2019, though I'm not sure of the exact date. I first joined a one-year plan, and after completing it, I joined a six-month plan. Then I alternated between three-month and six-month plans continuously. This year too, I completed a six-month plan and am now reading through a three-month plan. I don't even remember exactly how many I've completed!

What benefits have you experienced through reading the Holy Bible?

When I joined this plan, I was physically very weak. But through reading the Word, I received strength and health. My children come and go, but no matter how late it is, I never go to bed without finishing my daily reading.

What challenges have you faced while reading the Bible, and how did you overcome them?

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, I was hospitalized for four days. I couldn't read the Bible then; I was in a constant state of dizziness. But once I returned home, I immediately caught up with all my missed Bible portions. At that time, we were meditating on the Gospel of John. With God's help, I was able to complete all the readings, reflections, and question answers before Sunday. It was a wonderful experience.

Now I am 77 years old and will turn 78 on November 1st. Even though I often feel weak or sick, my Bible reading has never stopped. Praise be to the Lord! It even amazes me. I believe I must have completed reading the Bible more than 16 times — yet my thirst for God's Word is not satisfied! Through it, I have received amazing peace, strength, and the ability to keep reading. If God wills, I am preparing to join the two-month plan in 2026. Truly, I have experienced a wonderful transformation within myself.

Finally, what would you like to say in a few sentences?

Bible reading is not just a ritual — it is a divine medicine that strengthens faith. Those who read the Word of God will never miss its blessings and benefits. Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. Amen.

CLICK THE FOLLOWING YOUTUBE LINKS TO SEE MORE TESTIMONIES There is no age limit for reading the Bible



BRO. JABEZ JEFFREY SMITH

Colossians

Time Written: A.D. 60–A.D. 62

Time Events Took Place: A.D. 60

Author of the Book: Apostle Paul

Book Genre: Epistles

Book Introduction

- Among the books of the Bible, Colossians is the one that contains the fullest explanation of Christology. This letter strongly emphasizes that it is impossible to live as Christians without Christ.

Context and Purpose

- Paul wrote to the Colossians to warn believers against doctrinal errors and to encourage them to continue growing in Christ. The first half of the Book of Colossians is like a theological essay in the New Testament. The second half is a short moral lesson, which addresses every part of Christian living. Paul moves from personal life to home and family, and from work to how we treat others. The main theme of this book is the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Paul did not directly preach the Gospel in the city of Colossae, which was in Asia Minor. However, while he was staying in Ephesus, Epaphras proclaimed the Gospel there (1:7–8). In that city, some false doctrines had emerged — a mixture of early Gnostic ideas and Jewish traditions. These included giving importance to ceremonial rituals (2:16–17; 3:11), self-denial of the body (2:21, 23), worship of angels (2:18; 2:2–3), and excessive trust in human wisdom and tradition (2:4, 8). Seeing this situation, Paul wrote this letter to reaffirm the truth of Christianity. Since it is said to have been written from prison, it is considered one of the Prison Epistles. It was written around A.D. 70–80.

Key Verses

Colossians 1:15–16; Colossians 2:8; Colossians 3:12–13; Colossians 4:5–6

Summary of the Book

- The letter to the Colossians was written specifically to defeat the heresy that threatened the church in Colossae. Although we do not know exactly what was told to Paul, we can infer that this letter is his response to a defective view of Christ a view that denied His true humanity and did not fully accept His complete divinity. Paul also refutes the insistence of certain "Jews" who emphasized circumcision and traditions (2:8–11; 3:11). The mentioned heresy appears to be a mixture of Jewish mysticism and Greek philosophy. Paul does remarkable work in showing the fullness of Christ. The Book of Colossians deals with the divinity of Christ and false philosophies about Him (1:15–2:23), and practical instructions for Christian conduct (3:1–4:18). To oppose the false teachings in Colossae, Paul declares that Christ is the image of God (1:15); He is the Creator of all things (1:16); He existed before everything and sustains all things (1:17). According to this letter, Christ is the head of the Church (1:18); the firstborn from the dead (1:18); the fullness of God dwelling in human form (1:19; 2:9); and the one who reconciles us to God (1:20–22). In the first part (Ch. 1–2), Paul explains who Christ is. In the second part (Ch. 3–4), he shows how this doctrine affects Christian living. Christians must put off the old nature and put on the new self; they must maintain holiness in family life, work, and public life.

Jesus Christ in the Book

- As in all early churches, the Jewish legalistic problem was a great concern for Paul in Colossae. The idea of salvation by grace apart from works was a radical one, and those deeply rooted in the Old Testament Law found it hard to understand. As a result, Judaizers tried to add some legal requirements to this new faith. The main one was the need for circumcision, which was still practiced among some Jewish converts. In Colossians 2:11–15, Paul refutes this error, stating that since Christ has come, physical circumcision is no longer necessary. His is a circumcision of the heart, not of the flesh the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament are no longer required (Deut. 10:16; 30:6; Jer. 4:4; 9:26; Acts 7:51; Rom. 2:29).

Application

- Although Paul covers many subjects, the central application for us today is the complete work of Christ for our salvation and sanctification. To avoid being misled by subtle legalism and false religious ideas, we must know and understand the Gospel. We must be alert to anything that diminishes the centrality of Christ as both God and Savior. Any "religion" that tries to combine human effort with divine grace or that claims the same authority as Scripture, is in error. Other religions cannot be added to or blended with Christianity. Christ alone provides the perfect moral standard. Christianity is not merely a religion it is a family, a way of life, and a relationship. Good works, astrology, the supernatural, and horoscopes do not reveal the ways of God only Christ does. His will is revealed in His Word, which is His letter of love to us — and we must learn it!

Book Outline

1. Introduction – 1:1–11 (Greetings, Thanksgiving, and Prayer)
2. Paul's Personal Explanation – 1:12–26
3. Christian Living – 1:27–2:18
4. Plans Concerning Timothy and Epaphroditus – 2:19–30
5. Warning Against Enemies – 3:1–4:9
6. Paul and His Philippian Friends – 4:10–20
7. Conclusion – 4:21–23

GODEPENDENCE NEWSLETTER SURVEY: RESULTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

We are thrilled to share the encouraging results of our recent GODEpendence Newsletter survey. The overwhelming response from 34 persons demonstrates the deep engagement and commitment of our readership, confirming that the content is powerfully impacting spiritual lives and promoting dedicated Bible reading habits. Thank you for taking the time to provide valuable input.

Key Findings on Engagement and Impact

The survey revealed high levels of readership, deep engagement, and overall satisfaction:

- **Consistent Readership:** A significant majority of readers, 61.8%, report reading the GODEpendence newsletter every month.
- **Deep Engagement:** Readers are spending considerable time immersed in the content. Over half (52.9%) spend more than 15 minutes reading each issue, while another 26.5% spend 10–15 minutes. This demonstrates that the newsletter is being consumed thoroughly, not merely skimmed.
- **High Helpfulness Rating:** The spiritual impact of the newsletter is clear: 85.3% of respondents find the newsletter "Very helpful" in their spiritual growth or Bible reading habits. Overall, 94.1% rated the newsletter as either "Very helpful" or "Somewhat helpful".
- **Aesthetically Pleasing:** The layout and design were highly praised, with 91.2% finding the newsletter either "Very appealing" (44.1%) or "Simple but effective" (47.1%).
- **Sharing the Blessing:** The newsletter is actively shared! 70.5% of respondents either share the newsletter occasionally (52.9%) or regularly (17.6%).
- **Future Contributions:** Many readers expressed interest in contributing, with 58.8% saying they would like to contribute content (20.6% said Yes, 38.2% said Maybe in the future).

What Content Connects Most?

Your feedback confirmed which sections are most appreciated and engaged with. The top six most enjoyed sections include:

- Bible Reading Challenges Updates (Highest engagement).
- Lessons from the Characters from Bible.
- Testimonies.
- Let's Play Bible Games / Bible Crosswords. (Qualitative feedback also noted the usefulness of printing the crosswords for writing answers).
- Praise & Prayer Points.
- Main Articles / Devotion.

Life-Giving Word:

Personal Impact and Encouragement

Many readers shared how specific content has personally impacted them, with testimonies frequently cited as encouraging. Readers noted that the testimonies and the fervent prayer points have motivated them, helping them learn about the challenges others face. One reader specifically mentioned the joy of nearing the completion of their Bible reading for the first time, attributing this progress in part to the support provided.

Looking Ahead: Suggestions for Improvement

We value your suggestions for future editions. While many stated that the current format is "perfect" or "very good", key suggestions included:

- Improving picture clarity.
- Potentially utilizing professional designers.
- Ensuring content is brief.
- Requests for new features such as Missionary biographies, articles on answered prayers, detailed Bible study topics, short messages, and content specifically focused on encouraging youth/students.

The GODEpendence Newsletter Editorial Team is committed to maintaining the diverse, insightful, and engaging content you currently enjoy, while implementing these suggestions to serve you better. May God bless you!

It was a privilege for the GODependence Team to organise the first-ever International Day of Bible Reading (IDBR) on 16 December 2023, in remembrance of Mary Jones - a little girl whom God used to bring awareness of making the Bible available for all to read and know God's Word.

The 3rd International Day of Bible Reading (IDBR 2025) will be observed on 16 December 2025. Beginning this year, we have decided to extend the observance into an International Day of Bible Reading (IDBR) Week (10–16 December each year), to make it easier for activities to be held regardless of the day on which 16 December falls. For IDBR 2025, we aim to extend activities to all 10 languages in which GODependence Bible Reading Challenges are conducted, and to as many countries as possible.

The following are the suggested activities for International Day of Bible Reading on 16 December based on the experience we had last year:

As an individual, how shall I participate in the International Day of Bible Reading?

- Spend some time to read the scriptures, meditate, take notes from it for your personal life, and spend time devoting yourself to it on December 16.
- One can meditate on a particular verse or portion of the Bible.
- Take a photo or selfie while you read and meditate on the Bible and share it on your WhatsApp Status, Facebook, Instagram, etc.
- You can also share the captured video of the recitation of memorized verses on your social networking sites.
- You can present the Holy Bible to someone in need in the circle of friends.
- While sharing above photos, pictures, or videos in the social media sites, use (#) hashtags #InternationalDayofBibleReading and #IDBR2024. It will ensure the "International Day of Bible Reading" reaches more people.
- It will also let all people in your circle of friends know the details of the International Day of Bible Reading.

What could we do as a family, a church, or a group to observe International Day of Bible Reading On December 16?

- Come together as a group to a place and take turns to read a specific passage or books of the Bible.
- Organize events or competitions to recite memorized verses.
- Conduct Bible quiz competitions.
- Organizing Seminars on the Holy Bible, its history, background, greatness, its impact on individuals and society.
- One or more of the above events can be conducted as an In-Person or Online event.
- In-Person events can be shared in the photo or video format on your personal, Church, and community groups' social media pages.
- When sharing the In-Person and the Online events on social media pages, use (#) hashtags #InternationalDayofBibleReading and #IDBR2025. It will ensure the "International Day of Bible Reading" reaches more people.

IRBR Week - 10 to 16 December

Beginning this year, we have decided to extend the observance into an International Day of Bible Reading (IDBR) Week (10–16 December each year), to make it easier for activities to be held regardless of the day on which 16 December falls.

IRBR 2025 Theme

“Read the Bible; Renew your Life.”

What are we going to do on the International Day of Bible Reading on 16 December 2025/ IDBR Week (10-11 December 2025) as GODependence Team?

- To organise a Zoom meeting in all 10 languages of Bible Reading Challenge groups.
- GODependence Talk shows in all 10 languages on the history of that particular language Bible.
- To conduct Mega Bible Quiz online – English & Tamil.
- To manage a temporary WhatsApp group in all 10 languages for WhatsApp users to share their IDBR social media posts.
- To share Birthday wishes with the hashtag of IDBR to those who are having Birthday on 16 December.
- To organise Bible Readathons in all 10 languages
- To give away Bibles to the needy people in all 10 languages of GODependence Bible Reading Challenges.

More details of the suggested activities as Individuals and the events planned @ GODependence Team level for 16 December 2025 will follow in the next issue.

Come... Let's unite together to promote the International Day of Bible Reading emphasizing the need to read the Holy Bible. You can keep you connected with the exclusive pages of IDBR 2025

#IDBR2025 Facebook Page: <https://tinyurl.com/IDBR-Dec16-FB>

#IDBR2025 Instagram: <https://tinyurl.com/IDBR-Dec16-Insta>

#IDBR2025 YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/y8pn8ecr>

#IDBR2025 X Page: <https://tinyurl.com/3hmbydjs>

Let us come together to honour this momentous occasion and celebrate the everlasting relevance of the Holy Bible in our lives.

With heartfelt anticipation,
Team GODependence

1

12 Hrs Bible Readathon in Tamil on 02 October 2025



2



GODependence Talkshow - October 2025

Talk show for the month of October 2025 couldn't be arranged. It has been arranged for the month of November 2025.

Topic: History of the English Bible

Date & Time: These details will be given in the next month's newsletter

Bible Meditation Groups (BMG) - Training Sessions

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Bible Meditation Groups (BMG) we had planned to restart and to conduct them continuously have not been initiated so far.

Training sessions on "How to Meditate the Word of God" will be conducted in the month of November 2025. The first session will be on 09.11.2015.

More details on the training will be sent in the Bible Reading Challenge groups.



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