



SUMMER READING PLAN

DAY ROMANS 5:12-21

31

In 2010, one environmental disaster resulted in staggering consequences. An explosion on the oil rig Deepwater Horizon caused over four million barrels of oil to spill out into the Gulf of Mexico. Lives were lost, wildlife was demolished, and marine-dependent industries suffered. BP eventually paid out \$40 billion in costs associated with cleanup and repair. In today's passage, we see the staggering consequences of one's man sin. Because of Adam's actions, sin spread with devastating effect—bringing judgment and death. But because of Christ's actions, all that was ruined is being restored. Adam's sin brought colossal death. Jesus' sacrifice brings new life. Through the disobedience of one man, many were made sinners. Through the obedience of one man, many will be made righteous. Grace is greater than all our sin.

DAY ROMANS 6:1-23

32

Partway through my school years, my family moved to a different state. Before school started, my parents told us we could adopt the shorter version of our names. It was a chance to start over. We could be known as we were always known or we could take on a new identity. God gave you a new identity when you became His child. The label "sinner" was replaced with "saint." The Bible refers to this new reality as being "in Christ." Simply put, what was true of Christ is now true of you. You gained His perfect record, freedom from sin, and relationship with God. You are no longer a slave to a master called sin. Sin is a salesperson, and you are a shopper. You don't have to buy. It's a chance to start over with more than a changed name.

DAY ROMANS 8:18-39

33

I remember a favorite teacher of mine unwrapping a very long rope. It seemed to take forever as he laid it out all around us. Then he showed us the end. We had to squint to see a small sliver covered in tape. Then he said, "The tape is your entire life, and the rope is eternity." That's what Paul is getting at in today's passage. He doesn't pretend life on earth doesn't have its horrors. But no matter how bad it gets—and it can get pretty bad—what we see is not all we get. We can count on eternity with God! During this life, we are confident that God will never abandon us. The gift of His Son is proof that He is totally committed to us. We see our small slice, but He sees it all and His plan is perfect.

DAY EPHESIANS 2:1-10

34

Have you ever watched an antique lover lost in the art of restoring a masterpiece? That's a picture of today's reading. We were like useless instruments, discarded and left on the trash heap. But God takes the rough and discarded materials of our lives and entirely restores them. God always planned to play a powerful song with our lives. It is the purpose of our design. We are saved to serve. After an impressive violin solo, no one walks up to the violin where it lays in the case and asks for an autograph. The artist gets the glory. That's the same thing that happens when we allow God to use us to help others. He gets the glory.

DAY 1 JOHN 1:1-2:2

35

What does God do when we sin? Does He get furious? Does He write us off as failures? Not according to this passage. The moment we fall; He begins fighting for the relationship. Jesus argues for our restoration like a defense attorney. If we confess our sins, God will forgive and cleanse us. Try this simple process the next time you sin. Start by naming your sin before God as clearly as possible. Then take responsibility for it. Don't blame anyone else. It could be as simple as, "God, I blew up in anger because I wanted my way." Do you know what God does when you do that? He cleanses you. God washes you clean. You are forgiven, your record is spotless, and your guilt is gone. Because of Jesus, your sins are as far from you as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12).

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