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*He had to be made like His brethren in all things (2:17). Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is the devil (2:14).*

Moses was God's faithful servant (3:5). Amid a flurry of miracles, he gave Israel God's law, which they broke. *Therefore I was angry with that generation ... I swore in My wrath, "They shall not enter my rest" (3:10-11).* But Jesus Christ is our high priest. Through Him, we *draw near with confidence to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need (4:15-16).*

The Old Testament priests were an exclusive club. Their sacrifices covered the sin of an exclusive people. But only for a time. Priests die and animal sacrifices only cover past sin. But Christ is a priest of a different kind—the kind who lives and forgives forever. *He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them (7:25).*

Christ's blood cleanses us from sin (9:14, 28). He is the hope of the faithful, our model to follow, and power to obey (12:1-3). The babe that cried in a manger in Bethlehem is the God who shook the mountain at Sinai (12:18-21). And when God gives a gift, He never takes it back, or in Christ's words, *I will never leave you, nor will I ever forsake you (13:5).*

As you read the book of Hebrews this Christmas season, think of it as unwrapping God's gift. Rejoice in the eternal blessing He brings. Delight in the hope He purchased. But above all, fall in love with the Giver. All giving begins and ends with Him.

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#### **Prayer for ...**

- **Northpoint:** Pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send us into our portion of His world to win souls for Christ.
- **Local Outreach:** Christmas in Corona, bringing Christmas and Christ to those in need
- **Missions:** Church growth and support in Tuba City, Arizona

#### **Need to pray with someone?**

It is our privilege to pray for you personally. Share your prayer requests

- By email at [prayer@northpointcorona.org](mailto:prayer@northpointcorona.org)
- By phone, at 951.734.1335
- On a Response Card in the pew during the worship service

Prayer Team members are available after every worship service.



# prayer *life!*

## Bible Reading Plan and Prayer Guide

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### **(Year ONE) December 2018**

*In these last days, God has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. –Hebrews 1:2-3*

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#### **God's Best Gift**

Jim Elliot's words still ring true: "God gives the best gifts, when we leave the choice to Him." So often, our needs and longings dominate our prayers, and we lose sight of God's sovereign plan and His gifts of eternal value. If ever there's a time to reflect on the excellence of God's gifts, it's Christmas. And His most excellent gift is the Child Christ.

There's an old habit. Devaluing Christ and insisting there must be more to God's gift. This old habit plagued the Hebrew believers of the first century, as it does many today. Fear of being excluded from Jewish worship tempted them to mix law with grace and trust human effort instead of God's provision. But rejecting God's gift means falling from grace and throwing away the only chance for salvation.

An unknown author, some say Paul but no one knows for sure, wrote these Hebrew saints to convince them to cling to Christ alone. The portrait of Christ he gives reveals how great God's greatest gift truly is.

Angels can't compare to Christ our Savior. Angels are mere servants, doing God's bidding (1:14). But God's Son rules. *Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom (1:8).* As awesome as an angel is, Christ's glory is categorically greater.

No human is His equal. Yes, our Lord is human—even mortal, able to die. But His humanity is more than packaging. Incarnation is essential to the way God crafted His gift to us.

# Reading and Prayer Schedule (Year ONE)

December 2018

<b>Sunday:</b> Church & Ministry	<b>Monday:</b> Home & Family	<b>Tuesday:</b> School or Job	<b>Wednesday:</b> Neighbors & Community	<b>Thursday:</b> Nation	<b>Friday:</b> World & Kingdom	<b>Saturday:</b> Praise for God's Blessings	
<p><i>The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by his love; He will exult over you with loud singing. –Zephaniah 3:17</i></p>						<p><b>1) Read:</b> Hebrews 4 <i>Thank God for ...</i> Your family and friends. Rejoice in God's design for relationships.</p>	
<p><b>2) Read:</b> Hebrews 5 <i>Pray for ...</i> Amber McEwen, Ministry Associate, Women. May Christ shine through her life &amp; make her His gift to those she serves.</p>	<p><b>3) Read:</b> Hebrews 6 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your parents. Thank God for using them to give you life and to shape your life.</p>	<p><b>4) Read:</b> Hebrews 7 <i>Pray for ...</i> Christ to shine the light of His love and character through your words and actions.</p>	<p><b>5) Read:</b> Hebrews 8 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to burden our hearts to reach out the lost in our community, just as He reached out to us by sending Jesus.</p>	<p><b>6) Read:</b> Hebrews 9 <i>Pray for ...</i> Confess our sin as a nation that has rejected God's rule over us (Luke 19:14). Ask God to exalt Christ this Christmas,</p>	<p><b>7) Read:</b> Hebrews 10 <i>Pray for ...</i> The liberation of North Korea &amp; the conversion of its people to Christ. Pray for protection &amp; strength for the persecuted Church.</p>	<p><b>8) Read:</b> Hebrews 11 <i>Give God Praise ...</i> For the abundance we enjoy in America. Rejoice in God's provision of all the good in your life.</p>	
<p><b>9) Read:</b> Hebrews 12 <i>Pray for ...</i> Taylor Mendoza, Junior High Intern: Ask God to equip him for service and use him to add members to His Church and build them up in Christ.</p>	<p><b>10) Read:</b> Hebrews 13 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your siblings. Ask God to keep them in His care and lead them in His will.</p>	<p><b>11) Read:</b> Ecclesiastes 1 <i>Pray for ...</i> The integrity and success of your school or place of work.</p>	<p><b>12) Read:</b> Ecclesiastes 2 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to accomplish His purposes through our city government. Pray that those who know Christ will share and show His love to others.</p>	<p><b>13) Read:</b> Ecclesiastes 3 <i>Pray for ...</i> Revival in the Church in the United States, driven by God's love, guided by His Word, empowered by prayer, and expressed through evangelism.</p>	<p><b>14) Read:</b> Ecclesiastes 4 <i>Pray for ...</i> The triumph of the Gospel in the hearts of people throughout Latin America.</p>	<p><b>15) Read:</b> Ecclesiastes 5 <i>Pray for ...</i> Praise God for the Light that shines in the darkness. Rejoice that the darkness cannot ever overcome it. –John 1:5</p>	
<p><b>16) Read:</b> Ecclesiastes 6 <i>Pray for ...</i> Corie Saunders, Administrator &amp; Finance: Ask God to use her to enable our church to honor Christ with our resources.</p>	<p><b>17) Read:</b> Ecclesiastes 7 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your aunts and uncles. Ask God to draw them to Himself and provide all they need.</p>	<p><b>18) Read:</b> Ecclesiastes 8 <i>Pray for ...</i> The movement of God's Spirit in the lives of those you work with, so they will be filled with the joy of Christmas.</p>	<p><b>19) Read:</b> Ecclesiastes 9 <i>Pray for ...</i> The incarnate and resurrected Christ to reveal Himself to your neighbors through you.</p>	<p><b>20) Read:</b> Ecclesiastes 10 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to turn America's heart to seek Him, like the Magi of old, to obey His Word, and honor His will.</p>	<p><b>21) Read:</b> Ecclesiastes 11 <i>Pray for ...</i> Jesus Christ to be exalted to first place in all denominations of the Church worldwide. May we worship Him as did the shepherds &amp; wise men.</p>	<p><b>22) Read:</b> Ecclesiastes 12 <i>Praise God for ...</i> His perfect and eternal gift. Rejoice in "God with us" and the "grace upon grace" we receive in Jesus.</p>	
<p><b>23) Read:</b> Proverbs 1 <i>Pray for ...</i> Teri Vaughn, Ministry Assistant, Missions &amp; Community: Pray for the grace of the Child Christ to flow from her &amp; spread Christmas joy to all she meets.</p>	<p><b>24) Read:</b> Proverbs 2 <i>Pray for ...</i> Ask the Lord to create a deep bond between you &amp; your family that reveals and exalts Christ.</p>	<p><b>25) Read:</b> Proverbs 3 <i>Pray for ...</i> The joy of Christmas to flow through you to everyone around you, so they come to know Christ and His love.</p>	<p><b>26) Read:</b> Proverbs 4 <i>Pray for ...</i> The growing Muslim population in our area. Ask God to reveal Christ and His love to them through us, His people.</p>	<p><b>27) Read:</b> Proverbs 5 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to revive the Church in the New Year, so that His Church will grow, as hearts that oppose Christ come to bow before Him and rejoice in His reign.</p>	<p><b>28) Read:</b> Proverbs 6 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to establish His rule in our country, by filling the Church with His Spirit, &amp; giving us strong Godly leaders, who identify first with Jesus Christ.</p>	<p><b>29) Read:</b> Proverbs 7 <i>Return Thanks for ...</i> God's constant faithfulness in giving us a New Year of life, liberty, &amp; blessing even in difficult times. Every good gift comes through Christ.</p>	
<p><b>30) Read:</b> Proverbs 8 <i>Pray for ...</i> Mark Norland, Ministry Support, Facilities, to glorify God by his Christ-like spirit &amp; the excellence of His work.</p>	<p><b>31) Read:</b> Proverbs 9 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your parents and brothers and sisters to see God provide all they need, so they grow in His grace during the coming year.</p>	<p><i>Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift! –2nd Corinthians 9:15</i></p>					