


# January 2022 ~ Messenger

I, like many Christians, often take the New Year as an opportunity to take a new approach to reading the Bible. Often this opportunity begins with a question: “*What should I read?*” But another equally important question is, “*How should I read?*” Before I get to the best way, let’s consider the wrong ways. *Dane Ortlund suggests nine wrong ways that we read the Bible (from his book Deeper: Real Change for Real Sinners):*

- 1. The warm fuzzies approach—reading the Bible for a glowing, subjective experience of God, ignited by the words of the text, whether we understand what they actually mean or not. Result: frothy reading.*
- 2. The grumpy approach—reading the Bible out of nothing but a vague sense that we’re supposed to, to get God off our backs for the day. Result: resentful reading.*
- 3. The gold mine approach—reading the Bible as a vast, cavernous, dark mine, in which one occasionally stumbles upon a nugget of inspiration. Result: confused reading.*
- 4. The hero approach—reading the Bible as a moral hall of fame that gives us one example after another of heroic spiritual giants to emulate. Result: despairing reading.*
- 5. The rules approach—reading the Bible on the lookout for commands to obey to subtly reinforce a sense of personal superiority. Result: Pharisaical reading.*
- 6. The Indiana Jones approach—reading the Bible as an ancient document about events in the Middle East a few thousand years ago that are irrelevant to my life today. Result: bored reading.*
- 7. The magic eight-ball approach—reading the Bible as a road map to tell me where to work, whom to marry, and what car to buy. Result: anxious reading.*
- 8. The Aesop’s Fables approach—reading the Bible as a loose collection of nice stories strung together independently, each with a nice moral at the end. Result: disconnected reading.*
- 9. The doctrine approach—reading the Bible as a theological repository to plunder for ammunition for our next theology debate at Starbucks. Result: cold reading.*



There is some truth to each of these “wrong ways,” but when any of them becomes the main way we read the Holy Scriptures, the Bible becomes just another book. So, what is the right way to read Scripture? Martin Luther said it well: “[The one] who would correctly and profitably read Scripture should see to it that he finds Christ in it; then he finds life eternal without fail.” In other words, we approach Scripture not to find information, an inspirational word, or practical advice (though it has all these!), but to encounter the Risen Lord Jesus. Every time we open the Scriptures, we have an opportunity to encounter our Risen Lord. Again, Dane Ortlund, “So as you seek to grow in Christ by becoming a deeper human, accept and embrace the truth that *you will go deeper with Christ no further than you go into Scripture*. To read Scripture is to read of Christ. To read it is to hear his voice.”

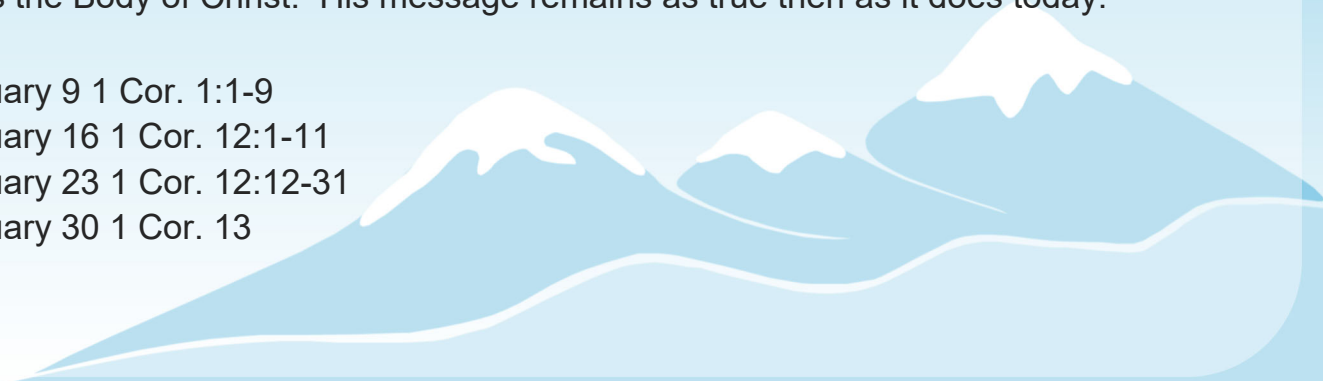
If you want to grow deeper in your relationship with the Lord, the place to start is reading the Holy Scriptures given to us in the Bible. *That is where you will hear his voice. So, yes, read the Bible, but read it as Good News -- read it as part of the overall story that points to Jesus Christ and what he has done for us and for our salvation. When you open the Scriptures, take a deep breath, and pray, “Lord, encounter me through your word” and see what happens.*

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Dave

### Sermon Notes

The Apostle Paul spent a year and a half as the pastor of First Church Corinth before the Spirit called him elsewhere. Sometime after he left he received an S.O.S. from the congregation leadership: factions had developed, morality ignored, and worship had degenerated. Into this situation, Paul wrote the letter we know as I Corinthians. It presents an affectionate and firm reminder that the God revealed in Jesus Christ and present in the Holy Spirit is the central reality, regardless of the mess in the congregation. Paul takes them by the hand to guide them through some thorny congregation issues, pointing the way to what really matters in our life together as the Body of Christ. His message remains as true then as it does today.

January 9 1 Cor. 1:1-9  
January 16 1 Cor. 12:1-11  
January 23 1 Cor. 12:12-31  
January 30 1 Cor. 13



# Session report for Messenger

## Summary of Session meeting of December 20, 2021

In its time of study and reflection, Session reviewed Luke 1: 26 – 33. This is account of the angel telling Mary how she is being called by God. Our questions of reflection is, “What kind of greeting do we need from God?”

Session voted to call the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 30. The meeting will be after worship and will be part of a meal in Hendrick.

Session voted to adopt a budget for 2022. Copies of the budget will be available before the annual meeting of the congregation.

Session accepted a bid from Aikens Floor Coverings of Clarkston for new carpeting in the sanctuary, narthex, offices and adjacent areas on the main floor of the church building.

Session voted to discontinue negotiations with Catholic Charities of Spokane regarding possible sale of our old youth/preschool building.

	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$252,778.53	\$352, 802.46
EXPENSE	\$352,223.79	\$352, 802.48
INC/EXP	(99,445.26)	(.02)
Betty Miller Adjustment	Of \$71380.46 (28064.80)	

# JANUARY 2022



**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i><b>ABS-Adult Bible Study</b></i>	<i><b>KK-Kingdom Kids</b></i>	<i><b>SS-Sunday School</b></i>	<i><b>SW-Sunday Worship</b></i>			<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 10am SW &SS	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7 am Grumpy's 7 pm AI Anon	<b>8</b> 7 am 2nd Sat
<b>9</b> 10am SW &SS	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10 am ABS	<b>14</b> 7 am Grumpy's 7 pm AI Anon	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10am SW &SS	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Session	<b>18</b> FE PEO	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10 am ABS	<b>21</b> 7 am Grumpy's 7 pm AI Anon	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10am SW &SS	<b>24</b> 6 pm Deacons	<b>25</b> Kyros	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10 am ABS	<b>28</b> 7 am Grumpy's 7 pm AI Anon	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10am SW &SS Annual Meeting 11 am	<b>31</b>					

Janet Auer 01

Leo Snider 12

Marilynn Hafberg 01

Jillian Knutson 13

Nancy Anderson 08

Jeanne Keatts 17

Christi Severance 08

Marcella Kroksa 18

Chris Loseth 09

Glenna Coombs 20

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**