

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotionals: Facing Our Biggest Problem: Sin

AM Message by Bro. Mike Bentley – September 6, 2026

Day 1: The Universal Problem We Cannot Ignore

Reading: Romans 3:19-26

Devotional: Every human being who has ever lived shares one common condition: sin. Romans 3:23 makes no exceptions. Sin is not a problem confined to certain cultures, generations, or personalities. It is the defining crisis of humanity. Yet the same passage that indicts us also points us toward grace. God did not leave us without remedy. Before you can fully appreciate what Christ accomplished on the cross, you must first honestly reckon with what made the cross necessary. Today, resist the temptation to minimize your sin. Name it. Acknowledge it. Only then can the weight of grace begin to be truly felt.

Personal Reflection: Have you honestly confronted the reality of sin in your own life, or have you grown comfortable treating it as something ordinary and expected?

Practical Application: Set aside five minutes today to write down one area of your life where you have allowed sin to feel normal. Bring it before God in honest, specific prayer.

Day 2: Dead to Sin, Alive to God

Reading: Romans 6:1-18

Devotional: One of the most liberating truths in all of Scripture is that the Christian has died to sin. Paul's argument in Romans 6 is not merely poetic language. It describes a real transformation that takes place when a person is buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life. The danger Paul confronts is the assumption that grace gives permission to continue sinning. It does not. Grace forgives sin and breaks sin's power over you. You are no longer a slave. The chains have been removed. The question is whether you are living as though they have been.

Personal Reflection: Are you living in the freedom that Christ purchased for you, or are you returning to chains that have already been broken?

Practical Application: Memorize Romans 6:14 this week. When temptation arises, speak it aloud as a declaration of who you are in Christ.

Day 3: The Path From Temptation to Sin

Reading: James 1:12-18 and 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

Devotional: Temptation is not sin. This distinction matters deeply. Jesus himself was tempted in every way common to human experience, yet he did not sin. James carefully traces the progression: desire, enticement, conception, and finally the birth of sin. Understanding this sequence is not meant to discourage you but to equip you. God, who is faithful, has promised

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that no temptation will exceed what you are able to bear, and that with every temptation he provides a way of escape. The escape is always there. The critical question is whether you are looking for it or whether you have already decided to stop looking.

Personal Reflection: At what point in the progression from temptation to sin do you most often make the choice to give in rather than seek the way of escape?

Practical Application: Identify one recurring temptation in your life. Pray specifically and intentionally each morning this week, asking God to show you the way of escape before the moment of temptation arrives.

Day 4: The Danger of Losing the Ability to Blush

Reading: Jeremiah 6:13-19 and 1 John 1:5-10

Devotional: Jeremiah delivered a haunting indictment against God's people in Jerusalem. They had committed abomination and felt no shame. They had lost the ability to blush. This is not a condition limited to ancient Israel. It is a creeping danger for any believer who allows sin to settle into the category of the expected and the normal. John, writing to Christians, was equally direct: anyone who claims to have no sin deceives himself and calls God a liar. Spiritual health requires an ongoing, honest sensitivity to sin. The moment sin stops feeling serious is the moment it begins doing its most destructive work.

Personal Reflection: Is there a sin in your life that you have gradually stopped feeling ashamed of because you have come to think of it as simply part of being human?

Practical Application: Read 1 John 1:9 slowly and prayerfully. Practice genuine confession today, not a general acknowledgment of imperfection, but specific, honest naming of sin before God.

Day 5: The Cross, The Remedy, and the Life Set Free

Reading: 1 Peter 3:18 and 1 John 1:7-9 and Romans 6:20-23

Devotional: The gospel does not end with a diagnosis. It ends with a cure. Christ suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, so that he might bring us to God. His blood, applied through faith, repentance, and obedience, cleanses from all sin. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. This is not a transaction that leaves you unchanged. It is a resurrection. The old man dies. A new creation rises. You are no longer defined by your sin but by the grace that removed it. Live today as someone who has been set free, because in Christ, you have been.

Personal Reflection: Do you live with a genuine sense of gratitude for what Christ accomplished on your behalf, or has familiarity with the gospel caused you to take its power for granted?

Practical Application: Write a brief letter to God today. Thank him specifically for one sin from which his grace has freed you. Let that gratitude fuel your obedience throughout the rest of this week.