

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotionals: Our Humanity: Justifying Our Sin

AM Message by Bro. Mike Bentley – September 20, 2026

Theme: Confronting Sin, Embracing Grace

Day 1: The Universal Reality of Sin Reading: Romans 3:9-23

Devotional: No one is exempt from the reach of sin. Paul's words to the Romans cut across every cultural and religious boundary — Jews and Gentiles alike stood guilty before God. This is not a comfortable truth, but it is a necessary one. Before a wound can be treated, it must be acknowledged. The same is true of sin. When we honestly examine our lives against the standard of God's holiness, we find ourselves in need of something far greater than self-improvement. We need a Savior. Begin today by honestly acknowledging your need before God in prayer.

Day 2: God Made You Upright — Sin Is a Choice Reading: Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 3:1-6

Devotional: Solomon's inspired observation is striking — God created mankind upright. The problem is not in our design but in our decisions. Eve knew the command. She recited it back to the serpent before she disobeyed it. Adam stood nearby and took the fruit without resistance. Neither could claim ignorance, and neither could blame God. This pattern has repeated itself throughout human history and continues in our own lives today. The moment we stop blaming our nature, our circumstances, or our upbringing for our sin is the moment genuine spiritual growth can begin. Own your choices today and bring them before God.

Day 3: The Promise That Changes Everything Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 4:14-16

Devotional: God does not leave us without help in the face of temptation. His promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13 is one of the most practically powerful assurances in all of Scripture — every temptation can be resisted because God always provides a way of escape. Jesus himself was tempted in every way we are, yet he did not sin. This means the path of resistance is not theoretical. It has been walked. Because God cannot lie, the promise of escape is guaranteed. Your responsibility is to look for that exit and take it. Today, identify one recurring temptation and ask God to show you the way out.

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Day 4: Holiness Is the Standard, Not the Exception Reading: 1 Peter 1:13-16; Matthew 5:43-48

Devotional: The call to holiness is not reserved for monks or ministers. It is the expectation placed on every follower of Christ. Peter's instruction is plain — as God is holy, so we are to be holy in all of our conduct. Jesus raises the standard even further in Matthew 5, calling his disciples to a quality of love and moral living that mirrors the perfection of the Father. This is not a call to sinless perfection in an absolute sense, but it is a call to stop settling for spiritual mediocrity. God's standard should shape how we speak, act, and love every single day.

Day 5: The Cross Answers the Problem Sin Creates Reading: Romans 6:3-6; Galatians 2:20; John 8:24

Devotional: Sin is not merely a moral failure — it is what drove the nails into the hands of Jesus Christ. The cross was not an accident of history. It was the answer to the problem of human sin, including yours and mine. Paul's words in Galatians 2:20 describe a life so transformed by the gospel that the old self no longer holds the wheel. Baptism into Christ is a burial of that old sinful identity and a resurrection into a new way of living. The remedy for sin has already been provided. The only question remaining is whether we will receive it and walk accordingly.