



*Please do not send this newsletter back to Crossroads.*

“Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.”

– James 5:7 (NIV)

You have probably heard people say, “I know how to do time.” What they mean is that they have become accustomed to the pace and culture of prison. They have developed routines that help them cope with the reality of serving a long sentence. They may have learned to compartmentalize their lives in a way that helps them stay connected to their family outside without allowing their family to see who they are when they are in the facility yard. The extreme form of this type of coping is institutionalization, meaning that a person’s thoughts, habits, and actions are negatively reshaped by their incarceration experience. You don’t need anyone to tell you that prison recidivism is high. Maybe you have seen friends and acquaintances come back after their release. They may know how to “do time” inside, but why is it so hard to stay out?

One of the beneficial outcomes of doing time is learning patience. As the verse above says, eventually, with patience, the rain and harvest will come. In his letter, James encouraged the early Church—and us—to be patient while waiting on the promises of God. God may have given you a vision for your future. But we all have to wait on God’s timing. As winter comes to an end, be on the lookout for how God is watering that hope and vision in your life. This spring, make it your goal to prepare for what God has in store for you.

## **A Message from Crossroads’ President, Joe Pryor**

*“Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!” – 1 Chronicles 16:11 (ESV)*

I love the simplicity and power of God’s Word. In this short verse, we are encouraged to seek two things that may sound simple but can profoundly impact our lives. Seeking the strength of the Lord gives us the ability to overcome every challenge in life. Seeking His presence continually helps us to have the mind of Christ and see things through the lens of godly love and compassion. We most certainly serve a God without limits, and if you commit your lives totally to Him, depend on His strength, and seek to be continually in His presence, you will be truly amazed at what God will do as you seek to serve Him. We are honored to have you as a Crossroads student and pray God’s blessings upon you and your family.

## Still Receiving Roadmaps?

If you have been a student with us for a while, you have likely received Roadmaps within your lessons. In last summer's edition of *Just for Students*, we told you that we would be discontinuing Roadmaps and shared why we made this decision. However, to be good stewards of the resources God has given us, we are using up what was already printed, so you might still receive Roadmaps with some lessons. If you receive a Roadmap in your lesson, you may complete it and send it in with a completed lesson. Looking for a way to continue studying God's Word between lessons? We encourage you to read and pray along with the entire Crossroads family using the Scripture reading and prayer guide included in this newsletter.

## Scripture Reading and Prayer Guide: Paul's Prison Letters

The reading and prayer guide for the next two months highlights the letters that the apostle Paul wrote while he was in prison.

Date	Passage	Reading Topic	Prayer Focus
Mar. 1	Ephesians 1:1–2	Paul's greeting	For the peace of God in your relationships with others
Mar. 2	Ephesians 1:3–8	Spiritual blessings in Christ	To be holy and blameless in God's sight
Mar. 3	Ephesians 1:9–14	Sealed with the Spirit	Praise God for your salvation
Mar. 4	Ephesians 1:15–23	Thanksgiving and prayer	To know the riches of your inheritance in Christ
Mar. 5	Ephesians 2:1–4	Made alive in Christ	To leave behind old patterns of sin
Mar. 6	Ephesians 2:5–10	We are God's handiwork	For perseverance in good works
Mar. 7	Ephesians 2:11–18	Jews and Gentiles reconciled	That God will break down walls of hostility
Mar. 8	Ephesians 2:19–22	We are God's temple	For an opportunity to share Jesus with someone
Mar. 9	Ephesians 3:1–8	God's plan for the Gentiles	For those who are lost or seem far away from God
Mar. 10	Ephesians 3:9–13	God's wisdom made known	That God will grant you more wisdom
Mar. 11	Ephesians 3:14–21	Paul's prayer	To better understand God's love for you
Mar. 12	Ephesians 4:1–6	Unity in the Church	For unity among God's people
Mar. 13	Ephesians 4:7–10	Gifts in the Church	To know how best to serve others
Mar. 14	Ephesians 4:11–16	We are called to be like Jesus	For the leaders of God's people
Mar. 15	Ephesians 4:17–21	God enlightened our hearts	For the light of the Gospel to reach the unreached
Mar. 16	Ephesians 4:22–25	Put off the old self	To become more like God in righteousness and holiness
Mar. 17	Ephesians 4:26–32	Do not grieve the Holy Spirit	For more kindness and compassion toward others
Mar. 18	Ephesians 5:1–20	Live as children of light	To live a life that is pleasing to the Lord
Mar. 19	Ephesians 5:21–29	Instructions for households	For God to bless your marriage or a friend's marriage
Mar. 20	Ephesians 5:30–33	We are the body of Christ	For revival in the Church
Mar. 21	Ephesians 6:1–9	Instructions for households	For the mothers that you know
Mar. 22	Ephesians 6:10–17	The armor of God	That you will be ready to fight spiritual battles
Mar. 23	Ephesians 6:18–20	Pray at all times	For consistency in your prayer life
Mar. 24	Ephesians 6:21–24	Paul's final greetings	For strong, grace-filled Christian friendships
Mar. 25	Philippians 1:1–8	Paul's greeting	That God will continue His work in you
Mar. 26	Philippians 1:9–11	Paul's prayer	That you will grow in your knowledge of Jesus

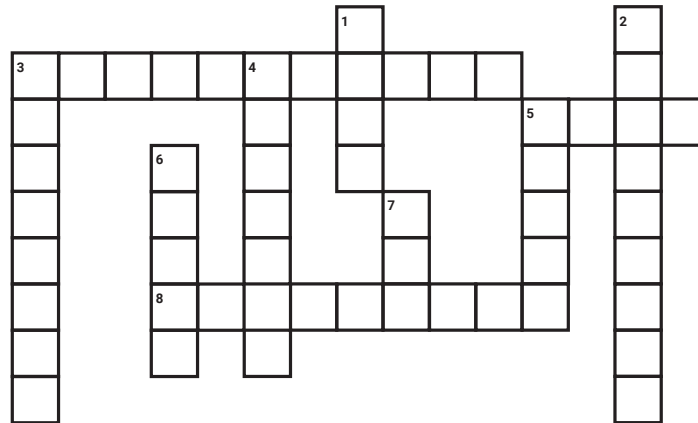
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Mar. 27	Philippians 1:12–19	The advance of the Gospel	For someone you know who doesn't believe in God
Mar. 28	Philippians 1:20–26	Paul's desire to be with Jesus	To remain faithful until you go to be with Jesus
Mar. 29	Philippians 1:27–30	A life worthy of the Gospel	That you will be a good witness to those around you
Mar. 30	Philippians 2:1–6	Imitating Christ's humility	For a humble heart
Mar. 31	Philippians 2:7–11	Christ is exalted above all	That Christ will be exalted in all aspects of your life
Apr. 1	Philippians 2:12–18	Fulfilling God's good purpose	That your life will reflect God's light to the world
Apr. 2	Philippians 2:19–24	Paul sends Timothy	For faith to go wherever God may send you
Apr. 3	Philippians 2:25–30	Paul sends Epaphroditus	For God to heal those who are sick
Apr. 4	Philippians 3:1–6	Rejoice in the Lord	To put your full confidence in Jesus
Apr. 5	Philippians 3:7–11	The power of Christ	That Jesus will show Himself through your life
Apr. 6	Philippians 3:12–14	Pressing on toward the goal	For greater faithfulness as you run the race
Apr. 7	Matthew 27:45–56	Good Friday	Thank God for Jesus' sacrifice on the cross
Apr. 8	Matthew 28:1–10	Awaiting Easter	Praise God for forgiving your sins
Apr. 9	Matthew 28:11–20	Easter Sunday	For wisdom to share the good news of Jesus
Apr. 10	Philippians 3:15–21	Following Paul's example	That your mind will be set on heaven
Apr. 11	Philippians 4:1–3	Stand firm in the Lord	That your faith in God will not waver
Apr. 12	Philippians 4:4–9	Final instructions	For the peace of God to guard your heart
Apr. 13	Philippians 4:10–16	Paul thanks them for their gifts	For opportunities to be generous
Apr. 14	Philippians 4:17–23	Final greetings	That God will richly supply all your needs
Apr. 15	Colossians 1:1–8	Paul's greeting	For the Gospel to bear fruit in your life
Apr. 16	Colossians 1:9–14	Thanksgiving and prayer	To be filled with the knowledge of God's will
Apr. 17	Colossians 1:15–18	Jesus is the image of God	To reflect Jesus to those around you
Apr. 18	Colossians 1:19–23	Jesus reconciled us to God	To forgive others as God has forgiven you
Apr. 19	Colossians 1:24–29	Paul's labor for the Church	For maturity in Christ
Apr. 20	Colossians 2:1–5	The goal of Paul's labor	For someone who needs encouragement
Apr. 21	Colossians 2:6–10	Spiritual fullness in Christ	To be strengthened in the faith
Apr. 22	Colossians 2:11–15	Christ paid the debt for our sins	To leave your sins in the past
Apr. 23	Colossians 2:16–23	Spiritual freedom in Christ	For those in need of spiritual freedom
Apr. 24	Colossians 3:1–4	Set your minds on things above	To be strengthened against temptations
Apr. 25	Colossians 3:5–11	Take off the old self	For a clean heart
Apr. 26	Colossians 3:12–17	Put on the new self	For the peace of Christ to rule in your heart
Apr. 27	Colossians 3:18–25	Instructions for households	For the fathers that you know
Apr. 28	Colossians 4:1–6	Paul's call to pray	For devotion to prayer
Apr. 29	Colossians 4:7–18	Paul's final greetings	For those who are lonely or forgotten
Apr. 30	Philemon 1–25	Paul appeals for a friend	To love others the way God loves you

## Crossword Puzzle: Paul's Prison Letters

Use the clues below to fill in the words.

- Words can go across or down.
- Letters are shared where two words cross each other.
- Scripture quotations are taken from the NIV Bible.



### DOWN

1. "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God . . ." (Ephesians 1:1)
2. "The Son is the image of the \_\_\_\_\_ God, the firstborn over all creation." (Colossians 1:15)
3. "As a \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." (Ephesians 4:1)
4. "I became a \_\_\_\_\_ of this gospel by the gift of God's grace." (Ephesians 3:7)
5. "For you were once darkness, but now you are \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord." (Ephesians 5:8)
6. "For it is by \_\_\_\_\_ you have been saved, through faith." (Ephesians 2:8)
7. "You too are being built together to become a dwelling in which \_\_\_\_\_ lives by his Spirit." (Ephesians 2:22)

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3. "In love he \_\_\_\_\_ us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 1:4-5)
5. "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of \_\_\_\_\_." (Ephesians 5:1-2)
8. "And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord." (Philippians 1:14)

## From the Operations Department

- Please don't send *Just for Students* or the crossword puzzles back to Crossroads. They are yours to keep!
- If you move to a new facility or go home and want to continue your lessons, please let us know. To continue studying from home, please wait until you are living there to send us a note with the address.
- If you want a mentor to review a Roadmap you completed, make sure to send it with a completed lesson.
- We will send the next *Just for Students* newsletter to you in June.

