



## Worn

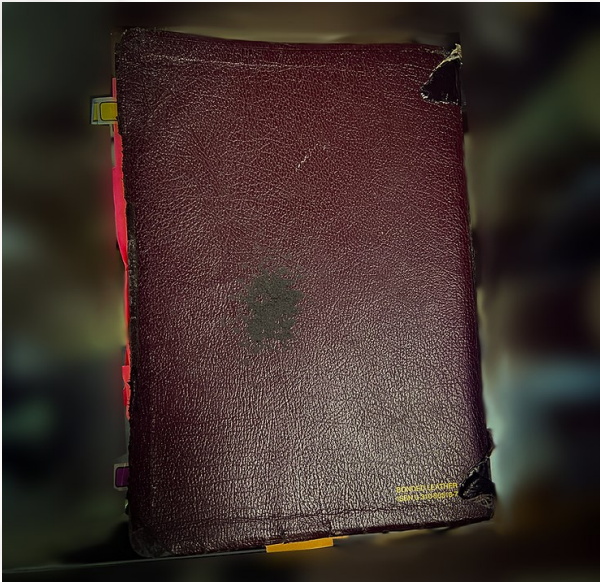
This is one of my favorite Bibles. It is sitting on my desk right now. I've been thinking about it a lot. It belonged to my friend, Tony Sharp.

One of the great honors of my life as a pastor is to help families at the time of death by preparing memorial services for their loved ones. One of my habits is to borrow the Bible of the individual who has died and preach the service using their Bible. It started as a way to feel a little more connected to the person, but then I began to look inside those Bibles and found a rich treasure. They are often a spiritual diary with notes written in the margins. The Bible I have been using to study recently is my father's and it is filled with his notes as he prepared to teach his Bible Study class. Sometimes they are filling cabinets filled with bookmarks, newspaper clippings, and inspiring quotes. Other Bibles are nearly pristine, but in close examination one can detect fingerprint oil on many of the pages. Other Bibles are nearly in tatters from frequent use (notice the duct tape on the spine of this one).

Tony's Bible has all the characteristics of a book that has been well-loved. It does have one distinctive characteristic that I have never seen. Near the back middle is a large worn spot. It took me a bit to work it out. It is the place where his thumb rested as he held it to read. He did not sit it on a table, or rest it in his lap, but grasped it in his hand to read it. This was his daily habit. Over years of use, his thumb drilled through the cover and reached the layers beneath.

I was reading a study that concludes, "The pattern is clear – print reading is better than digital reading for comprehension." The results were determined by analyzing 54 studies involving over 170,000 participants conducted between 2000-2017.

The season of Lent begins on February 14 this year. I'm going to take the physical Bible reading challenge. Instead of doing my daily Bible reading on my phone, I'm going to use a print Bible. I'm going to be asking everyone to bring a print Bible to church as we help people create a marked New Testament of the Roman Road (Tony's Bible is marked in this way). I'm praying that God will help me comprehend His Word more and more. I'm thinking it might be interesting to have a Bible gallery in the back of the Worship Center - if you have an interesting Bible to share, bring it on Ash Wednesday and help us drill into God's Word.



K/E

Watch Online @  
Lovingtheworld.com  
YouTube  
Vimeo  
Facebook  
8:30AM  
11AM Worship Center  
11AM Bilingual



## Members' Birthdays

**Sun, January 21**– Savannah Roberson  
**Mon, January 22** – Landry Rodgers, Sydnee Mikkelsen, Wade Carter  
**Tues, January 23** – Paul Dooley, Candy Clemmons, Ailsa Anderson  
**Wed, January 24** – Regina Fluker  
**Thurs, January 25** – Ashley Williamson, Amy Rogers  
**Fri, January 26** – none  
**Sat, January 27** – Doris Raney, Mae Johnson, Colette Hilliard, Austin Hellwig, Bob Ferguson

## Prayer Requests (church attendees & families). Please call with updates

Our sympathy to: the family of Hershel Costlow  
Rich Flowers in the loss of his sister

- Judy Ward's grandson, Oliver McKay (son of Lindsay)...tonsillitis surgery 1-17/home
- Judy Dorsett's mother, Roxie Schlaht...heart valve surgery 1-31/Houston Methodist
- Julie Moore...foot surgery 1-18/home
- Doris Raney's sister, Delores Hall...heart procedure 1-17/Arlington
- May Farnham...heart problems/Cardiac Unit, UT Health, Tyler
- Judy Dorsett's brother-in-law, Billy Fleming...angiogram 1-18
- Elizabeth Flores' daughter, Vania Maldonado & newborn daughter Aleyah/UT Health NICU, Tyler
- Nikki DuBose's mother, Nancy Kissinger...pain from scoliosis issues/home
- Barbara Railsback's sister, JoAnn Thomas...heart ablation 1-11/Dallas
- Josh Moreno...cardiologist appt. 1-18
- Claudia Limon...stress testing
- Gracie & Carlos Murillo's son, Max...awaiting kidney transplant match
- Hospice Care: Martha Rodgers; Anita Wiggin's brother, Bill Meadors; Lisa Collins' mom, Glenda Beard; Roger Littleton's sister, Elizabeth Boynton*
- Military: Hattie Graham's granddaughter, Karah Lawyer (E5/GSM2) Asian Countries; Liz Flores' son, Jared Maldonado, in Middle East*
- Cancer Diagnosed: Bill Hauck's sister, Marie Kirby; Laura Pool; Daniela Matchael's sister-in-law, Joana Cortez; Cindi Livingston, mother of Anna Fay Wicker's daughter-in-law; Doris Raney's niece, Stacy Bates; Rusty Morris; Miriam Inestroza's mother, Luce Torres; Trayona Skiles; Mary Boehler's niece, Denise Leach; Kellis White; Jack & Paula Harris' son-in-law, Carlos Banuelos; BJ Davies; Bob & Tonya Foster's son, Jim*
- In Rehab or Recuperating: Christy Warnock's brother, Duncan Frizzell; Ginny Hedge; Bill Hauck; Linda Whitmire; Linda Campbell; Judy Dorsett's brother-in-law, Brady Pollock; Don & Pat Greenlee's son, Joshua; Becky Walker; Tina Quattlebaum's dad, Bill Green; Vicki Dossett; Debbie Leatherwood; Linda Battles' brother, Kenneth Pope; Sue Ratliff's son, Marc Ratliff; Barbara Hearn's nephew, Jeff Shumate; Barbara Hearn's great nephew, Blaise Shumate; Kern & Barbara Railsback's granddaughter, Waverly; David Yarbrough; Beverly Moore; Shirley Bailey's sister, Charlott Hutson; Win James; Drew Douglas' mom, Pam Douglas; Katherine Hellwig; Marylyn Wright's sister, Jeanne Gage; Laura Pool's sister-in-law, Brenda Bickley*

Bible Reading Plan, Grace & Peace		
Day of the Week	Date	Scripture
Sunday	1-21-2024	Matt 14:22-36
Monday	1-22-2024	Matt 15:1-20
Tuesday	1-23-2024	Matt 15:21-39
Wednesday	1-24-2024	Matt 16
Thursday	1-25-2024	Matt 17
Friday	1-26-2024	Matt 18:1-20
Saturday	1-27-2024	Matt 18:21-35