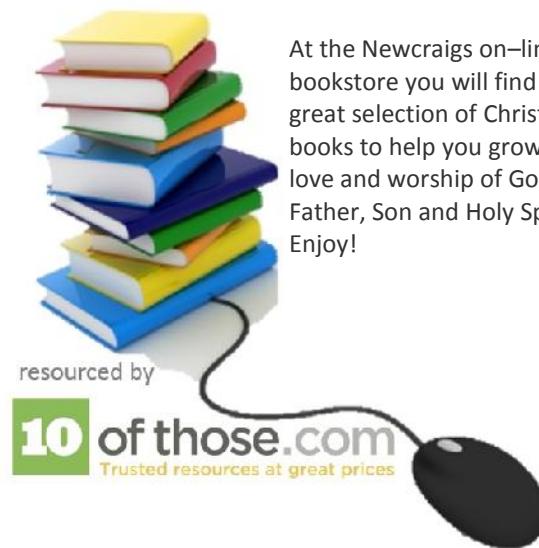


M	01/09	Ephesians 06
T		Philippians 01
W		02
T		03
F		04
M	08/09	Colossians 01
T		02
W		03
T		04
F		1 Thessalonians 01
M	15/09	02
T		03
W		04
T		05
F		2 Thessalonians 01
M	22/09	02
T		03
W		1 Timothy 01
T		02
F		03
M	29/09	04
T		05



Contact details

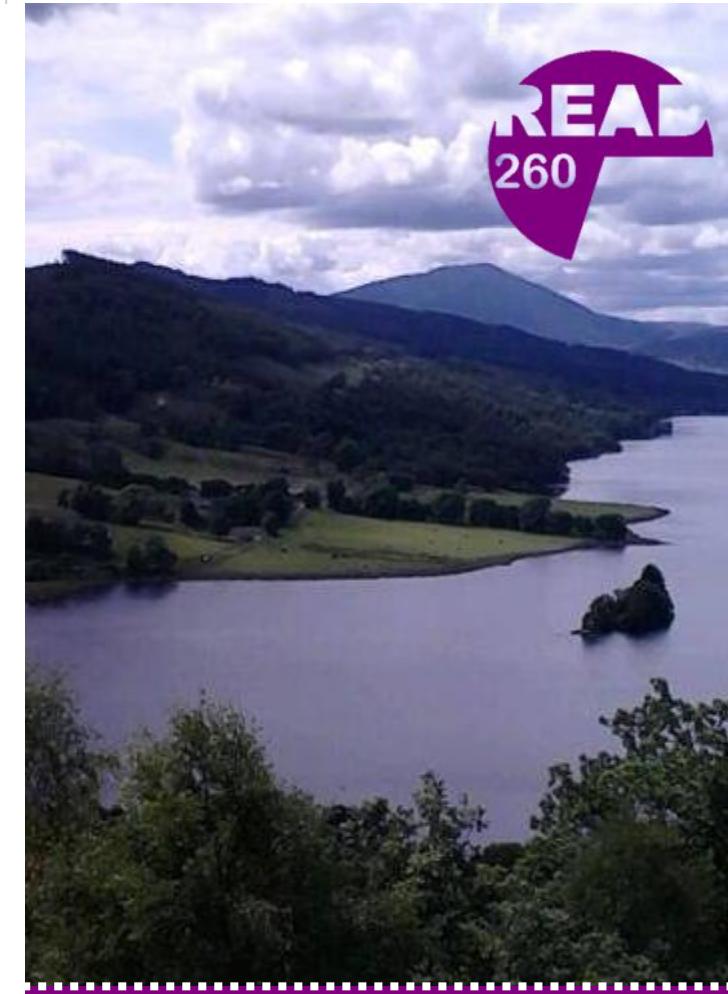
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THE NEW TESTAMENT

IN ONE YEAR

Did you know there are 260 chapters in the New Testament? Did you also know that there are 260 weekdays in a year? This seemed like an opportunity too good to miss, so here at Newcraigs we're reading the whole New Testament throughout 2014, from Matthew to Revelation.

How you take part is up to you; you might read a chapter each morning before you start the day or go to work, or read together with your family around the dinner table. You might meet up with a few friends, once a week, to read and discuss that week's chapters, or catch up online during your lunch break.

What really matters is that we're listening to God, as he speaks to us through his Word. We want this to be as flexible as it can be. We don't want to stress you out by giving you another thing you "have to do", or make you feel guilty if you miss a day, but we hope that you can carve out some time this year for READ260. The aim is simple; to listen to God, as we read his Word together, and let him transform us.



For many of us, September is a time for new beginnings. It's a good point to stand back and take a look at how you're spending your time. Is there space in your life for God to change you through his word?

The author of Hebrews realised the power of God's word to diagnose and operate on our hearts. He described it as, "alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). Time with God's word is something that every Christian needs.

But when it comes to reading the Bible we can often be paralyzed by guilt; we feel inadequate, we know we've failed in the past and we don't know how to get going again. One of the best things we can do is remember that God knows us better than we know ourselves. When he saved us we were failures; we're products of his grace and the work is ongoing! He's not surprised when we mess up, and he's always waiting to pour grace upon grace. Why not pick up READ260 again this month? Our God specialises in fresh starts.

This month we also move properly into the quick-fire stage of READ260. By October 1st we will have stormed through 5 more of Paul's letter.

Philippians

First we come to Philippians, a letter marked by joy. This is all the more remarkable when we realise that he was writing, chained in a Roman prison cell. Paul's confidence in his future with Christ flooded his present circumstances with hope, so he could say, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

Colossians

Colossians is a small letter with a real punch. Written to a young church, founded by Epaphras, it deals with the importance of the gospel, the person and work of Christ, freedom from legalism and living the Christian life.

Whilst there was much to be encouraged about in the life of the church, false teaching had begun to creep in. "Hollow and deceptive philosophy" and "human tradition" (Colossians 2:8) was beginning to undermine Christ's rightful positions, so Paul steps in to point them back to him. He is the image of God, the Lord of Creation and their reconciler.

1 and 2 Thessalonians

The Thessalonian church was founded by Paul, but weeks after the church's birth, he was torn from them. Despite significant persecution, the Thessalonians thrived and Paul is full of thankfulness. Amongst other things, he writes to correct some misunderstandings and spur them on to live lives shaped by Jesus' return.

1 Timothy

1 Timothy is the first of Paul's Pastoral letters. Along with Philemon, they are the New Testament letters that he wrote to individuals. We'll take a closer look at these next month.

Keeping a Journal

If you're finding it hard to keep track of what you've been studying in READ260, it might be a good idea to keep a journal. Each day, make a point of writing something down about the chapter you've been reading (maybe a summary in your own words). Getting stuff down on paper often helps me to crystalise my thoughts. Maybe asking yourself a couple of questions each day would help; "what have I learnt about God from this passage; what changes do I need to make, after reading this chapter?"