

T	01/07	Romans 13
W		14
T		15
F		16
M	07/07	1 Cor 01
T		02
W		03
T		04
F		05
M	14/07	06
T		07
W		08
T		09
F		10
M	21/07	11
T		12
W		13
T		14
F		15
M	28/07	16
T		2 Cor 01
W		02
T		03



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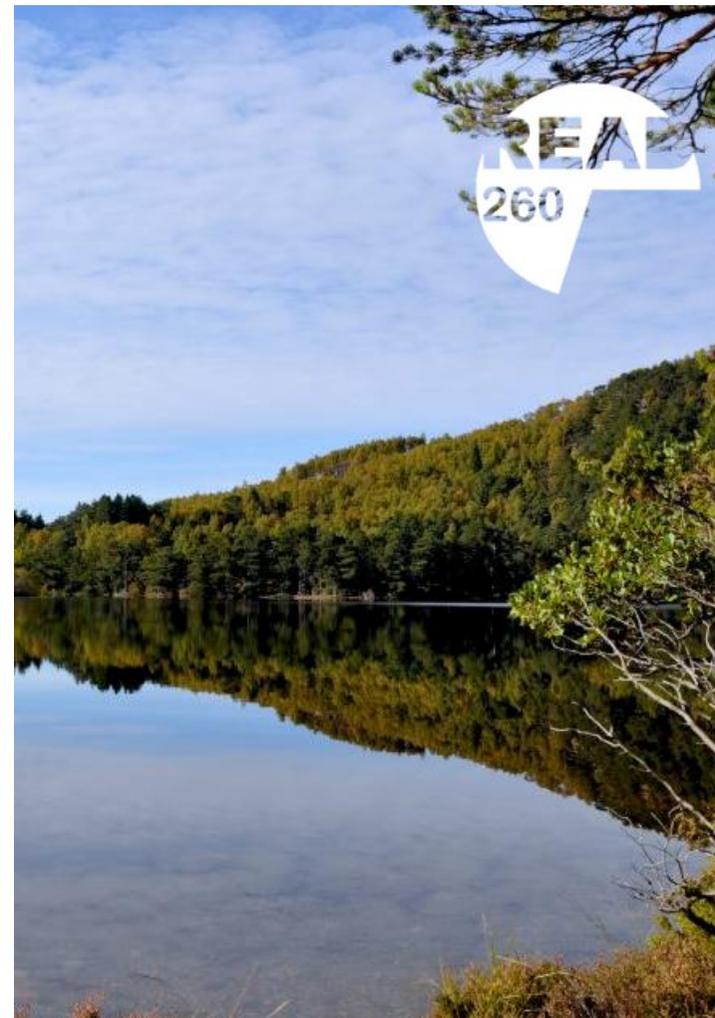
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**THE NEW TESTAMENT  
IN ONE YEAR**

*July : Romans 13  
- 2 Corinthians 3*

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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.



**W**e first met the Corinthians in Acts 18, where we read about Paul planting the church. As usual, he began by preaching in the Jewish synagogue, but found this to be a very hostile environment. However, amongst the opposition, a local church was formed, including Crispus, the synagogue leader.

After spending a year and a half in Corinth, Paul moved on to Ephesus, while Apollos continued the work there. A correspondence then began between Paul and the church. We know that Paul wrote at least one letter prior to 1 Corinthians, which seems to have been misunderstood by the church (1 Corinthians 5:9). Their replies to him, reporting quarrels and complex pastoral issues, prompt him to write 1 Corinthians. Reading between the lines, the Corinthians are not in great shape, but Paul is still able to give thanks for them and his confidence that God will keep them "firm to the end" (1 Corinthians 1:8) has not been shaken.

### 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians is Paul's response to a squabbling, theologically shaky church, struggling with all kinds of pastoral issues. Fellow Christians were taking each other to court; a man unashamedly had an affair with his stepmother; others were engaging in prostitution. Things had got messy and Paul spends the first part of his letter addressing the issues he's heard from Chloe, Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus (1 Corinthians 1:11; 16:17).

From chapter 7, Paul moves on to deal with the matters they wrote to him about. These are just as complex and the pages that follow are some of the most hotly debated in the whole New Testament. Throughout the letter Paul's tone is loving, but firm (and this is putting it lightly!); what church would want to hear the following words, "your meetings do more harm than good" (1 Corinthians 11:17)

As Paul draws his letter to a close he comes to the matters of first importance, the death and resurrection of Jesus. Above all else Paul wants them to get this right. Humanly speaking this church seems close to collapse, but Paul's confidence is not in them, it is in Jesus, the one who's defeated sin and death, who has sanctified them, who has given them grace and peace. It's because of his work that they will stand "blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:8).

### Resources

We live in a culture that's often skeptical about the claims of the Bible. In some ways, this is no different to the context that Paul found himself in, and like the first Christians, we should "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks [us] to give the reason for the hope that [we] have" (1 Peter 3:15). Paul spends 1 Corinthians 15 arguing for the reality and necessity of the resurrection and this is a truth we must continue to defend.



This month's recommended resource is a website called **bethinking.org**. It's run by UCCF and is full of talks, videos and articles to help you share your faith more effectively. The section on Resurrection and Miracles includes talks by Josh McDowell, Peter

Williams and William Lane Craig, that will stretch and equip you.

It's upon the resurrection of Jesus that Christianity stands or falls. In this truth Paul finds the boldness to taunt death, where's your victory, where's your sting? (1 Corinthians 15:55). Jesus is alive and, in him, the victory is ours. But this isn't just wishful thinking; the resurrection is an event grounded in history, promised and witnessed. So why not see for yourself?

As always there are a number of key resources and publications on the book of 1 & 2 Corinthians available from our on-line bookstore. [www.newcraigs.co.uk/online-bookstore](http://www.newcraigs.co.uk/online-bookstore)