

An Apostle's Life – January 2019

This year in my pastor's page each month I will be telling you about the life of one of the Apostles of Jesus. I will be doing this in the first person as if I were the Apostle talking to you about my life as an Apostle of Jesus. Not all of this information can be found in the Bible, but it is what some Bible scholars would say about this Apostles life. My hope is that you will learn more about this Apostle and learn how you to can be a disciple of Jesus as they were.

My name is Andrew the son of Jonah and Joanna from the fishing village of Bethsaida on the northern part of the Sea of Galilee. My father, my older brother, Simon, named Peter by Jesus, and I were all fishermen by trade, working with the Zebedee family. I was always interested in spiritual things and that's what led me to John the Baptist. At that time I was one of John the Baptist's disciples and was following him around and listening to what he had to say. It was on one of the mornings just after getting back with John the Baptist that I saw him point to a man walking by and said, "**Behold, the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**"

Two of us went over to Him and He asked us, "**What are you seeking?**" We said, "**Rabbi, where are you staying?**" Jesus showed us where He was staying and we spent the day with Him listening to His words. When the day was over I hustled back to my bother Simon and told him about Jesus and told him that He was the Messiah. I took him to see Him and that was when He called him Peter and it stuck. Oh, we didn't stick with Jesus at first all the time, but then He came down and called us to follow Him and become fishers of men instead of fish and that's what we did for about three years with Him. We followed Jesus around and saw Him perform a lot of miracles, speak to lots of people and teach us about many things we had a hard time understanding about God.

One time when Jesus was speaking to a huge crowd on the far side of the Sea of Galilee He asked Phillip, another one of the Apostles, "**Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?**" It looked like an impossible task but a young lad came up to me and offered his lunch, which consisted of five small barley loaves and two fish. I told Jesus of it and He took it and fed all five thousand men along with the women and children there. Jesus did many other incredible things in our lives as we followed Him around, but the most incredible of all was when He rose to live forever after being crucified and buried for three days.

Oh, I was never much of a leader like my brother Simon Peter, but even after Jesus when back up to His heavenly throne I was given opportunity after opportunity to lead people who were searching for the truth about life in this world to tell them about the true life given to us by Jesus Christ. For a long time I stuck with my brother in traveling around and sharing the Good News of Jesus helping out wherever and whenever I could. Then when Peter headed to Roman with Mark I headed north. By then we had a copy of Matthew's Gospel and when we got to a town with a Jewish community we would read it to them along with the other people in the community. As I traveled north I eventually ran out of Jewish communities and moved into the region that you call Turkey, Georgia, Russia and Kazakhstan along the western side of the Caspian Sea. I spent a lot of time sharing with individuals about the new life that Jesus Christ has given to us and helped various towns start small churches. It was after I got the news that my brother, Simon Peter was hung on a cross that I started back around the Black Sea all the way to Greece, down past Corinthian to a area called Patros, in the city of Achaia where the ruler Aegaas told me to give up my proclamation of Jesus or lose my life. I told him to hang onto Jesus or lose your soul. Well he hung me on a huge X and there I continue to proclaim Jesus to everyone I could and died there after three days.

My hope is that you will be a faithful witness of what Jesus has done for you, like Andrew was this month and always.

Pastor Pete Scheele

January 2019 Scripture Readings

This year we are reading through the Bible by reading a book from the Old Testament and then reading a book from the New Testament in order along with a Psalm for each day. Since there are more books in the Old Testament than the New Testament we will go through the New Testament 1 and ½ times and through the Psalms twice. As we read through the Bible I will try to keep the related chapters together, so there will be days when we will read more than two chapters.

As you read through the book of Genesis and Matthew this month remember these two books are about God's love for us even though we continually fall into sin, which takes us away from God's love. Throughout the book of Genesis and Matthew we will find people who are trying to be faithful to God, but their sinful nature causes them to forget God's faithfulness to His promises and try to accomplish a good life by their own abilities.

As you read the Words of God recorded for us by Moses, David and Matthew this month I hope you look at the people they are talking about and learn how to hold onto your faith in God even when the devil, the world and your sinful nature would ask you to give up your faith and hold onto the wisdom of the world. The world isn't going to give us back the peace, love and life that was given to us by God from the beginning of time, it's only going to give you confusion, hatred and death that comes when we forget God and try to do it our own way.

After reading each days reading see what kind of answer you come up with to the questions found in the bulletin each week.

Date	Reading	Date	Reading
January 1	– Genesis 1 - 3	January 16	– Genesis 37 - 38, Psalm 11
January 2	– Genesis 4 - 5	January 17	– Genesis 39 - 41, Psalm 12
January 3	– Genesis 6 - 7	January 18	– Genesis 42 - 44, Psalm 13
January 4	– Genesis 8 - 9	January 19	– Genesis 45 - 47, Psalm 14
January 5	– Genesis 10 - 11	January 20	– Genesis 48 - 50, Psalm 15
January 6	– Genesis 12 – 14, Psalm 1	January 21	– Matthew 1 – 2, Psalm 16
January 7	– Genesis 15 – 16, Psalm 2	January 22	– Matthew 3 – 4, Psalm 17
January 8	– Genesis 17 - 18, Psalm 3	January 23	– Matthew 5 – 7, Psalm 18
January 9	– Genesis 19 - 20, Psalm 4	January 24	– Matthew 8 – 9, Psalm 19
January 10	– Genesis 21 - 23, Psalm 5	January 25	– Matthew 10 – 11, Psalm 20
January 11	– Genesis 24 - 26, Psalm 6	January 26	– Matthew 12 – 13, Psalm 21
January 12	– Genesis 27 - 29, Psalm 7	January 27	– Matthew 14 – 16, Psalm 22
January 13	– Genesis 30 - 31, Psalm 8	January 28	– Matthew 17 – 18, Psalm 23
January 14	– Genesis 32 - 33, Psalm 9	January 29	– Matthew 19 – 20, Psalm 24
January 15	– Genesis 34 - 36, Psalm 10	January 30	– Matthew 21 – 23, Psalm 25
		January 31	– Matthew 24 – 25, Psalm 26