

**Dear Friends of the Foundation:**

Thank you for your generous responses to my earlier email about **reading and praying the Psalms**. Several of you have shared ideas with me that I want to share with the larger group.

**The Reverend Ernest L. Gardner III**, pastor of Holmes Presbyterian Church in Cheriton, Virginia, writes that he was told that Billy Graham instructed new converts to the faith to use this devotion: Read one chapter of Proverbs each day, and five Psalms a day, so that each month those two books are read in their entirety.

**Dr. Robert T. Turner**, ruling elder at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church of Richmond, Virginia, reports that the interim pastor there is preaching through the Psalms, one each Sunday.

**Dr. Todd B. Jones**, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Nashville, Tennessee, writes this:

Thanks for these words on the Psalms. I started years ago reciting Psalms, usually in the King James Version, each time I make hospital visits. I have used them enough over the years to have committed a number of them to memory, and when at bedside, I offer Psalm 1, 8, 23, 27, 42, 46, 90, 100, 121, 130 or 139, depending on the circumstances of the visit or the situation. While I always follow the Psalm with a prayer, I realized a long time ago that the Psalms are prayers, and that I had far more confidence in God's Word than in my own ability to find the right words in a pastoral prayer at bedside. There is, of course, a place for both. But I have found that after offering a Psalm for someone who is in the hospital, the Holy Spirit moves more freely in the pastoral prayer that follows!

**The Reverend Michael Motsko**, associate pastor of the Spotsylvania Presbyterian Church of Fredericksburg, Virginia, also writes of a plan for reading through the Proverbs and the Psalms each month.

**The Reverend Ray D. E. McCalla**, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Wayne, Nebraska, writes of several plans for reading through the Bible, which was going to be my next message, so I will save that for then.

Thank you all for this. Keep the faith!

Grace and Peace,

Jim

Dr. James C. Goodloe IV, *Executive Director*

**Foundation for Reformed Theology**

4103 Monument Avenue

Richmond, Virginia 23230-3818

(804) 678-8352

[www.foundationrt.org](http://www.foundationrt.org)

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