

Something to Pray About

By Cindy Sears – January 2010

"GOD'S WORD"

The Holy Bible

"This book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding; its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to a resurrected life in Christ; yes, to glory itself, for eternity." Author unknown. Copied from *How to Study the Bible and Enjoy It* by Skip Heitzig, pp. 140-141.

God's Holy Word doesn't do anybody any good if it is never opened. It doesn't do much more good to only read a few passages here and there haphazardly. Good, solid, consistent and thoughtful study of the God-breathed messages that have come down to us through the centuries is the key to strong, persevering, and God-honoring faith. Join us for Sunday school or for a longer term study, like the ones listed below. You will be blessed in many ways, plus make new and lasting friendships in the classes and the small group study sessions.

Bible Study Groups are forming for 2010. If you are interested in joining a long-term or short-term, small group Bible study, please contact Cindy Sears or Eric Lane, or sign the sheet on the table in the hallway. We hope to form one or more groups to begin in January or February 2010. Eric has a six week study he wants to begin in February on the *Five Principles of Fruitful Congregations*. Days and times will be determined by the participants. We hope to offer both day and evening sessions.

There are materials available for free from **The Fishin' Hole**, the resource center of WNCC. Some interesting sounding studies include: *24 Hours That Changed the World* a video journey on DVD. Adam Hamilton delivers solid scholarship describing how the day of Christ's crucifixion unfolded, and what that means to us today in 7 sessions. *Servant or Sucker?: Wise and Compassionate Ways to Help the Poor*, also on DVD, goes through 5 sessions of 10-15 minutes each. This might be useful in a Sunday school class setting. *Invitation to Genesis* is a 10 session study. *To Live Is Christ* by Beth Moore is a 10 session study on the life and heart of Paul, the Apostle. There are other small group studies available on John, Romans, Psalms and other books of the Bible, plus more general studies on spiritual formation, growth, and service. We can also purchase materials from Cokesbury and other sources.