

## BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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**MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK**  
Bob and Patsy Green | Hispanic Ministries



**PRAISE**

- Thank the Lord for the opportunity to celebrate Bob's 80th birthday.
- We were greatly encouraged by the opportunity to speak at Iglesia Bautista Maranta in Spartanburg, South Carolina. The Lord blessed the service.
- Bob was also appreciative of the opportunity to speak for a spanish congregation in Cullman, Alabama. During that service, a young man accepted Christ as Savior.

**PRAY**

- Pray that God will continue to bless our ministry and give us fruits that endure.
- Pray for two new booklets that will soon be published. "the Gift of Tongues" and a book on things that church members need to know about privileges and responsibilities.

# The NEW YOU



Handout: 01/28/24  
Study Date: 02/04/24

## The New You Relationally

The message of Proverbs 18:24 focuses on the importance of friendship and Christ, our ultimate friend.

At first glance, this verse may seem simple, but its implications run deep. It conveys the importance of cultivating genuine friendships and highlights the exceptional nature of a friend who remains loyal and steadfast.

The first part of the verse teaches us that to have friends, we must first be friendly ourselves. True friendships are not built on selfish motives but on selflessness, kindness, and genuine care for others.

The Bible further supports this claim in Proverbs 17 verse 17.

**“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”**

As Christians, we are called to extend love and friendship to those around us, mirroring the unconditional love of Christ. God created us as social beings, designed to thrive in relationships. Hence, genuine friendships provide support, encouragement, and accountability.

Our friendship must not be limited to our dear friends or closest friends, it must go beyond the love of brotherhood but following good examples like Jesus a man of many friends.

Ecclesiastes 4 verses 9 to 10 says,

**“Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.”**

As Christians, we have a responsibility to develop meaningful friendships that can support us in our faith journey. Simply attending church is not sufficient; we should cultivate friendships with fellow believers who share our faith and values. Such friendships align with the genuine teachings of Christ.

They will contribute to our spiritual growth and provide mutual encouragement during both good and bad times. However, it is also important to choose our loyal friends wisely. The company we keep influences our character and can either steer us toward righteousness or lead us astray.

Resource: [whenyouneedgod.com](http://whenyouneedgod.com)

## KEY VERSE

Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV)

*“A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”*

## WEEKLY READINGS

### Monday: Proverbs 18:24; Proverbs 17:17

#### Introduction

1. As believers, what is Proverbs 18:24 calling us to in terms of relationships with others? What do we need to “give” before we “receive” friendship?
2. On page 1 Proverbs 17:17 states “a friend loves at all times...” The next paragraph says we are to “mirror” *what* in reference to Christ’s character?

### Tuesday: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

#### Accept The Responsibility To Develop Relationships

3. As believers, what lesson is Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 ultimately teaching us? According to these verses why are “two better than one”?
4. In the second to last paragraph on page 1 it says “we have a responsibility to develop meaningful friendships.” Do YOU Agree?

### Wednesday: II Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 3:13

#### Discover “The New You” Relationally

5. How do YOU define the “old things” passed away in II Corinthians 5:17?
6. Philippians 3:13 says to “forget those things that are behind” and “reach forward to those things that are ahead.” How often do YOU achieve this?

### Thursday: I Timothy 5:8; Romans 12:5; Acts 17:26

#### Discern The “3 Essential Circles” Of Relationship

7. In Romans 12:5 believers are defined as being “one body in Christ.” How would YOU interpret being “individually members of one another”?
8. What does I Timothy 5:8 say about *how* to treat our immediate family?
9. “And He has made from one blood every nation of men” is a key statement in Acts 17:26. How does it affect our dealings with friends and neighbors?

### Friday: Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 2:7

#### Develop “The New You” Relationally

10. How “exactly” are we to treat one another according to Ephesians 4:32? What *specific* instruction does it give us regarding “forgiveness”?
11. What is the overall message of Colossians 2:7? How does it relate to the way we love and treat others if Christ is *truly* our example?
12. Looking back on 2023 what are some relationship challenges you experienced? What are 3 “relational” goals you want to achieve in 2024?