

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from Pastor Paul Pett's sermon from Sunday, September 13, 2026, the Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost:

Themes: Freedom, Judgment, Unity, Accountability, and Hope in Christ

Day 1: Welcome, Do Not Quarrel

Reading: [Romans 14:1-4](#)

Devotional: Paul's instruction to the Roman church cuts straight to the heart of Christian community. We are quick to form opinions and even quicker to impose them on others. But in matters where God has given no command, He has given freedom. The question Paul raises is piercing: who are you to judge another person's servant? Every believer answers to the same Lord. Before you correct a brother or sister over a matter of preference, pause and ask whether God has actually spoken on it, or whether you are simply defending your own habit.

Reflection: What opinions have you been treating as commands?

Day 2: The Log and the Speck

Reading: [Matthew 7:1-5](#)

Devotional: Jesus does not forbid discernment, but He demands honesty. Before addressing the small fault in another person's life, He calls us to examine the larger one in our own. This is not a passage that silences all accountability. It is a passage that demands humility first. The good news is that Jesus does not leave us with a log in our eye and no remedy. He is the one who cleanses, restores, and makes us fit to see clearly. Honest self-examination before God is not condemnation. It is the beginning of grace.

Reflection: What in your own life needs honest examination before God today?

Day 3: Living and Dying to the Lord

Reading: [Romans 14:5-9](#)

Devotional: Paul reminds us that no believer lives or dies in isolation. Every act of worship, every meal received with gratitude, every day honored before God is an act of faith directed toward Him. We are not islands. We are members of a body whose head is Christ. Whether we worship with an organ or a guitar, whether we fast or feast, the question is the same: are we doing it in honor of the Lord? Christian freedom is not self-expression. It is God-directed living. Every choice, great or small, is an opportunity to say with your life that Christ is Lord.

Reflection: In what areas of your daily life are you consciously honoring God with your choices?

Day 4: The Communion of All Believers

Reading: [Hebrews 12:1-2](#)

Devotional: The author of Hebrews describes a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us as we run the race of faith. This is not merely a poetic image. It is a reminder that the community of faith stretches beyond the walls of any single congregation and beyond the boundaries of time itself. Every believer who has gone before us in faith is part of the same body to which we belong. When we gather at the Lord's Table, we join our voices with all who have confessed Christ throughout history. We are never alone in this faith. We run together, upheld by the same Lord.

Reflection: How does the reality of belonging to the full communion of saints change the way you approach worship?

Day 5: Standing Before the Judgment Seat

Reading: [Romans 14:10-12](#)

Devotional: The thought of standing before God's judgment seat is sobering, but for the believer it is not a sentence of dread. Our sins have been removed. What remains is an account of how we lived in the freedom Christ purchased for us. Did we honor Him? Did we serve others? Did we extend the same grace to fellow believers that God extended to us? Every knee will bow. Every tongue will confess. For those who trust in Christ, that moment is not the end of hope but the full arrival of it. Live today in light of that day, and let that truth free you from judging others.

Reflection: Knowing your sins are forgiven, what account of your life do you want to be giving to God right now?