

# Tolle Lege

(Take Up and Read)



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**firstbaptistchurch**

loving God, loving people

Sunday Nights - Fall 2008

**G**eorge Gallup has told us that in general, Americans revere the Bible, but do not spend much time actually reading it. As a result, Gallup says that America has become a nation of biblical illiterates.

Researcher George Barna says 82% of Americans think that the statement "God helps those who help themselves" is in the Bible, that "12% of Americans believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife," and that many young people believe that Sodom and Gomorrah were married!

R. Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, has said, "Christians who lack biblical knowledge are the products of churches that marginalize biblical knowledge. Bible teaching now often accounts for only a diminishing fraction of the local congregation's time and attention. The move to small group ministry has certainly increased opportunity for fellowship, but many of these groups never get beyond superficial Bible study."

Jesus said that man shall live by God's Word (Matthew 4:4), and the truth of Romans 10:17 is that we won't know God unless we know his Word.

***Do you have confidence when you try to read the Bible? Would you like to grow more in your understanding of God's Word?***

Join us on Sunday evenings this Fall as Justin Wainscott and Todd Brady lead our "Tolle Lege" journey of reading and understanding God's Word. You may never read the Bible the same again!



**T**he Latin words “*Tolle Lege*” (translated, “Take up and read”) were instrumental in the conversion of one of Christianity’s greatest and most influential theologians – Saint Augustine. Sometime in the year A.D. 386, Augustine became so overcome by the state of his soul that he sat under a fig tree and wept over his sin. As he was weeping, he heard from a nearby house the voice of a child chanting over and over, “Tolle lege. Tolle lege.” At first, he wondered if this was a chant used in some children’s game, but he could not recall ever hearing it anywhere. So he took it as a command from God to open the Bible and read the first place his eyes fell.

He hurried to pick up the volume of the apostle Paul he had in his possession. He opened it and read in silence the following words: “*Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires*” (Romans 13:13-14). “Instantly,” he said, “as I reached the end of this sentence, it was as if the light of peace was poured into my heart, and all the shades of doubt faded away.”

The enormous influence and enduring legacy of Saint Augustine all began with those simple words, “Take up and read.” Who knows what may happen as the Spirit of God begins to chant those words in our midst? Join us on Sunday nights this Fall as we seek to better equip ourselves to “take up and read” the Word of God.



*“Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee.”* **Saint Augustine**

## Tolle Lege

August 10	<b>The Necessity of Reading the Bible</b> <i>(Music by the Worship Team)</i>
August 17	<b>Reading the Bible as One Book</b> <i>(Music by Steve Moore)</i>
August 24	<b>Reading the Bible as a Christ-Centered Book</b> <i>(Music by the Adult Choir)</i>
August 31	<b>Choosing a Bible Translation</b> <i>(Music by Steve Moore)</i>
September 7	<b>Reading the Bible and Understanding Its Meaning</b> <i>(Music by Combined Children's Choirs)</i>
September 14	<b>Old Testament Narrative</b> <i>(Music by Art DeWeese)</i>
September 21	<b>Old Testament Law</b> <i>(Music by the Worship Team)</i>
September 28	<b>Old Testament Poetry</b> <i>(Music by 2nd and 3rd Grade Choirs)</i>
October 5	<b>Old Testament Prophecy</b> <i>(Music by the Women's Choir)</i>
October 12	<b>Old Testament Wisdom Literature</b> <i>(Music by Steve Moore)</i>
October 19	<b>The Gospels</b> <i>(Music by 4th and 5th Grade Choirs)</i>
October 26	<b>The Acts of the Apostles</b> <i>(Music by the Men's Choir)</i>
November 2	<b>The New Testament Letters</b> <i>(Music by Pre-K and K-1 Choirs)</i>
November 9	<b>The Revelation to John</b> <i>(Music by the Adult Choir)</i>
November 16	<b>Reading the Bible and Applying Its Message</b> <i>(Music by Art DeWeese)</i>
November 23	<b>Reading the Bible with Your Family</b> <i>(Music by Combined Children's Choirs)</i>

## Sunday Night Schedule, Fall 2008

5:45 – 7:15	<b>AWANA</b> <i>(Activities for Children)</i>
6:00 – 7:15	<b>TOLLE LEGE</b> <i>(Music, Teaching, and Small Group Discussion)</i>