

KEYS TO READING THE BIBLE

Introduction

I. MEMORY VERSE: **Psalm 119:18**

II. Much of the religious division seen today is based upon folks having problems reading the Bible.

A. Some problems:

1. Reading to “prove” your point. (Matthew 4:6)
2. Reading with prejudice. (John 7:40-44)
3. Reading with little or no comprehension. (Acts 8:30-31, 34)
4. Reading “about” God’s word rather than spending time reading God’s word.

B. This lesson will encourage us to read the Bible, and to comprehend what we read!

Discussion

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WRITTEN WORD:

A. God has placed a premium on the written word!

1. Jesus asked “Have ye not _____ ...” no less than seven times in the New Testament!

B. The advantages of the printed page:

1. There are opportunities to re-read something one does not understand.
2. The printed page is of a more permanent nature than the spoken word (which is often “filtered” and “reinterpreted” when repeated.)
3. The printed page can continue to teach future generations of folks long after the author has died!
4. The Bible teaches us “new” things each time we read those familiar passages.

C. There are many advantages to the printed page, and most especially when we consider the fact that in reading the Bible, one is reading God’s instructions on what to do to go to Heaven!

Statistics On Bible Reading Time

It takes an average of 70 hours, 40 minutes to read the entire Bible. This breaks down as follows:

52 hours, 20 minutes is the average time required to read the Old Testament.

18 hours, 20 minutes is the average time required to read the New Testament.

The book of Psalms takes the longest to read at: 4 hours, 28 minutes.

The book of Luke takes about 2 hours, 43 minutes to read.

Don’t forget: There are **24** hours in a day, **168** hours in a week, and **8,760** hours in a year.

Therefore, don’t allow a systematic Bible reading schedule to intimidate you!!

II. GOD ENCOURAGES THE READING OF HIS WORD:

A. Perhaps the most obvious example of this is Psalm 119. Each verse in this psalm glorifies the written word in some way!

1. Read Psalm 119 and see how David mentions the word of God in every passage. He does so by using such terms as: _____

2. David recognized that the reason he had wisdom was because of God’s word (Psalm 119:98-100).

B. Paul was a believer in the written word, telling Timothy: “*Till I come, give attendance to _____, to _____, to _____*” (I Timothy 4:13).

C. Paul wrote the _____ brethren, and told them, “*Whereby, when ye _____, ye may _____ my _____ in the mystery of _____*” (Ephesians 3:4).

III. SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL BIBLE READING:

A. Read Things More Than Once:

Bible Basics Curriculum

1. Sometimes, it is after reading a passage three or four times that we begin to see the flow of thought, and purpose behind what was written.
 2. God expected the kings of His people to read the Scripture and then write it down daily (Deuteronomy 17:18-20).
 3. Wouldn't this be a good habit for the "*kings and priests*" today to have (Revelation 1:5-6; I Peter 2:9)?
- B. Read the passage aloud.
1. Did you know that the Bible was written in such a way as to be read aloud (Nehemiah 8:1-3)?
 2. While our society practices silent reading, it used to not be this way (Acts 8:30).
 - a. Exodus 24:7 _____
 - b. Deuteronomy 31:10-12 _____
 - c. Joshua 8:35 _____
 - d. I Thessalonians 5:27 _____
 - e. Colossians 4:16 _____
 3. Sometimes, when we combine the senses of sight, and hearing, it helps us comprehend what we are reading.
 - a. Hearing the words spoken, helps us to catch the "tone" in what is being said.
 - b. Therefore, don't feel afraid or self-conscious about reading aloud!

Reading Exercise:

Paris In The
The Spring.

A Bird In The
The Hand.

Once In A
A Lifetime.

- C. Read Often.
1. God's word is often compared to spiritual food (I Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14).
 2. Therefore, to neglect to read God's word is equivalent to starving the soul! (While it is wise to practice some "push-aways" from the dinner table, it is never wise to "push away" spiritual food!
 3. How much time do we spend reading God's word on a daily basis? Weekly basis? This is our spiritual food — is it right to starve the soul??
- D. Respect the silence of the Scriptures!
1. Be careful that we let the Scriptures speak, and do not "read into" the text something that is not there!
 - a. Ex: People will read of a "household" being saved (Acts 16:15), and assume this includes babies!
 - b. Ex: People read of the birth of Christ and assume that He wants special religious celebrations held in honor of His birth.
 2. Let us be satisfied to simply read God's word "as is" and be silent when God is silent!

ASSIGNMENTS: (Hint: Assignments increase in difficulty. While some may not be able to answer each question, please challenge yourself and do the best you can!)

1. Do you know the books of the Bible? (You should know Genesis-II Samuel. Memorize the next 10 books of the Bible.)
2. Memorize the 12 sons of Israel and 12 (original) apostles. Who were the two added to the apostles in the book of Acts?
3. In this lesson, we referred to the words of Moses and Christ. What comparisons can be made between them?

- Jarrod Jacobs