

7 PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES FOR GETTING THE MOST OF BIBLE READING

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PROPOSITION: God's people can get the best of Bible reading by paying attention to certain principles used by many.

OBJECTIVE: To promote a profound desire in Christians so that such can dedicate more time to the reading of God's Word.

INTRODUCTION:

1. *The Bible exhorts God's people to be frequent readers of God's Word:*
 - a. 1 Timothy 4:13 – Give attention to reading!
 - b. Deuteronomy 17:19 – Kings exhorted to write and read God's Law.
 - c. Psalm 119:97 – Encouraged to meditate on God's Word all day!
 - d. Luke 4:16 – Jesus read the OT Scriptures!
 - e. Nehemiah 8 – God's Law was read before the people!
2. *General information about the Bible:*
 - a. 31,102 verses
 - b. OT 929 chapters / 77 per month, OT in one year.
 - c. NT 260 chapters / 8-9 chapters per day, NT in one month.
 - d. NT can be read in 11:48 minutes!
3. In this lesson we will "briefly" examine 7 practical principles that can help us to get the best of our Bible reading.
4. Let us be doers of God's Word (James 1:22-25; Luke 11:28).

To Get the Best of Bible Reading...

I. WE MUST HAVE A PROFUND DESIRE TO READ THE BIBLE.

1. *Things that can help us to develop a profound desire to read the Bible:*
 - a. The Bible can give us joy (Jeremiah 15:16; Psalm 19:8).
 - b. The Bible can help us know the Godhead (OT/NT).
 - c. The Bible can help us grow in knowledge (2 Peter 3:18).
 - d. The Bible can help us be ready to give an answer (1 Peter 3:15).
 - e. The Bible can guide our steps in the right path (Psalm 119:105; 24).
 - f. The Bible can save our souls (James 1:21).
2. If this is the case, and it is, then these great truths should encourage us to be frequent readers of God's Word.
3. If these truths we have seen, do not motivate us to read the Bible, then I have no idea what would!
4. The more we read the Bible, the more we learn, the more we desire to spend time reading.

To Get the Best of Bible Reading...

II. WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED OF GOD.

1. *The Bible claims to be the Inspired Word of God:*
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - b. 2 Peter 1:20-21
 - c. John 17:17
 - d. 1 Corinthians 2:14
2. *The Bible has been proven to be the Word of God:*
 - a. Fulfillment of Bible prophecies
 - b. The scientific nature of the Bible
 - c. The indestructibility of the Bible
 - d. Etc.
3. The Bible is not just any book, it is the BOOK OF GOD!
4. If we acknowledge this great truth, then we will be get the best of Bible reading.

To Get the Best of Bible Reading...

III. WE MUST ASK GOD IN PRAYER TO HELP US UNDERSTAND HIS WORD.

1. *Our prayers, in the context of reading, studying, meditating on God's Word should always be:*
 - a. "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law" (Psalm 119:18).
 - b. "Make me understand the way of Your precepts; so shall I meditate on Your wonderful works" (Psalm 119:27).
 - c. "Make me walk in the path of Your commandments; for I delight in it" (Psalm 119:35).
 - d. "Your hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments" (Psalm 119:73).
 - e. "I am your servant; give me understanding" (Psalm 119:125).
2. *Let us pray...*
 - a. That God may help us understand His Word!
 - b. That we may keep ourselves encouraged to always read the Bible!
 - c. That we may always have access to God's Word!
 - d. To thank God for His Word!
3. We will get the best of Bible reading if we always pray before we start reading!

To Get the Best of Bible Reading...

IV. WE MUST FIND A SYSTEMATIC WAY OF READING THE BIBLE.

1. A systematic/organized way of reading the Bible can help us get the best of Bible reading!
2. Don't read the Bible just anywhere (Matt 27:5; John 13:27; Luke 10:37).
3. *What a systematic way looks like:*
 - a. Read the entire Bible

- b. Read about specific topics
 - c. Take notes of things you learn
 - d. Be familiar with the central themes of the Bible
4. These things can help you learn as much as you can!
- To Get the Best of Bible Reading...*

V. WE MUST PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE WAY WE READ THE BIBLE.

1. Pay attention to the central message of what you are reading!
2. Pay close attention to the key words the text is using!
3. Pay close attention to the contexts of the Bible!
4. Pay close attention to the practical lessons taken from the text!
5. Ask others if you do not understand!
6. Memorize what you have learned so you won't forget it!

To Get the Best of Bible Reading...

VI. WE MUST FIND THE BEST TIME TO READ THE BIBLE.

1. *Best time to read the Bible:*
 - a. Early in the mornings.
 - b. Before going to bed.
 - c. Find a quiet place to read.
 - d. In your youth.
 - e. Every time you have the opportunity to read (oil change, the mall, etc.)
2. Remember this: It is not about finding time but MAKING time!
3. Anyone who says, "I just don't have time to read" is basically saying, "I will never read the Bible"!

To Get the Best of Bible Reading...

VII. WE MUST MAKE PLANS TO PRACTICE THE PRACTICAL LESSONS WE LEARN AS WE READ.

1. *God's Word exhorts us to be doers of His Word!*
 - a. James 1:22-25
 - b. Luke 11:28
 - c. Joshua 1:5-9
2. There is no benefit if we just read the Bible and make no plans to apply the great truths we learn therein!
3. God gave us His Word not only for our information, but also for our transformation!

CONCLUSIÓN:

1. Thank God for His Word!
2. May we always have a deep respect for the inspired Scriptures.
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