

**News and Current Events :: Most churchgoers don't read Bible daily****Most churchgoers don't read Bible daily - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/9/7 11:23**

While the majority of churchgoers desire to honor Christ with their lives and even profess to think on biblical truths, a recent study found few actually engage in personal reading and study of the Scriptures.

The survey found 90 percent of churchgoers agree that "I desire to please and honor Jesus in all I do," and 59 percent agree with the statement: "Throughout the day I find myself thinking about biblical truths." While the majority agree with both statements, there is a significant difference in the strength of agreement. Nearly two-thirds of churchgoers (64 percent) strongly agree with the first statement, but only 20 percent strongly agree with the second. However, when asked how often they personally (not as part of a church worship service) read the Bible:

-- 19 percent respond "every day." ...

read more: <http://www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?id=38659>

Re: Most churchgoers don't read Bible daily - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/9/7 11:59

I don't read my physical Bible everyday either, but I do read a lot of God's word in devotionals and on SI. The word of God is the word of God, even if it's written on a bathroom wall, the effect will always be the same, if the person reading it chooses to process it.

Re: Most churchgoers don't read Bible daily - posted by ccchhrrriiiss (), on: 2012/9/7 12:42

Hi Greg,

I visited a congregation earlier this year where I noticed that no one was even carrying their Bibles into the building. I assumed that many of them might simply use a Bible app on their phones. However, during the message, I noticed that no one was holding a phone, e-reader or physical Bible.

While some of the passages were featured on the screen in front, no one "verified" them or looked up the passages that weren't included on the screen. No one looked to see if the passages were used in proper context.

I have been to other churches where long-time members didn't know if certain books (e.g. Ephesians or Psalms) was in the Old or New Testament.

In these times, I don't think that there is anything more important than to read the Word of God and spend time with Him in our prayer closets. Yet, I know individuals who pay very little attention to the Word. It is as though their only study of God's Word comes from what they hear in Church...which is shockingly limited in many congregations nowadays.

I also know believers who have never read the Word of God even once through after having been a believer for years. I know individuals who pray so very little too. In a day in which some people in this world are waging war on the teachings of Christ, it is vital for people to wear the FULL armor of God and who can properly take up that "sWord."

I am also reminded by something that David Wilkerson mentioned in a few of his messages (including HOLY GROUND featured here on SermonIndex). He said that he spoke at one of the larger congregations in America. After the meeting, the pastor and his wife went out to eat with Brother David. The pastor's wife was prompting him to say something, but he was holding back. Finally, the wife told him, "If you don't tell him, I will."

Brother Wilkerson's first thought was that there might be some undisclosed sin. The pastor eventually confessed that he had not prayed for years. Sure, the congregation was growing, he had been preaching and administrating and even "leading people to Jesus." Yet, he said that he was dying inside.

If we aren't careful, we can become just as "dead inside" as that pastor or a person who has lost his "first love." So, it is

vital to stay in God's Word and prayer. We should be meditating on it day and night! I often think of a line from an old Keith Green song (Song for Josiah) in which he tells his son,

"My son, I am weak and I'm trembling
For the Lord I am always remembering."

There is no greater heritage that we can leave our wife, children, family, neighbors or friends than an appreciation of God's Word. We should take the principle from the Old Covenant to heart:

Quote:

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

We are blessed in a day in which we can own multiple Bibles in multiple languages. We even have them on our phones. We have multiple Bibles, bibles in multiple languages, study aids, Bible dictionaries, commentaries, concordances, audio Bibles, etc... Yet, we often don't take advantage of all of these "gifts" (or "talents") that we have been blessed with.

I fear that many in this generation of believers are "burying" the talents that we have been given (Matthew 25:14-30). We are instructed by God to make the most of the time -- redeeming the time -- because the days are evil.

Thank you for this timely reminder, Greg! May the Lord help us to love His Word and long to know it!

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/9/7 13:23

cchhhrrriiiss. great post! I would personally just never limit the "living word" of God to any particular version, or limit its value to a Church bldg. Moses wrote the 10 commandments on a stone tablet, were the 10 commandments value any lesser because of their version, or the content they were written on, or the place where they were read?

Each scripture ministers to each of us differently, we can't stereotype it, and also we must think outside the box, that most scripture is deeper than some of us read it, it also sets examples in most cases. Moses...10 commandments...stone tablets.= example.

Had to come back and edit for some reason I keep getting kicked off SI.

Re: , on: 2012/9/7 14:26

Jesus reminds us that man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Just as there is a physical life so there is a spiritual life. Just as the physical life is sustained by physical food. So the spiritual life has to be sustained by spiritual food. In this case the spiritual food is the word of God.

What happens when one does not eat physically. They become weak, sick, and eventually die. So what happens when one does not eat spiritually. They become weak, sick, and die. Thus is the reason so many Christians succumb to sin. As Keith Daniels quoted from one of his mentors. Sin will keep you away from the Bible or the Bible will keep you away from sin.

I know this is basic 101. But a football coach by the name of Vince Lombardi used to tell his team. Men it is time to get back to basics. This is a football. I might add by sticking with the basics this coach always had a winning season.

One can always win against the evil one if one knows the scriptures. In the temptations of Jesus, he met Satan's temptations by saying It is written.

John tells the young men. You are strong because the word of God lives in you. And you have overcome the evil one.

Again we can not win against thee Evil without the word in us.

Bearmaster.

Re: Most churchgoers don't read Bible daily - posted by iceman9, on: 2012/9/7 15:16

This article is a sad commentary on the state of the church. No wonder so much of the church is weak in this desperate hour. No daily manna – no growth – no victory; quite sad.

Ccchhhrrriiiss – good post.

There is no substitute for the Word of God!

Just the straight Scriptures – not a devotional or commentary or anything else. Those are all nice and helpful at times; but remember they are man's thoughts and opinions.

Stick to God's word daily. There is no excuse for someone to spend hours browsing the Internet and not have time to read the Holy Scriptures.

Just you, a humble obedient heart, God's Word and the Holy Spirit = that spells growth to me.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/9/7 15:36

Quote:

-----iceman9...There is no excuse for someone to spend hours browsing the Internet and not have time to read the Holy Scriptures.

I really don't understand what you said above. Just because some folks browse the internet, don't mean they don't spend time reading the Holy Scriptures. The internet, this is where a lot of folks read the Holy Scriptures, because not all have Bibles. Here we go again, thinking everyone should be like us, I would like to see someone argue with Jesus where scripture should be read, my guess is he would said wherever available. I guess John 3:16 loses its value when written on the internet or maybe on a sidewalk, or in a jail cell.

Re: , on: 2012/9/7 16:01

Bill I do not believe Iceman was judging anyone who read the scriptures off the internet. Or saying one could not browse the internet such as coming on SI. I got the impression he was talking about how much time people waste on Facebook, Twitter, internet at the expense of reading the scriptures. I might also add time wasted watching TV, playing sports, hunting, fishing, three wheeling, stock car racing, and so forth. (I live in Ark.). It is sad to see the wasted time Christians spend on frivolous stuff.

I know men who will set time aside to see a Razorback game. But come up with every kind of excuse for why they can't get time in God's word.

Just my thoughts.

Bearmaster.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/9/7 16:30

hi, the bible is a love letter from Jesus to me. if it is a duty or a law then it is wrong. you get no points for reading the bible. you do not impress God by reading it. as wonderful as it is; we cannot be legalistic about this or prayer or giving for all things come from Jesus and His grace and mercy. jimp the Holy Spirit must reveal these things to folks.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2012/9/7 16:45

by jimp on 2012/9/7 10:30:49

hi, the bible is a love letter from Jesus to me.if it is a duty or a law than it is wrong. you get no points for reading the bible .you do not impress God by reading it.as wonderful as it is; we cannot be legalistic about this or prayer or giving for all th ings come from Jesus and His grace and mercy.jimpthe Holy Spirit must reveal these things to folks.

What an awesome way to think of the WORD, HIS love letter to me...

I have often thought of the BIBLE as an invitation. The words are filled with life and the giver of life is inviting me to come spend time with HIM and get to know HIM. JESUS is a person and HE longs to have relationship with us, HE longs to spend time with us. Sometimes that is in prayer, sometimes that is in hearing a sermon, sometimes that is in reading the Word, and sometimes that is in sitting at my window staring at the stars at night and just praising and giving thanks unto HIM!!

What an awesome GOD we serve...that HE loves us so much that HE shares all these things with us. What a privilege to be able to get to know our most HOLY LORD JESUS!

Thank you jimp for sharing such a lovely thought here today. Made me smile :)

God bless
maryjane

Re: But it is a chiuce., on: 2012/9/7 19:48

I realize that our walk with Christ is one motivated out of a heart love for Jesus. But let us not confuse legalism with discipline. Discipline starts with a choice. A choice to read the word, a choice to pray, a choice to put away sinful habits, etc . Our walk with Jesus comes down to choices.

This is best illustrated in the Mary and Martha story. Mary chose to sit at the feet of Jesus to listen to his word. Martha chose to serve in the kitchen. She got an attitude about it. Then demanded Jesus tell her sister to help her. This is when Jesus gently chastised her and said Mary has chosen what is better. And it would not be taken from her. Thus Mary's desire to hear the word of Christ was a self conscience desire on her part. No doubt motivated by a desire to be in the presence of Christ.

But to make such choices of prayer and the word, the flesh screams. And then the devil plays the legalism card. Saints if I waited to read the word or pray when I felt like it I would never do it. Because the flesh would step in and reign. It is only when I choose to mortify the flesh by the Spirit and pray and read the word, then the blessing comes.

Jerry Bridges in his book The Pursuit of Holiness speaks of victory over sin not as a result of victory from feeling like doing something. But choosing rather to obey God. Even when our flesh screams against us.

Just my thoughts.

Bearmaster.

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2012/9/7 21:22

In the parable of the sower, Jesus says that there are those who do not have root in themselves. These are only able to endure for a while, but when persecution comes for the word's sake, they stumble. We are told not simply to read, but to STUDY the word of God so that we might be workmen that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

I am saddened to see so much of the body of Christ who do not have the word of God rooted in themselves. Too many of them get a weekly or daily fix of a teaching or a quickly read devotional or a verse out of a promise box, but they do not make the Word of God an object of prayerful, continual, and regular study. Too many of them are shallow or superficial where the word is concerned. The problem is that persecution will ALWAYS come for the word's sake because the en

emy wants to see to it that we do not stand on the word of God. If it is not deeply rooted we will stumble over it. We will give up on the word, or we will give in to a wind of doctrine and follow a falsehood, not having enough root to recognize the subtlety that has just captivated us and lead us off the path.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2012/9/7 21:35

by twayneb on 2012/9/7 15:22:00

In the parable of the sower, Jesus says that there are those who do not have root in themselves. These are only able to endure for a while, but when persecution comes for the word's sake, they stumble. We are told not simply to read, but to STUDY the word of God so that we might be workmen that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

I am saddened to see so much of the body of Christ who do not have the word of God rooted in themselves. Too many of them get a weekly or daily fix of a teaching or a quickly read devotional or a verse out of a promise box, but they do not make the Word of God an object of prayerful, continual, and regular study. Too many of them are shallow or superficial where the word is concerned. The problem is that persecution will ALWAYS come for the word's sake because the enemy wants to see to it that we do not stand on the word of God. If it is not deeply rooted we will stumble over it. We will give up on the word, or we will give in to a wind of doctrine and follow a falsehood, not having enough root to recognize the subtlety that has just captivated us and lead us off the path.

I understand what you are saying but don't you think that the motivation of the heart has to be one of a true desire to know JESUS personally and to walk with GOD? IF I read the BIBLE every day because I "have to" then I am doing it in self. For me the original post reveals deeper symptoms at play among those who call themselves born again believers in many churches today. Sadly there seems to be no real desire for the JESUS or the things of HIS KINGDOM. For me its not that I "have to " read the WORD but I will say it is a "HUGE" alarm sounding in my spirit if I have no desire or want to read the WORD...

NO matter what, many are lost and deceived but believe themselves saved and are in desperate need of prayer and to have a real encounter with JESUS. One that changes their lives and is about getting to know the PERSON JESUS and letting HIM be LORD of their life.

Just my thoughts. Thank you for sharing and giving me things to pray about and take before the LORD.
God bless
Mj

Re: , on: 2012/9/8 9:35

1Pe 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Also this is a powerful video voiced by Alexander Scourby

"The Forbidden Book" This is another fresh reminder of what so many went through to get the Bible into the hands of the common man

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtO-7xN26ME&feature=relmfu>

Re: , on: 2012/9/8 9:49

The persecuted cry out for Bibles in restricted nations. And we in the west seek the Toronto blessing. Makes one wonder?

Bearmaster.

Re: - posted by beekpr, on: 2012/9/8 14:18

Years ago when the Iron Curtain existed it was common in our area to hold public meetings featuring speakers who either were from Communist countries or who had visited the underground church. The purpose of the assemblies was to inform western Christians of the plight of their persecuted brothers and sisters. I clearly remember a German-speaking brother who had somehow made it to the West expressing his shock at the lack of desire we displayed for the Word-"Ihr sind satt das Wort Gottes!"(You have reached the point where you have no more appetite for God's Word). I believe we are like the child who comes to the nutritious meal that Mom has prepared with no appetite because he has stuffed himself with junk food. The taste buds have been trained to crave what is not truly nutritious and the result is fat, but not healthy. I am disturbed at how many Christians are very unfamiliar with what the Scripture actually says because they have been satisfied feeding on religious movies, books and sermons of crowd-pleasing preachers. Such fertile soil for spiritual deception!

Re: , on: 2012/9/8 14:59

Reprinting here what I posted on another thread of what I think is a good Bible reading program.

For over 20 years my main approach to reading the word is to read the books through in full context. I will continue to use this approach.

However, I have a new "base" daily reading plan that I got from Tony Miano who got it from a Dr.Horner of the Masters College.

Here it is.

HERE IT IS:

*** PROFESSOR GRANT HORNER'S 'TEN LISTS BIBLE READING SYSTEM' ***

Each day you will read one chapter from each list, in order. THAT'S RIGHT -- *TEN CHAPTERS PER DAY*!!! Use ten bookmarks or sticky notes with the individual lists on them to keep track of your locations. On day one, you read Matthew 1, Genesis 1, Romans 1, and so forth. On day 2, read Matthew 2, Genesis 2, etc. On day 29, you will have just finished Matthew, so go to Mark 1 on the Gospel list; you'll also be almost to the end of 2nd Corinthians and Proverbs, you'll be reading Psalm 29 and Genesis 29, and so forth. When you reach the last chapter of the last book in a list -- start over again. Rotate all the way through all the Scriptures constantly. Since the lists vary in length, the readings begin interweaving in constantly changing ways. You will NEVER read the same set of ten chapters together again! Every year you'll read through all the Gospels four times, the Pentateuch twice, Paul's letters 4-5 times each, the OT wisdom literature six times, all the Psalms at least twice, all the Proverbs as well as Acts a dozen times, and all the way through the OT History and prophetic books about 1 1/2 times. Since the interweaving is constantly changing, you will experience the Bible commenting *on itself* in constantly changing ways -- the Reformer's principle of 'scriptura interpretans scripturam' -- 'scripture interpreting scripture' IN ACTION!

After you've read any particular book once or twice, your speed in that book usually *doubles or triples* because you're familiar with it and can move quickly and confidently -- because you are no longer merely decoding the text but thinking it through in the context of all of the scripture! Acts 20:27. Even an 'average' reader, if focusing on moving through the text, rather than trying to figure everything out, can usually do this in about an hour a day -- 5-6 minutes per chapter. If it is taking you longer, then you are 'reading wrong' -- stay relaxed, focus, and just keep it moving. Moderate but consistent speed is the key. This is "gross anatomy" -- looking at the whole body; you're *not* closely studying organs or systems or tissues or cells -- it is *not* microbiology. BUT -- microbiology and the study of organs makes more sense when you know what the *whole* structure of the human body is like, and how all the parts, large and small, relate in perfect interdependence. After just a few days the reading gets *much* easier; in a month it will be a habit, and in six months y

ou'll wonder how you ever survived before on such a slim diet of the WORD. And then -- you'll tell others to start the system!

I began in 1983 as a new Christian and have now read (most of) the Bible hundreds and hundreds of times. You also need to get ONE Bible, keep it, and do all your reading in it, so you learn where everything is. I've had the same Bible since 1983 and I know it intimately. If you keep switching Bibles, you 'lose' this intimacy with the text. Find a translation and format you like and stick with it. THIS IS CRUCIAL.

When I was flown out by Masters for a 3-day interview/theological-grilling process, the culmination was of course being ushered in to Dr. John MacArthur's private study, which is where he asked me this one question: "Can I see your Bible?" I thought he would be horrified, because it looked like it had been through a typhoon -- it looked unloved and neglected. Something from a dumpster. It was unbound, with stringy mess and paper debris hanging out. I was so embarrassed. I thought he would chastise me and recommend I get a new study Bible if I was serious about the Word. (No doubt which study Bible he would recommend!!!) He flipped through it and handed it to his wife and said "If your Bible is falling apart, you probably aren't." I was basically hired on the spot.

Your Bible is the only thing on Earth that, as you wear it out, will actually work better and better.

THE TEN LISTS:

List 1 (89 days)

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

List 2 (187 days)

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

List 3 (78 days)

Romans, I&II Cor, Gal, Eph, Phil, Col, Hebrews

List 4 (65 days)

I&II Thess, I&II Tim, Titus, Philemon, James, I&II Peter, I,II&III John, Jude, Revelation

List 5 (62 days)

Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

List 6 (150 days)

Psalms

List 7 (31 days)

Proverbs

List 8 (249 days)

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I&II Samuel, I&II Kings, I&II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

List 9 (250 days)

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

List 10 (28 days)

Acts

If you are wondering why you should read Acts (or Proverbs) all the way through *every single month* then -- you've just shown that you NEED to read them that much!

Put these instructions in your Bible and review them from time to time

SECRETS TO SUCCESS WITH THIS SYSTEM:

• Read one chapter from each list each day, in one sitting or two. At the end of a book, go to the next book. At the end

of the list – start it again. Do it in the order given above.

• Read quickly (without “speed reading”) in order to get the overall sense. Read as fast as you comfortably can with moderate retention. You’re not studying deeply or memorizing; shoot for 5-6 minutes per chapter. At the end of a chapter, move immediately to the next list.

• GET THROUGH THE TEXT – no dawdling, back-reading, looking up cross-references!

• There are different ‘kinds’ of reading: super-quick skimming, careful moderate-paced, studying the text, deep meditation. You should be between the first and second kind.

• Most people decrease their time spent and increase their retention after just two-three weeks! I now read and retain the entire text of Matthew in 35 minutes, Romans in 20, Genesis in *one hour*!

• Don’t look up anything you ‘don’t get’ – real understanding will come through contextualizing by reading a LOT of scripture over time. Get through the text!

• If you miss a day or two – OK, get over it, then keep going. Don’t cover yourself in sackcloth and ashes and quit! Move the bookmarks along, to find your place(s) quickly next day.

Heb 4:12;5:11-14; Eph 5:26; 6:17; Col 3:16; 2 Tim 3:16; Psalm 119; Ezra 8; Prov 3: 1-2, 10:14; Daniel 1

The goal of this system is simple, and twofold: To know scripture, and to love and obey God more!

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Re: , on: 2012/9/8 20:23

There are some good sermons in the SI archives on Bible reading. Just listened to Erlo Stergen give a message on Make the Bible Your Best Friend. In the message he speaks on the importance of God's word as revealed in Psalm 119. There are good practical exhortations to read the word.

I found it a little distracting in that it was English to German. And then German back to English. But once you get into the message, well with listening to.

Bearmaster.

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2012/9/8 20:41

@MrBillPro

I'm pretty sure that's not what iceman9 meant at all.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/9/9 3:54

hi, those in the bible never did except the levites. we are improving.jimp

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2012/9/9 7:57

Quote:
-----I understand what you are saying but don't you think that the motivation of the heart has to be one of a true desire to know JESUS personally and to walk with GOD?

Yes. This is the motive. Let me put it this way. The lack of spiritual soundness or foundation is, in my opinion, a fairly c

ommon if not marking characteristic of the modern American church, even among those who truly do love the Lord and have been born again. We are so inundated by life that, though our motive is good, our actions are not following. It is a bit like my efforts to lose weight. I love being healthy and active, and I love to eat good food. But my hectic lifestyle causes me to grab what I can and go and keeps me from the exercise I need. As a result I remain somewhat overweight. It is not that my motive is wrong, but my actions are not following my motive.

So I don't "have to" exercise. In fact, I spent a portion of the last weekend paddling a kayak on a local creek. I loved exercising. I desire to do it. I truly want to, but I am not following up with the doing of the thing.

Perhaps it comes down to a flesh spirit battle, because I find myself sounding a bit like Paul in Romans 7. Indeed I am willing and the desire is there, but am I doing it? There are times, I know from experience, that studying the word is labor and work. Though I love the work, it is still work, and requires that I discipline myself to get at it even when my flesh would rather sit in the shade and sip sweet tea.

Have a blessed Sunday Mary Jane.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2012/9/9 8:31

Twayneb wrote: There are times, I know from experience, that studying the word is labor and work. Though I love the work, it is still work, and requires that I discipline myself to get at it even when my flesh would rather sit in the shade and sip sweet tea.

Yes I do see that. Thank you for taking the time to come back and share with me. I am grateful and appreciative to hear what the LORD laid upon your heart to share here. There is much in what you said I can understand and relate to as well.

I pray you have a wonderful Sunday and be blessed as well.

God bless
maryjane

Re: , on: 2012/9/9 9:28

Earlier I quoted 1Peter 2:2 As "newborn" babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Then reading the next verse God through Peter points out that you will desire this "IF" you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. This is Peter's way of saying if you have been "born again". (Newborn)

Most "Churchgoers" are not born again therefore they do not have a hunger for the word.

1Pe 2:3 "If" so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Re: From the SI archives, on: 2012/9/9 10:11

Again another good message on being in the word is one by Don Allen. He speaks on Eight Reasons to be Committed to the Bible. Don speaks from his experiences with the Navigators. The message is given to a group of collegiates encouraging them to be in God's word.

I like these type of messages. They are good meat and taters. Solid, filling, and practical. By God's blessing I was impacted by the Navs in the early days of my walk with Jesus. I have so appreciated their ministry in their love for the word.

In listening to this short 40 minute messages I was stirred once again to a practical love for God and his word. This is a good hearty message to encourage you to love Jesus and his word.

Saints hope you check out the archives. There is some good treasure there. God bless Greg for putting this data base of good messages together.

Bearnaster.

Re: From the SI archives, on: 2012/9/9 15:59

Another good message by Hans Waldvogel entitled Desiring the Sincere Milk of the Word. Good solid preaching in a German tradition. Message is in English. Very rich food for the soul. Message is 30 minutes long.

Bearnaster.

Re: , on: 2012/9/10 10:13

Last night brother Kevin Turner led off on our SI prayer call. He shared with us about his experiences ministering in the restricted nation of Eritrea. One thing that Kevin shared was how those in prison would find comfort in scraps of paper that contained scripture on them. Often times these scraps of paper would be more precious than the physical food itself.

Saints what can the persecuted teach us? What do they value more than life itself? How precious is the word to us? Will we wait till it is too late and the Bible is taken out of our hands?..Are we going to wail and lament and say "If only, If only".

Saints while we still have time. Please get into the word. Has anyone heard of Keith Daniels? What do you think of when you hear his name? His love for the word? He has said that 15 minutes reading the New Testament in the morning and 15 minutes at night reading in the Old Testament you have gone through the Bible in a year. Certainly we can give God 30 minutes. Yet I can hear it now. I don't have time. How many of us spend more than 30 minutes in this forum.OUCH! Just stepped on my toes.

Saints whether you do what Keith Daniels does or use Prof. Horners system or use an app on your phone. (I listen to a Travellers Go Bible). Whatever works for you. As a certain athletic shoe company says. Just do it.

Bearnaster.

Re: - posted by iceman9, on: 2012/9/10 16:07

MrBillPro:

You might want to read what I said again.

I never implied that a person needs to read the Bible in a hard copy.

I have counseled many people who are weak in their faith and I hear the same excuses. "I don't have time to read the Bible I'm too busy."

They have endless hours for Twitter, Facebook, Angry Birds or whatever, but they don't have 15 minutes with Jesus in His Word.

Everyone in the world has 24 hours a day. Jonathan Edwards, Leonard Ravenhill, A.W. Tozer, John Wesley, all had the same number of hours we all have today. With access to Bible apps on phones, Internet Bibles etc. There is no excuse for people who have access to them not to spend time in God's Word.

That is my opinion; sorry if that offends anyone!

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/9/10 17:35

iceman, it's possible I did misunderstand you, I am still working on perfection, if I did I am sorry. For me personally, I am still trying to figure out how this thread edifies the body of Christ. For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.

Quote:
-----Unto every believer is given some gift of grace, for their mutual help. All is given as seems best to Christ to bestow upon every one. He received for them, that he might give to them, a large measure of gifts and graces; particularly the gift of the Holy Ghost. Not a mere head knowledge, or bare acknowledging Christ to be the Son of God, but such as brings trust and obedience. There is a fulness in Christ, and a measure of that fulness given in the counsel of God to every believer; but we never come to the perfect measure till we come to heaven. God's children are growing, as long as they are in this world; and the Christian's growth tends to the glory of Christ. The more a man finds himself drawn out to improve in his station, and according to his measure, all that he has received, to the spiritual good of others, he may the more certainly believe that he has the grace of sincere love and charity rooted in his heart. Matthew Henry

Re: , on: 2012/9/10 22:14

I am one of those people that don't read my bible daily. I have read it several times before. From time to time I read it, but never to read it for reading sake. Surprisingly God gives me a passage, sometimes just a one single word or two words and that sets my mind in motion. Personally, I am a strong proponent or believer that Matthew 4:4 It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

"by every word that proceedeth". Because the Holy Ghost dwells within, we have in us a well springing up unto everlasting life. That well is God speaking words of life into our spirit. When He speaks faith ignites, and faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

If anyone is reading this and is thinking that I am discounting the written word of God, your mind is looking for strife, for I think not that way at all. I love my bible, but I also love it when God speaks to me by His Spirit that dwelleth in me.

Re: , on: 2012/9/16 19:04

"During my student days in Toronto my one weapon, in the jails and slums, was the Bible. In China I have often given from thirty five to forty addresses in a week, practically all of them being simply Bible rehearsals. In fact, I think I can safely say that, during the forty one years that I have been on the foreign field, I have never once addressed a Chinese audience without an open Bible in my hand, from which I could say, "Thus saith the Lord!" I have always taken it for granted that the simple preaching of the Word would bring men to Christ. It has never failed me yet. My Chinese pastor, one of the most consecrated men I have ever met, was saved from a life of shame and vice by the first Gospel address which he ever heard me give.

My deepest regret, on reaching threescore years and ten, is that I have not devoted more time to the study of the Bible. Still, in less than nineteen years I have gone through the New Testament in Chinese fifty five times. That prince of Bible teachers, Dr. Campbell Morgan, has declared that he would not attempt to teach any book in the Bible unless he had first read it over at least fifty times. Some years ago, I understand, a gentleman attended the English Keswick and was so fired with a zeal for the Bible that in three years he read it through twelve times. One would imagine, of course, that he belonged to the leisured class. On the contrary, however, he began his day's work at the Motherwell steel plant at 5:30 a. m.

Jonathan Goforth

Re: Thingsabove, on: 2012/9/16 22:43

Marvelous testimony. Gets me fired up to read the Bible.

Breaux Best

Re: bearmaster - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/9/16 23:13

Hi Bear you recommended Keith Daniels and Hans Waldvogel excellent recommendations a couple of true Bible Believers.

Re: - posted by richrock, on: 2012/9/17 6:49

I must make confession that despite what my mind (or heart) desires, I have not always read the bible every day. The conflict of teaching about law vs. grace does not help in this matter - that many people would quote the old testament where they studied the law every night and day...

That aside, I fix my mind on the things above, and I do desire to read more - in fact, this thread has challenged me to get off this computer, and go read.

Why did I not say to go to an online bible? Simple - the internet has a seriously short attention span - I would go off, try to understand a passage using other resources. I prefer my NASB without any study notes. If something does come up, and it is still in my mind at the end of reading, then will I study the word in more depth.

I do not know enough of the word. That is to my shame, and the signs of this world provoke me to have as much of the word in my mind lest someone deem the bible illegal in this country. As the persecuted in NK or China or wherever would earnestly desire but a page of the word.

I found this article a few days ago: () <http://www.theologicalmatters.com/index.php/2012/09/05/the-biblical-literacy-of-teenage-believers/>. The article on which this thread is based is very similar, and in some ways, I am sure this will only increase. Let us be challenged, brothers and sisters, that we may know God's word from whatever source (online, print, app, etc) in such a way that if a time should come, that word is in our hearts and able to sustain.

Re: - posted by richrock, on: 2012/9/17 9:13

... cont'd

What did I see in my Twitter feed this very day?

"Knowledge of the Bible never comes by intuition. It can only be obtained by diligent, regular, daily, attentive reading." ~ J.C. Ryle

;))

Re: , on: 2012/9/17 9:47

I am reminded of this quotation by John Bunyan.

" Read and read again, and do not despair of help, to understand the will and mind of God though you think they are locked up from you. Neither trouble your heads though you have not commentaries or expositions. Pray and read, and read and pray; for a little from God is better than a whole lot from men."

It was said the only library Bunyan ever knew was his Bible. Others have said if you cut Bunyan he would bleed scripture. Some have rightly observed Bunyan was Bible.

When I visited Bedford, England where Bunyan was born. I was struck that any statue or picture of him showed him holding a little book. One would gleam the book was the Bible.

Based upon the above quote it would seem Bunyan would tell us to read our Bibles in an attitude of prayer and let the Holy Spirit teach us. For surely a little from God is better than a whole lot from men.

Breaux Bear.

Re: , on: 2012/9/17 9:58

I remember reading an account by John MacArthur where he was shown a an actual martyrs Bible. This was an old English Bible. Could have been one of Tyndale's illegal New Testaments. What struck MacArthur was the use of this Bible . The pages were worn and tear stained. Suggesting much use. The precious saint that owned this Bible was martyred . This Bible had been dipped into that saints blood as an insult. Later these Bibles were valued as prized possessions.

How well used are our Bibles?

Breaux Bear.