

Reasons for Reading through the Bible (51 Minutes)

2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2024-01-28A, #5

Introduction: Today, I want to give you some reasons for reading through the Bible. One of our goals for this year is to read through the Bible preferably in a different translation. Four of the translations that I will be using mainly throughout the year are the AV, NKJV, NLT, and the NASB.

Studying the Bible and reading the Bible are not the same. When you open your Bible, pray Psalm 119:18, 27, 34. Unless God opens our eyes, there are things we will not see. Unless God opens our understanding, there are things we will not understand (cf. Luke 24:32, 45; cf. 2 Peter 3:15-17; 2 Timothy 2:7).

- I. **Read through the Bible to Know the Triune God of the Bible.**
 - A. **We must read the entire Bible to know the God of the Bible.**
 1. **The God of the Bible is immutable – He cannot change in His character or attributes (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17).**
 2. **One attribute cannot cancel another – love cannot cancel justice...**
 3. **Attributes of God on display on the cross:**
 - a. **Justice (Ezekiel 18:4, 20; Romans 6:23; Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21),**
 - b. **Holiness (Matthew 27:46; cf. Psalm 22:1, 3; Habakkuk 1:13; Isaiah 59:1-2),**
 - c. **Wrath (Romans 3:25),**
 - d. **Love (John 3:16; Romans 5:8),**
 - e. **Grace (Luke 23:34, 42-43; John 1:17).**
 - B. **Many today serve a God that they have created in their own image and after their own likeness.**
- II. **Read through the Bible to Know the Will and Ways of the Triune God.**
 - A. **Most of the will of God is clearly revealed in the Word of God (1 Thessalonians 5:18).**
 - B. **The Bible provides help when making decisions regarding the gray areas of life:**
 1. **Will this action enslave me (1 Corinthians 6:12)?**
 2. **Will this action edify me (1 Corinthians 10:23)?**
 3. **Will this action glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31)?**
 - C. **We make many mistakes because we do not know the Scriptures or if we know the Scriptures, we do not obey them:**
 1. **Jesus said to the Sadducees, “You are mistaken because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God” (Matthew 22:29).**
 2. **“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers” is a command frequently disobeyed (2 Corinthians 6:14).**
 3. **Many do not heed the warning against cosigning in Proverbs 6:1-5.**
- III. **Read through the Bible to Have on File Information the Holy Spirit Can Bring to Remembrance (John 14:26).**
- IV. **Read through the Bible to Be Able to Discern the Spirits:**

- A. Three spirits that influence us:
 - 1. The human spirit (Luke 9:51-56),
 - 2. The Holy Spirit (1 Timothy 4:1),
 - 3. The demonic spirit (1 Timothy 4:1).

- B. Without the knowledge of the Scriptures we will not be able to discern the spirits.

- V. Read through the Bible to See Things in Context.
 - A. The immediate context consists of the verses that go before and after. The broader context consists of the chapters and books that go before and after the passage under consideration.

 - B. Read the context of Jeremiah 29:11.

- VI. Read through the Bible Because the Best Commentary on the Bible Is the Bible.
 - A. The Book of Hebrews explains a great deal of what is written in the Pentateuch.

 - B. The Gospel of Matthew explains many of the Old Testament Scriptures that referred to the Messiah – Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:18-23; 21:1-11; cf. Zechariah 9:9).

- VII. Read through the Bible to Know What to Expect on Life’s Journey.
 - A. Jesus was both man and God, and as man, Jesus knew what to expect because He knew the Scriptures (Psalm 22; Isaiah 50:6; 52:13-15; 53:1-12).

 - B. The Bible tells us to expect trials on life’s journey (Psalm 34:19; John 16:33; James 1:2-3; 1 Peter 4:12; 5:10).

 - C. The Bible tells us that we have an adversary who leaves for a season (Luke 4:13; cf. Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8).

 - D. The Bible tells us that in the last days dangerous times will come (2 Timothy 3:1-9).

 - E. The Bible tells us what to expect when God warns, disciplines, and judges a nation (Amos 4:1-13).
 - 1. Expect famine (Amos 4:6).
 - 2. Expect drastic changes in the weather (Amos 4:7-8).
 - 3. Expect damage to the food supply (Amos 4:9; cf. Deuteronomy 11:17; 28:18, 38-40, 42).
 - 4. Expect diseases (Amos 4:10a).
 - 5. Expect wars (Amos 4:10b).
 - 6. Expect destruction of cities by fires, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, tsunamis, and volcanoes (Amos 4:11).
 - 7. Expect everyone in the nation to suffer (Amos 4:6-11; cf. Jeremiah 25:8-11; Lamentations 2:20-22; 4:1-12; Daniel 1:1-7).