

The Benefits of Daily Bible Reading

Intro: We've all seen the writing on a dirty car, "Wash me." Perhaps if God were to write something on most of the Bibles in America it might say, "Read me."

I have been so encouraged by your willingness to accept the challenge to read the Bible daily from year to year. Some of you have been doing that now for many years; and today I want to encourage you to keep on doing.

Reading of the Scriptures is strongly stressed in the Scriptures themselves; and they make clear several things that can be accomplished through reading and meditating upon God's word day by day.

Daily Bible reading plays an important role in producing faith.

Listen to John's statement of purpose for writing his gospel:

Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:30-31)

And Paul's:

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)

What these verses emphasize is the role that spending time with the Scripture can do to produce faith in Jesus and the gospel.

Daily Bible reading plays an important role in maintaining our faith.

God's people have always recognized the value of reading God's word in their public assemblies as a way of maintaining the faith of God's people.

Reading the Scriptures was a prominent part of the synagogue service.
And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. (Luke 4:16)

For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath." (Acts 15:21)

Reading the Scriptures was an important part of the church's assemblies.

Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. (1 Timothy 4:13)

Can you see the wisdom of maintaining faith simply by hearing God's word read again and again? The ancient people of God did.

Daily Bible reading is the first step in gaining personal knowledge of the Scriptures.

No real serious Bible study can take place without first a familiarity with the text of the Bible. Many Bible passages presuppose this truth.

Interestingly, Jesus on two different occasions expressed surprise that God's people did not know what the Scriptures said about a matter:

And He answered and said, "Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh'?" (Matthew 19:4-5)

But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read that which was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living." (Matthew 22:31-32)

Daily Bible reading gives us fresh exposure to old truths we have learned and helps keep them in our minds.

We tend to forget what we do not use. The apostle Peter knew that; and it caused him to write:

Therefore, I shall always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. (2 Peter 1:12)

So we need the refreshers; but every time you read the Bible, you will also see new things you missed in those stories you read long ago!

Daily Bible reading gives us a background for learning from others.

Paul often referenced OT events to draw out a lesson for NT Christians. He presumed that they would know about the examples of OT history.

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. (1 Corinthians 10:11)

I learned years ago that we all need a "frame" upon which to hang the messages we're hearing from preachers and teachers, i.e. some big picture understanding so that we know where information fits into the bigger scheme of things.

Your familiarity with the whole of the Bible story enables you to relate the various passages in God's word to their historical & spiritual situation.

Don't make everybody "spoon feed" you.

This makes it possible to enjoy preaching more, because you are familiar with illustrations and texts from the Bible as a whole.

Daily Bible reading fills in the "gaps" that there may be in our public studies.

As a preacher I really do think of myself as having a great deal of control over the spiritual diet of the congregation, since I do most of the teaching. I often look over my outlines and think about what I've talked about and what I may have missed. I want to do like Paul:

"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. (Acts 20:27)

However a preacher's best efforts or an eldership's best organization of classes will not assure that everything in God's word is covered.

Sermons may deal with needs of the church.

Special studies in Bible classes may neglect significant portions of the word, especially if they are topical.

But you can fill the gaps by your personal daily study.

Daily Bible reading provides the discipline for daily meditation and prayer that leads to renewed passion for God.

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-3)

Reading the word will give us the thoughts for meditation about God and about ourselves. Thus, it lays the groundwork for effective prayer and renewed passion for God.

Reading the scripture has played a great role in spiritual revival.

Cf. Ez. 8:1-8 where God's people their return from captivity are gathered together and Ezra the priest is reading God's law to them and giving the sense--a marvelous sight

Conclusion: By daily reading we experience the full benefits that the Scriptures were intended to give us.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The Scriptures are the most important document we possess on earth. You'll never regret the decision and the effort you spend in reading the Bible day by day. Your knowledge will grow; your faith will grow; your ability to teach will grow; your life will be enriched as you learn God's will for your life.