

# Reading The Bible

Charles C. Pugh III



One of the great needs of human beings is to do that of which Isaiah spoke in the following: "Seek ye out of the book of the Lord 34:16). The man of Ethiopia to whom Philip unfolded the beautiful stc 8:35) was a Bible reader. On his way home from Jerusalem where he ship (Acts 8:27) he, sitting in his chariot, read Isaiah the prophet (A everywhere need to be encouraged to read their Bibles.

John Quincy Adams, the sixth President of the United States, said:

*So great is my veneration for the Bible that the earlier my children begin to read it, the more confident will be my hope that they will prove useful citizens of their country and respectable members of society. I have made it a practice to read it through once every year.*

Reading is one of life's great blessings; and reading the Bible, when done with the right motives, results in great blessings. God desires that we be "not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17). When we read the Bible we can come to such understanding. Paul reminded the Ephesians that "when ye read, ye may understand..." (Ephesians 3:4). God wants us to understand when we read the Bible. Jesus said, "Who readeth, let him understand" (Matthew 24:15).

One of the reasons people sometimes misunderstand the Bible when they read it is because they read it for the wrong reason. Some of our older preachers used to illustrate it this way. They would say a man may enter a garden for three purposes: First, to learn the art of gardening; second, for pleasure, and third, to gather fruit. We should enter the wonderful garden of God's revelation (the Bible) that we might gather the precious fruit from its vines, limbs, and branches, and then partake of this spiritual food to the saving of our soul (cf. Job 23:12; Jeremiah 15:16; Matthew 4:4; James 1:21-22; 1 Peter 2:2). However, instead of reading from this motivation, some read with those motives described in the following:

*One reads with father's specks upon his head and sees the things just as his father said!  
Some read to prove a pre-adopted creed, hence, understanding but little what they read;  
For every passage in the Book they bend to make it suit that all important end!  
So many people in these latter days have read the Bible in so many ways,  
That few can tell which system is the best, for every part contradicts the rest!  
But read it prayerfully, and you will see, although men contradict, God's word agrees!*

The Bible is light to direct us, food to support us, and comfort to cheer us. We need to read it to be wise, believe it to be right, and practice it to be holy.

**"SEEK YE OUT OF THE BOOK . . . AND READ!"**

*If your troubles are deep seated and long standing, try kneeling.*

## News & Notes

**SYMPATHY:** To Rosie Moore at the recent passing of an uncle. God bless and comfort the family at this time.

**ELDERS TO SPEAK:** Tonight. Be present as they review the past year and tell us of the plans for the church here in 2007.

**SINGING:** Tonight following the evening service.

**CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All the ladies are invited to participate.

**PANTRY:** Spaghetti and sauce.

**LADIES WORK DAY:** Sat., Feb. 17th, 9:00 a.m. at the Multipurpose Bldg.

**SICK & SHUT-IN:** CITY HOSPITAL: Ruth McMahan. TRINITY WEST, STEUBENVILLE: Karen Rice. AT HOME: Geraldine Barrett, Mary Beth Robinson, Lloyd Cowdery, Mabel Sprout, Virginia Rickerd, Bette Gentry, Fred & Jean Larrimore, Sr., Fred Larrimore, Jr., Cheryl Stackpole, George & Betty Dunn (Pat Wright's parents). NURSING HOMES: Fox: Ray Baker. Calcutta Health Care: Glenn Beagle, Virginia Clutter (sister-in-law of Eva Stefl). Nentwick: Ruby Kenny. Rivendale: Ione Asher. Weir-ton Geriatric Center: Edna McKitrick, Ila Plum.

### COMMON COURTESY

General Robert E. Lee was a southern gentleman. On one occasion he was seated at the rear of a crowded train, filled mostly by soldiers. A poorly dressed woman entered the coach and walked all the way from the front to the back. When she neared him, Lee immediately stood and gave her his seat. Every soldier in the car then stood to give the General a seat, which he refused. He would not accept courtesy which had been denied a poor woman.

Courtesy demands that we show respect for those older and wiser than ourselves. "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man." (Lev. 19:32). Inspiration again instructs, "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder." (1 Peter 5:5).

Courtesy demands that we show appreciation for every act of kindness done in our behalf or in behalf of those we love. Someone has said, "Appreciation is the oil that keeps the machinery of human relations running smoothly."

Courtesy demands that we love our neighbors as ourselves. (Matt. 22:39). Give heed to the Master's instruction: "Therefore all things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." (Matt. 7:12).

Courtesy demands that we do not speak bad of someone behind his back. Our world is ever full of "tattlers and busybodies" who speak "things they ought not." (1 Tim. 5:11). For this reason, the axiom stating, "Never say anything behind one's back that you wouldn't say to his face" is a good one. - Dalton Key, via *The World Evangelist*

### LEAVE IT WITH HIM

The little sharp vexations;  
The briars that catch and fret.  
Why not take all to the Helper  
Who has never failed us yet?  
Tell Him about the heartaches  
Tell Him the burdens, too.  
Tell Him the baffled purpose  
When we scarce know what to do;  
Then, leaving to Him our weakness  
He surely will see us through.