

WHAT TO DO WITH THE BIBLE

Elders, preachers, teachers, parents, and other concerned Christians frequently encourage us to read our Bibles regularly. Why? What should we do with what we read? Let's take some pointers from Psalm 119:

Learn it. "Give me understanding that I may learn your commandments" (v. 73). Understanding God's word takes study, prayer, and determination. You will not grasp everything the first time you read it. Read passages over and over; look at similar passages; ask questions, pray for wisdom.

Hope in it. "Those who fear you will be glad when they see me, because I have hoped in your word" (v. 74). Hope is the combination of strong desire and confident expectation. We certainly desire the good things God has promised, and we are confident that we will receive them, not because we are perfect, but because God is faithful. He keeps His word.

Affirm it. "I know, O Lord, that your judgments are right" (v. 75). God's word is not to be strained through the filter of our personal desires or opinions. If God and I disagree on something, guess who needs to change!

Delight in it. "For your law is my delight" (v. 77). How sad that Bible reading and study would ever be boring or tedious! What could be more delightful to a child of God than to read the words of God Himself?

Meditate on it. "But I will meditate on your precepts" (v. 78). Meditation is simply deliberate and prolonged thought; it is not some strange mystical alteration of consciousness. What occupies your mind as you go through the day? Be sure to take time each day to reflect and consider what God has said in His word.

Know it. "Let those who fear you turn to me, those who know your testimonies (v. 79). Mathematicians know math; scientists know science; and Christians certainly ought to know the Scriptures! Such knowledge will help you resist temptation and be able to teach others.

Do it. "Let my heart be blameless regarding your statutes, that I may not be ashamed (v. 80). Sin is the only thing that can keep the heart from being blameless. Doing what is contrary to God's word is sin (1 John 3:4; 5:17), but so is failure to do what is right (James 4:17). God's word tells us how to be saved by His grace and how to live so as to please Him.

May I invite and encourage you to read your Bible!

- Joe Slater, Justin, TX (East Hill News, East Hill Church Of Christ, Pulaski, TN) -

"The Little Bible"

*"For God
so loved
the world,
that he gave
his only begotten Son,
that
whosoever
believeth in him
should not perish,
but have
everlasting life."
- John 3:16 -*

Because this verse is so comprehensive in scope, it has been called "the Little Bible," also "the golden text of the Bible." According to a well-known preacher of the nineteenth century, in this verse we have a **fountain**, a **stream**, a **dipper** and a **drink**.

The **fountain** is God's great love — "God so loved the world."
The **stream** flowing from the fountain is God's gift — "He gave his only begotten Son."

The **dipper** is — "whosoever believeth" or obeyeth.

The **drink** is — "eternal life."

- Author Unknown -
The Minister's Monthly

The gospel is not ours to hoard, but to share.

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: At the recent passing of Walter Allen III, son of Kim Powell and grandson of Mickie Barrett. God bless and comfort these in their sorrow.

BIRTHDAYS MISSED ON CALENDAR: Daniel Mehlmauer (Jan. 5); Amanda Brandenburg (Jan. 15). Sorry for the omissions.

NEW CONVERT CLASS: Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class in Room 406. This class is for those who were baptized in the last three years.

TO HAVE SURGERY: David Steff is scheduled to have surgery this Tuesday, Jan. 23rd at University Hospitals, Urology Institute, 11100 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106. He will be there for a few days. Remember him in prayer.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All the ladies are invited and urged to help in this good work.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES: Resumes this Tuesday, Jan. 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Men should attend this good class.

PANTRY: Noodles and Tuna fish.

99th BIRTHDAY: Gladys Pryor (former member here) will celebrate her 99th birthday on Feb. 1st. Her address: Consulate Health Care of Orange Park, 1215 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073. She would appreciate cards.

SICK & SHUT-IN: CARRIAGE INN, WINTERSVILLE: Mary Jane Bowers. *At Home:* Bill & Carol Stillwell, Russell Martin, Mary Helen Riley, Linda Wiersbicki, Fred Larrimore, Blondenia Orr, Betty Henthorne, Doris Dunham, Tom Wells (ex-husband of Claudette Miller). **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Nelson. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller, Jim Mick. **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Ella Beagle. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

Do Not Let Something Small Get You

Gary Colley

On the slopes of Long's Peak in Colorado lies the ruins of a giant tree. It had stood there for four hundred years. It had been struck by lightning fourteen times. The storms of the years had not broken it over. It had resisted all of nature's blows, but now it lay in ruins.

A small beetle had entered into the tree. The beetle had brought his little friends with him. The insect was so small that a man could crush it between his thumb and forefinger — yet with the help of his companions, it felled the forest giant.

Some men can withstand the "giant" temptations. They will not succumb to the so-called "big" sins, but they will yield time and time again to the little "beetle" sins. Wrong attitudes, resentments, anger, pettiness, worry, fear, hostility and an unfor-giving temper. All of these are the termites of the soul.

- Beacon, Bellevue Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

A Preacher And A Farmer

A preacher said to a farmer: "Do you belong to the Christian family?"

FARMER: "No, they live two farms down."

PREACHER: "I mean are you lost?"

FARMER: "No, I've been here thirty years."

PREACHER: "I mean are you ready for the Judgment Day?"

FARMER: "When is it?"

PREACHER: "It could be tomorrow, or even today."

FARMER: "Well, when you find out for sure when it is, let me know. My wife will probably want to go."

- Beacon, Bellevue Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

"... Surely these are poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the Lord, nor the judgment of their God."

- Jeremiah 5:4 -

