

## ~Reminders for your Bible Reading~

- Read your Bible in a variety of ways
  - Read once through in a year, four times through in a year, or once through every 10 years
  - Read fast: Read to be exposed to the whole counsel of God. Read multiple chapters at a time. Read entire books in one sitting (time varies from as little as 2 minutes in 2 John to as much as 4+ hours Jeremiah).
  - Read slow: Read to study and dig deeper. Get tools and study particular areas of interest. Linger over smaller portions of Scripture.
  - Read one book over and over for a set period of time
  - Read on an easily repeatable schedule. For example: 1 Proverb per day, 1 Psalm per day, or 1 Chapter from both the OT & NT each day.
- Read your Bible during the busyness and mess of real life and avoid holding out for the perfect ‘quiet time’ environment. There is nothing wrong with habits and creature comforts that aid your personal time in the Word—a favorite chair, coffee shop, pen, or journal, but beware of the tendency to make your reading dependent on such things.
- Read your Bible with proper expectations
  - Don’t expect God to magically “zap” you with understanding—read with a sound theology of illumination. The Holy Spirit enables us to accept the teaching of the Word of God and to be conformed to God’s revealed will. However, the Lord’s enablement does not guarantee perfect interpretation. Nor does understanding occur apart from the ordinary means of effort in the study of Scripture.
  - Don’t expect every text of Scripture to be applied as readily as you may like—read with a sound hermeneutic. There is a difference between the universal principle that God intended to communicate in any given passage and the specific way that principle may implicate you and apply to your life. All of Scripture is profitable and the Bible contains everything a Christian needs to walk with the Lord; however, it does not contain specific answers to every personal situation we face and every passage does not equally apply to every aspect of our lives.
  - Don’t expect your Bible reading to serve as a substitute for preaching—read with a sound theology of preaching. Expository preaching and your Bible reading work together. For example, you learn how to read your Bible by listening to Scripture being taught. Beware of thinking that you don’t need to prepare for, listen to, and mediate on preaching because you read your Bible regularly. Mediating on sermons and personal Bible reading should each have a place in your devotional life.