

DAILY BIBLE READING (I)

Why We Need To Make It A Habit

INTRODUCTION

- A. John Quincy Adams, (sixth president) once 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 for many years made it a practice to read through the Bible once every year."
- B. George Muller, who established orphanages throughout England, said: "I believe that the one chief reason that I have been kept in happy useful service is that I have been a lover of Holy Scripture. It has been my habit to read the Bible through four times a year; in a prayerful spirit, to apply it to my heart, and practice what I find there. I have been for sixty-nine years a happy man; happy, happy, happy."
- C. Both of these spoke of the habit of Bible reading, a habit which many great people in the past engaged in regularly
 1. Many people still do so today, but I fear if truth were known, fewer and fewer people have developed habit of daily Bible reading
 2. Many have probably never read N T from beginning to end and Even fewer have ever read the entire O T
- D. And yet, I agree with: Patrick Henry (remember: "give me liberty or give me death, to the Virginia Convention), who said: "The Bible is worth more than all other books which have ever been printed." and Charles Dickens, who wrote: "The New Testament is the very best book that ever was or will be known in the world."
- E. Therefore, objective in this lesson and one to follow is to encourage every person to develop the habit of daily bible reading!
- F. Why is it important to develop habit of daily Bible reading

DISCUSSION:

I. POWER OF GOD'S WORD TO SAVE Jas 1:21

- A. God's word saves us by producing faith Rom 10:17
 1. Without faith impossible to please God Heb 11:6
 2. Without faith in Jesus we can't be saved Jhn 8:24
 3. Word written to produce saving faith Jhn 20:30-31
- B. Saves by causing us to be "born again" 1Pet 1:22-23
 1. Jesus stressed necessity of born again Jhn 3:3-5
 2. Rebirth involving water & Spirit comes when one has received "incorruptible seed" Lk 8:11 gospel 1Pet 1: 23-25; Jas 1:18
- C. God's word saves by keeping us saved Acts 20:29-32

1. Paul frequently spoke of this value of God's Word (especially of O. T.) 1Cor 10:11-12; 2Tim 3:14-17
2. Lack of Word destroys God's people Hos 4:6

II. POWER OF GOD'S WORD TO COMFORT Rom 15:4

- A. Comforts us through the "hope" it gives Acts 26:6
 1. Paul speaks in this context of the Old Testament
 2. It provides assurance of our hope because it tells how God always keeps His promises
- B. Comforts us through "happiness" it gives Psa 1:1-3
 1. Through the stability and nourishment it provides
 2. Note: this happiness comes to one engaged in daily Bible reading! ("day and night")
- C. Comforts us through the "peace" it gives Psa 119:165
 1. With inner peace, nothing causes to stumble Psa 119:92-93
 2. As Robert E. Lee said: "In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength."
- D. More could be said about value of God's Word, but look at another reason for habit of daily Bible reading

III. WE ARE CREATURES OF HABIT AND TIME

- A. As creatures of habit we have good or bad habits
 1. By not develop GOOD habit of daily Bible reading
 2. Develop BAD habit of NOT reading the Bible daily!
- B. As creatures of time we are subject to limitations of time & place on us as illustrated by James, our time on earth is brief Jas 4:14
- C. As creatures of both if we do not develop GOOD habit of daily Bible reading, our time on this earth will one day catch up with us
 1. Will have spent our lives without utilizing the benefits provided by daily reading of God's Word
 2. Many will have to face God having never read through His Word even ONCE!

CONCLUSION

- A. This lesson presented close to the end of another year. Did I / you develop the habit this year?
- B. If not, see how time passed you by, and you have yet to read the Word upon which your salvation depends!
- C. As another year is about to begin, and resolutions will be made, let's make daily Bible reading one of the top resolutions on your list, so at the end of next year things will be different
- D. In next lesson, suggestions will be offered on HOW to make DAILY BIBLE READING a habit

(From Mark Copeland - revised by JLLH)