

How [We] Should Read the Bible (2022.01.23 Sabbath School Class)

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An overview and application of Joel Beeke's booklet, "How Should Teens Read the Bible," in the RHB series, "Cultivating Biblical Godliness."

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Let's start with prayer. Well, our god, we do come to you today.

We thank you that, you are our God, that you are high and mighty and lifted up. We praise you. We stole you. We declare that. You have ultimate value in and of yourself and it's of great benefit to us as well or be, thank you for your word for the Holy Scriptures.

The Holy Bible that you have given to us and is very clear and true communication to us about yourself and about creation, and about relationships and indeed all things pertaining to life and godliness. And we know that that's, that's an exhaustive list or God. We ask that you'll open our minds, open our ears, open our hearts and be taught by you.

Lord God. I pray that Only truth will will come out and anything that's not that it will be stricken and just not remembered at all. Or did we thank you that we can pray to you and do pray in the name of your only begotten Son, who has our risen and ascended Savior who continues to mediate for us as only he can.

Amen. Okay, just to start. We're going to go to Roman numeral, six. Okay, that wasn't meant to throw you off, but Is this coming through the mic, okay? Roman numeral 6 is regarding teens Now. Pastor Hakeem. Let the cat out of the bag in the hope. Well, herald by saying that this really kind of hidden about teens at all.

It's about if you're if you're a person and you're alive, it's it's for you. Okay? So Roman numeral A under our number A under Roman numeral, six is everything above applies to a teen. Okay, as well as everybody else. B says, If you're a teen although you may not think so you have more time available to you right now than you ever will again, because you're gonna end up maybe going away to school, or you're going to end up eventually, having a job, you're gonna get married, and you're gonna have a family and you're gonna have kids.

And let me tell you the time you have now is is very very much compared to what it will be. Now when you get to be an old guy in your retired and you don't have to go to a job every day and you're not going to school anymore except the one you create for yourself.

Maybe you get a few more hours in a day but you find out you're tired. So maybe you sleep longer too. I don't know. But anyway, Roman numeral are not Roman numeral letter C. One thing is, when you're a young person memorization is much easier. So memorize, memorize memorize Rememberization is not the same as meditation, but if you have memorized, you will find your meditation to be easier and something you can do with nothing, but your own brain.

Okay. And number D is not number these, not a number except in hex letter D. If you're a teenager and I'll just decide that team means teen is part of the number of your age. So it really ought to be 10 to 19 but we'll just call it 13 to 19.

So if you subtract 12 years from whatever and Psalm 90, which is a Psalm of Moses, he talks about that. The normative lifespan of a human being is if he says 70 years, 80, if by strength. So, if you take 12 and subtract it from 70, it means you got 58 years to do this.

Now, that means those ought to be good years and you have a long time to do a lot. It doesn't mean wait till the end when it gets a lot harder. It means it just means invest early and it will pay dividends your entire life. Now if you're 19 years old you know you have a mere 51 up against 70 and up against 80 you have 10 10 years longer and and that's normative.

I recently read that in the United States, even after Perez Kovied that the lifespan in the United States is, is 77 a little over 77 now, which is a slight decline over what it is, but to definitely in that range of of 70 to 80 that Moses tells us in Psalm 90.

Okay, we've prayed, we've gone to the end to give you the the preface which is actually the appendix and Roman numeral six. Are there any questions that are just driving you crazy before we start really

Okay, seen In this little booklet, we'll try to follow the outline. There are a bunch of scripture references within the outline pages. Two, three and four of this booklet. The the paper booklet that's are all the scriptures at least. I think it's all there. May be one or two missing and that's just error on my part.

Can you hear me when this thing drops? Okay, then I'm not gonna worry about it or we'll tell somebody to come unplug this thing. Okay. Does this is kind of weird? No, it's not weird. It's just bothersome weird is a different domain, okay? And we're gonna go through the whole book, The whole booklet.

And that is this booklet that some of you may have had and those who didn't it was on the table and you could pick it up, We're going to go through this booklet by Joel Becky. Now in the Hopewell Herald, there was a PDF attached to it and if you print it out in legal paper landscape and then cut it all apart and staple it back together, it looks something like this.

Okay, this is a predecessor to the booklet. The content that's in here is exactly the same as the content in here, but there's more content in here. Okay? And, and it's also been tweaked, not so much by topic as by word choice and sentence structure to be a little more oriented towards teams.

That's the only thing I could really figure out that was oriented towards teens in this book was, you know, a tried to use. I don't know not as hard a words or trendy language or something anyway, but but that didn't really affect the content. So this this came in the email and it's it's actually the content from a Puritan named Richard Grunam.

They're green green ham greenham. However, you pronounce that he lived from 1535 to 1594 and a lot of beakies content comes from Grenham. And in fact, the way I found this was by searching on drilling to see what else I could find of him. Please disregard Reformation and revival Reformation, and revival still exists but Becky's, not part of it anymore.

And not so much because of that, but it's gone. Rather liberal in a bad way, okay? So I would not commend reformation, and revival to you. I would commend the Puritan reform seminary journal that comes out, I think, twice a year now and it's, it's considerably better, but, but this is what's out there, okay?

So we're just really going to try to follow the book. All the other thing is In this, booklet pages 16b through 22A, meaning the bottom half to the top. Half of those pages are about how to study the Bible. You can't be taught and you can't learn how to study the Bible in five pages.

So, you know, that's, that's a whole Sunday or maybe a whole array of Sunday's to get to that. And so we'll, we'll leave that for another time. And just ignore those parts, unless you have questions as we go. Okay? So Roman numeral, one reading the Bible is hard work, but it's really really worse that hard work that you invest.

Proverbs 2 says my son, if you receive my words and treasure my commands within you so that you incline your heart to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding. Yes, if you cry out for discernment, if you lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver and search for her, as, for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

There's a lot of things there that say, you have to be an active participant in this in that you have to receive, you have to treasure. You have to incline, you have to apply. You have to cry out. You have to lift up your voice. You have to seek her a silver.

I don't know if you've ever watched the documentary on how silver is mine in, ain't easy. And so that's it's a very good example aspects that make the Bible hard work. One is just that it's kind of a long book and it is a book of books. So there are God is the author of all of it, as he has moved, men prophets to write, but there are a whole array of human authors that God has moved in that way.

And there are 66 books 39 and what we call the Old Testament, in 27, in the New Testament, the book is arranged so that about or not a range, but it happens to be that there are about 75% of it, three-fourths is Old Testament about the remaining 1/4 is is New Testament When you pick up your Bible and look at it, even if you know, have a study Bible dependent upon the typeface, it's probably going to be between close to a thousand pages and maybe even over 2,000 pages long.

That's a pretty big book. That's probably the largest book in pages that most of us have unless you happen to have an unabridged dictionary. Does anybody have an under dictionary of English doesn't matter? You know, really have to answer. I I happen to have one. I don't ever use it because it's too big because it's five inches thick, you know, 12 inches tall and deep and all that stuff.

I got that for my 12th birthday. Can you believe that a 12 year old would asked for an unabridged

dictionary? I did it actually got it. So anyway it's a big book and it has a lot of different. There's so in a human sense, it's like an anthology meaning.

It's a collection of writings of many authors but there's a overarching author. Who is good? Who is God, he's good too. One of the challenges that makes it hard work is that some parts are difficult to understand, not everything is equally understandable as you as you move across across the scriptures The Apostle Peter in second Peter chapter 3 verses 15 and 16 attest to that.

He talks about the writings, He was aware of that. The apostle Paul had written and he even said, you know, there's some parts of those that are difficult for me to understand and Peter was an apostle so it's not it's shouldn't be a surprise to us that there are parts of this of the scriptures that are difficult to understand.

But, you know, that's part of inclining, your ear. It's part of digging it out, like you dig silver and it's it's just a part of the hard work.

It's hard work, but it's worth it, you know, we can look at it, we could say this, book's you, it may seem irrelevant. I think it probably doesn't seem that way to probably hardly anyone in this room, but in our common culture, it is pretty irrelevant to to the vast majority.

I would say of our culture, it's not really a relevant, they just treat it. That is it as if it's irrelevant. Yes. Well, yeah, you could probably even use this book to show that. So anyway, but if you consider 2nd, Timothy 3:15, that's, and you can turn to the scripture it because we're going to try to move quick.

But this says that, you know, this book is, what's you can read and be preached from it has the information, the content, the message from God, that's able to make you wise, and to salvation. And in terms of the human, being your salvation and where you spend, eternity is pretty important.

It's probably not the most important thing on the face of the earth because the glory of God would be that but maybe it's number two or something. Okay. So any questions on Roman numeral, one Roman numeral two? Why read the Bible Number one? It's because it's the Word of God.

All scripture is inspired by God and His profitable for depends on your version. Doesn't it all means the same doctor reproof, correction, instruction. And righteousness that the man or God may be complete thoroughly equipped for every good work. All of this scripture is New King James Version. By the way.

One of the things since this is the Word of God, the length that we look at, as making it hard and difficult, and a challenge is actually one of its most amazing blessings in that. It it's a whole bunch of words precisely chosen put into sentences having a structure and a grammar and and paragraphs and all that stuff in his is logically and cogently presented to us for for our great, our great benefit.

It's the Word of God. It is God, speaking primarily to his people and we can see that in at the. Beginning of Hebrews in chapter chapter 1, verses one and two, it talks about these last days. He spoken to us through his son, but his son is the living word of God as well, and is absolutely consistent is life in the word.

They're consistent with with one another.

Okay, and I say, primarily to his people and the reason I stay that is that unless God is doing a work in your heart, and your heart, meaning your whole person, your mind, your everything that is you unless God is doing a work, there has started dragging. You suit to himself as John 6:44 would say, I think it says drawing, but it really means drag.

Okay. Which means that you could refuse it if you had to, but you don't have to and, and

And so it's primarily written to his people. That's one of the things that, you know, you you deal with somebody and you try to do apologetics, it's very difficult God's. The only one who can really convince anybody into the kingdom of heaven. Anyway, doesn't mean we shouldn't try and we shouldn't proclaim the truth and that kind of thing, but don't be disappointed.

If your own works, are not the thing that that causes this person to be moved over into the kingdom of God. The kingdom of of heaven, We read the Bible because the Bible is given for our example. But part of that example, is the life of Jesus Christ. We can see in it that there are places where he read it publicly, okay, and it talks about that he was handed a scroll and he would read the scriptures publicly when he went into the synagogues.

Jesus frequently quoted scriptures, that that were written up to that point, which would be the Old Testament and he if you remember recall the temptation, when the devil Satan was tempting him, he

used the scriptures to as the response and the reputation of every temptation and challenge that that Satan put before him.

So, you know, he did pretty good. He must have had it all memorized, you think So?

The fact that Jesus quotes, many things are many scriptures from many what we call books. And in fact, what the books that Jesus quotes from are one facet of canonicity canonicity means the books that are included in the Bible if you will and that's not a work of man that's a work of God for what's included.

You know some some books may have some additional books that are called they're apocryphal and those are not considered God-inspired. That doesn't mean they're horrible, they're just not on the same level as as inspired Scripture and inspired Scripture in the canon are are the same thing. And Jesus quoting from a book of the Old Testament is one proof.

If Jesus accepted it, then we can say it must be a good book. Mr. Wrenchler to say. So if someone says to you Well how do you know this got? But how we respond, Well, one of the ways would be the Jesus quotes. It one of the ways would be another way would be that all of the scriptures of are in a line with what you can actually see as they define creation.

All of the scriptures are in line with what you can really see about the nature of people. All of the scriptures are in line with what's required for all of our various human relationships. Well, you know, whether that's friends, whether that's husband and wife, whether that's parents and children.

Whether that's Business owner employee, all of those things are covered. So I think just the practical statements of stuff that aligns with reality is is part of the, I guess you would call that an apologetic for the scriptures. So Do you have more? Okay, We read the Bible because it's true.

John 17:17 says, thy word is truth. We also know from numbers 23, 19, that God can't lie starts out. God is not a man that he should lie, okay, and I'll lose it because I memorized it in something else and I've read too many other versions since then So he's not a son of man that he should repent.

Has he said in willy not do it or as he spoken and will he not make it good? So he's, he's not a, he doesn't lie. He does. He speaks truth, and he does truth. And then Titus, one two says, I think one through three is here, But I think verse 2 is according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth, which accords with godliness, but you can read that.

Okay? So and and the scriptures are their own best witness when you look across all of the scriptures and begin to read all of it and begin. You begin to see relationship of one book to another and you begin to see where the big question and lack of understanding you had in one area.

Oh, by the way, just happens to be answered very well in another area of the scripture. But you know what, you, oftentimes, you can't use those little cross-references that are on the edges or in the middle column, or at the bottom of the page. You have to read the whole book to see those things and you probably have to read it more than once to see those that.

Okay and pastors and elders and teachers can help you with all of that. But that's them. Doing the digging for the silver. Not you doing the digging for the silver. Okay, its own best wisdom. It's it's full of wisdom. Second. Peter 1:3 says that, it contains everything that pertains to life and godliness.

Well my question would be if it's everything that pertains to life and godliness is in the scriptures. So what's not included in that and I I haven't come up with anything yet. So if you do send me an email, okay? Okay, It's full of wisdom. We've already covered that.

It's able to make one wise unto salvation. I mean, the preaching the teaching of the Scriptures is what is part of at what God uses to drag people to himself? Has done 6:44 says Psalm. 33:11 says the Council of the Lord stands forever. So it's eternal and the plans of his heart to all generations.

So his counsel stands forever, If you will, his plans, or his counsel are for all people, in all things as well, which lines up pretty well with the Peter verse that we quoted as well. So council for daily living and just some of the things that the scriptures can be.

They can be brought to bear but but they bear and they're bringing to bear is really just us happening to uncover them. They, they already were bearing that way. Anyway, so vocation meaning, what you do in life, you're trade, you're, you're employment your your life, your life skills, that kind of things, things that people in some contexts might call secular work.

Although there's not really any such thing. It's just work that God has given you, which makes it not secular but that would be vocation. It has counsel regarding amusements and I say or not. And the reason I say that is Philippians 4:8 in the King James it says think on these things and it gives you a whole list in the New King James, it says, in meditate on these things.

Well thinking in meditating or highly related to to one another that it says it says think. And the reason I put amusements in there is because what does the prefix a or? Ah mean it means not. What does muse mean? It means thick. So the contrast here is non-thinking mind versus think on these things.

Okay? So counsel for daily living, a supplied to education or learning. Romans tells us that the scriptures and it's really referring I think to the Old Testament but it would apply to the New Testament as well. It's just in the context they didn't have the New Testament yet but it's they are the very Oracles of God they're given they're given to Natch National Israel but therefore our benefit and we have them and they're in our Bible.

So they're they're very oracles, they're the very statements, the very truth, the very pronouncements of of God. What time is it? I got about 10. Romans 15:4 says that the scriptures are here for our learning Council for daily living regarding family. Meaning how to live in a family marriage children and I've listed Ephesians 5:15 through Ephesians 6:4, you know?

And it covers the whole thing. And it, all of those relationships of, of husband wife, father mother children and gives instruction. It actually goes on to speak of things in the workplace, as well, but I just listed the things in regard to family, It speaks of personal associations. Proverbs verse 1 versus 10 and 15 talks about my son, if sinners entice you don't consent, My son, do not walk in the way with them.

Keep your foot from their path. Now, that doesn't mean that you can't rub shoulders with the heathen, the unsaved. I mean, how else you couldn't live life if you do that. But we're talking about, who are our life influencers. If you will, those who you have closer association, you need to be careful about those.

The scriptures are full of positive examples. Probably, one of the best in the longest would be Hebrews chapter 11, Some people call it the, you know, the, it's the face chapter. It's the Hall of Fame of those who lived by faith and it lists many, many, by name and it lists a whole bunch of others that aren't listed by name.

But we can kind of figure out from what it's saying. Like, you know, these were, you know, I can't remember the exact thing but it's like they walked in the furnace. Well, we know who those guys work. Okay. They and and such. So There are positive examples and the scriptures are given for our example.

You know, example is something that you look at you hear about and you evaluate and you do and you value the scriptures as such that you ought to do in a positive sample. But there are negative examples, too. If you read through and manage to get through especially first and second chronicles, you're going to find out that there is no such thing as a good king in the Northern Kingdom, okay?

Which means all of them are bad examples. So don't do what they did, okay? And you can learn a lot from the negative example, just don't do what they do. You know, you can read in there about Jezebel, you know, You don't want to do what Jezebel does either.

Not only did she whisper in the ear of her husband Things that were evil to do, you know? But you don't want to end up like her too, that, you know, all that's left is her hands. So because the dogs ate the rest of it. So, okay, New Testament, Ananias Sapphira, the people that Paul listed in some of the epistles as to watch out for this guy.

You know, this this is a, this is a bad guy. So there are several that are listed in there. Okay, practical helps for reading the Bible. First is reading the Bible. It's God's words. So it's his communication to you as you read it and you need to think about reading reading and hearing are very related.

Hearing is when someone else is speaking, but when you're reading, you're hearing your own mind. So reading is a form of hearing and you're hearing God. When, when you read his words and that's an aspect of communion, and that communion with God, that relationship with him, that personal relationship, because He's personal, and we're personal, and person's communicate some better than others him perfectly.

So It is, it is it is that Reading the Bible is we don't read the Bible just to check all the little boxes on our Bible reading plan because that's not the pursuit. Now, sometimes that Bible

reading plan and checking the boxes can help with your diligence, but that's not the objective.

The objective is hearing God. It's communing with God. Okay. And we'll get a little deeper here and it goes the other way at least to some degree as well, meaning communication back to him. I like when if you read Philipians chapter 3 starting in verse 10, you know, where you can read Paul and it's really it's in here.

Just got to find it.

That I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings being conformed to his death, You know, Paula's brain that I may know him. That's part of that, What Paul knows him, but he wants to know him more and more. In the way we do that is by reading the scriptures and by responding to those scriptures that that's one way.

That is a way. That is what's the word a means? That is a tool a technique. It's more that a technique. It's well it's God's underscore technique if you will. So commit to a time and buy a time to read the Bible. I mean, a start time, but I also mean a duration.

Okay. And that that obviously could be different for everybody but the other thing could be that it may not be a time. It may be that your day is more like a sequence. That doesn't necessarily hit. Exactly at nine o'clock. Some days that thing you do every day in this sequence might be at seven, it might be at eight, it might be at nine.

It might be at 10. So it could be that it's not a time but it's where it fits in the sequence. And what we're really saying is you're trying to develop a godly habit of of reading the scriptures and communing with God every day. But so, considering considering the time is important.

Find a regular place. The regular place is we don't watch a whole lot of TV in our house, but we do happen to have one and we stream some things. And what I've noticed about myself is when I go to a certain place and it's on the end of a couch, and I put my legs up over the arm and D has to put a towel down so that I don't get her her seat dirty with my boots because I'm not taking my boots off just to do this, the boots go on in the morning and often night and that's just how it is.

But anyway, when I get in that position, it means It's either time to eat snacks or watch the screen. So, if you don't get in that position, You don't watch the screen and you don't eat snacks and those are good things, okay? And for my, for my scripture reading, it's, there's a desk-like table in my office.

I have two two desks in my office and one of them is pretty much the scripture reading table desk, okay? And and the problem with it is, there's enough different copies of the Bible that you can have to clear things off to get to the one that you really want to read, but it has good lighting and and all that stuff.

So find a good place and a regular place. We may cover that later but part of that is a place that is as much as you can make. It devoid of interruptions If it's possible or set your set. Your phone on stun instead of alert? Okay, turn it off.

You know, but we say where we have this sense of urgency that we have to respond to the text message of the phone call right now, and I'm old enough that I can remember when your phone stayed home on the wall, okay? Or on the desk. And and then there was this miracle thing called it answering machine.

But before that, there wasn't even that. And and now we carry these things around, so that we're constantly at somebody else's will to be interrupted. So you can, you can drive down the interruptions. Just just by planning things like that. Find a regular price, find or develop a personal reading plan.

Now, your personal reading plan to some degree. May be also be part of a family reading plan. There's a plan that many of us have used, occasionally, or maybe for years. How do you say it machine machining? I don't know. M, {apostrophe} c, h, e, y, n e. However, you pronounce that Scottish.

So, he has a plan that, you know, what's been out there for more than a hundred years and you go through the New Testament once and New Testament. And I think Psalms twice in a course of a year, you have four readings, two are considered personal, or private, and two are family.

You don't have to use it that way but I'm just saying there can be a very valuable intersection of family and personal but we ought not, ignore either for the other We need to do both, okay?

So find the develop a plan. If you search, please don't use. Google. Use, duck, duck. Go or use Metager? Or you Swiss cows or something like that. You can search on Bible reading plan and you'll

be inundated with possibilities one. That usually source to the top is 70 different Bible, reading plans which you know when it takes like a year to figure out which one of the 70, you'd really want to use.

But anyway, there are a bunch out there. You will often find that there are some, you can't stand. There's some that you have an affinity for and there's some that I like that style but I sure wish it was this way so you tweak it to be your own.

Okay, so you do that but it's a plan because yet a plan helps you to in an orderly way, read all of the Bible not just the parts that you like or that are easy. Does anybody know what the first 10 chapters of First Chronicles is, Huh? It's genealogy.

Yeah, and it's a genealogy of words that are non impossible to the average English speaker to speak or to read understand but but it's 10 chapters of that stuff. Now you read that anyway, okay? And if you find it difficult, maybe you find an audio recorded of of it and you listen to it and maybe you read it as you listen to it.

It helps drag you through it. And after you do that enough times, you begin to love genealogies. Okay. You said, why are the genealogies? How many genealogies are there in the New Testament? One another two, I think, but they're associated with the birth of Christ, right? I mean, in their one, in Luke and one in Matthew.

But anyway, I mean you could there before the birth of Christ, you could almost call them Old Testament, stuff genealogies. That the whole point of the genealogies is they prove who Jesus is, where he came from, who his people are, okay? We don't need that in the New Testament.

So you don't see those once. Jesus is born. The genealogies are kind of well you get in the family in a different way, right? Okay.

I wrote this so you could just read it and be okay Approach with reverence Psalm 138:2 says that God has magnified his word above his name. Well think about the significance of that. What that ought to mean for us if God is magnified, His Word above his name and then we could, we could go over to Philippians 2:10, it's Philippians 2:10, says that the name of Jesus is above every name, says that every knee is going to bow to that name.

Well, that's a pretty high name. So you have a pretty high name and God is magnified. His word above that. I shouldn't say pretty high. It's as high in the name, as you can get. It is word is even is even higher than that. I heard an example. One time of it's like God wrote a check and the Word of God is the check.

And so you write all the stuff on a check. And where do you put your name at the bottom? And I'll let other stuff is a bug, your name. So, an example.

Approach with faith in Christ always having him in view because the subject matter of the entire Scriptures and you begin to get this more and more, you can be told this but to begin to get it more and more. The more you read the scriptures and you more, where you read, all of the scriptures that the scriptures, the purpose, the subject really is The only begotten Son of God and the work that the Old Testament looks forward to forward to, and that the New Testament documents, and then attests to after.

After the fact approach with this sincere desire for God to teach you someone 19:18, Open my eyes that I may see wondrous things from your law. Well we're there I don't know if we're going to touch on it. The Psalm 119 is, you know, like the Word of God Psalm, it's the longest psalm in the entire Bible.

It's got a hundred and seventy six verses, it's acrostic, it's got 22 octets or set of eight verses, and every verse mentions, the Word of God in some way, the word is mentioned. It won't typically say the word of God. It'll say law precepts. You know, there's I think there's 13 14 15 different words but they're all effectively synonyms for the word of God.

And I've only ever found one verse and maybe Pastor Hakeem could fix me on this one. But not verse 1:22 says surety and it doesn't that doesn't seem to be an exact synonym for the word but you know what, you can go to Hebrews 7:22 and it says that Jesus is our surety.

So I decided the Word of God was really in Psalm no 119:122 because Hebrews 7:22 says it is, okay? So that's how you could paint back and forth with scriptures. Okay, If I'm a heretic, just take me aside afterwards, right? So be diligent or persistent. Be wise. The pace in your plan.

Don't bite off more than you can chew. Okay. A lot of plans are through the Bible in one year. That's great. Some plans are through the Bible. In two years, some plans are through the Bible in three years. Okay? If it gets me on that, I kind of, it's like, we remember what you started, but,

but there are a lot of plans don't bite off more than you can chew.

Some plans are quarterly plans, okay? So again, it's what. What will, What is good for you and what not? Not what will fit but what you can clearly with just with some stretch fit into your schedule, to do this fit in as a bad choice, but you catch my drift.

So be diligent, be wise, prepare to read and all these happen before you read. What starts next are things that happen after you read Meditation thinking on what you just read. If you can't remember what you just read, you probably had too many interruptions or you read too fast and you need to slow down, okay?

And if you need to slow down, that may need to adjust your plan. But meditation is really thinking rolling over in your head. Now, in our age today, the people out there who talk about meditation and they talk about it in the context of this being called Mindfulness. Well, if you dig into the present day mindfulness, you will soon find out that what what they really mean is mindlessness, okay?

Because it starts with empty your mind. Well, that's not what we're supposed to do. We're supposed to be filling our mind up with the things of God with His scriptures and then meditation is a process, you know, to what rumination is, or what a ruminant is, a ruminant is a cow as a ruminant, they have multi-segmented stomachs and they tend to, they'll They'll eat grass and it'll go down into the first stomach and then you'll see them.

There'll be over sitting down in the shade or if it's cold in the sun and they burp, that stuff back up and they chew the cut. Well, that's the nature of meditation, You get it in you and then you burp it back up and think about it, okay? And you roll it over and over in your head and you keep thinking and you think and you think what does it really say?

And how do I apply that? And that I so those are that's, that's meditation Fellowship. We ought to be able to do this the stuff that you've read in the last week. Those ought to be the subject matter of our conversations that we have during lunch and during our time.

Mr. Before we start the hem sing, we ought to be having these conversations with believers, okay, people who are on the same at least close to the same page that we're on and we could have serious conversations of that way. So fellowship, faith. It's really hearing mixed with faith.

You know, we're not going to hear. We're not going to hear at all, unless we have some confidence. Some faith that's been instilled in us to even want to read this book anyway and and put value on it, Practice practice, says what you've read, what you read you apply, you say, how does it as you meditate?

How does it apply to me? And then you obey it, you do it, you experience it. And then One of the things that happens from that is the more you can do that. The more you in an experiential way. Begin to say see. Oh this works. Okay. And and and that generates an even greater love for God's Word.

And the other thing that it does is that it builds assurance of your salvation that you are indeed a child of God as well. Okay, and then prayer Prayers. The thing that ought to be happening all the time we pray before we pray after we can pray, as we read.

Because as we see these things, it will be, you know, God really drive that home to me or help me to remember this thing or help me to do. Okay, so that those kind of things. So bathing all of it in prayer is a good thing, okay? Trying to hurt the jar of reading the Bible, You can see all those scriptures Job says that says that God's Word was his necessary food, you know, I already given you an example, I think I can look around the room and tell that most of us like to eat, okay?

And Job says that his word is the necessary food. It's not that other stuff. Jesus says, you know, similar things, right? It's it's the Word of God was was his bread, if you will. So, Jeremiah 15:16 talks about that that the word was a joy and it rejoiced, his heart which again hardens the full person Ezekiel says, that this scroll that he had to eat.

It was it was like honey in in sweetness we most of us like honey too. Well probably someone to says to that that it is a delight, someone 19, which was referenced before verse 47 calls, the word of delight 70. A delight 97 says it's his meditation all the day.

Okay, so all the time, this is what he's thinking about what's in the scriptures and then 162, says rejoice. So these are just effects if you will of the word. Some 19 verses 7 through 11. Most of us are probably familiar with with that. And I think it's in here somewhere.

Probably towards the end. It is that the very end, the law of the Lord, is perfect converting the soul, and we can go on. But for time, we won't read all of that, there it is. At the very end,

someone 19 speaks about the word, rejoicing, the heart and that it's sweeter than honey.

And, and the honeycomb, I would encourage you to spend some time in Psalm 119, okay? And if you feel like that's too long, then spend some time in Psalm 19, it's kind of the condensed version of 119, okay? Those those five verses in particular, continuing on the joy of reading the Bible, The Bible can be a real comfort when it when when you die, okay?

Now if it's an instantaneous death, just maybe, maybe not. I don't know that. A lot of a lot of people linger as they die and they're dealing with poor health or disease or these kind of things. And many are fearful of what's next. If one who has invested time in the scriptures.

And as a young paper person, maybe 50 or 60 years, I mean, you need to think about this. The one thing that's assured of all people is that they are going to die unless the Lord comes right, okay? In either case being prepared for that good thing. And you use the scriptures to do that.

That good thing. Okay? Any questions we're way over time. Sorry, not that. Sorry. But Yes, Mr. Ridgeler question, but comment your home talk today. Maybe think of Jonathan Edwards, when he was speaking young people, He told them give God their first fruits. In other words, you know, in both Testament, Everyone was supposed to bring the very best of God but there's never going to be a time in your life and other than your youth when you're going to have your strength you're gonna have your mind, your abilities, and all those things.

And so, while you're young, Take advantage of those things that God has given you naturally. Yes. So that mean you're old. You may have a treasure here. One advertisement. This is a book called, How do you read the Bible and you can emphasize different words. So like how do you read the Bible or how do you read the Bible that kind of thing?

But it's a little booklet by JC Ryle, you know? He was a, an Anglican Bishop or something, and in England and last half of the 1800s. This is, this is an excellent book on reading the Bible. A really, really good. This at the top of page, two of your little handout thing.

Are the links that day? This booklet is available in a PDS. You don't even have to buy it from banner of truth. You can just download it and and read the PDF. If you want. There's slight differences in that the booklet is, you know, 1880s? JC Rio English. No, the booklet is slightly updated English.

Whereas this is JC, Ryals, 1880s or so English, but they are, they are effectively the same thing and I would, I would commend these to you very much. And I would also commend that. Some do we say, we do a Bible study teaching as well, which probably won't fit into the extended 40 minutes that I had Let us pray and we'll move to the chapel.

Oh Lord God, we do thank you. That you are God again. We thank you that you always hear and listen and respond and you respond perfectly Lord God. We, we thank you for those who've gone before us and who've laid down, things have listened to. You have put them together for for our understanding and for our learning or God.

I pray that whatever benefit there may have come from today, that it will sink down within and be applied in the lives of many Lord God again, we thank you that we can pray to you. We do pray in the name of your only begotten Son. Our risen Savior.

Jesus Christ. Amen.