

(W.O.R.S.H.I.P) - Read The Word Daily

*R = Read the Word Daily

On a daily basis, television, movies, public schools, politicians, etc. are all telling us what we should think and what (according to them) is right or wrong. How do we know whether what we hear is correct or not? Simple, we go to the Word of God. Yes, the Bible.

Furthermore, we need guidance in our lives. We have decisions to make. How can we hear from God? One important way that God communicates with us is through His Word.

Indeed, we need to feed on the Word of God. Just like our bodies need physical food daily, we also need to feed daily on the Word of God; otherwise, we will suffer from spiritual malnutrition that will be reflected in every aspect of our lives. God Himself tells us that we need to feed on His Word:

He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.' Matthew 4:4

While not reading the Bible will impact us negatively, reading it has awesome, positive effects on our lives. We can find several promises throughout Scripture about that:

Success:

Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.
Joshua 1:8

Freedom:

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. John 8:32

Free from what? Everything! Childhood trauma, past hurts, false beliefs, fears, lies of the devil, lies of the world.....and so much, much more!

What about reliability of the Bible?

We believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of the living God written by men as they were moved upon and inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is so reliable much has been written about that. Here are just three points:

1)Fulfilled Prophecy

This alone sets the Bible apart from every other religious book. The Bible has hundreds of specific, detailed prophecies written hundreds of years before they came to pass.

2)Manuscript Evidence

A manuscript is a handwritten copy of an ancient document. The Bible is the most vetted document in the history of the world. According to josh.org, we have over 66,000 manuscripts and scrolls of both the Old and New Testament. A quick study on manuscripts from ancient books in existence today will reveal that no other ancient book comes even close to the number of manuscripts on hand as there are for the Bible. It is extremely impressive.

These many manuscripts can be checked against one another for reliable transmission of the text. This confirms that the teaching found within has been the same since it was originally written.

3)Archeological Evidence

For the past 150 years, archeological evidence has been found of many of the Bible's detailed records or various events, customs, persons, cities, nations, and geographical locations. The Bible is so reliable that archeologists often refer to it as a guide when they dig for new findings!

Finally, we will use a tool called S.O.A.P. that will help us in reading the Bible.

S.O.A.P. = Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer.

"S" - Simply write the passage of Scripture you are reading. This can be a verse or several verses, or simply the scripture reference.

"O" - Write what you observe, see in the passage. You are simply summarizing the passage in your own words.

"A" - Write how you will apply this passage to YOUR life. It is VERY important that you use the pronoun ***I*** as this needs to be about YOU. How will this passage change you and/or what you do?

"P" - Write a prayer about the passage you just read.

Examples:

- S: (Scripture)
So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8:31-32
- O: (Observation)
If we listen and follow His Word, teachings, we are truly followers of Jesus. Listening and following his Word lets us know the truth, and the truth sets us free.
- A: (Application)
I will regularly read His Word and be continually set free.
- P: (Prayer)
Let me make time daily to read Your Word!

- S: (Scripture)
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
- O: (Observation)
God created the heavens and the earth
- A: (Application)
From this verse ***I*** KNOW the earth and heavens were a result of God's doing, His creation. I also know there is NO other explanation for the existence of the earth and the universe aside from what this verse clearly states.
- P: (Prayer)
Thank you, God, for revealing in Genesis the truth that you created the universe!

And now with the help of your discipler, write your first S.O.A.P.!!!

To help you in your daily Bible reading, we have designed a weekly plan of reading only three verses a day. You are welcome to read more; this is just a way for all of us at church to be on the same page with Scripture reading. It is also a way for people who are not used to reading the bible to get started. Each Sunday the plan for the week is given.

A further look at the reliability of the Bible:

Dr Josh McDowell : The Reliability Of Bible – YouTube video