

But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

Hebrews 10:39

## Store In My Heart Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Many in our society spend their life in search of real joy. Often, they are looking for joy and happiness in the fleeting things of this world. They will never find lasting joy in such things because they don't last.

Paul tells us to look to the Lord to find joy and peace. It will show in our life and lead others to Him. God is always near us and He continues to help us in our life as long as we put our trust in Him. In prayer we can lay our burdens on Him and know He will provide.



# Reading Scripture

Dan Henderson

I read an article a while back that tried to present reading on an electronic device as a reason for a lack of understanding Scripture.

The main problem this author dealt with was how screens kept us from viewing Scripture as-a-whole by only showing us a few verses at a time. From the descriptions in the article, I believe the author was focusing on random verses on FaceBook, Twitter, InstaGram, etc. Of course this is not a new problem with understanding Scripture. Most of us have heard warnings about those who just open the Bible randomly and read whatever Scripture catches their eye. This has always been a problem, and I am afraid it will always be with us.

I am convinced the real problem with understanding Scripture has a lot more to do with attitude than the 'device' we used to read. Every time I hear these kinds of arguments, I wonder how many well-meaning speakers spoke against "those new-fangled bound copies" when books began to overtake scrolls. Certainly, there was room for this same argument about text isolation when we shifted from one continuous scroll for each book to separate sheets of paper that had to be flipped, thus hiding part of the text from the rest. I mean with a scroll you could unroll the entire thing and get a complete picture, right? How about when chapters and verses were added to help with referencing Scripture? As we have seen, some of those divisions actually break thoughts and ideas.

Is it really the 'container' that gets in the way of gaining a full understanding of God's Word? No! I will concede that it might contribute in some small way, but the problem is our attitude toward The Word. We have abused the idea of 'reading Scripture' to the point that it seems most folks are satisfied with seeing the words of a few verses on the page and calling it a Scripture reading! Reading Scripture involves much more when we consider how it is presented in God's Word. I think three passages will help us understand our responsibility regarding reading Scripture.

*For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles — assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's*

*grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Ephesians 3:1-6*

Paul expected the Ephesians to read with the intent to understand what he had written and how it fit into Scripture they already had read. He further explains this as he writes to Timothy, who was in Ephesus to encourage and strengthen those brethren.

*Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1Tim. 4:11-16*

*Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. 2Timothy 2:14-15*

Do you see what Paul expected of brethren? He expected, even commanded, them to put forth great effort to understand what had been written. He knew that just glancing over the words would not help them to know God. Read with the intent to understand all that has been said. They did it with scrolls and books. They did it by listening to others read and explain, as had been done by the prophets of old.

*They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. Nehemiah 8:8*

If you want to know God's Word, follow these examples. Read, listen, study the Scriptures. No matter the container used, God's Word is what matters. Dig deep within and gain knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

## Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

### Church of Christ

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The  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service  
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

## For Our Information

**Adene Gray** had an ER visit last week for some mini stroke like symptoms. She is doing better and will have a follow up soon.

**Ruben Keisler** has a follow-up for his foot surgery on Monday.

**John LaValla** had an ER visit last week but is continuing to improve in his recovery.

**Paul Simpson** is still in the hospital.

The **Laubachs** have some roof leakage from the storm.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 9** Wednesday – **John 19:31**

**Gospel Meeting announcements are available in the foyer**