

“Study To Show Thyself Approved Unto God”

(2 Timothy 2:15)

Daily Bible Reading Guide

Introduction

Congratulations on your desire to “study to show thyself approved unto God” (2 Timothy 2:15). Studying God’s Word is the only way in which one can be “approved unto God,” thus it is imperative that we strive to look to His word on a daily basis. The plan we will be following is basic and simple. We will be reading the complete Bible in chronological order in one year. For each week’s reading there will be sheets available for you to track your reading. These sheets will also contain materials which may aid you in your reading – introductions, outlines, questions to consider while reading and more. As you can see, the term “reading” is sometimes misunderstood. We may read a paper, a novel or other materials and do so in a cursory manner. But when reading the word of God we must determine to do more. As the Psalmist exemplified, we are to hide the word in our hearts (Psalm 119:11). Hopefully that is the goal each of us has.

In conjunction with the daily reading guide there will also be lessons preached from the pulpit each Sunday evening which are from the previous week’s reading. In the event that I am not preaching that Sunday, the lesson will be made available for your further study. There may also be additional lessons from the text made available in writing from time to time for your files and further study.

Let me give you a few suggestions also that will aid in you study:

- ***Get a good Bible for your reading and daily use.*** In my study I use the King James Version and you are encouraged to do likewise. Also it would benefit you greatly if you had a good Bible which you plan to use for the coming years and have it handy during your reading. There will be passages which can be marked and other lessons noted in your Bible which will enrich your study and ability to study with others for years to come. When you mark your Bible, be sure to use a good marking pen - see me if you need suggestions.
- ***Set a certain time of the day aside for your study.*** Each of us makes certain that things important to us are scheduled and done – eating, sleeping, time with the family, assembling with the saints – and the time you will spend studying should likewise be given a priority.
- ***If you fall behind for some reason - do not give up!*** Get the materials you have missed and start up again at the point the material is currently being presented. You can go back later and study the materials you missed. Like any other important endeavor you must have a commitment to continue or to return if you are pulled aside for some reason.
- ***Have a notebook for your studies.*** As noted, there will be the study sheets, sermon outlines and other materials that will be made available to you on a weekly basis. It will be beneficial for you to be able to keep these in order so that you will be able to look to the material in future studies. Also have notebook paper handy as you study so you can write your own observations and such and then add them to your notebook. Questions are provided which are aimed, not a being comprehensive, but to provoke you to thought and application of the reading. Having a notebook handy will not only help you in consideration of these questions, but provide a place to write the questions you will no doubt think of as you read, and hopefully later study to find the answers.

- ***Build a library to aid your study.*** God has given us the ability to know the Word (John 8:32). Part of this process for knowing and understanding the Bible is to use the tools available. Some which will be of value are:
 - ▶ E-Sword computer software. This program is available from e-sword.net and is provided free of charge. With this program you can easily find associated texts, do word studies on the text you are reading, examine several commentaries (be sure to do so in a proper manner), do research in Bible encyclopedias of the topics found in your text, and more. If you need help to install the program on your computer or in learning how to use the program there are several in the congregation who will be glad to help you.
 - ▶ An exhaustive concordance. The one most commonly used is *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*. With this work you can find passages which you are searching for, using only a few key words. You can also find other passages which use the same word. This is helpful in examining the meaning of words in context.
 - ▶ Word study books. One of the most popular is *Vine's Expository Dictionary*. All editions have a very comprehensive study of New Testament Words and some versions include a briefer treatment of Old Testament Words. If you buy one, be sure to get one which uses the numbering system found in Strong's Concordance, it will be helpful in assuring you have the correct word in your studies.

There are many other books which can be of use. Our library has many more for the use of all members. If you would like further information on books that may be of benefit, or need help in learning how to use our library, feel free to ask.

- ▶ ***Learn and apply basic principles of Bible study.*** As you read the Bible you need to be asking some basic questions to aid you in your understanding and application of the Word. As you study you should be striving to determine such things as who is writing, to whom is the message addressed and are there any cultural or historical situations that you need to be aware of. All of these help to keep a passage in context, an extremely important aspect of proper Bible study.
- ▶ ***Seek to develop a proper attitude toward God and His Word.*** Far too many fall prey to an improper estimation of God's Word. A study of His Word reveals its inspiration and all sufficiency. One's attitude toward the word can determine if we will bring forth the saving truth (John 8:32) or be guilty of twisting the Word to fit our own ideals (2 Timothy 4:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; 2 Peter 3:16).
- ▶ ***Be humble and apply that which you learn.*** One of the great tragedies is the multitude of people who know the truth, yet are not humble enough to apply it to self. God condemned this attitude on several occasions (Romans 2:1-11; Matthew 19:21-22; James 1:21-27).

Congratulations again on your commitment. If I can be of help in way, or if you have suggestions for lessons, questions on the materials or any other thing, feel free to contact me!

Jack Williams