

## For Our Information

Gracie Simpson is experiencing a great deal of pain as she begins her recovery from knee surgery.

Jimmy & Annette Gray are mostly recovered from their recent illnesses.

Carolynn Richmond returns to Houston next week for follow up to her recent treatment.

Remember one another as we pray  
to the Father each day

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

4. To help establish the habit of daily reading, use a checklist or calendar. Whether it's a to-do app on your phone with a recurring daily item, or a dollar store calendar you mark on, keeping track of your reading helps you be accountable and honest with yourself.

5. Make or find a plan and stick with it. Don't assume if you just read what you feel like reading each day that you will succeed in a long-term habit of reading. For a chapter and verse layout, several excellent plans are available online. For a reader's Bible, the easiest thing to do is take the total number of pages, divide by 365, and round up. If you know you have some busy days coming, try to get ahead — it's much easier than catching up.

(Regular Bible reading should be our habit. Brother Richardson's suggestions are useful and might be just what you need to get you started or strengthen an already developed practice. I would mention two things from my own experience. First, I find it easier to keep my reading consistent with an electronic reader. I don't use my phone, but using a tablet helps. Second, a chronological approach to my regular reading has been a help in my other studies. DLH)

# Seeking His Righteousness

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## Consistent Bible Reading

**Stefan Richardson**

The beginning of the year is a popular time to begin reading through the Bible. Many people struggle with consistent reading, and many people fail. So how do we succeed?

Personal reading, like personal prayer, is irreplaceable. No amount of assemblies, sermons, or classes can make up for what we fail to do in our own time. We should spend time for ourselves in the scriptures every day and not just feel satisfied with what we absorb each week in the assembly.

A familiarity with God's word is vital to us in our knowledge of Him, His character, and His will. It will illuminate our way through life: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). We should have an undistracted hunger for the word: "like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word ..." (1Peter 2:2).



*And I will also  
be diligent  
that at any  
time after my  
departure you  
will be able to  
call these  
things to  
mind.*

**2Peter 1:15**



## Meet With Us

### Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

### Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

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[TannerSt.com](http://TannerSt.com)

God is worthy of our devotion, our effort, and our time. Under the Old Law, God demanded the first and the best Israel had to give — and there were serious consequences for failure to give it (**Leviticus 10:3; Malachi 1:1-14**). I believe He demands the same of us, if in a different way (**Hebrews 12:28-29**). We routinely spend thirty minutes, an hour, or more watching the news or something else on the TV or the internet most days. A lot of people make time to watch football, basketball, or baseball during the season. Many people read novels or non-fiction each day. We all eat nearly every day, probably spending at least an hour if not two feeding our physical bodies. Do we spend time feeding ourselves spiritually? I can say without exaggeration that if the Christians I look up to the most were forced to make a choice between not eating or not reading God's word, they would choose not eating every single time.

The Bible can be read through in a year in less than fifteen minutes a day. Fifteen minutes is approximately 1% of a day. One percent. Is God worth at least 1% of our day? Even a more intensive reading plan would take perhaps 2%, maybe 4%. I strongly suggest that reading the Bible once each year is the baseline we should set for ourselves, and we should be working toward more intensive reading schedules.

If you try to just “find the time” and fit reading in you will more than likely fail. We must take the time. We see examples in the scripture of individuals taking time and planning for spiritual things. We can apply that principle to our reading. During His time in this world, Christ constantly put spiritual things first (**Mark 1:35; John 4:8,31-34**).

## Some Practical Advice

Many faithful Christians struggle with sticking to a reading plan. They begin with the best of intentions (often at the beginning of the new year), then slip in the following weeks or months.

1. I am a great proponent of the power and convenience of electronic versions of the Bible, so this first piece of advice may surprise you: I highly recommend you use an actual

## Store In My Heart

### Acts 11:25-26

And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Barnabas and Saul did not set themselves apart from the rest of the brethren in that city. They met and worked together as a church should. We need to work with the brethren in whatever location we may find ourselves.

This work seems to have lead not only to many hearing the Word, but also a label, or name, for those who were following Christ. They were called Christians because they followed the teachings of Christ.

printed Bible for your daily reading. Yes, you read that right — don't use your phone, tablet, or computer for your daily scheduled reading. Beyond the tactile experience (which is nice, but may or may not matter), using a book to read aloud from instead of a phone you check 500 times each day helps psychologically build the habit of reading.

2. The translation you choose matters, but maybe not in the way you think. The translation you use now is probably fine, but you might consider using a translation that isn't the one you normally use. It can help force you to think about what you are reading, rather than mindlessly eyeballing words. Also, consider choosing a translation that is optimized for readability. A careful study of each individual word or phrase is deeply important — but that's not the function of a daily reading. For instance, in my personal close study I often use the NASB. The NASB has been affectionately called “the wooden wonder” by some because of its awkward, wooden reading in english. In my daily reading, I have used the NASB before, but I tend to lean towards versions that read smoothly and clearly. Translations like the ESV, CSB, the NKJV if you prefer it, or even the post-2011 NIV can be a good choice. If you're fortunate enough to own a copy, the ALV is worth using.

3. Chapters and verses are a great help for referencing in classes and sermons, but they can get in the way of natural reading. Practically no other book we read is broken up that way. The scripture was not aided by chapters until about the thirteenth century and verses in the sixteenth. Again, chapters and verses are wonderful innovations, but they can mentally and visually hinder long-form reading. As Matt Bassford says, “A slotted spoon is great for serving vegetables, but it's not so good for eating your soup!” Consider using a “reader's bible” — a bible formatted in a large print, paragraphed, single-column layout with no verse markers and often no chapter markers. They are widely available in many translations like the ESV, NKJV, and CSB, ranging from less than \$20 to over \$300. For a reasonably well bound bible, \$20 is an absolute bargain.