

*And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. **Colossians 4:16***

Reading Scripture

Store In My Heart

Zephaniah 2:3

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord.

Zephaniah was a prophet during the reign of Judah's King Josiah. Josiah brought a return to God among the people, but punishment for the wickedness during the reign of Manasseh was certain. Zephaniah spoke of God's judgment on the wicked and His plan to restore a remnant of the faithful. The "day of the Lord" is a common phrase to speak of God's judgment of both Israel and all mankind at the end of time.

We need to give earnest heed to the words of the prophet. We live in our own time of difficulty, but his warning and instruction can certainly help us be prepared for our "Day of the Lord."

I read an article on the internet the other day that tried to present reading on an electronic device as a reason for a lack of understanding Scripture. (Yes I saw the irony of reading about the evils of reading on electronic devices on an electronic device.)

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 use 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 the 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



Contact Us

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

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For Our Information

Joyce Venable suffered with fever and nausea last week.

Betty Ragsdale has been having breathing problems this past week.

Vickie McNees has been dealing with an allergic reaction to bug bites this past week.

Jerry & Dottie Henderson will be travelling to Sunnyside, WA for a Gospel Meeting this week.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

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. **1Timothy 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.

Study, Meditate, Apply, Pray, Repeat! (DLH)

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

