

It is better to read the Bible everyday than not to read the Bible everyday. It is even better to read the Bible with a heart desire to hear what God says so that one may do it than to read it without such a desire.

Because of the weakness of the flesh, it is well advised that the Bible should be read everyday. We human beings are susceptible to forgetfulness and our memories are often corrupted by the desires and fears that we sustain in our hearts. For this reason, it is not wise to rely entirely on our own memories of what the Scriptures say. By reading and rereading the Bible, we refresh our memories and clear away the faulty ideas we have of what the Bible actually says. This too is a command from the Bible (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; 11;18-21; Exodus 13:9; Proverbs 3:3; 6:20-21; 7:1-3).

<sup>18</sup> “Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. <sup>19</sup> And it shall be with him, and **he shall read it all the days of his life**, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, <sup>20</sup> that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.

Deuteronomy 17:18-20 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> “Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and **they shall be as frontlets between your eyes**. <sup>19</sup> You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. <sup>20</sup> And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates

Deuteronomy 11:18-20 (NKJV)

However, as with all good practices, even Bible-reading can become a meaningless ritual that does the reader no good:

39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

John 5:39-40 NKJV

This is something that it would be good to be wary of. It does not mean that if anyone reads the Bible only perfunctorily, they ought to stop reading it entirely. It is still better that one reads than that one doesn't. Who knows but that what one reads with little thought or care for might still be recalled at some later opportune time that might result in their spiritual benefit? Still, it is better that one reads it with at least a desire to learn what God is purported by the Bible to say. The greatest tragedy this writer can imagine is one ending up condemned by the Lord because they had the Bible and read it but did not benefit in any way from it spiritually because they did not truly care about what it said, but avoiding reading the Bible is not going to help anyone escape either rebuke or condemnation from the Lord either.

So, as the Lord tells the disciples not to rejoice merely because the demons obeyed them, but rather to rejoice because their names are written in Heaven, likewise we are not to rejoice merely because we read our Bibles today or that we have been reading it for so many days, weeks, or years. Rather we should rejoice that we are actually learning what God has to say and growing in our confidence and trust in Him as we learn more about Him from what we read.

Bible-reading ought not to be a mere chore or ritual for us. It ought to be a joyful opportunity for us to hear from the Lord and have His Answer to all kinds of difficulties and conundrums that we run into in the wars of life in this world. God's Word is the only protection we have in this world from the multitude and ubiquitous lies of the devil. Having access to the Truth that guides us safely through the labyrinth of dangerous lies in this world to a glorious eternity with the Lord is a blessing beyond words. This is the attitude that we should take to Bible-reading. Otherwise, we are apt to become like the Pharisees and the Jews to whom the Lord Jesus spoke saying that they did not have the word of God abiding or remaining in them although they did indeed search the Scriptures because they thought that they could have eternal life in them. We can have eternal life by reading the Bible and we can please God and become worthy of great eternal rewards by knowing what the Bible teaches, but we have to actually believe what we read, understand it, and actively apply it to our lives in order for any of this to be the case.