

“20-20 Vision”

Read The Bible Through This Year!

Intro: Here at the beginning of the year I want to urge you to put into place in your life a spiritual discipline that will enable you have the closest walk with God, the greatest passion for God and His work, and the greatest sense of clarity in knowing God’s will for your life that you have ever had in your life. It’s what I sometimes call a 20-20 vision plan. The idea is simple, that each day we try to set aside 20 minutes for Bible reading and 20 minutes for prayer.

How daily Bible reading increases the clarity of our spiritual vision.

Daily Bible reading plays an important role in producing and maintaining faith.

Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:30-31)

Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. (1 Timothy 4:13)

Daily Bible reading maintains and increases our reservoir of knowledge for better comprehension of formal instruction in classes and sermons.

It gives us greater familiarity with the text of the Bible.

But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read that which was spoken to you by God, saying, (Matthew 22:31)

It gives us a background for learning from others. Your familiarity with the whole of the Bible story enables you to relate the various passages in God's word to their historical & spiritual situation. This makes it possible to enjoy Bible classes and sermons more, because you are more familiar with the texts and the illustrations as a whole.

It gives us fresh exposure to old truths we have learned and helps keep them fresh in our minds.

Over time what we once “knew” slips away from us. It is the classic “use it or lose it” phenomena.

Therefore, I shall always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. (2 Peter 1:12)

It enables us to gain new insights into God and His will.

One of the beautiful things about Bible study is that repeated reading increases your ability to understand. You’ll be amazed at how much more you comprehend through repeated reading.

In addition, every time you read the Bible you will see new things you never realized were there in those stories you read long ago!

It gives us familiarity with parts of the Bible that are not commonly discussed or studied in formal settings.

Though I consciously try to preach as much of the Bible as possible from year to year, there is no way it can be done totally in pulpit preaching. Sermons may deal with needs of the church. Unless we are engaged in whole Bible curricula, we may go for years without any significant exposure to many parts of the Bible. Daily Bible reading “fills the gaps” and gives us a whole-view understanding of the word.

Daily Bible reading gives us access to the wisdom we need for daily decision making and holy living.

The value of the Scriptures cannot be underestimated. Paul urged Timothy to see that because the Scripture come from God they are profitable to us. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Daily Bible reading provides the impetus for daily meditation and prayer that leads to renewed passion for God.

Reading the word will give us the thoughts for meditation about God and about ourselves. Thus, it lays the groundwork for effective prayer and renewed passion for God.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:2)

Through daily meditation upon the word we get insight into the nature of God as well as ourselves. We see our strengths and weaknesses; we see our duties and our sins. Such insight gives us plenty to speak to the Lord about and we'll pursue this idea more in our lesson tonight.

Some possible approaches

About five years ago we urged people to get a copy of the “Daily Bible” and read it from cover to cover. That year nearly half the congregation read through the Scriptures. The following year we started a class based on our daily readings and enjoyed discussing together the readings from week to week. Some of you may still have that Bible and could put it to work again. Or you may choose to use another approach. Use a daily Bible reading chart. We can supply some of them for you.

Conclusion: Brother Doug and I have been talking about the value of this kind of reading program. We have purposed to do this ourselves and want to urge you to join us in the goal of reading the entire Bible this year. And we want to help you achieve this goal if you are willing to take it on. If you don't have the Daily Bible and you want to use it, we'll help you find a copy. If you want to use another Bible and a reading schedule we'll have them available for you by next Sunday.

You'll never regret the decision and the effort you spend in reading the Bible as we have urged today. Your knowledge will grow; your faith; your ability to teach; your life will be enriched as you learn God's will for your life.