

Biblical Literary Habits

“People cheer the Bible, buy the Bible, give the Bible, own the Bible - they just don't actually read the Bible.” John Ortberg

I am convinced that one of the reasons our world is approaching moral bankruptcy is that we are Biblically illiterate. Even Christians by and large do not read the Bible on a regular basis or know God's teachings because they do not take in spiritual food.

The prescription for Biblical Literacy, and all the benefits it can bring, is for us as God's people to read God's word daily, and to seek to apply the principles of God's word regularly.

Don't listen to anyone who tells you that the Bible is like any other book. It is chock full of things that the living and all powerful God wants to show us. We find Jesus the savior in virtually every passage. It is about physical and eternal things. And it is the best book you will ever read.

The Bible begins with God's creation of the world. It's pretty simple, really. God made us and is the only one who knows what's what. When we get into trouble is when we try to be God. “God created man in His own image, says the Bible; philosophers reverse the process: they create God in theirs.” Georg C. Lichtenberg

If we care about people, and about the world, the best beginning to make it better is to read the Bible. Knowing our limits is the beginning. Living to the highest heights is what God, and only God makes possible.

It is great poetry. It is wonderful history. But it is much more than that.

We must seek answers to our questions. We can find direction for every journey. We can find inspiration for every thought. In the Bible are God's thoughts for a world which cannot find his words anywhere else. “Within the covers of the Bible, Ronald Reagan wrote, “are the answers for all the problems men face.”

So we must not tarry from opening those divine pages day after day to find what God has to say to us. And when we find it, we can live it. We must let the teaching, principles, and insights fill us as we work, teach, and learn as the finite human beings that we are.

Applying God's word to our lives is one of the greatest gifts we can ever receive. Knowing about God's word is much like knowing about Jesus. Once we read and meet the living Lord Jesus in the pages of the scripture, he leaps off the pages to become our everyday companion and our way to heaven. We must know God's word so well that we can recall it for every situation. We must know Jesus more than family, friends, or even enemies.

“Be true to yourself,” says the great college basketball coach John Wooden. “Help others, make each day your masterpiece, make friendship a fine art, drink deeply from good books - especially the Bible, build a shelter against a rainy day, give thanks for your blessings and pray for guidance every day.”

Perhaps an even better thought would be to make each day God's masterpiece, as God works in you to make you the best person you could possibly be. Live “so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” ~ Ephesians 3:17-20

And once we are rooted, we grow up to be trees of faith, which are rooted in rivers and streams of God's love and power, bearing fruit which feeds the world.

We are today's generation of Christians, and must never forget that the lifeblood of the Christian is the word of God, the Bible. Gaining sustenance and strength through regular meals of God's word, we are able to love more, live better, and tell more people about the God..

One final admonition about God's word. I have see many people, including college professors, seminary teachers, and politicians who try to reduce God's word to a human invention. Don't fall for this, and do not do it yourself. Believe the Bible for what it is, God's word to his people. William Jennings Bryan once said, in a trial where he was defending the faith, concerning the fish swallowing Jonah, "If the Bible had said that Jonah swallowed the whale, I would believe it."

You see, we must believe that God can do anything he wants to do. Don't be trapped by the words of people. Be freed by the words of God.

The eradication of biblical illiteracy begins today, with you and me.
"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28