

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Overcoming the Barriers in Daily Bible Reading

(Jerry Fite)

You are probably starting out the new year engaged in reading your Bible daily. If not, why not? Those trying to walk in God's ways, “*meditate*” on God's law “*day and night.*” (*Psalms 1:2*). In order to roll over and over God's law in your mind, you will have to first read, and then grasp the meaning of the words you read. Each twenty-four-hour period has a day and a night. Daily Bible reading provides you with new thoughts to meditate upon each day and night. It is early, if you have not yet started, begin today. You are not far behind.

It takes effort to read, think and meditate. To do this daily throughout the year requires motivation. Let Jesus motivate you to read the words God has revealed to you by listening to the words of His prayer unto His Father. As Jesus anticipates returning to the Father, His prayer reveals why He speaks in the world: “*that they may have my joy made full in themselves*” (*John 17:13*). On behalf of His apostles, Jesus asks His Father to “*sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth*” (*John 17:17*). Thinking of the apostles' work in proclaiming this truth, Jesus prays for those “*who believe*” on Him “*through their word*” (*John 17:20*). The spoken and

recorded word of God creates joy, holiness and belief in the reader. Realizing that such blessings are intertwined in truth, we should enthusiastically fill our mind daily with God's absolute Truth, as we encounter a world of deceit and doubt.

Being busy often becomes a barrier to daily Bible reading. Daily work to pay monthly bills is a must! Cleaning the house and attending to children are good things filling up our day. Recreation is also good, especially in busy lives, for we can “re-create” ourselves through pleasant divergence and refreshing relaxation. Rejuvenated in spirit and renewed in strength, we are ready to take on busyness yet again. Daily Bible reading, starting earnestly in January, becoming intermittent in February, can cease in March. Why? Often it is because we become too busy?

Are you so busy that you cannot set aside 15 minutes a day to read God's Word? The average reader can read about 200 words per minute or 3,000 words in 15 minutes. If you are below average, you have two other days in the week to catch up. You can read through your Bible in one year by reading 15 minutes a day, five days a week! Start a good

habit in your life. Pick a quiet place and a designated time to busy yourself for a quarter of an hour in God's Word.

Know that in those 15 minutes you have the Lord's blessing. Jesus pointed out to Martha, who was so busy with serving, that Mary had “*chosen the good part*” when she chose to listen to the words of Jesus (*Luke 10:40*). You must carve out time to read God's Word in a busy life. Fifteen minutes do not conveniently appear daily throughout the year.

Being tired keeps many from Bible reading. By the time you get everything done in a day, you are too tired to read. Half way through the daily reading, you dose off. Coming to, you have forgotten what you read, too exhausted to continue. The simple solution is to set your clock to wake up 30 minutes earlier. You have time to wake up from a night's rest and devote your alert time to reading and comprehending God's Word. You can shop till you drop! Pick your most rested time of the day to read God's Word! Motivated hearts and wise decisions break down many barriers in reading the Bible consistently throughout the year. May God bless your efforts!