

letter to the brethren in Colosse, he instructed them to pass the letter to others so that they might read it also. "And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea" (Col. 4:16). He also informed the brethren at Ephesus that they would be able to understand the mystery that was in Christ by reading the epistle, "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)" (Eph. 3:4). Reading is thus an essential part of our need so that we might grow as newborn babes should. "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:" (1 Pet. 2:2). Peter also said, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." (2 Pet. 3:18). Reading and studying go hand in hand, and by this means, we begin to grow in the knowledge of our Lord. (Please read Jimmy Clark's article in this issue).

Growth in the word of God has always been a problem for some in the church. Even in the early church, some were falling back into their old habits. The Hebrews write stated, "Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is

a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Heb. 5:11-14).

In chapter six, he begins by saying, "Therefore," that is, we need to move forward unto perfection because of these things. There comes a time when each child of God must leave the drinking of milk and move on to eating meat. If one does not do so, one may fall from the grace of God.

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame" (Heb. 6:4-6).

Hence, it is imperative that we study more each day to grow and not fall by the way-side. I have for some time marked out on my desktop calendar a daily reading for the New Testament. If I stay on track by using this method, I can read through the New Testament in one month; by doing these each month at the end of the year, naturally, I will have read through the New Testament twelve times. Surely as one does this, they will learn along the way. Each month, I take one New Testament book and read it each day, such as the book of Ephesians.

Whatever means one chooses to use, please give attention to reading and studying God's word daily for your soul's sake.

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes.....10:00
Morning Worship11:00
Evening Worship..... 6:00
Wednesday Classes.....6:30

Free Bible Correspondence Course to all who ask. Please call us or write to us and we will help you get started.

Gentleness is Lord!

Be gentle
in your love,
in your patience,
in your long-suffering,
in your thoughts,
in your conversations, and
in your actions with others.

Sow the seeds of gentleness
in everything.
For Jesus is Lord of All,
and He is gentle! Matt 11:29

He doesn't ask you
for some great deed.
He asks only that
you love one another.
Anything less than gentleness
is not of His Spirit!
For gentleness is His Way.
Then be on the Lord's side
by making gentleness lord in all you do.
For if Jesus is your King,

Gentleness is your Lord!

Poem by Ken Pilcher, Jr. © All Rights Reserved/ www.faithclub.org

DO I NEED TO IMPROVE MY BIBLE STUDY?

Johnie Scaggs, Jr.

The fact that we are commanded to study is quite evident. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). Notice, we are to study to have God's approval. The ASV translates this phrase, "Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God...." Furthermore, it states that we are to "handling (handle) aright the word of truth." This is to be done so as a workman, we need not be ashamed of our knowledge of God's holy word and how we handle His word. Studying God's word is a process by which we come to an understanding of the things God has revealed to us through His word. This process does not end in one's lifetime. Some of these things are pretty simple, but others can be somewhat complex.

Sometimes this process can become a difficult proposition for some. Far too often, members of the body of Christ would rather just accept what the preacher and teachers say instead of searching for the truth on their own. When Luke was writing about the brethren in Berea, he stated that they "...were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few" (Acts 17:11,12). As a result of their searching the scriptures, many believed, both women and men. Hence, the growth of their faith was a direct result of their studying the word of God.

We all need to improve our Bible Study habits. I know that I do, and I often search for ways in which I can do just that. I recall growing up in South-West Missouri on a farm where we worked from sun-up to sun-down. We were loggers, and we often would be in the woods with our headlights on and often leave with them on also. But no matter how much time we spent working, I remember seeing my dad sitting at the kitchen table, studying his Bible daily. He would work all week, study at night and be ready to preach on Sunday. So from an early age, I understood that to learn the Bible, you would need to put some time into reading and studying what it says. Unless you are willing to put the required time into your Bible study, you will not be able to improve your knowledge about God and His word.

Reading the word of God is very important. Paul told the young evangelist Timothy, "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (1 Tim. 4:13). When Paul sent the

FAMILY MATTERS

ONGOING HEALTH PROBLEMS

SICK:

Pat Joiner, Leslie Guevara, Letha Angst, Gracie Pope, Michael Baugh, Melba Wilkins, Brenda Rogers, Jackie Flowers, June Breazeale, Sharon Joiner's mother, James Parlor, and Gail Brown, Tim Franks, Jan Moses, Martha Stewart, Coby Gay and Barbra Jenkins aunt to Fred Jenkins.

LOCAL NEWS

PANTRY ITEMS FOR THE WEEK:

When buying items for the Pantry, try to buy canned goods that have a top on them that can be opened without a can opener.

Soups

CEDAR LANE:

March 29th the adults' will be going to Cedar Lane for a night out of fellowship. We will meet there at 6:00 pm., if you want a ride, the van will leave here at 5:00 pm. If you are going, please sign the list in the foyer so we can have a room reserved.

NEW SISTER IN CHRIST:

Desire Barney was baptized into Christ this past Sunday morning. If you did not get to give here a hug and a welcome to the family, please do so.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARY FOR THE MONTH OF Feb.

Les & Vivian Foster2/18/1967
Paul Foster2/10/1970
Austin Hinson2/5/2011
Sharon Joiner2/21/1950
Roy Scaggs2/23/1988
Wayne & Flora Shepherd2/16/1979

Jim Dearman and the TV program "Good News Today" airs on Macon TV every Sunday morning at 6:30 A.M. on WGXA-ABCTV16 both on Cox Cable and over the regular airwaves and may be picked up on an antenna. You can even download an app and see the programs any time you wish. See the website at <http://gnttv.org/> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Good-News-Today-TV>.

SHUT-IN:

Sonny Teagle, Mary Harris
Crystal Pierce

Welcome to the Bellevue Road Church of Christ. If you are a visitor, you are our honored guest. Please sign the guest book in the foyer.