

Psalm 119 — Why Do We Read The Bible?

December 31, 2023

It is great to have you this morning. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and enjoyed a slower week before the New Year.

Next week, we return to 2 Samuel. This morning, we have a special study.

One of my goals for CrossWinds is to keep our finger in the text. That is why we preach from the Bible. To walk faithfully with Jesus, we must be in the Bible more than on Sundays. We need to be in the habit of reading the Word of God on our own, preferably daily. Sometimes, this is called a personal Bible study. Others call this a quiet time. Others call this a daily Bible reading. It doesn't matter what you call it. What is important is we take regular time in God's Word.

Why is it important to consistently refresh ourselves with God's Word instead of filling our minds with reruns of cat videos from YouTube? That is what we will talk about this morning.

To help us understand the importance of regular Bible reading, we will study one chapter of the Bible this morning. The problem is the chapter we are studying is the longest chapter of the Bible. It is Psalm 119. It has 176 verses. Don't worry, we won't read or study the entire chapter. If we did, we would be here to ring in the New Year. Instead, we will cherry-pick through this chapter, pulling out a handful of important verses.

What is Psalm 119 about? Psalm 119 is a song written by David. It is a song about one thing. It is about the Bible. All 176 verses are reasons why we should love the Bible.

This Psalm is uniquely. I call it the alphabet Psalm. Just as we have 26 letters in our alphabet, Hebrew has 22 letters in their alphabet. This Psalm is written based on the Hebrew alphabet. The first eight verses begin with the Hebrew letter *aleph*, the equivalent of our “A.” The second eight verses begin with the Hebrew *bet*, the equivalent of our “B.” The third eight verses begin with the Hebrew *gimel*, the equivalent of our “C.” The Psalm continues the rest of the way through the Hebrew alphabet, with every eight verses beginning with a subsequent letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and every verse is about one thing. That is why we should love the Bible we have in our hands.

When the United States invaded Iraq in the Gulf War, the opening days of the war were called a shock-n-awe campaign. The goal was to overwhelm the enemy with a non-stop barrage of firepower and to break their will to fight. Psalm 119 is a shock-n-awe campaign on the greatness of the Bible. Its goal is to overwhelm us with the greatness of the Bible we hold in our hands and, in so doing, motivate us to treasure more and study better.

This morning, I will organize our study under three headings. First, we love the Bible because of what it is. Second, we love the Bible because of what it does. Third, how should we treat this book? Let’s begin.

We love the Bible because of what it is.

The Bible is eternal.

Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Psalm 119:89 (ESV)

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8 (ESV)

This Christmas, my sons were rummaging through the storage room. I was surprised at the amount of useless information and out-of-date stuff in that room that is still part of our lives. There were old newspapers that should have been thrown out years ago. There were paid bills that we kept for over a decade. My favorite was the manuals for appliances we no longer own. We still have a VCR and an old glass tube TV with which we should part ways. We have lots of outdated information and outdated stuff in our life we should throw away. Does anyone else have that kind of stuff in their storage room?

Here is where the Bible is different. It is not a man's word. It is God's very word. God's Words last forever. They have value forever. God's Word does not go out of date. It never becomes useless information. It never becomes outdated. Look at the verses we just read. For all eternity, the Bible will exist in the new heavens and earth. We will have this book in heaven. We will still read it in eternity because God's words have no expiration date.

While the words of the New Testament were written two thousand years ago, they are still just as powerful and relevant today as the day they were written. God used the words of the Bible in ancient times to create spiritual life. He uses the very same words today to create and sustain spiritual life.

[...since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 1 Peter 1:23 \(ESV\)](#)

Today, two thousand years later, the same words are just as powerful and relevant for creating spiritual life as they were in the past. When you go home this afternoon, read the manual on the new oven you purchased for Christmas. There is nothing wrong with that information. You need to know how to use your

oven. Just remember that ten years from now, that information will be outdated and useless information. If you went home this afternoon and read the Bible, everything you learned would be applicable and relevant to your life today and until your dying day.

The Bible has eternal value. Learning the Bible is the best investment you can make in your learning.

The Bible has infinite value.

The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.
Psalm 119:72 (ESV)

David says that if you have a Bible, it is worth more than winning the lottery. Since the Bible is the eternal word of God, it is worth more than any amount of money. It is better to be a poor man or woman with a Bible than to be Elon Musk without one. What we hold in our hands is the eternal word of God, which is beyond monetary value. If you had to make a choice between owning a Bible or being a billionaire, having a Bible would be the better choice.

Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.
Psalm 119:37 (ESV)

This life has many things to take our time. There is time with friends. There is time to study. There is time at work. There is time for video games. (I am unsure why so many people make time for video games, but they do.) There is time on Facebook, X, Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok. There are hours of pointless time we spend on YouTube scrolling through pointless videos. The truth is there is a lot of time in life is frittered away on worthless things.

As he talks about the Word of God in this Psalm, his prayer is that God would turn his heart away from worthless wastes of time. He asks that God would

help him give his life to things of lasting value. In the context of this Psalm, what has lasting value? It is reading, studying, knowing, and obeying the Word of God. This book is the only book that will last forever because it is God's very words. It has infinite value. Lord, turn us away from the worthless wastes of my time in our lives!

One of the reasons God's Word is a good use of our time is because God uses the Bible not just to create spiritual life but to sustain it. As Christians, without the Word of God regularly flowing through our thought lives, we will drift away from Jesus. We will have a hard time discerning the choices in life that please God.

And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Deuteronomy 8:3 (ESV)

Regularly reading the Bible is like eating bread. Just as we need to eat physical food to live, we need to eat the spiritual food of the word of God to live. When we look at our lives, how many of us are frittering away our time while the Bible, the book of infinite value, sits on our desks?

The Bible is truth in a world of deception.

Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true. Psalm 119:142 (ESV)

Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law! Psalm 119:29 (ESV)

If you are like me, you are frustrated with the media. It is hard to find the truth in the news. The big networks put a spin on the news for manipulation. Even the underground news, such as websites on the Internet and X have an

agenda in them. I am often left frustrated, wishing somebody would just speak the truth.

There is a place where we can always find the truth. When we come to God's Word, we have the truth. I call the Bible the ultimate no-spin zone. There are things that are hard to understand in the Bible. There are things in the Bible we misunderstand, but whenever the Bible tells us something, it tells us the truth. It can always be trusted. It is without error. God doesn't lie. God can't lie.

...in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began Titus 1:2 (ESV)

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17 (ESV)

Since the Bible is always true, it tells us what is right and what is wrong. It tells us the truth that every problem in the world, at its root, is a problem from sin. It also tells us that when sin is the problem, Jesus is the only answer. Only Jesus can solve the problem of sin and all the repercussions in this world because of it. Satan is the exact opposite. The Bible calls Satan the father of lies, and when he speaks, lying is Satan's native tongue. All lies and deception have Satan as their source. Thankfully, we have the Bible, which is truth we can trust because it is the very words of God.

The Bible is protection in times of trouble.

Trouble and anguish have found me out, but your commandments are my delight. Psalm 119:143 (ESV)

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word. Psalm 119:114 (ESV)

When life falls apart, where do you turn? The words of the Bible are described as a shield that protects us or a hiding place where we can run for

cover when the bullets start flying. When life falls apart, we find hope in God's Word. God's Word holds us together when everything else is falling apart. Let me have a little show of hands. How many of you have been through a time when your world fell apart? How many of you found that God's Word was like duct tape holding your life together at that time?

When life falls apart, you can try reading Moby Dick. It just won't provide the same comfort level as God's Word. You can try reading Harry Potter. That also won't help. You will find it amazing how, in times of trouble and stress, the Holy Spirit will take the Word of God you are reading and find yourself in just the right passage to comfort your heart or guide your life. No other book on the planet does this.

The Bible is a source of joy.

Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. Psalm 119:111 (ESV)

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103 (ESV)

Who wants to be a joy-filled person, not a negative and depressed person? The best way to find joy is to put yourself in the Word of God. The Word of God tells us about God's amazing grace to us through Jesus, in spite of our sins, God loves us. He sent his son to die for us. Jesus died on the cross, suffering an eternity of the wrath we deserve for our sins. We are completely forgiven of our sins if we ask Jesus' death to be payment for our sins and if we ask Jesus to be in charge of our lives. The Word of God is also the only place where God reveals his great plans for us in eternity. Through Jesus, we are the most blessed beings in the universe. No being in the universe is more honored

and glorious than Christians. For all of eternity, our new identity is not the objects of God's wrath, who will suffer eternally for our sins in the lake of fire. For all of eternity, we are on display as the adopted brothers and sisters of Jesus, the one who made everything in the entire vast universe. We are related to Jesus! The Bible says if God wanted to bless us more than he already has, he couldn't! There is nothing greater, kinder, or more glorious that the God of the universe could do for us than he has already done for us through Jesus!

The Word of God also tells us that God loves you. You may not have a family that loves you. You may have a spouse who turned his or her back on you. You may have children who no longer talk to you. The Bible tells us that God loves you. God will never turn his back on you. The more we fill our hearts with the truth of God's love for us despite our unfaithfulness to him, how can we not become men and women bubbling with joy? The Bible is like extra-strength Prozac!

Let me summarize. This Psalm tells us the Word of God is eternal—it is the only book with words that are always relevant because they have no expiration date. The Bible is of infinite value—it is better to be a poor person with a Bible than a billionaire without one. The Bible is the only no-spin zone—it is the ultimate source of truth. The only place in this world we can be guaranteed to find the truth is in this book. The Bible is our source of joy—it is the only place we can find the message of God's incredible goodness to us through Jesus Christ that we don't deserve.

Let's move from seeing what this word is, to seeing what God's Word does in our life.

We love the Bible because of what it does.

The Bible brings happiness.

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,... Psalm 119:1–2 (ESV)

When we read the word “blessed,” that word sounds old-fashioned and out of touch. Let me tell you what it means. If you look up the Hebrew word behind our English translation, it simply means “happy.” Our happiness is tied to how we value the Word of God in our lives. The devil wants us to think the opposite is true. The devil wants us to think God desires to ruin our lives, and the Bible drains away life. In reality, the opposite is true.

In the Garden of Eden, Satan lied to Adam and Eve and told them God wanted to ruin their life instead of giving them life; the same is true today when it comes to the Bible. Satan wants us to think the Bible is irrelevant. He wants us to think the Bible is a bunch of rules designed to take away our happiness. The reality is the exact opposite. Those who obey God's Word in the Bible are happy people.

The happiest in life are the people who read, know, and courageously obey God's Word, even when it is hard. Remember that everything God says in His word is because he loves us, not because he wants to take away our life but to give us the best life.

It reminds me of conversations I have had with my sons. When they were teenagers, they thought their father was an old grouch. They thought the things I

said were to take away their happiness. They would say, “But Dad, you don’t understand. That won’t happen... Dad, that happens to other people, but it won’t happen to me.” Now that they are in their mid-twenties, they understand. They tell me they should have listened. Now they understand my words were all spoken to give them happiness, not take it away.

The more we know and obey the Word of God, the happier we will be. To be happy, you don’t need a Cadillac Escalade. The best thing I can do to help with your happiness is to get you into God’s Word. By knowing and obeying God’s Word, we will always live happier lives.

The Bible cleanses from sin.

One verse in Psalm 119 that talks about this is verse 32.

I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart! Psalm 119:32 (ESV)

If you look in the footnote in your Bible, you will see there is another way to translate the last part of this verse. It can be, “...your commandments set my heart free.” God uses his word to take the sin in our lives and wash us clean. He uses his word to show us our sin, to convict us of our sin, then the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to bring us to repentance and break the grip of sin.

A good way to see how God uses the Bible when we are struggling with a sinful desire is through Bible memory. In those struggles, if we memorize Bible verses that apply to our struggles, and at the right time, when we are struggling most, the Holy Spirit brings to mind those verses and uses them to strengthen us to turn away from sin.

Has anyone else ever experienced the power of the memorized Word of God coming to mind helping them to turn away from sin?

Another verse that illustrates the power of the Word of God to cleanse us from the effects of sin not just eternally but experientially is found in Ephesians 5

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, [having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.](#)
Ephesians 5:25–27 (ESV)

These verses remind us that a husband is to go out of his way to love his wife and give himself up for her, just like Jesus loved us and went out of his way to save us by giving himself up for us. Then Paul explains how Jesus makes us holy, Jesus breaks the grip of sin in our lives through the Bible. He cleanses us through the washing of water with the word. If you are struggling with holiness, if you are struggling with addictions, immerse yourself in the Word of God. Read it in the morning. Read it in the evening. God will use his Bible to cleanse your heart from sin, to reformat your thought life, and give you a desire for holiness. I cannot adequately communicate to you the power of God's word in our lives to cleanse us from sinful addictions, thoughts, and ways.

When seasoned Christians find themselves drifting back into old sinful habits, it is always because they walked away from regular time in the Word of God, not because they were walking toward it.

The Bible brings life and success.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.
Psalm 119:9 (ESV)

May my heart be blameless in your statutes, that I may not be put to shame!
Psalm 119:80 (ESV)

Success and life come from loving and obeying the Word of God. I am not saying we won't have trials and difficulties. I am not saying the Bible will make someone financially rich. That is the prosperity gospel. That is not true. We believe in the biblical gospel.

I am simply saying that if we know the Word of God and obey the Word of God, it will lead us down the path to success in life, so one day, when we stand before Jesus, he will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Reading and obeying the Bible will not lead to an easy life, but it will lead to a successful life in the eyes of God. That is what all of us want.

In particular, there is the issue of young men. Who are the young men in verse 9? In my mind, they are men from their teenage years through their twenties. When young men mature and move out of their parent's home, the world has many things to offer that look fun. There are friends who invite you to parties. Friends will invite you to try this or do this or smoke this or go with us to do this. After all, that is what the Kool people do. How do you avoid falling for these traps? Keep your finger in the text of the Word of God.

As young men experience increased freedom and temptations, they also experience increased responsibility. First, in college, young men must learn to perform academically. Next, a young man marries a wife. A young man is then not just leading himself but he is leading a young woman who now trusts in him. Soon, there are children in the home. At that point, a young man is providing for a wife and children. At work, people begin looking to rising young men for leadership.

As responsibilities increase, so do the temptations. At this point, most of the temptations are not other young men who want to pull you down but workaholism, greed, and issues of purity. It is easy for a young man to make a mess of his life at that point. The problem is many more people, such as people in their family and in their work, who are taken down when they are wiped out in life.

How can young men handle the pressures of life and the temptations that come with them? By keeping their finger in this book every day. I have never heard of a man whose marriage and career were destroyed because they spent too much time in this book, just too little.

The Bible gives guidance for life's decisions.

[Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 \(ESV\)](#)

We live in a complicated world filled with options. Which college should we attend? How should we spend our money? How much time should I put into work and how much time into family? Many of the decisions in life are hard. God's word describes itself like a flashlight. As we spend time in God's word, God uses his Word to help us see situations clearly to make good decisions.

A few years ago, I was driving between Sibley and Lakefield. There are no streetlights in that area. There are no lights from homesteads on the side of the road. There was no moon that night. It is pitch black. All I had were my headlights. What would happen if my lights went out? It would be a matter of moments until my life turned into a disaster, and I would run into the ditch because I couldn't see anything. If you think it is crazy to drive between Sibley and Lakefield on a moonless light without your headlights, that is not as crazy as

trying to live life without the illumination of God's Word to help us see and think clearly so we can live a life pleasing to God.

Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors. Psalm 119:24 (ESV)

Have you ever felt like you needed a counselor? We have the best counselor right in front of us, the Word of God.

The Bible gives peace in times of anxiety.

Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble. Psalm 119:165 (ESV)

If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. Psalm 119:92 (ESV)

Life is filled with stress. How do we handle the stress of life? The Bible tells us that as we read and study the Bible, God provides us peace in times of anxiety. How many here this morning have faced times of extreme stress? In those times of stress, when we go to God's Word, we will find an overwhelming sense of peace coming over us, as God's Word reminds us, God's got this. He is large and in charge.

I honestly do not know how people go through life without the Word of God, replacing anxiety with peace.

This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life. Psalm 119:50 (ESV)

My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word! Psalm 119:28 (ESV)

In times of affliction and sorrow, God uses his word to bring strength and comfort.

Look at some of the things the Word of God does for us. It brings happiness. It breaks the grip of sin. It holds the key to life and success—

especially for young men. It illuminates our path so we can make good decisions. It gives us wisdom. It brings peace in times of anxiety.

If you think about it, because of the Bible's unique identity among all books, and because of what the Bible promises to do to us when we take it into our life, it would be foolish for us not to immerse ourselves in this book. It would be foolish to content ourselves with only 40 minutes in this book on the weekends.

This is why the Bible tells us how we are to treat this book. How do we keep our finger in the text?

How should I treat my Bible?

I should study it.

I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. Psalm 119:15 (ESV)

My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promise. Psalm 119:148 (ESV)

I want us to notice these verses do not tell us just to read the Bible. It tells us to meditate on the Bible. Meditate means to think about something. It means to roll something around in our minds. We call that studying. Some of us read the Bible like we read the newspaper. We skim it. The Bible tells us to treat it much more seriously than the newspaper. Studying something means we take a highlighter and mark things we don't want to forget. It means we make notes in the margins. It means we take a notebook and take the time to copy down a Bible verse that is important to us.

You don't need to do what I do, but the way I study the Bible is I use a program called www.Logos.com. My Bible and books in Logos are filled with

highlights and margin notes. I also have a Day One app where I write down my Bible study notes. Other people use paper journals. That is also good. Writing things down and highlighting them helps us to meditate on the Bible, not skim it.

To better meditate on the Bible, read it and re-read it. Sometimes it is good to read the Bible out loud. Think about it. Chew on it. What are the verbs telling us to do? Ask questions of the Bible. What does this chapter or verse want us to know about God that we might miss if it wasn't there? When studying the Bible, I often ask myself, "Why did God put this chapter or verse in this book? What would I miss about God if it wasn't there?" Meditating on the Bible, not just reading it, is essential to getting something out of it.

I must obey It

I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments. Psalm 119:60 (ESV)

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. Psalm 119:33 (ESV)

I like the way David talks about this. He doesn't tell God he should obey the Bible. Instead, he promises to obey the Bible. He asks God to teach him more of the Bible so he can obey it more. Obedience to whatever God says was an unquestioned response in David's mind because God's words are eternal truth.

The problem is many of us know God's Word, but we struggle to obey God's Word. Why do we struggle with biblical obedience? I think it is because we have too low a view of the Bible. We see the Bible as suggestions from men, not God's eternal truth. We don't see the words of the Bible as always true and always leading to our happiness.

I should memorize it

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11 (ESV)

I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word. Psalm 119:16 (ESV)

The memorization of God's Word is incredibly important for life. If we have committed God's Word to heart, the Holy Spirit will bring memorized Bible verses back to our minds at the appropriate time so we will remember them when we need them. On the Spirit Lake campus, we have AWANA. One thing I love about AWANA is it helps children memorize God's Word. Years later, God will bring the words of His book back to their minds.

As elders, something we are involved in Iron Man groups. These are groups of about three men who get together once a week and hold one another accountable for memorizing a verse of the Bible a week, a verse of our own choosing. Do we do this with perfection? Of course not. We are memorizing more of the Bible than we were before getting involved in Iron Man groups. If you want to learn more about Iron Man groups, [I have an article on my website about them](#). Let pastor Jordan know if you would like to be involved in one.

I should enjoy it.

...for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love. Psalm 119:47 (ESV)

I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil. Psalm 119:162 (ESV)

When we read our Bible, don't read the Bible out of mere obligation. I admit there are times when Bible reading is less than thrilling. Sometimes, we read a portion of God's Word because it is in our daily Bible reading plan, not because it is the most exciting passage. Nevertheless, God commands us to

enjoy reading the Bible. Reading the Bible is something we should want to do because we know we are reading God's very word. If you struggle to understand the Bible, you might need an easier translation, like the New Living Translation. Pray and ask God to help you enjoy your Bible. He will answer that prayer.

I should sing it.

[Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my sojourning. Psalm 119:54 \(ESV\)](#)

[My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right. Psalm 119:172 \(ESV\)](#)

The Bible tells us the music that goes through our head should ideally be the Word of God put to music. That doesn't mean the only thing we can sing are the Words of God put to music. It means the best things we can sing are the words of God put to music. Music helps us memorize biblical truths. Music helps us hook the words of the Bible into our minds in a memorable way. Music helps us give expression to the joys and sorrows of our hearts. God's Word put to music specially penetrates our lives.

I should ask God's help to understand it.

This may be one of the best insights for many of us. Throughout Psalm 119, David repeatedly asks God to help him better understand his Bible. That makes me feel better. Like David, I often read things in the Bible but don't understand them. When that happens, David asks God's Holy Spirit to open up his understanding so he better know his Bible. I have found God answers that prayer.

We must ask God for help when we read and study our Bible. Reading the Bible is not simply a cognitive exercise. It is a spiritual exercise where God's Holy Spirit reveals more and more of himself to us through the Word.

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. Psalm 119:18 (ESV)

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Psalm 119:34 (ESV)

What is my plan to get the Bible into my life?

Psalm 119 is a shock-n-awe campaign of 176 penetrating verses on why we should love this book and how to weave this book into the fabric of our lives.

One of the greatest philosophers and theologians in the history of the world is Augustine of Hippo. In his book *Confessions*, he summarizes his life before Jesus by saying before Jesus from the age of 16 onward, he rarely missed an opportunity to pursue one sin or another. He lived with different women and fathered a child out of wedlock before his twentieth birthday. He was introduced to the good news of Jesus but always ignored. Then, in the year 386 A.D., he heard a child's voice repeatedly say, "Take Up And Read." He noticed a portion of the Bible nearby. He picked it up and he read from it. It was Romans 13:14.

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. Romans 13:14 (ESV)

This cut him to the heart. He was a man who, up to that point, had refused to put on Jesus. He was a man who made provision for the flesh. It was as if God was speaking directly to him. He experienced one of the most dramatic conversions in church history and became one of the most influential theologians

for the next thousand years. All this because God whispered in his ear, take up and read this book.

Was God whispering those words in your ear this morning? No matter who you are or what you have done, God will use his word to bring you to Jesus, then save and transform your life if you will only “Take up and read.”

As in previous years, Pastor Jordan and I are challenging you to join the rest of your church family in this year's “Take Up and Read” Bible reading plan. It involves reading the New Testament in one year. You can read the New Testament in one year if you read one chapter a day, five days a week.

You can join us for the Old Testament Bible reading challenge. You can read the Old Testament in three years by reading one chapter a day, six days a week.

There are several ways to sign up for the Bible reading challenge.

1. If you have the church app, look for the Take-Up-And-Read group in the app and join it. The Take-Up-And-Read monthly reading cards will be posted in resources.
2. Many of us use paper Bibles. Others of us use electronic Bible on the computer. I recommend the Logos app. In Logos, I created a link that anyone with the app can click. It will download the plan onto your phone or computer. The link is found in the messages section of the Take-Up-And-Read group in the app and on the CrossWinds.tv website.

This year, after learning what the Bible is and what regular Bible reading does, I challenge you to join the rest of your church family in taking up and reading this book.



Dr. Kurt Trucksess is ordained in the Evangelical Free Church of America. He enjoys reading, writing, time with his family and wrestling with his sons. His favorite topics are preaching and ancient rhetoric. Feel free to contact him at www.Christ2RCulture.com (www.c2rc.com)

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