



**BEING
TRANSFORMED
JOURNAL**

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2025



NEWSONGPEOPLE.COM

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New Testament:

New Testament: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians

Old Testament:

Job 22-42, Psalm 1-96

Extra/Family:

A Year in the Gospels

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO:

NAME

PHONE NUMBER

New Song Church Family,

Back in May of 2023, the Holy Spirit began to impress on us the need for a pathway that would allow our church family to read every word of the Bible. **We considered countless plans and spent days praying and asking the Lord to guide us, and He did!** Over the next three years, we will read through every book, chapter, and verse of scripture.

While some reading plans demand a swift year-long sprint and can leave participants breathless and a little discouraged, the Every Word plan will take a slower, more intentional pace. We designed this plan to help you savor just one chapter a day and, occasionally, two to three shorter chapters. The goal is not to read the entire Bible in X amount of days. **The goal is to read the Bible all the way through with understanding.**

The Every World plan will include portions of the Old and New Testaments. This blend prevents the weariness that can sometimes set in when reading long portions of the Old Testament. In this journal, we will spend time in Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Job, and the Psalms.

You will also find Extra/Family daily reading selections tailored to keep you in the gospels and beholding Jesus throughout the year. We encourage the extra reading to be read aloud and in addition to the Every Word daily reading. **If you have children at home, this portion can be read at the dinner table, at bedtime, or perhaps listened to on your daily commute.**

We invite you to embark on a transformative journey through the sacred pages of the Bible. **We believe that as apprentices of Jesus, it's our duty to read the Word of God.** And we know that the more consistently we read, meditate, study, and memorize His Word, the more it will be to us the joy and rejoicing of our hearts, and the more we will be transformed into His Image!

On the following pages, you will find information about the SOAP method- prompts that may be helpful before you head into the daily and weekly sections of this journal, along with a powerful letter that Scottish Pastor Robert Murray M'Cheyne wrote to his flock in 1842 as they embarked on a transformative journey through scripture.

We suggest you read through the different ways we hope will maximize your time in studying God's Word.

Love,
Pastors Josh & Sarah

Robert Murray M'Cheyne (1813-1843) created a yearly Bible reading plan for his church when he was just 29 years old. Many Christians still use his method today! What an impact he had in his short time on the earth. We felt compelled to share his letter to his congregation in Dundee, Scotland, with you! Although we are reading through the Bible in three years instead of one- these dangers and advantages still apply.

MY DEAR FLOCK, -- **The approach of another year stirs up within me new desires for your salvation, and for the growth of those of you who are saved.** "God is my record how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ." What the coming year is to bring forth who can tell? There is plainly a weight lying on the spirits of all good men, and a looking for some strange work of judgment upon this land. There is a need now to ask that solemn question -- "If in the land of peace wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"

Those believers will stand firmest who have no dependence upon self or upon creatures, but upon Jehovah our Righteousness. **We must be driven more to our Bibles, and to the mercy-seat**, if we are to stand in the evil day. Then we shall be able to say, like David -- "The proud have had me greatly in derision, yet have I not declined from Thy law." "Princes have persecuted me without a cause, but my heart standeth in awe of Thy word."

It has long been in my mind to prepare a scheme of Scripture reading, in which as many as were made willing by God might agree, so that the whole Bible might be read once by you in the year, and all might be feeding in the same portion of the green pasture at the same time.

I am quite aware that such a plan is accompanied with many **DANGERS**.

(1.) **Formality.** -- We are such weak creatures that any regularly returning duty is apt to degenerate into a lifeless form. The tendency of reading the Word by a fixed rule may, in some minds, be to create this skeleton religion. This is to be the peculiar sin of the last days -- "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." Guard against this. Let the calendar perish rather than this rust eat up your souls.

(2.) **Self-righteousness.** -- Some, when they have devoted their set time to reading of the Word, and accomplished their prescribed portion, may be tempted to look at themselves with self-complacency. Many, I am persuaded, are living without any Divine work on their soul -- unpardoned and unsanctified, and ready to perish -- who spend their appointed times in secret and family devotion. This is going to hell with a lie in their right hand.

(3.) **Careless reading.** -- Few tremble at the Word of God. Few, in reading it, hear the voice of Jehovah, which is full of majesty. Some, by having so large a portion, may be tempted to weary of it, as Israel did of the daily manna, saying -- "Our soul loatheth this light bread;" and to read it in a slight and careless manner. This would be fearfully provoking to God. Take heed lest that word be true of you -- "Ye said, also, Behold what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of Hosts."

(4.) **A yoke too heavy to bear.** – Some may engage in reading with alacrity for a time, and afterwards feel it a burden, grievous to be borne. They may find conscience dragging them through the appointed task without any relish of the heavenly food. If this be the case with any, throw aside the fetter, and feed at liberty in the sweet garden of God. My desire is not to cast a snare upon you, but to be a helper of your joy.

If there be so many dangers, why propose such a scheme at all? To this I answer, that the best things are accompanied with danger, as the fairest flowers are often gathered in the clefts of some dangerous precipice.

Let us weigh **THE ADVANTAGES.**

(1.) **The whole Bible will be read through** in an orderly manner in the course of a year. – The Old Testament once, the New Testament and Psalms twice. I fear many of you never read the whole Bible; and yet it is all equally Divine, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect.” If we pass over some parts of scripture, we shall be incomplete Christians.

(2.) **Time will not be wasted in choosing what portions to read.** – Often believers are at a loss to determine towards which part of the mountains of spices they should bend their steps. Here the question will be solved at once in a very simple manner.

(3.) **Parents will have a regular subject upon which to examine their children.** – It is much to be desired that family worship were made more instructive than it generally is. The mere reading of the chapter is often too like water spilt on the ground. Let it be read by every member of the family before-hand, and then the meaning and application drawn out by simple question and answer. The calendar will be helpful in this. Friends, also, when they meet, will have a subject for profitable conversation in the portions read that day. The meaning of difficult passages may be inquired from the more judicious and ripe Christians, and the fragrance of simpler Scriptures spread abroad.

(4.) **The pastor will know in what part of the pasture the flock are feeding.** – He will thus be enabled to speak more suitably to them on the Sabbath; and both pastor and elders will be able to drop a word of light and comfort in visiting from house to house, which will be more readily responded to.

(5.) **The sweet bond of Christian love and unity will be strengthened.** – We shall be often led to think of those dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, here and elsewhere, who agree to join with us in reading those portions. We shall oftener be led to agree on earth, touching something we shall ask of God. We shall pray over the same promises, mourn over the same confessions, praise God in the same songs, and be nourished by the same words of eternal life.

Robert Murray M^cCheyne
December 1842

STUDY TOOLS

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES:

NIV Application Commentary

Enduring Word Commentary by David Guzik
**also available in the app store for free*

Christ Centered Exposition

WEBSITES/APPS/PODCASTS:

Blue Letter Bible - Greek/Hebrew meanings, Commentaries, Concordances, Dictionaries all in one spot. The tools are conveniently linked to each verse. (APP & WEBSITE)

Bible Hub - Good collection of commentaries, sermons, dictionaries, and devotionals. (APP & WEBSITE)

Bible Project - Podcast, Website, YouTube Videos. Try Googling the book of the Bible you are about to read + Bible Project and check out some of their videos.
(APP, WEBSITE, YOUTUBE, PODCAST)

Through the Word - A podcast that breaks scripture down one chapter at a time in just 10 minutes a day. (PODCAST)

SOAP METHOD

Each week we have provided pages that are dedicated to daily devotionals. Each day, we will list a portion of Scripture to read through. We suggest asking the Holy Spirit to highlight a portion of the daily Scripture reading for you to soak in, observe, apply, and pray about. This is called the “**SOAP**” method. Read below to learn more about this method.

SCRIPTURE

Read slowly and thoughtfully through the passage. Pick a verse or two that stood out to you and write it in your journal. Read some commentaries on the verses or dig deeper with websites and apps like Blue Letter Bible, Enduring Word, The Bible Project, Bible Gateway, and Bible Hub.

OBSERVATION

Write some observations about these verses. What is this passage or verse saying? What does it reveal about God? About people? How is Christ revealed in this passage?

APPLICATION

Write a few sentences on how these verses apply to your life. Is there a truth about God that you want to focus on? Is there a promise to receive and thank God for? Is the Holy Spirit convicting you of something you need to do or stop doing in light of God's truth?

PRAYER

Write out a prayer to God in response to this Scripture. This is a way to turn God's Word to you back to Him. Be honest and express your heart to Him.

