

Richmond Hill Baptist Church  
January 10, 2010  
Reading Your Bible Through In A Year  
Acts 17:11

Prelude

Call to Worship: *How Firm a Foundation, Tis so Sweet*

Baptism: Julianne Good & Sadie Scott

Welcome: If you would like to follow Christ in Baptism please indicate on the Connect Card. Welcome to Richmond Hill Baptist Church. If you are a guest please take a Connect Card and fill it out and drop it in the offering plate when it comes by. Let's greet one another!

Sing: *Everlasting God, My Savior My God, Mighty to Save*

Children's Corner: (Alyssa)

Offering: (Shane) Congratulations to Reindeer & Maria Sloop for 59 years of marriage.

Offertory: *When Answers Aren't Enough*

Sermon: **Reading Your Bible through in a Year**

RHBC Purpose: Connecting with God, His Word, His Church, His Mission....

Today we are going to focus on the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of our purpose: Connecting with God's Word.

Did you know that never before in history has the Bible been more available in the western world and yet never before has there been such a famine of God's Word? We have Bibles in hotels, motels, offices, libraries, and in many if not most homes in North America and yet most people are ignorant of what the Scriptures have to say. We live in a day of Biblical illiteracy, even among many people of God.

When Jesus was being tempted in the wilderness he responded to the Devil by saying, "Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

The average person in North America watches 3-4 hours of television. Let's say you watch 3 hours of TV for 65 years then you will have spent 71,175 hours watching television which is a little over 8 years.

History teaches us that there is one common denominator of every great man or woman of God which is – they knew the Scriptures and spent consistent and regular time with the Lord in His Word.

### **George Muller:**

- He was born in England 1805.
- He did not grow up in a Christian home.
- He was known for being a liar and cheat and spent time in jail.
- He was saved in 1825 in a prayer meeting.
- He moved to Bristol in 1832 and started pastoring the same church for 66 years.

In his lifetime....

- He provided education for over 123,000 orphans in England.
- He personally housed and took care of 10,024 orphans establishing the first orphanage in Bristol.
- He built 5 buildings that would each house 2,000 at a time.
- He humbly claimed that God answered 50,000 of his requests of which 30,000 were answered within an hour or a day.
- When there was no more food in the orphanage he would sit down at the table believing that God would provide never missing a meal.
- God provided over 75 millions pounds to financially support Muller's Ministry which is the equivalent of 1.1 billion dollars.
- At the age of 70 he became a missionary traveling the around the globe 8 times going to 42 different countries speaking over 5,000 times to over 3 million people.

George Muller read his Bible from beginning to end almost 200 times. Lived to be 93 and was saved at the at age of 20. He had 73 years of Bible reading. He read the Bible through 2.5 times a year.

### Acts 17:11:

*Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

### **Bruce & Ann Blough Interview:**

1. Ann: How many times have you read the Bible through?
2. Bruce: How many times have you read the Bible through?
3. Ann: What part of the day is the best time for you to read your Bible?
4. Bruce: What part of the day is the best time for you to read your Bible?
5. Ann: What have you gained by reading your Bible through?
6. Bruce: What have you gained by reading your Bible through?

**Choose a Daily Bible Reading Plan:** <http://www.ewordtoday.com/year/>.

At eword today there are 5 Plans with over 50 Translations to choose from. Plans include: Beginning, Chronological, Historical, Old/New, & New/Old.

The youth have a plan! The children have a plan.

### **3 Questions to Help You Read God's Word**

1. **What?** What is the background to the text and authors original intent?
2. **So What?** What timeless truths can be drawn from this text?
3. **Now What?** How can I apply this text to my life?

### **Helpful Resources:**

1. A good Study Bible: NIV, NASB
2. A good Bible Dictionary: Broadman & Holman, Zondervan.
3. Some good Bible Software: *Logos*
4. *Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods: 12 Ways You Can Unlock God's Word.*

James 1:22:

*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

### **11 Questions to Help You in the Application of God's Word**

- A** Is there an **Attitude** to change?
- P** Is there a **Promise** to claim?
- P** Is there a **Prayer** to pray?
- L** Is there a **Lesson** to learn?
- I** Is there an example to **Imitate**?
- C** Is there a **Command** to follow?
- A** Is there a sin to **Acknowledge**?
- T** Is there a **Truth** to consider?
- I** Is there **Inspiration** for Praise and Thanksgiving?
- O** Is there an **Opportunity** for ministry, witness, or service?
- N** Is there something **New** that God would like to say to me?

**Rick Warren:** The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to make us like the Son of God for the Glory of God. (*Purpose Driven Life*, page 185)

John 16:13:

*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth...*

I love to explore! God wants to take you somewhere new in his Word.

John 15:7-8:

*If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

God wants us to bear fruit to His Glory by praying and remaining.

Connecting with God's Word is one of the most important things you can do each day in this New Year!

With your Bible in hand commit to read it every day this year!

Response: *Blessed Assurance*

Announcements:

1. Youth Sledding
2. Ambassadors
3. Ladies Bible Study

Introductions:

1. Vaughan Family: Charles, Linda, Hunter, Lindsay
2. Good Family: Gordon, Lois, Julianne
3. Sadie Scott