

## SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

Sunday morning worship (Bible study) .....	9:30 AM
Sunday morning worship (Preaching) .....	10:30 AM
Sunday afternoon worship (Preaching).....	4:00 PM
Wednesday evening worship (Bible Study).....	7:00 PM

## NEWS AND NOTES

**SCHEDULE:** The schedule for August is posted on the bulletin board so the men can see what their responsibilities are for the month.

**SICK AND SHUT-INS:** Bruce Tooley and Richard Hammock tested positive for Covid-19. Both responded well to treatments they received and are not too bad sick at present. Donna Criswell and J. L. Barrett's aunt Nell is at home under hospice care and not expected to live much longer. Remember Donna and J. L. in your prayers. Telford's sister is at Southern Magnolia. Remember Telford's brother-in-law. Virgie Waddle is in the Tupelo hospital and is not doing well. She is now in hospice care. Virgie's sister-in-law is in Sothern Magnolia assisted living. Nancy Summerford continues helping care for her mother who has Alzheimer's. She hopes to be back at services soon. Raymond Poston's second eye surgery was successful, and he can see much better. Remember Raymond's son, Kevin, as he deals with his brain tumor and ongoing treatments. George Hutto continues to do well as he finishes his chemo treatments. Gerald Ricketts' wife, Michele, is doing well in her recovery from a heart attack. Mike Gay is doing well following his surgery to remove a tumor from his pancreas. In the coming weeks he will be undergoing further treatments

**WEEKLY BIBLE READING:** This week's reading is **Titus 1-3**.

**TEACHING EFFORTS:** The men decided in the last business meeting to discontinue the **EASTSIDE EXAMINER**, which we have been inserting in the Red Bay News four times a year for a little over three years with basically no response. Copies of past issues are available, and can be used as a teaching tool. There is an ad in the paper once a month offering a free Bible correspondence course. DVD copies of past TV programs are available. Our radio program continues on 95.5 FM at 10 AM each Sunday. Pray that these efforts will reach people interested in studying God's word.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS / SINGINGS:** Gooch Lane Aug 1 – 6 with Rick Lanning. Mon – Fri 7pm. Vinemont Aug 1 – 4 with John Pollard. Mon – Wed 7 pm. Eastside (Russellville) Aug 8 – 13 with Jeff May. Sun 7:30 pm; Mon – Fri 7 pm. If you know of meetings or singings in the area, please tell the one making announcements.

## POINTS TO PONDER

- To be truly great, one must be humble and kind and must serve others.
- Although a rumor has no legs, it travels very fast.

# THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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## READING

By Donnie Rader

Reading is one of the greatest blessings man has. Think of the value in it. If one can read, he can learn to do almost anything in life. If one can read, he can find answers to problems he is facing. Since there is no end to the making of books (Eccl. 12:12), there is no end to reading. The more one reads, the more he learns and consequently, the more he knows.

### God Expects Us to Read

Not only is reading a privilege, but God expects us to read. God instructed Moses to write the words of the law so that the children of Israel could read it. In fact, the command was for it to be read to the people of God.

"And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the **LORD** his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes" (Deut. 17:19, emphasis mine DVR).

"When all Israel comes to appear before the **LORD** your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing" (Deut. 31:11, emphasis mine DVR).

When the people returned from captivity, Ezra took the book "Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law" (Neh. 8:3). His reading was careful and he explained what he read:

"So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading" (Neh. 8:8).

Jesus, when in Nazareth, went into the synagogue and "stood up to read" (Luke 4:16). He, like Ezra, did more than read. He explained saying, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (v. 21). It was customary for the law to be read every Sabbath in the synagogues (Acts 13:27; 15:21).

The epistles were to be read to the brethren to whom it was sent. Paul said, "I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren" (1Thess. 5:27). In fact, a letter sent to one church was to be passed on to another so they too could read the epistle. "Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea" (Col. 4:16).

### **Make Time for Reading**

If God expects us to read, then time must be made for reading. Obviously, we live in a busy society. We think we have little time to read. One reason TV news is so popular is that we want our information in a short and quick format that doesn't take long. We don't want longer details that take time in the printed form.

However, time must be made to read God's word. In Nehemiah's day the people took time (whether they thought they had the time or not) to read and reflect on the word. Consider:

"And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshipped the LORD their God" (Neh. 9:3).

The people of Berea were commended for their daily study of the text (Acts 17:11). This apparently was not a ritual of a "daily reading" so they could claim to have read the scrolls through x number of times. It was a reading with the intent of discerning what truth was.

Paul told Timothy to give attention to reading (1Tim. 4:13).

### **Understanding What We Read**

There is a difference in reading and in understanding. All of us have read something that we didn't understand. The same could be true with the text of God's word. Paul said it was possible to read and understand what had been

revealed (Eph. 3:4). Furthermore, we are commanded to understand the will of the Lord (Eph. 5:17).

Yet, it is possible we need some help. The Eunuch was riding along in his chariot and reading from Isaiah 53. "So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' And he said, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?'" (Acts 8:30-31). The fact that both Ezra and Jesus (in the passages noted earlier) not only read, but explained the text would suggest that there are times that is needed.

### **"Have You Not Read?"**

Jesus frequently rebuked those who raised questions for not knowing the answers. He would begin his rebuke by saying, "Have you not read" (cf. Matt. 19:4; 22:31; Mark 2:25; 12:10, 26; Luke 10:26). If they had carefully read, they should have known the answers to the questions they were raising.

It amazes me at how much of the Bible that those who are religious have not read. On more than one occasion, I have watched people in home Bible studies stare with wonder at Mark 16:16. It is as if they have never seen it before. But, before we feel too good about our own knowledge of the word, we might think about how much we have either missed or ignored. How many of the plain instructions to Christians have we brushed aside as if it wasn't there? Have you not read?

### **What Do You Read?**

What do you read? Do you have time to read the newspaper, magazines, sports information, but have little time for the word of God? Do you read the text or merely read about the text? When you do read about the text, are you reading solid material or light, fluffy junk? When you are seeking good counsel (for example on marriage or raising children, etc.) do you look for material in women's magazines, from child experts, or do you look first to the text itself? Where do you go for learning to handle people? Do you rely on what you get from work or what passages like Proverbs teach?

Recently I asked a preacher who is known for his scholarship what he found to be the most help on a certain Old Testament book. His response was, "The text itself".

When reading, our first and foremost question should always be, "What does the text say?"