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## **Practical Precepts on How to Get the Most out of the Bible**



The Christian is to be governed by a peerless Book. The Word of God is a lamp unto our feet and light to our path (Psa. 119:105). We need to get our bearings and direction right each day that will be beneficial to us. Let us consider these 8 thoughts on how we may read the Bible with great profit to our souls.

- 1. Read, Study & Meditate on your Bible Daily.** (Rev 1:3) The way to do a thing is to make a conscious effort to do it; and the way to read the Bible — is actually to set a time in the day to read it! It is not merely meaning, or wishing, or resolving, or intending, or thinking about it. There is no easy road in this matter, it requires discipline and planning and commitment and stamina. **Make an endeavour to meditate on the words. Scripture must actually get into your mind, so spend time pondering deeply on it and asking what it means to you today (Jos 1:8).** Listen to and share the Sunday sermons preached or Sun Sch class lesson or Bible Study with all eagerness to learn much from it. (Deut 5:1-3 Jas 1:22)
- 2. Read the Bible with an Earnest Desire to Understand & Apply it.** Don't turn Bible reading into a mere enforced ritual. Settle it down in your mind as a general principle, that a Bible not read nor understood — is a Bible that does no good! As often as you read, ask *"What is this mean to me and what is it all about today in my situation?"* Dig for the meaning and get to the bottom of it like a man digging for gold. Seek to know and meditate on it and to practice it (Jas 1:22). Don't traffic in unpractised truth.
- 3. Read the Bible with Faith & Humility.** Open your heart — as you open God's book, and say, *"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening!"* Resolve to believe implicitly whatever you find there, however much it may run counter to your own desires and prejudices. **Resolve to receive heartily every statement of truth — whether you like it or not. Beware of that habit into which some readers of the Bible fall — they receive some doctrines because they like them;** and



they reject others because they are condemning them. Are we to be judges of what ought to be in God's Word? Do we know better than God? Settle it down in your mind — that you will receive all and believe all, and that what you cannot understand — you will take on with faith and trust in God humbly. Remember, when you pray — that you are speaking to God, and God hears you. **But, remember, when you read Scripture — that God is speaking to you, and you are not to "dictate," but to listen humbly and intently and not argue or doubt God or His Word!**

**4. Read the Bible in a Spirit of Obedience & Discernment.**

Sit down to the study of it with a daily determination that you will live by its rules, rest on its statements, and act on its holy commands. Consider, as you go through every chapter, *"How does this affect my thinking, my goals and my daily conduct? What does this guide counsel or teach me and do I need to change?"* It is meaningless to read the Bible from mere curiosity, and for speculative purposes — in order to fill your head and store your mind with mere opinions, while you do not allow the inspired book to influence your heart and life. **That Bible is read best when practiced most in our lives! (Jer 15:16)**



**5. Read & Listen to the Bible Diligently with a Pen & Prayer.**

Make it a part of every day's business to read and meditate on some portion of God's Word and make notes of it. Private means of grace are just as needful every day for our souls — as food and clothing are for our bodies. Yesterday's food will not feed the labourer today; and today's food will not feed the labourer tomorrow. Do as the Israelites did in the wilderness. Gather your manna fresh every morning in your devotion as David did (Psa 5:3). Do not scramble over and hurry your reading. Give your Bible the best, and not the worst part of your time, (ie early in the morning) and search the word carefully, writing down what you learn from it! Let it be a rule of your life to visit the throne of grace and God's Word every day (Acts 17:11; Heb 4:16).

**6. Read All of the Bible Fervently & Systematically.**

I fear there are many parts of the Word which some people never read at all. (i.e. the minor prophets). This is to say at the least, a very presumptuous habit. *"All Scripture is profitable and not some of it."* [2 Timothy 3:16]. To this habit may be traced that lack of well-proportioned views of truth, which is so common in this day. Some Bible-reading is a system of perpetual selective 'dipping and picking'. They do not seem to have an idea of regularly going through the book with a proper system or in an orderly manner, i.e. in studying each book of the NT or OT in the bible over three years. Have a good Reformed study Bible (eg. Reformation Bible) if necessary, with sound end or foot notes, to help you with understanding.

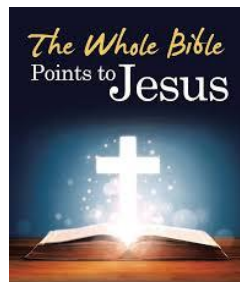
**7. Read the Bible Literally unless otherwise required.**

Determine to take everything in its plain, obvious literal, meaning unless the context require otherwise — and regard all forced interpretations in the text with great suspicion. As a general rule, whatever a verse of the Bible seems to mean in its obvious form



— that is what it does mean! Cecil's rule is a very valuable one, *"The right way of interpreting Scripture is to take it as we find it, without any attempt to force it into any particular theological system."* Read 2Tim2:15 for this and there are metaphors and allegories too, but the context will inform you and guide you in the right interpretation.

8. **Read the Bible with Christ in view.** The grand primary object of all Scripture is to testify of Our Lord Jesus Christ! Old Testament *ceremonies* are pictures and shadows of Christ (i.e. the Passover lamb), Old Testament *judges* are types of Christ and Old Testament *prophecies* are full of Christ's sufferings, and of Christ's glory yet to come. The first coming and the second coming; the Lord's humiliation and His glorious kingdom; His cross and the crown, shine forth everywhere in the Bible. **Keep yourself alert and look out for Christ in all these learning and reading and hold onto this precept, then you will read and apply the Bible aright so that it will transform your heart and mind!**



## Conclusion

We have a treasure in our hands but only if we make full use of it. There is so much in this inspired, infallible and sufficient reservoir of truth found in the canonical scriptures of 66 books, that we need to meditate and memorise and study and apply daily. **Let us be attentive to the word preached to us every Sunday too, to get the maximum out of its precious content and read and apply it yourself too and be blessed by it spiritually in your souls. Let us begin today and persevere with it and not give up easily.**

Jack Sin

Source: Expanded and edited from J.C. Ryle





## *Pastoral Chat*

### *- From Anniversary to Church Camp -*

Thank God for a meaningful time of worship and fellowship last Sunday at our 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and for many of you who served in our midst. Many of our visitors and new friends were encouraged by the work of the gospel in SHBPC. The montage is available on the church website with about 170 views as of now. You may also view it via:

- this link: [8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Montage](#) or
- QR Code →.



Every year has new challenges, and we must not rest on our laurels but press on with greater zeal and fervour for the kingdom of God in perilous times.

We look forward to the coming Church Camp in June with anticipation.

Thank God that we are able to invite Prof Scott Hollander of Western Reformed Seminary, a BP seminary in the US to speak to us on a very relevant subject.

He will address the advent of AI and its impact on the church from a Christian

perspective with discussion questions for all.

There will be a workshop on ***"The Discipline of Edifying & Effective communication"***.

There are limited rooms and some have already signed up. Do share this with others. Reservations are on a first come first served basis. Some from other churches are joining us as the elder has asked for the registration forms for his church and brethren from Batam churches too among others.

The campers will get to visit a BP mission church, FBPC in Batam during our final message.

Let Dn Paul or Eld Yue Kay know if you need the registration forms.

A promotional poster for the 7th Church Retreat and Church Camp. The top section features the "SOVEREIGNHOPE" logo and text: "7th CHURCH RETREAT", "7th-12th JUNE 2026", "CHURCH CAMP", and "TOLLO HOTEL, BATAM, INDONESIA". Below this is a collage of images showing a modern hotel building, a colorful children's play area, and a dining hall. To the right of the collage is a yellow banner that reads: "A time of learning, sharing and bonding in Christian Fellowship". The bottom left section is titled "The Biblical Perspective of the Christian and the Church in a Digital Age" and lists the "GUEST SPEAKER" as "DR SCOTT HOLLANDER", with his credentials: "Registrar and Associate Professor of Old Testament, Western Reformed Seminary, Tacoma, USA". The bottom right section is titled "4-DAY CAMP FEES" and shows two options: "SINGLE OCCUPANCY \$550" and "TWIN SHARING \$390". It also includes a note: "Camp fees inclusive of meals &amp; ferry rides" and a registration deadline: "Register by 31 March 2026". A small yellow box at the bottom right says: "Register with Dn Paul Tan 97314733 Bro Joseph Chan 90587005".



Last Wednesday, Eld Yue Kay and I visited Mr Low who was baptised last Christmas Eve as we remember his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday with a book and some CNY goodies. We shared the word from Matt 5 prayed for him and he reads our Chinese weekly and he will attend our Chinese fellowship meeting on Sunday night.



Pray for his daughter sis Geok Pin who had surgery and is recovering in hospital.



On Friday we also visited Bernard de Castro who came back to church recently and pray for his faith to be firm in the Lord and salvation of his own family.

This Sunday we will study the Christian calling as a priest and after the service, Dr Samuel Gan will conduct a combined Sun Sch seminar on the history of the Exodus. We encourage all to stay back to learn from it and let us strive to grow in the knowledge and fear of God this year and always.

Pray for Chandler Zeng's continued spiritual growth after his baptism last Sunday.

CNY is here soon and if anyone wants to open your home for a CNY visitation, let any of the session members know. Get hold a gospel tract to go with your Ang pow to loved ones as the Lord directs.

We are mindful of our missions including bro Benjamin who is teaching a group of Myanmar children in Cameron highland in Malaysia, and he needs much prayers and encouragement.



Let us uphold one another before the throne of grace and especially the senior members and the afflicted and our overseas missions. Heb 4:16



## More Anniversary Greetings

Dear Brethren of Sovereign Hope BPC,  
Greetings in our Lord's precious name.  
We rejoice with you as you observe this  
8th Anniversary of your congregation  
at Sovereign Hope BPC.

As Pastor Sin has rightly observed in  
recent writings, we live in perilous  
times. Yet these are the only times we  
have to serve our Lord. Yesterday has  
gone and tomorrow has not arrived.  
Let us make the most of the  
opportunities we have while we have  
them, for the glory of our Sovereign  
God.

Wishing you every blessing in Christ,

**Rev. Dr. Carl T Martin**  
**Florida, USA**

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Dear Rev Jack

Greetings in the blessed name of our Lord Jesus. On  
behalf of GLBPC, I have a gift for Sovereign Hope BPC 8th  
Anniversary. May the Lord bless SHBPC and we give  
thanks for His marvellous grace and mercies. God bless.

**Eld Eric Koh**  
**Gospel Light BPC Session, Singapore**

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Thank you for sharing, Pastor.

Praise God for his faithfulness throughout the years and the  
abundant blessings. The Lord has been very gracious and  
SHBPC has been a blessing to many worshippers in growing  
in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus  
Christ.

May the Almighty continue to use your family for the  
extension of His kingdom, Pastor.

We'll continue to keep SHBPC in prayers that God would  
continue to bless your ministry 🙏

**Preacher Praveen**  
**Covenant BPC, Bangalore, India**





The choir led the congregation in Responsive Singing of the Hymn  
*"On Christ, I Stand"*.



Baptism of a Child of God.



There were many special guests that included Rev Philip Heng, our speaker, and Rev & Mrs Quek Swee Hwa.



Family of our dear late brother Micheal.

Thank you for the konnyaku jelly, Bee Geok!



Willing hands and cheerful hearts ever ready to serve!





## Memory Verse

*1Pet 2:9* But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***A Responsible Priest at God's Altar (1Pet 2:1-9)***". the quarterly series on "***Pictures of the Dynamic Christian Life***".
3. Next Sun, Pastor will preach on "***A Fit Soldier in God's Army (2Tim 2:3-4; Eph 6:10-18)***".
4. Combined Sunday School Seminar after refreshments this morning by Dr Samuel Gan on "***Tree Rings in Biblical Timeline & Evidences of the Exodus***". Do stay back for a time of learning.
5. Chinese Fellowship that meets every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178].
6. SHBPC Church Camp will be **9-12 June 2026** on the theme "***The Biblical Perspective of the Christian & Church in a Digital Age***". The camp speaker is **Dr Scott Hollander**, Registrar & Adjunct Professor of Old Testament, Western Reformed Seminary, Tacoma, USA. The camp venue is at **Yello Hotel, Harbor Bay, Batam**. Contact Dn Paul for more details and the registration form. **Mark your calendar** to join us for a time of learning and fellowship.
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551].
8. Pray for:
  - **Travels: Dr Sam** [CMI travel to Sibul and back to Wenzhou on 23 Feb]
  - **Medical: Geok Pin** (post-op recovery), **Bernard** (medical conditions), **Eld YK** (leg condition), **Mrs Philip Heng** [stroke recovery],
  - **Bro Low Chin Chye** [health & spiritual growth], **Agnes' Parents** [health & salvation],
  - **Lily Almon** [citizenship application], **John Almon** [NYP application]
  - **Salvation** of our Loved Ones and Friends.
  - **Myanmar & India Mission Outreaches**
9. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
  - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
  - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
  - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.