

Blessed is he that readeth

All Scripture is KJV: Revelation Chapter 1:1-20 read all verses.

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

Turn to Matthew 12:3

Revelation 1:1-3

1. The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: ²Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

³**Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.**

- The verse that I want to share this morning is from Revelation 1:3, where the bible says that ³**Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.**

The title of the message this morning is "**Blessed is he that readeth**"

1. Reading the bible is mentioned by Jesus over and over again. As you study the gospels and the scriptures you find that Jesus repeatedly said over and over again "have you not read in the scriptures".
 2. Jesus continually regarded the word of God as the source of all information that was necessary for man to be right with God.
 3. So Jesus is constantly on the heels of the Jews and the scribes and Pharisees asking them and telling them "**have you not read in the scriptures**".
 4. Therefore reading scriptures I guess is important if Jesus over and over again pointed to them as the source of all information and truth on a matter.
- But if truth were to be told today, how many people which call themselves Christians will refer to the word of God for their source of truth, or even how many Christians will even read the bible to get to know who God is.
 - Instead those that profess themselves to be Christian will rather hear it from another source or a preacher without going to see for themselves if it is so.

So whilst relying on another man's interpretation of the bible many Christians are lead astray by some strange doctrines which are not even found in the bible.

- ✚ For example how many of you who hold to dispensationalism or pretribulationism have in fact formed your own opinion of whether in fact it is true, or have you simply accepted another man's interpretation and decided to go along with it.
- ✚ The same can be said for all doctrines in the bible. Have you read for yourself that these things are in fact so or are you taking another man's opinion as fact!

Well this is what Jesus was addressing when he was talking to many of the Jews, the scribes and the Pharisees. They had taken instruction from their elders or priests and had in fact “not even read the scriptures”.

1. I can guarantee you that this is in fact true today!. People hold to doctrines without having even read it for themselves in the scriptures.
2. Why because people are lazy, and the so called Christian is lazy, and wants everyone else to do the work for him.
3. Why does he not even try to understand by simply reading the scriptures and to be guided by the Holy Spirit? No because they are lazy.

This is the same reason why Jesus in all four of the gospels continually corrected the Jews and the scribes and Pharisees because they were making false accusations and misquoting the torah and OT, and he tells them again and again, have you not read?

Turn to Matthew 12.

Matthew 12:3 ³ **But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;**

- ✓ Or look at the following verse 5.

Matthew 12:5 ⁵ **Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?**

- ✓ Then go to Matthew 19:4.....

Matthew 19:4 ⁴ **And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,**

- ✓ Then go to Matthew 21: and keep your finger there in the page.....Now as you are turning there, let me first read from Luke 4.....

Luke 4: ¹⁶ **And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.**

¹⁷ **And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,**

¹⁸ **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,**

¹⁹ **To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**

²⁰ **And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down.** And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

²¹ And he began to say unto them, **This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**

²² And all bare him witness, **and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth.** And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

²³ And he said unto them, **Ye will surely say unto me this proverb,** Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.

- ✓ What we have here in Luke 4:16-23 is a direct reference to the book of Isaiah 61, where the Lord spoke to Israel about the coming promises of a savior.
- ✓ So we see here in Luke 4:16-23 Jesus is referring to the fact that they should have read the OT and then they would have known that he was the Messiah.

Because if we compare Luke 4:18 in what Jesus said in comparison to Isaiah 61:1-2 we conclude the following similarity.

Isaiah 61:1-3 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

³ To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

- ✓ We see that in Luke Jesus stops short of finishing the sentence of Isaiah 61:2.....because that has not happened yet.
- ✓ The day of vengeance is yet in the future to come....
- ✓ So Jesus is reminding the Jews as well as the scribes and Pharisees that reading the scriptures is extremely important if you want to be accurate in quoting "thus sayeth the Lord".

Just as he said in **Luke 6:3-4** ³ **And Jesus answering them said, Have ye not read so much as this, what David did,** when himself was an hungred, and they which were with him; ⁴ How he went into the house of God, and did take and eat the shewbread, and gave also to them that were with him; which it is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone?

- ✓ Now as I had you turn to **Matthew 21:16** ¹⁶ And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? **And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?**

Matthew 21:13-17 ¹³ **And said unto them, It is written,** My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

¹⁴ And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.

¹⁵ And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased,

¹⁶ And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? **And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read,** Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise? ¹⁷ And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.

Then look at Matthew 21: verse 42-44.

- ✓ Again Jesus points them to the scriptures, and rebukes them for not reading them.

Matthew 21:42-44 ⁴² Jesus saith unto them, **Did ye never read in the scriptures,** The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

⁴³ Therefore say I unto you, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you,** and **given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.**

⁴⁴ And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

- ✓ The Jews had their opportunity to come to Jesus, but because of their unbelief in him and rejecting him as the chief corner stone, the kingdom of God was taken away from them and given to a nation who would call upon his name. (the gentiles).
- ✓ The emphasis Jesus gave to the chief priests and scribes as a witness was in verse 42 was "**Did ye never read in the scriptures?**"
- ✓ So twice we see in this one chapter alone he is rebuking people for not reading the word of God.

Then turn to Matthew 22: verse...28-34.

Mathew 22:28-34 ²⁸ Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

²⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, **Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures,** nor the power of God.

³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. ³¹ **But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,**

³² I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. ³³ **And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine.**

³⁴ But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together.

- ✓ All they had to do was to read the scriptures and they would have known the answer to all these ridiculous questions that they were asking.
- ✓ That's why Jesus was mad at them. They simply did NOT want to read the scriptures and believe them.
- ❖ Then how about Matthew 24:.....while you turning there let me read to you from Mark 2:25 and following.....

Mark 2:25 ²⁵ And he said unto them, **Have ye never read what David did**, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him?

Mark 12:10 ¹⁰ **And have ye not read this scripture**; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner:

Mark 12:26 ²⁶ And as touching the dead, that they rise: **have ye not read in the book of Moses**, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?

- ❖ Now look back at **Matthew 24:15**.....

¹⁵ When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, **spoken of by Daniel the prophet**, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

- ✓ So is this not important, as we see Jesus bringing this subject of "whosoever readeth".
- ✓ Just in the book of Matthew alone Jesus is rebuking them over and over again. Saying that they should have known these things.

So this morning I want to preach about why it so important to read the bible.

This mention of reading the scriptures is not just mentioned in the gospels but is referred to all over the bible.

Now while you turning to 1 Corinthians 14 let me read to you some other scriptures found in the bible.

Ephesians 3:4 ⁴ **Whereby, when ye read**, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

Colossians 4:16 ¹⁶ **And when this epistle is read among you**, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

1 Thessalonians 5:27 ²⁷ **I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read** unto all the holy brethren.

- ✓ Now in Hosea 4:6 it reads,

Hosea 4:6 ⁶ **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge**: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast **forgotten the law of thy God**, I will also forget thy children.

1. And this is a huge problem today, concerning this verse of Hosea. There is a lack of bible reading both from those that call themselves Christians and from those that are in the pulpit.
2. There is no sound reading of the of the Word of the Lord anymore, and so the people have gone wayward, and have entered into all kinds of strange doctrines of devils and seducing spirits, that have absolutely nothing to do with the bible.
3. They have distorted the word of God to fit their agendas, and to make money off the gospel as they preach heresy to the people, and the people don't even know it, because they are weak having not the word of God in them, and therefore they cannot discern what is right or what is wrong, because they are too lazy and too idle to read it for themselves, and therefore the consequence of that is that they are lead astray to help line the pockets of the money preachers, whilst they themselves are on the way to the fiery furnace of hell.

✓ This is precisely what Hosea warned about.

- You can tell when someone has not done any bible reading, because there is a lack of knowledge of the scriptures and there is no understanding there of the scriptures.

1. And we need to be that person who wants to read the bible, and not just coming to church being ignorant, of the scriptures and just wanting the preacher to feed them.
2. No - we need to read our bibles so that we can understand and not be deceived the bible says.

- Let me ask you this question: when the bible says having done all to stand? Have you indeed done what it asks?

3. Have you done what the bible said, having done all to stand? That means have you read your bible?
4. Because how can you stand IF YOU DON'T KNOW SCRIPTURE? – The enemy is going to get you. He knows when you are vulnerable and he knows when you can't fend off the things of the flesh, because you have not got the SWORD of the SPIRIT which is the sharp two edge sword to ward off the evil when it comes people?
5. So don't be surprised when you get into a fix and you don't know how to stand?

Now look at 1 Corinthians' 14:34 where I had you turn to earlier. Look what it says.

1 Corinthians' 14:34 ³⁴ Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law.

³⁵ And if they will learn any thing, **let them ask their husbands at home**: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

Now this verse leads me to ask a lot of questions. Firstly the bible says that woman are to keep silent in the churches as we also saw in an earlier message.

But look what else it says. It says that the men are to teach their wives. It says that if the women will learn anything let them ask their husbands at home.

1. Now with that in mind, men is this scripture not clear that the men ought to be the spiritual leader in the home?
2. So I ask you this question men? How can you be the spiritual leader in the home and how can you teach your wife, if you have nothing to say about the scriptures?
3. How is it possible for you to be that spiritual leader if you are ignorant of the scriptures?
4. How is it possible that your wife can grow in the scriptures if you are not teaching her?
 - Don't blame you wife if she is ignorant of the scriptures? Blame yourself. Because men, you are to be the spiritual leaders as God has commanded.
5. So men if your wife keeps elbowing you in church, then maybe just maybe you are not teaching her at home because you yourself are not spiritual.
6. The bible says that it is a shame for the women to speak in church? But you know what else is a shame? It is when the husbands or men don't know the bible.
 - If men were not to be the leaders of their homes, then Go would not direct their wives to them.
 - The husband should be held to a higher standard because he should know the bible. Just like the pastor should be held to a higher standard because he is leading and he is teaching. So should the husband be held accountable to God to teach his wife.

That's why God said in **2 Timothy 2: 15** **Study to shew thyself approved** unto God, a **workman** that needeth not to be **ashamed**, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- ✓ So in other words a **workman** what is not studying the bible needs to be **ashamed** unto God for not rightly dividing the word of God.
- ✓ It's a shameful thing for a man to not know the bible.
- That is why Jesus is constantly putting to shame those scribes and Pharisees who have not read the bible. He constantly tells them "have you not read".
- ✓ Jesus said that man cannot live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, **It is written**, Man shall **not live by bread alone**, but by **every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God**.

- ❖ Reading the bible is something that feeds us spiritually. But not only that it gives us the right knowledge to live the Christian life before God.

Now let me tell you some reasons why people don't read the Bible.

1. The reason why people don't read the bible is firstly because it is hard work, and secondly it is because they are lazy.
2. It takes work and much effort to read and to understand the bible. So it is a labor issue. Its hard work.
3. We read in the scriptures that it is hard work and takes much labor.

1 Timothy 5:17¹⁷ Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they **who labour in the word and doctrine**.

- ❖ You see it takes much work and it is a labor to read and understand the word of God. And it is those people who are lazy who simply don't read Gods word.
- ❖ The bible calls them lazy and that they should be ashamed of themselves.

1. So that tells me that studying the word and preaching the Word of God is labor. And it requires time and effort.
2. That means work is involved here which those who are ignorant are ignorant because they do not labor in God's word.
3. Even the OT in Ecclesiastes 12:12 it gives us the same advice.

Ecclesiastes 12:12¹² And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; **and much study is a weariness of the flesh**.

4. So according to the bible much study is a weariness of the flesh.
5. That means it is hard work. So people who don't read the bible do so because they don't want to put in the hard work that it requires.

There is a big difference in the people who read and those that don't.

1. As we saw in the book of Revelation 1:3 **Blessed is he that readeth**,
2. Because when you read the word of God for yourself, you are not only doing his will, but you are also figuring out for yourself what Gods word says, and you don't have someone coming along in the future to mislead you.
3. But if all I did was give you the answers you would never grow in the Lord as well as those who do read his word and figuring out what God has to say.

Also if you not doing your own reading then you will never be able to prove anything that comes your way whether t is true or not because you will not know the scriptures behind that answer.

- ❖ Just knowing the answer does not lead to spiritual growth.

PRAYER.....CLOSE