

How Can I Get More Out of My Bible Reading?

By Jeremy Kimble

9Marks: Church Question Series

Lesson 2: Focus #1 The Church – Want to know the Bible – join a church / Be a member of a church

Homework review: *Read Colossians 1. Read to p. 32.*

Q. How has being a part of a church / your church helped you in understanding the Bible?

Q. *How does being part of a church help us read the Bible better or get more out of our Bible reading?*

1. God's Word Creates the Church.

Colossians 1:13-14

1 Peter 2:9-10

Christians are to be committed to live according to God's word and in fellowship with His people.

The church is God's school for Bible instruction.

God's word creates the church and should be at the heart of every church.

God's word gathers the church and God's Word instructs the church.

Q. *How does the Gospel Gather God's People?:*

Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 3:23; John 3:36; Romans 6:23; John 1:1-14; Romans 3:21-26; 1 Peter 2:21-25; Romans 10:9-17; John 6:35. **Ephesians 3:1-10...**

"We come to Christ to not only obey everything He has commanded but also to help other Christians walk the same path of obedience." P. 16

Q. *How is that done?*

2. The Church's Statement of Faith/confession and covenant helps us get more out of our Bible reading.

They summarize what the church thinks the Bible teaches about what we should believe, and summarizes what a church thinks the Bible teaches about how we should live/ behave.

They give you the big picture of what the Bible says.

They give guardrails for reading Scripture.

They emerged from Scripture to point us back to Scripture. They summarize the Bible so we can more out of our Bible reading.

3. The Ministry of Preaching helps us get more out of our Bible reading.

***The primary way local churches teach people to read their Bibles better is through preaching.

If the local church is God's school for Bible instruction, then pastors are gifted by God to teach in his school. P. 21.

First, biblical preaching affirms that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and authoritative word of God.

Second, the most nourishing preaching is expository preaching.

Third, faithful preaching not only explains the content of Scripture but also models how to read Scripture well. Preachers should show you how to read a passage in context and understand what it means. By showing you their 'homework', church members learn to read Scripture.

Colossians 1.

4. The ministry of teaching helps us get more out of our Bible reading.

Give opportunities to ask questions, provide our own biblical insights, and talk with fellow class members what is being learned.

Teachers do well to ask people to share something they read from the Bible that week, what it means, and how they're applying it to their lives (habit).

Colossians 1.

5. The Ministry of fellowship and discipleship helps us get more out of our Bible reading.

When we invest in relationships with each other, we will share the faith we hold in common and often unintentionally teach one another the Bible. Romans 15:14.

Do this intentionally through discipleship relationships. We should be discipling one another – Titus 2.

Do this by getting with other Christians and read the Bible today and discuss what you are reading.

6. Beholding models of obedience can help us get more out of our Bible reading.

When others model obedience, we see what the Bible says.

The church models what Scripture means as it is lived out.

7. Reading Scripture for others and not just for ourselves.

We need to speak the Bible to others, and we need them to speak it to us. God wants all of us to be word-filled people who regularly encourage and instruct one another from the Bible.

We read Scripture to serve one another with the word – our family, our friends, our small groups. We read Scripture for the good of others as much as we read for the good of ourselves.

Homework:

- a. Read the rest of the booklet.
- b. Read Colossians 2.
- c. Study/Read two or three of the passages cited in the BFM2000 The Family.