Seeing the Big Picture

(Learning to not lose the forest while you are looking at the trees)
Why Christians Read Their Bibles Poorly

From the module: “How to Study Your Bible”
Speaker: Mark Vance
April 5, 2009
Class 1 of 8
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Review
Review

We read our Bibles poorly for a ton of different reasons.
Review

We read our Bibles poorly for a ton of different reasons.

But God wants us to know and understand and love this Book.
Review
I have met people who knew a lot about baseball, a lot about oldies rock and roll [oops], a lot about computers, a lot about a lot, but I have never met anyone who knew the Bible too well. Not one person. Ever. Especially not in these times.
Could we all give less to other things so that we give more to the Bible? Could we bore down together and discover the wonders of this holy Book as never before? Could we acknowledge our spiritual hunger, and thoughtfully, carefully, attentively, daily feed our souls? Could we shut off the noise and listen? Could we re-set our focus from the voices inside our heads to the Voice in the Book?
Review

And if we did, is it even conceivable that we could then come to the end of 2009 and say, "Dang. I could have done more TV and more computer and more video games and more dumb stuff. What a loser year 2009 has been! Next year, man, it's going to be different. No more of this Bible-focus for me. I'm going to LIVE again"? Is there any chance, any chance at all, that could happen?
Review

Or might Jesus become more real to us? Might the Holy Spirit be poured out? Might we look back on 2009 as our turn-around year?

Ray Ortlund Jr.
How did reading Titus OUT LOUD go?
Why do you read your Bible daily?

(Write down your answer)
Why I read the Bible daily will be determined by what I think the Bible is.
Why is determined by what...
Why is determined by what...

Is the Bible primarily a:
Why is determined by what...

Is the Bible primarily a:

- **Guidebook**
Why is determined by what...

Is the Bible primarily a:

- Guidebook
- Rulebook
Why is determined by what...

Is the Bible primarily a:

- **Guidebook**
- **Rulebook**
- **Blessings Book**
Who cares why I read the Bible as long as I am reading it?
Is there a wrong way to read your Bible?
Don’t read your Bible like a Pharisee
John 5:37-47
Don’t read your Bible like a Pharisee
John 5:37-47

What was the problem with the Pharisees daily devos? They didn’t see Christ in the Scriptures.
“The Greatest Story Ever Told” – this title has been used for the Bible, and with good reason. The Bible is the greatest storybook, not just because it is full of wonderful stories but because it tells one great story, the story of Jesus.”

- Ed Clowney
The Disciples were taught by Christ how to understand the Scriptures.
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• The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus - Luke 24:25-27, 44-47
The Disciples were taught by Christ how to understand the Scriptures.

- The pattern of the Apostles was to take the Old Testament and show people Jesus.
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- Summary: The Bible is a big story that is all about Jesus.
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- The pattern of the Apostles was to take the Old Testament and show people Jesus.
- Summary: The Bible is a big story that is all about Jesus.
“The Old Testament is Jesus predicted; the Gospels are Jesus revealed; Acts is Jesus preached; the Epistles are Jesus explained; and the Revelation, Jesus expected.” – Alec Motyer
How does that shape the way I read the Bible tomorrow?
How does that shape the way I read the Bible tomorrow

• Good Bible reading happens in two stages.
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• Good Bible reading happens in two stages.
  • Historical Meaning – Trees – What did it mean then?
How does that shape the way I read the Bible tomorrow

• Good Bible reading happens in two stages.
  • Historical Meaning – Trees – What did it mean then?
  • Redemptive-Historical Meaning – Forest – How does this historical meaning connect to the Big Story of the Bible?
The Pattern of the New Testament
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1. Connect this smaller story to the Big Story
The Pattern of the New Testament

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2. Promise Fulfillment
The Pattern of the New Testament

1. Connect this smaller story to the Big Story
2. Promise Fulfillment
3. Types
The Pattern of the New Testament

1. Connect this *smaller* story to the *Big Story*
2. *Promise* Fulfillment
3. *Types*
4. *Analogy*
The Pattern of the New Testament

1. Connect this smaller story to the Big Story
2. Promise Fulfillment
3. Types
4. Analogy
5. Continuing Themes
The Pattern of the New Testament

1. Connect this smaller story to the Big Story
2. Promise Fulfillment
3. Types
4. Analogy
5. Continuing Themes
6. NT Quotations
The Pattern of the New Testament

1. Connect this smaller story to the Big Story
2. Promise Fulfillment
3. Types
4. Analogy
5. Continuing Themes
6. NT Quotations
7. Contrast
The Pattern of the New Testament

1. Connect this smaller story to the Big Story
2. Promise Fulfillment
3. Types
4. Analogy
5. Continuing Themes
6. NT Quotations
7. Contrast
8. Read as Jesus Read
A Method for Daily Bible Reading: Christ-Centered Meditation
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- Listen
- Reflect
- Speak
- See
A Method for Daily Bible Reading: Christ-Centered Meditation

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Listen - Reflect - Speak - See
Listen - Reflect - Speak - See

- **Listen** – Slow, Steady Bible Reading
Listen - Reflect - Speak - See

- **Listen** – Slow, Steady Bible Reading
- **Reflect** – Isolate the key point & think
Listen - Reflect - Speak - See

- **Listen** – Slow, Steady Bible Reading
- **Reflect** – Isolate the key point & think
- **Adore** God
Listen - Reflect - Speak - See

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  - **Adore** God
  - **Confess** sin

Monday, April 20, 2009
Listen - Reflect - Speak - See

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  - **Petition** for Grace

Monday, April 20, 2009
Listen - Reflect - Speak - See

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  - **Adore** God
  - **Confess** sin
  - **Petition** for Grace
  - **Jesus**
Listen - Reflect - Speak - See

- **Speak** – DO all of this out loud. *Reflecting* and *Speaking* on two sides of a coin, always connected.

- **See** – Beyond purely intellectual thought to communion with God
My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 2:1-5
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(Learning to not lose the forest while you are looking at the trees)