



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: The Benefits of Daily Bible Reading

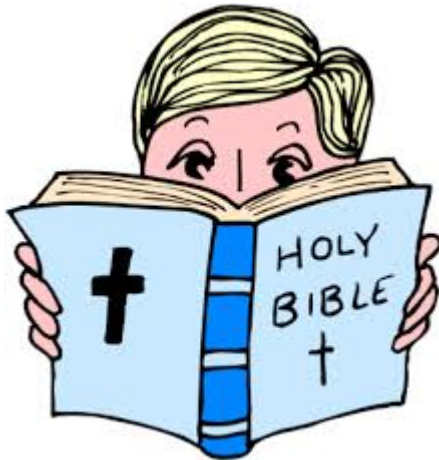
There are various disciplines we must practice regularly if we are to live the Christian life sincerely and effectively. In commenting on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's doctrine of grace, Richard J. Foster wrote:

The grace of God is unearned and unearnable, but if we ever expect to grow in grace, we must pay the price of a consciously chosen course of action which involves both individual and group life.

Celebration of Discipline

This *chosen* and decided course of action is to engage in spiritual disciplines which shape and foster our spiritual growth. The discipline of daily Bible reading and study, in Foster's view, would be a subsection of the discipline of studying books and

life itself, although he agrees that the Bible is the most important and fundamental book to study. Of course, there are many other books and resources, including Bible commentaries, encyclopedias, and dictionaries, which will help us in our study of the Bible. Nonetheless,



reading from the Bible itself must be a **daily** exercise in our lives.

Article 6 of The Thirty-nine Articles of Religion contains this illuminating statement:

Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary

to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation.

p. 603,
The Book of Common Prayer, 1928

The word *salvation* covers not only salvation as believing in the Lord Jesus Christ initially, repenting of sin, and acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord, but also the lifelong process by which the Holy Spirit gradually conforms Christians to the character of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, then, contains everything necessary for the whole of life lived as a disciple of Christ who

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The Benefits of Daily Bible Reading

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daily follows “the blessed steps of Christ’s most holy life” (Collect for the Second Sunday after Easter, p. 171, *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1928).

Two benefits of reading Holy Scripture are evident from this: firstly, reading the Bible can lead a person to turn away from a sinful life, believe in the Lord Jesus

Christ, and receive Him as Lord (*St. John 1:12; Acts 2:38*, for example). In other words, all of the Bible directs us to our need for salvation

and draws us to the Lord Jesus Christ. Secondly, the Holy Spirit instructs, exhorts, and equips us, through the commands and teachings of God both in the Old Testament and in the New, so that we may follow the Lord Jesus Christ with more devotion, love, and

obedience as time goes on.

What does the Bible itself tell us about the benefits of hearing it or reading it?

II St. Timothy 3:16 gives us these purposes for reading Holy Scripture: doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. The goal of all this is to bring everyone to spiritual maturity and to equip each one to do every kind of good deed. Holy Scripture has this power because God inspired it all and moved the writers of every book of the Bible to record whatever material would be most helpful for people’s spiritual growth, not only in ancient times, but for all the centuries to come.

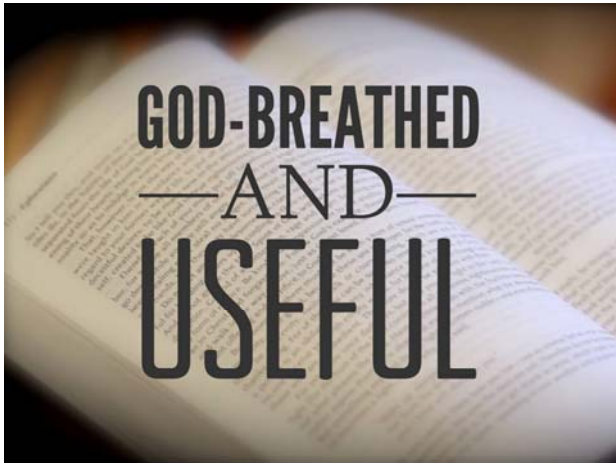
In *Romans 15:4* we read, “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” This verse reinforces Scripture’s purpose of teaching and instruction but adds the idea of training in virtue, particularly patience, or endurance, and strengthening. The purpose of these is to give us hope, the hope that comes to us from believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. The 1928 Prayer Book Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent, a composition of

Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, beautifully emphasizes this purpose of Scripture:

Blessed Lord, Who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which Thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The purpose of admonition, or warning, is another significant way in which the Holy Spirit uses the Bible to direct us away from sinful behavior. St. Paul, writing in *I Corinthians 10*, lists various sins committed by the people of ancient Israel in the wilderness, and the punishments which ensued. He then concludes, “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (v. 11). The purpose of listing examples of bad be-

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All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

II St. Timothy 3:16-17

The Benefits of Daily Bible Reading

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havior and punishments from Old Testament history is to warn Christians not to follow these examples of sin.

The words of *Psalm 119:105* also highlight the directive purpose of God's word (teachings, commandments, doctrines, etc.): "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Not only does God's word lighten our way, but it brings healing to us. Obeying the Lord by trusting in Him with all one's heart, fearing Him and departing from evil, brings

health and strength according to *Proverbs 3:5-8*. In similar vein, the Lord speaks to Moses and the people of Israel in *Exodus 15:26*.

If we want to be a community that prospers, with good health and strength, let us turn from every sin, trust in the Lord Jesus Christ wholeheartedly, and live in obedience to God's Word. As Hymn 349 in *The Baptist Hymnal*, 1986, puts it, we must abide in His Word and trust and obey.

– The Reverend
Christopher Parrish

**When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.**

Vestry Proposes Worship Schedule Changes

At our May Vestry Meeting, we discussed what we should do about our services going forward. We made a change at the beginning of the year to make it easier for Deacon Vogel. Now it is time to revisit that schedule.

It was noted that many of us have enjoyed having everyone together at one service. Also, having one service makes it easier for those who set up and clean up Fellowship refreshments. We also would like to have a full Morn-

ing Prayer service on occasion.

After much discussion, the Vestry suggested that we try the following service schedule: We will have one service every Sunday at

Vestry

10:00 AM. On the first and third Sundays and on special feast days we will have Holy Communion. On the second and fourth Sundays we will have Morning Prayer. In months where we

have a fifth Sunday, we will have Holy Communion assisted by our youth.

Please talk to any Vestry member, Father Parrish, or Deacon Vogel about this schedule. We suggest that we start this schedule in July, so we have plenty of time to make adjustments if needed.

Those currently serving on the Vestry are: Jana Baldwin, Elo-dia Boreham, Ray Boreham, Tony Brown, Mark Cameron, Buck Kendrick, and Kathy Slattery.

– Kathy Slattery

Book Summary: Revival's Golden Key

Ray Comfort's *Revival's Golden Key* is highly recommended. The use of the Ten Commandments in evangelism is the Key to Revival. Preachers of old used the Law, resulting in powerful conversions and real converts. The moral Law demands, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The depths of our evangelistic zeal will be in direct proportion to the love we have. The Barna Group released the results of a survey in 1994 which showed 75% of spiritually "born again" USA Christians could not define the Great Commission (*St. Matthew 28:18-20*). "Christianity Today," a major evangelistic magazine, found that only 1% of their readership said that they had witnessed to someone "recently." That means that 99% of their readership were just lukewarm when it came to concern for the lost. According to the Zondervan Church Source, 97% of the Church has no involvement in any sort of evangelism.

In *St. Luke 15*, Jesus told three parables to illustrate God's profound concern for lost souls. How is it that so many in the Church can profess to love God, yet neglect or even despise

evangelism? Why is there no preaching against sin and exalting righteousness? For many Christians, the Law has not been used to show them that their sinful desires are exceedingly sinful. God is merely a means to further their agenda. We need to warn the lost to flee from the wrath to come! Few see how great a sin it is to neglect evangelism, because so few have any concern for the lost. Many within the Church think that they are here only to worship the Lord and that evangelism is for the few who have that soul-winning gift. The life-style of Christians is almost identical to that of the unsaved.

Evangelism is so evident in Scripture, yet many have a lack of concern for the lost because they have not been taught the Biblical priority of evangelism. It is in vain that we draw near to Him with our lips while our hearts are far from Him. The Ten Commandments were given to humble us. They show us that sin is "exceedingly sinful" and that we are in desperate need of God's mercy. Many people think that they are good people. This is because this nation has forsaken God's Law. When there is no knowledge of the Law, "good" becomes subjec-

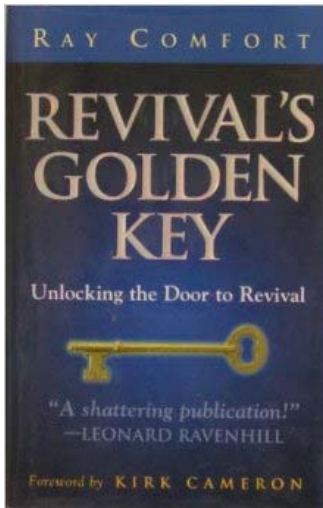
tive. The more they justify their own goodness, the more they reject God's mercy. People think they have graduated from accountability to the Law and therefore live their lives as a mere "form of godliness," as hearers only, not doers.

In *St. Luke 18:18-24* Jesus used the Law to expose the ruler's sin of idolatry, which means worshipping and loving anything more than God. His god was his money. Only when Jesus was with an already humbled repentant person, like the thief on the cross and Nicodemus, did He share the good news of God's grace. Jesus was not eliminating grace from the way of salvation; He knew that the Law was designed for hardhearted sinners to prepare the way for the gospel of grace. God is angry at the wicked every day.

The Law helps us perceive our sin, therefore, these questions must be asked of people:

- ... Do they consider themselves to be good people?
- ... Have they kept the Ten Commandments?
- ... Have they ever told a lie? What

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Book Summary: Revival's Golden Key

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does that make them? They'll reply, "A liar."

... Have they ever stolen anything? What does that make them? They'll reply, "A thief."

... Have they looked lustfully at women? Jesus said whoever looks at a woman to lust after her in his heart is a fornicator.

Tell them that by their own admission, they are liars, thieves, and adulterers at heart and have to face God on Judgement Day. Ask them if they think God is good. If God is good, then by nature He will not overlook their sins but do everything in His power to see that justice is served and that they are punished. Do the same with the rest of the Ten Commandments.

All liars will have their part in the lake of fire and no fornicator, idolater, thief, homosexual, or blasphemer will inherit the Kingdom of God (***1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:5; Revelation 21:8***). Every

time people sin they are storing up wrath for themselves which will be revealed on the Day of Judgement. They are enemies of God because of their wicked works and the wrath of God abides on them. If God gives them justice, they won't be going to Heaven, but spend eternity in hell. Millions have been given assurance of salvation but are strangers to Biblical repentance. In ***1 St. John 1:9*** God promises to forgive us of our sins if we confess them and to cleanse us of all our unrighteousness.

Continue reasoning with them until they stop justifying themselves. Gently ask them if they can see their need for forgiveness. Once they know their need for forgiveness, they can see their need for a Savior. Now is the time to tell them about Jesus. Say, "Although God is a God of justice, He is also a God of mercy and He has made a way of forgiveness." Tell them God did something special for them: He became a man, Jesus Christ, and suffered and died on the cross to pay the price for their sin. They broke the Law, and Jesus paid their fine. Explain to them that they will never be able to earn their way to Heaven. Jesus has paid their fine, and that is

how much God loves them! God will give them forgiveness as a gift if they repent of their sins and put their faith in Jesus Christ alone to save them. Tell them what repentance means. Show genuine concern for their plight. Tell them the story about the Prodigal Son returning home to seek his father's forgiveness. Speak to them about the urgency of their need to turn from sin and put their faith in Christ. Tell them that nothing is more important than getting their heart right with God before bedtime, in case they die tonight, for the Word says man is destined to die once and after that to face judgment (***Hebrews 9:27***).

"Do you want to turn away from all your sins and give your whole life to Jesus right now?" is the question you ask someone at this point. Tell him that he needs to come totally clean before God and confess all his sins to God right now, forsaking them and asking God to help him turn to Him and to love and obey Jesus wholeheartedly. Let him pray quietly and confess his sins, then pray for him and thank God for his broken heart and willingness to repent of all his sins and trust in God's

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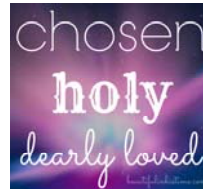
Parish Postings

Please note that June's Evensong service has been moved to Friday, June 26th, at 7:00 PM.



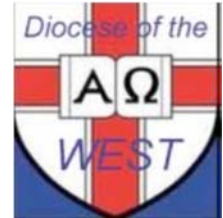
The Committee for Women's Ministry of the Reformed Episcopal Church is now accepting orders for its 2015-16 devotional book. **Holy and Dearly Loved** is being offered for a donation of \$4 each, but additional funds to cover shipping are greatly appreciated. All orders must be pre-paid, and St. Luke's must submit a single order for all who

want a book. Order forms are available in the vestibule. Please give your completed form and donation to Bridgitte Parrish by Sunday, June 21st.



The Diocese of the West of the Reformed Episcopal Church will have its 2015 Synod at Christ Church of the Sierra in Reno, Nevada. The Synod will commence on Tuesday, June 30th, and conclude on Thursday, July 2nd. Please keep the Synod, its attendees, and its hosts in your prayers,

asking that God's will be done and His glory manifested in all their business and fellowship.



Our Summer Community Missions Project is to collect funds with which to buy hooded sweat-shirts for local school-children in need of warm clothing. Sweat-shirts cost \$14 each; if you make a donation to this project, please make a note of your intention on your offertory envelope or check memo line. Thank you!

Book Summary: Revival's Golden Key

(Continued from page 5) mercy. Ask the LORD to bless him, to protect him and his family, and to change him into a Godly man. Check if he has a Bible, and tell him to begin with the **Gospel according to St. John**.

The Moral Law demands that we love our neighbor as ourselves. The Law prepares hearts for the gospel. God's people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. The Ten Commandments were removed from schools in 1980, which left a generation in the

dark as to moral absolutes. The Welsh Revival in 1859 was preceded by a period of corruption. History shows us that virtually every major Revival has been birthed out of a great awakening of those who thought they were saved but were not.

Our mandate is to preach the true gospel to everyone (**St. Mark 16:15**). The Gospel is the power of God to save the lost (**Romans 1:16**). Nothing in all our Christian life is more important than learning

how to effectively bring lost souls to Christ. Jesus is the only way to Heaven and to God. The Lord's passion is to reach sinners and save them from the fire of hell: That's what He lived and died to do. Please pray to the Lord of the Harvest that He would raise up and send forth laborers who fearlessly and faithfully preach and teach those truths which will bring about a Revival!

– Bridgitte Parrish



Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 7th

The First Sunday after Trinity
Emergency Food Pantry Collection Day
Holy Communion with Healing Service
10:00 AM
Holy Communion with Healing Service
noon

Wednesday, June 10th

Anniversary of the publication of the first ***Book of Common Prayer*** in 1549

Sunday, June 14th

The Second Sunday after Trinity
Morning Prayer with Holy Communion
10:00 AM
Vestry Meeting
immediately following the worship service

Saturday, June 20th

Deadline for submissions to July's *Hillside Messenger*

Sunday, June 21st

The Third Sunday after Trinity
Father's Day
Deadline for ***Holy and Dearly Loved*** devotional orders
(please see Parish Postings)
Morning Prayer with Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Friday, June 26th

Evensong
7:00 PM

Saturday, June 27th

Joanna's Circle
9:30 AM

Sunday, June 28th

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity
Morning Prayer with Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Tuesday, June 30th, through Thursday, July 2nd

Diocese of the West of the Reformed Episcopal Church 2015 Synod
Christ Church of the Sierra
Reno, Nevada





The Hillside Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF
ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS
ANGLICAN CHURCH

A PARISH OF
THE DIOCESE OF THE WEST,
THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
A FOUNDING MEMBER OF
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

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«AddressBlock»

Worship Schedule

*“A place
where the Bible is taught.”*

— — —
Biblical in teaching.
Liturgical in worship.
Loving in practice.

St.

Luke's Chapel in the Hills is a traditional Anglican parish which uses the 1928 edition **Book of Common Prayer**. We invite you to join us for worship soon!

Holy Communion with Healing Service

First Sunday each month
10:00 AM and noon

Office of Daily Morning Prayer with Holy Communion

Second through fifth Sundays each month
10:00 AM