



# The Voice Of Truth

A weekly publication of the

## Hillcrest church of Christ

1621 Hillcrest Drive  
Green Bay, WI 54313  
(920) 499-5677

[www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com](http://www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com)

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007

### The Bible Demands That People Read It!

By Jimmy Pettigrew

The Bible, the word of God, demands that people read and study this book. Why? It will save your soul! (James 1:21; Acts 13:26; Romans 1:16).

The Scriptures can help us avoid sinning against God (Psalm 119:11). It is what we are to live for, Jesus said, "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Again Jesus said "to those Jews that had believed of him, If ye abide in my word, then are you truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). Truth is from heaven (John 1:17; 14:6; 16:13). It must be known (John 8:32) believed (2 Thessalonians 2:12), loved (2 Thessalonians 2:10), and obeyed (1 Peter 1:22; Galatians 5:7). Only then can it set one free (John 8:32) and sanctify (John 17:17). We can know truth, but only by reading truth. Notice another passage. Paul said,

"whereby, when ye read, ye can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ" (Ephesians 3:4). When we read, we understand God's plan of salvation for mankind. We learn what God would have us to do to please Him and make heaven our home. We also read, "And when this epistle hath been read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye also read the epistle from Laodicea (Colossians 4:16). Also we read, "I adjure you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the brethren" (1 Thessalonians 5:27). As the Jews listened to "the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath" (Acts 13:27), so must we read the inspired word today. The scriptures were read every sabbath day in their synagogues, though the scriptures were read so constantly, yet they were ignorant of their true meaning. They were blinded by pride, prejudice, and preconceived opinions. People may often in

this way read the Bible and never really come to the knowledge of truth. Peter tells us, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him (be) the glory both now and for ever. Amen (2 Peter 3:18). Notice again, "And this is life eternal, that they should know thee the only true God, and him whom thou didst send, (even) Jesus Christ (John 17:3). "To know thee the only true God" is to know and regard Him as supreme. It is to yield our whole soul to Him, and strive to obey His law. God is pleased with those who desire to understand what He is; what He does; what He purposes; what He commands. We are to increase in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10). How? By reading and studying His word (2 Timothy 2:15). We can come to Christ no other way! One must learn the word before he is qualified to come to Christ. "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me" (John 6:44-45). That is the reason why we should search the scriptures daily (Acts 17:11) and study to show thyself approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15). It is the only way that people could benefit from the scriptures. Reading the scriptures helps us to grow into what Christ would have us to be. Am I growing? Have I been growing in the past? Am I growing now? Am I becoming more of what God and Christ would have me to be? It ought to be obvious,

therefore, that if we are going to become mighty in God's kingdom, we must once again become hungry for the word of God. For any who would find the purpose of life, and eternity, the Bible demands that it be read!

Once we were well known for our knowledge of scriptures. Now we are becoming notorious for our ignorance. Please read the Bible, give yourself to its study, mold your life to its teaching, and it will be to you the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). Then what the Bible makes of you will be worth it, as you live in faith and hope of that eternity with the Savior.