



LIFE NEWS

Read! Rock! Repeat!

By Ron Story, Community Life Pastor



A few weeks back, as part of my personal devotions, I was reading through Psalm 119 (16 verses a day for 11 days) and was once again reminded of the Psalmist's love and value of God's Word.

***"With my whole heart I seek You;
Let me not wander from Your commandments.
I have stored up Your Word in my heart
That I might not sin against You."
(Psalm 119:10-11)***

***"Oh how I love Your law!
It is my meditation all the day."
(Psalm 119:97)***

***"Your Word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path."
(Psalm 119:105)***

Just about every one of the 176 verses in Psalm 119 refers to the importance and richness of God's Word!

When I meet with couples interested in preparing for married life together, I often begin by looking at Matthew 7:24-27 with them:

***"Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.
And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.***

And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

After reading this parable together, we discuss what it takes to build a house/marriage upon a strong foundation. Ultimately it involves regularly hearing God's Word (as in daily) and, just as importantly, obeying and putting God's truth into practice in our lives!

A key part of helping a couple to establish that solid foundation for their life together is to assign them a goal of reading a Scripture each day, discussing it together, and praying for God's help in understanding and putting it into practice. The desire is that this assignment could become a regular pattern of their lives to keep them firmly planted on the Rock of Christ Jesus by daily reading, discussing, and applying God's truth to their lives.

With this in mind, over the last several years, I have assigned couples (and individuals) ***The Daily Bible Reading Calendar*** that Parkside distributes at the beginning of each new year. Each day you can read a chapter or two from the Old Testament, one Psalm, one chapter from Proverbs, and a chapter or two from the New Testament. The intent is that this plan is not for just a few weeks but is meant to ultimately last all year... and then repeat each following year. By following the daily readings, at year's end, you will have read through the Old Testament once, The New Testament twice, and Proverbs 12 times! You should see the markings in my Bible ... especially in Proverbs!

If you do not already have a daily Bible reading plan, especially one that takes you through the whole Bible in a year, I strongly encourage you to pick up the ***2023 Daily Bible Reading Calendar*** found in the foyer of the Worship Center as well as the information counter at The Welcome Center.

***"Great peace have those who love Your law;
nothing can make them stumble."
(Psalm 119:165)***

May you **Read, Rock and Repeat** ... and see God's truth set you free in 2023!

Pastor Ron