

# TIME IN THE WORD 1TIM. 4:13

What kind of relationship should the believer have with the Word of God?

## I. Hearing the Word!

1 Timothy 3:14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: 1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading (τῆ ἀναγνώσει), to exhortation (τῆ παρακλήσει), to doctrine (τῆ διδασκαλίᾳ).

**Paul gave instructions about the centrality of Scripture in the worship of the local church:**

**A. Public reading of Scripture!**

**B. Public explanation of Scripture!**

**C. Public application of Scripture!**

**1. This is rooted in the Old Testament.**

2 Kings 22:8 And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

2 Kings 22:10 And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. 2 Kings 22:11 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.

2 Kings 22:18 But to the king of Judah which sent you to enquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard; 2 Kings 22:19 Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD. 2 Kings 22:20 Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again.

Nehemiah 8:4 And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood ....

Nehemiah 8:5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up:

Nehemiah 8:6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Nehemiah 8:8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

**2. This was central for the synagogue.**

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. Luke 4:17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, Luke 4:19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. Luke 4:20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. Luke 4:21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Acts 13:14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down. Acts 13:15 And after the reading (τὴν ἀνάγνωσιν τοῦ νόμου) of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on. Acts 13:16 Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

Acts 17:1 ...they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: Acts 17:2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Acts 17:3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

**3, This was also central to NT, local church worship.**

Acts 20:6 And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days. Acts 20:7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

**1 Thessalonians 5:27** I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

**Colossians 4:16** And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

**Revelation 1:3** Blessed is he that readeth (ὁ ἀναγνώσκων), and they that hear (οἱ ἀκούοντες) the words of this prophecy, and keep (τηροῦντες) those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

## II. Reading the Word!

NT Bible believing Christianity has always emphasized literacy! It has always been “word-centered” faith and worship!

**Deuteronomy 6:4** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: **Deuteronomy 6:5** And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. **Deuteronomy 6:6** And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: **Deuteronomy 6:7** And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. **Deuteronomy 6:8** And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. **Deuteronomy 6:9** And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

### **Thoughts:**

#### **1. Read the whole Bible – canonically!**

There are many free Bible reading plans. Find one and follow it!

Find a forgiving plan – than can work around the bad days.

Buy the Bible on CD and listen.

#### **2. Read the Bible contextually!**

The Bible does not communicate magically. Therefore, read whole books, Psalms, sections...

#### **3. Read the Bible carefully**

#### **4. Read the Bible lovingly.**

#### **5. Read the Bible...in every language & conservative translation**

#### **6. Read the Bible in depth**

Read a Proverb a day.

Read a Psalm a day.

Have a study night or time.

## III. Memorizing & meditating on the Word!

**Joshua 1:8** This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but **thou shalt meditate** (תִּיָּגֵד) therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

**Psalms 1:2** But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law **doth he meditate** (תִּיָּגֵד) day and night. **Psalms 1:3** And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

### **Thoughts:**

- Choose your own verses – from your reading or hearing
- Download them on 3x5 cards
- Spend time in the dead times

**Proverbs 6:20** My son, **keep** thy father’s commandment, and **forsake not** the law of thy mother: **Proverbs 6:21** **Bind** them continually upon thine heart, and **tie** them about thy neck. **Proverbs 6:22** **When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.** **Proverbs 6:23** For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

**Last thought, first thought!**

**What digestion is to the body, meditation is to the soul!**