Daily Bible Reading for 2015

by Harry Osborne

On the middle pages of this bulletin, we have our Bible reading schedule for the coming year. While God’s people seek to learn more of His will, it remains a sad fact that ignorance of the word is spreading like an epidemic in our land – even among brethren. The failure to know the Scripture has led many into various errors and sinful practices in going away from the Lord and towards destruction (Eph. 4:14-24; Matt 22:29; Hos. 4:6). Only by coming to know God's will through His word will we ever draw closer to Him and His blessings (Jn. 6:44-45). But a knowledge of God's word is necessary for more than the avoidance of false doctrine. Learning and knowing the word of God brings peace to our soul (Phil. 4:7-9). It brings assurance to the heart of the faithful and obedient servant of God (1 Jn. 3:18-22). It gives food for growth (1 Pet. 2:2). It challenges, pricks and corrects our heart (Heb. 4:12). It provides guidance for our lives (Psa. 119:105, 130; Prov. 6:23). It gives hope in times of trial (1 Pet. 1:3-12; 3:14-17). It produces a joy-filled life (1 Jn. 1:4; Jer. 15:16). It is God's power to bring us to salvation (Rom. 1:16-17). Failure to study and know the Scripture deprives us of the many blessings God grants us through His word.

God has always demanded that His people be given to a daily study of His word. In the Old Testament, God repeatedly reminded the generation entering the promised land that they must make daily study of the law a part of their lives (Deut. 6:6-9; 11:18-23). The king was to read it daily (Deut. 17:18-20). The psalmist urged the people to study it repeatedly each day (Psa. 1:2; 25:5). When the people returned from captivity, they read it daily (Neh. 8:18). In the New Testament, we see the commendation of those who "searched the Scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11). Surely we must understand this is involved in giving diligence to present ourselves approved to God by rightly handling the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15). How could we possibly handle the word rightly if we do know even know what it says? If we are to please God, we must give ourselves to diligent examination of the Bible. Let's use this schedule and let 2015 be a year of enjoying diligent study and growing knowledge beginning with the New Testament!