Daily Bible Reading for 2016

by Harry Osborne

Each year, we print a reading schedule for the new year and trust many here have read the Bible through. Yet, it remains a sad fact that ignorance of the word is spreading like an epidemic in our land. The failure to know the Scripture has led many into various errors and sinful practices, going away from the Lord and towards destruction (Eph. 4:14-24; Matt 22:29; Hos. 4:6). By coming to know God's will through His word, we draw closer to Him and His blessings (Jn. 6:44-45). 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 a multitude of blessings God grants us through His word.

In the Old Testament, God 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 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. This year’s schedule is for a chronological reading of the Scripture to help us understand how all of it fits together in time and so enhance our understanding of it.