

Pastor Connect

24th September, 2009

Taking for Granted....

The Bible. How many copies do you have at home? Probably more than just one. How many different translations do you have at home? Maybe more than one. Do you have internet access at home or work? Then you can easily get access with the internet to all the different translations that are available. And even if you do not have a bible or internet access, you can pick a brand new one up for less than \$5. You can even have it posted to your front door! All this while so many around the world cannot afford even one bible to read. In so many countries around the world the sale and possession of bibles is restricted. In others persecution goes even further. Recently a group of 10 college students in North Korea were arrested for reading the bible and watching a video about the bible. Bibles have to be smuggled into North Korea, with severe penalties of arrest and torture for those who are found to be part of the operation. Sometimes we don't know how lucky we really are.



So why then do we find it so hard to read it? When was the last time you spent some serious time with the scriptures? Ok it can be a daunting task to work out where to start. From the beginning, with Genesis or from the beginning of the New Testament with Matthew? Can you skip books and will it still make sense? What is with all the stuff in the Old Testament anyway? It can be a tricky task. But again we have a wealth of resources available to us here in the first-world to enable us to effectively study the bible. There are lots of online studies and tools, too many bible study books to count, lots of Churches who run bible studies and colleges that offer short courses on many different aspects of the bible. We also live in a society where most people have had access to enough schooling to be able to read, write and think productively. This fact alone puts us ahead of most of the worlds' population.

So why then do so many find it so hard to read the bible?

I believe that one reason is that often we don't want to be woken up to the reality of our situation. Reading the bible is going to have an impact on how you view yourself and the world as it is through the bible that God speaks to us, and God has a way of changing our lives by calling us to action! I believe that it is so important to reflect and meditate on scripture in this day and age of 24x7 saturation global news coverage. We cannot as Christians respond in a mature and thoughtful way to what is happening in the world if we do not have a faith that is grounded in scripture.

Another reason is that we can think that the bible is boring. When we have movies, TV, video games and other books to entertain us, why should we read the bible? But the bible is exciting! No, really it is! It is a document that is not dead but alive, changing lives and the world every day. It has been the source of great truth, goodness and beauty and inspired great monuments of human thought, literature and art. That said, we need to be careful in our study and interpretation, as the bible has also inspired lies, wickedness and ugliness and fuelled some of the worst excesses of human savagery, self-interest and narrow-mindedness. This means that we have to learn to read the bible more critically, to become better attuned to the different voices within the biblical texts, to actively be involved in bible 'study', not just bible 'reading'.

The bible is a remarkable document. Its earliest material is over 3000 years old, and most of it

is around 2000 years old. History has demonstrated that the stories, images, metaphors and moral and religious concepts have shaped and continue to shape the experience and understanding of people of such great diversity around the world. And we are all part of this great tapestry of readers throughout history, bringing our own understandings to the text, using and building upon the knowledge and discoveries of those before us.

The Bible. It is a truly remarkable, amazing, incredible and life-changing book. So take a chance for a life changing experience. Open it, and read it, and let the word of God inspire and bless your life.

Rev Gavin Ward

Announcements:

Sleaze Ball

******ATTENTION****** If you have put your name down for Sleaze Ball, you will need to complete an online induction or you will not be permitted entry to the party. It can be completed at <http://www.playbillvenues.com/default.asp?PageID=39>. Once completed, forward a copy of the proof of completion to Jane.Rowe@mardigras.org.au. Tickets will be available for collection at the Church on Friday 2nd October from 6-8pm and on Saturday morning 3rd October from 9-11am. You will need to collect these before the party on the Saturday night.

Annual General Meeting

The MCC Sydney AGM will be held on 20th November at 7pm in the worship space. Those members interested in board positions please contact the office for more information. All current and newly elected board members will be required to attend a governance training session the following Saturday, 28th November from 9am to 4pm.

Services This Week

10am Service - Traditional

All are welcome at our 10am traditional service.

6:30pm Service - Crave

All are welcome at our Contemporary service. This week the focus will be on community.

Forward email

✉ SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to office@mccsydney.org by pastor@mccsydney.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Metropolitan Community Church Sydney | The MCC Center | 96 Crystal Street | Petersham | NSW | 2049 | Australia