

The Joy of Reading the Bible

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“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 4:16). The joy of reading the Bible can be experienced in realizing that the example of Jesus is being followed.

“How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)” (Ephesians 3:3-4). The joy of reading the Bible can be experienced in gaining an understanding its message.

“And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet” (Acts 8:27-28). The joy of reading the Bible can be experienced in knowing that reading brings the salvation of the soul.

“So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation [encouragement, NKJV]” (Acts 15:30-31). The joy of reading the Bible can be experienced in the consolation it brings.

“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” (Colossians 4:16). The joy of reading the Bible can be experienced in knowing that the practice of reading links faithful congregations together.

“And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?” (Matthew 19:4-5). The joy of reading the Bible can be experienced in authoritatively resolving sensitive legal and political issues of our time.

“But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ” (2 Corinthians 3:14). The joy of reading the Bible can be experienced in comprehending the fulfillment of the Old Testament in Christ and His church.

The joy of reading the Bible brings the Christian back to the unique source from which faith comes (Romans 10:17) and provides the basis for showing himself or herself approved of God (2 Timothy 2:15).