

A New Year with the Old Book

text - Rev 21:5

why (1) to be Blessed - Psalm 1:1-2

John Locke : Engl. Philosopher - *Two Treatises of Gov't* : helped found America

"The Bible is one of the greatest blessings bestowed by God on men.

It has God as its author, salvation for its end, and truth without mixture for its matter.

Its all pure, all sincere; nothing too much, and nothing wanting."

THE BOOK contains the mind of God,
the state of man, the way of salvation,
the doom of sinners, and the bliss of believers.
Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding;
its history is true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is : the travelers map, the pilgrims staff, the pilots compass,
the soldiers sword, and the Christians character.

Here : paradise is restored, heaven is opened ... and the gates of hell are disclosed.

CHRIST is its Grand Theme, our good its design, and the Glory of God its end.

It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly..... frequently.....and prayerfully !

It is given in this life; it will be opened in the judgment; and it will endure eternally.

It involves the highest responsibility : it will reward the believers labour,

and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents. *Anonymous*

(2) to know Christ - John 5:39 & 20:30-31

The Law gives the *foundation* for Christ

History shows the *preparation* for Christ.

Poetry expresses the *aspiration* for Christ.

Prophecy proclaims the *expectation* of Christ.

The Gospels record the historical *manifestation* of Christ.

Acts relates the *propagation* of Christ.

The Epistles give the *interpretation* of Christ.

Revelation describes the *consummation* of all things in Christ.

A General Introduction to the Bible

by N. Geisler & Wm. Nix

to know Christ = to possess eternal life **1 John 5:11-13**

why (3) it gives us light - Psalm 119:105 & 130 ; 2 Peter 1:19

General Robert E. Lee - one of the greatest military men in American history:
 "In all my distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength."

(4) it gives us power - Luke 4:32 & 36 Hebrews 4:12

Napoleon Bonaparte, a great military leader and conqueror, said :
 "The Bible is no mere book, but a living power that conquers all who oppose it."

who (1) all earthlings - Deu 32:1 Isa 1:2

John Quincy Adams (6th President of US, from 1825-29) said :
 "The Bible is the book of all others to read at all ages and in all conditions of life."

(2) all God's children - Deu 4:1 Pr 4:20

(3) all God's teachers - 1 Tim 4:11 & 13

* *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter* - **Isaiah 34:16** *

when Matthew 6:11 (4:4) - i.e. Every day

what Rev 1:3 *readeth and hear ... and meditate*, Psalm 1
 - @ home @ church also - CD's, sermon audio, youtube....

how Mt 4:4 - *every word* Purpose to read thru entire Bible.
 Find a good Bible reading plan.

John Quincy Adams - "The Bible is not just to be read once, or twice through and then laid aside; but it is to be read in small portions of one or two chapters a day."

which Eccl 8:2 & 4 Jer 6:16 Ecc 1:1 *Jerusalem* ~ James rule

ironically :

Westcott said "Thoughts are wedded to words as necessarily as the soul is to the body."

Dr Keiper said "Music needs notes, math needs figures; thoughts need words.

It's not the thoughts that are inspired; its *the words* that are *inspired*."

Pr 30:5 *Every word of God is pure*

cute story : A girl took singing lessons from a famous teacher.

He came to her recital and she wanted to know what he thought of her singing.

She asked her friend "What did he say?"
 Her loyal friend answered : "He said that you sang heavenly."
 She probed : "Is that exactly what he said?"
 "Well, not exactly. But that is what he meant."
 The girl insisted : "Tell me the exact *words* that he used."
 "Well, his exact *words* were : '*That was an unearthly noise.*'

Reid Buckley (the brother of Wm. F. Buckley) trains professional speakers, wrote:
 "Any born English-speaking son or daughter of the Christian West,
 who has not savoured, indeed soaked him- or herself in the King James Holy Bible
 is irreparably ignorant and ... culturally deprived."

Read the Bible Through by *Amos Wells*

I supposed I knew my Bible; reading piecemeal, hit or miss.
 Here a bit of John and Matthew; there a snatch of Genesis.
 Some chapters of Isaiah; certain Psalms...the twenty third !
 The 12th of Romans, the 1st of Proverbs; Sure, I know God's word.
 But I found that faithful reading was a different thing to do;
 and the way was unfamiliar ... when I read the Bible through.
 Hey, you who like to 'play at Bible'...and dabble, here and there;
 and kneel and yawn and hurry through superficial prayer.
 You, who treat the Crown of all Writings as you treat no other book;
 just a paragraph disjointed...with a crude, impatient look.
 This year try a worthier procedure; try the full and faithful view.
 And you'll kneel in very rapture, when you read the Bible through !

Another Year *anonymous*

another year: Our future path lies hidden, And shadows seem to fall across the way.

Read On !! A light before thee shineth...more and more unto the perfect day.

another Year: The days grow more evil with the dark threats that Satan sends.

Fear Not !! Our Lord has written : I am with you to the very end.

another year: The land is parched and our souls search for precious grain.

Pray On !! Elijah's God will surely answer with manna and the latter rain.

another year: We wait with eager longing; ...the midnight hour comes apace.

Look Up !! Redemptions day is dawning...we'll soon see our Saviour's face !!