

GIVE ATTENDANCE TO READING

John Edwards

Paul wrote, *“Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine”* (1 Tim. 4:13). The Bible must be read!

MOSES READ THE BOOK OF THE COVENANT. It is said concerning Moses, *“And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people...”* (Ex. 24:7). Moses read!

JOSHUA READ ALL THE WORDS OF THE LAW. Joshua *“...read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law”* (Josh. 8:34). Joshua read all the law! Have you read all the law?

EZRA READ THE BOOK OF THE LAW. The eighth chapter of Nehemiah finds Ezra reading the word of God (vv. 3, 5, 8). Ezra read!

JESUS ASKED FOLKS ABOUT THEIR READING. When the Pharisees questioned Jesus about plucking ears of corn on the sabbath and about divorce, He asked, *“Have ye not read?”* (Mt. 12:3; 19:4). Had they been reading they would have known!

THE EUNUCH WAS READING. As the Ethiopian eunuch was returning to Ethiopia, he was heard reading the Scriptures (Acts 8:30-32). Have you ever read God’s word out loud?

THE BEREANS SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY. *“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they...searched the scriptures daily...”* (Acts 17:11). We need to set aside some time each day for reading the Scriptures.

A blessing is pronounced upon those who read the word of God (Rev. 1:3).

BIBLE HEARTS

John Edwards

There are a multiplicity of hearts mentioned in the Bible. The Bible heart is the thinking part of man. *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...”* (Prov. 23:7). Let’s notice some Bible hearts.

WILLING HEART. God has always required a willing heart (Ex. 25:2). Paul said, *“For if there first be a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not”* (2 Cor. 8:12).

LOVING HEART. The Israelites were told, *“And thou*

shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (Dt. 6:5). This is the greatest commandment (Mt. 22:37-38).

PURE HEART. Jesus taught, *“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God”* (Mt. 5:8). Our love for one another is to come out of a pure heart (1 Tim. 1:5). *“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently”* (1 Pet. 1:22).

BELIEVING HEART. It is with the heart that man *“believeth unto righteousness”* (Rom. 10:9-10). The eunuch possessed a believing heart when he said, *“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God”* (Acts 8:37).

OBEDIENT HEART. Paul was thankful that the Romans *“obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you”* (Rom. 6:17). Christ *“is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”* (Heb. 5:9).

GOOD HEART. In the parable of the sower, some seed fell upon good ground (Lk. 8:5-8). The seed is the word of God (Lk. 8:11). The good ground represents *“they, which in an honest and good heart,*

having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience” (Lk. 8:15).

Jesus enumerated several diseases of the heart in Mark 7:20-23. Simon’s heart was “not right in the sight of God” (Acts 8:21). How is your heart?

WHERE DOES YOUR HUSBAND FIT IN?

John Edwards

Where does your husband fit in your order of priorities? Before or after yourself? Before or after the children? Before or after the housework? Before or after the needy? Consider the placement of the husband in the following passages:

Proverbs 31:10-31. In reference to the virtuous woman it is said: “The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life” (vv. 11-12). The husband is placed first. Before her children. Before her homemaking. Before the needy.

1 Timothy 5:9-10. Concerning the widow taken into the number, it is said, “having been the wife of one man, Well reported of for good works, if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints’ feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.” Before other relationships is her having been the wife of one man. The husband is placed first.

1 Timothy 5:14. It is written, “I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.” Again the husband is placed first, before children and before the duties of house management.

Titus 2:4-5. Young women are taught “to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home....” Notice husbands placed first, before children and home keeping.

1 Peter 3:1-6. Observe how this text begins with the wife’s relationship to her husband.

“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands...” (v. 1).

Is this all a matter of chance or is there a pattern, an order to be considered and observed? If these texts were written according to your practice, according to your time and attention, according to your priority, what order would they appear in? Think about it.

Responsibilities Of Wives To Their Husbands

“Wives, **submit** yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord” (Eph. 5:22).

“...and the wife see that she **reverence** her husband” (Eph. 5:33).

“... to **love** their husbands” (Titus 2:4).

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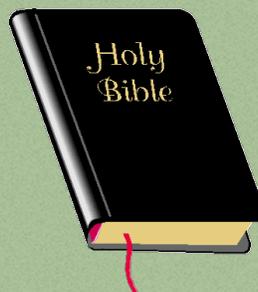
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