

Introduction

Welcome to the *Renew Your Mind: 2 Year Devotional Bible Reading Plan*! This Bible reading plan is like no other. It is designed to help you carefully read *and* apply the Word of God. The schedule will take you through the Bible in two years, but it will do much more than that. It will give you tools to make your devotional time a special time with the Lord by emphasizing meditation and prayer as you progress day by day.

Many people start Bible schedules but never finish them. They often fall behind and get discouraged. This plan is designed to help prevent that. The schedule has been carefully laid out so that you will read less per day while still accomplishing the major goal of reading through the Bible on a regular basis. And then, by reading less, you will have more time to spend reflecting on what you have read.

Focus of the Schedule:

In the final analysis, the habit of Bible reading is actually *incomplete* without applying what is being learned to our lives and then talking to God about it. Here is the basic formula for quality time with the Lord:

READ → APPLY → PRAY

The *Renew Your Mind* schedule is designed to specifically address all three of these issues and make them a regular part of a daily “quiet time.” By God’s grace new habits will be formed this year as you read.

Format of the Schedule:

Each day’s reading includes an **overview** of the section you are reading and a **theme** for each chapter. Following each reading portion are **questions** to help you think more about what you have read and then apply the passage to your own life. A **blank space** for writing thoughts is provided for you below these questions.

Here is a sample reading assignment with questions:

June 21st Reading: Christ's Last Week on Earth (11-14)

- Mark 14 - Observation of Passover; Betrayal of Jesus
- Proverbs 21 - God's Control over Kings & Events

(Ch.14) Jesus and His disciples went to Gethsemane to pray before He was arrested (vs.32ff). What did the disciples do while the Lord was praying (vs.37,40)? What had He instructed them to do (vs.34b)? Is there any area in my life where my desire for my own comfort wins out over the Lord's desire for something else? What can I learn from this passage?

A couple of notes may be helpful here. The numbers at the end of the section overview on the first line (e.g. 11-14) refer to the chapter numbers in that section. The abbreviation *Ch.* is for chapter and *vs.* is for verse. An *a* or *b* following a verse number refers the first (*a*) or second (*b*) part of the verse. A verse number followed by *ff* indicates that verse and the following verses. For example, *vs.32ff* above would tell you to read verse 32 and the following verses.

Please note that additional blank sheets are provided throughout the schedule and in the back for further writing and/or prayer requests. You may also find that a separate notebook for writing would work well for you. (Of course, since the Lord may speak to you about something entirely different in the passage than what the suggested questions cover, the questions should only be used to the degree that they help. Simply answering questions will only take a person so far; it will not bring about biblical change in a life. The point of the questions is to generate thought processes that will turn you toward serious, heartfelt reflection.)

Flow of the Schedule:

The schedule starts out in the Old Testament where the readings are one to two chapters a day. The schedule then switches back and forth between the Old and New Testaments as various sections of the Bible are completed (i.e. OT Law, NT Gospels, OT History, etc.). You will also read a selection from Psalms or Proverbs each day. As a result, you will read through Psalm and Proverbs four times during the two-year schedule. It sets up like this:

Genesis → Deuteronomy
Matthew → John
Joshua → Esther
Acts
Job → Song of Solomon
Romans → Philemon
Isaiah → Daniel
Hebrews → Jude
Hosea → Malachi
Revelation

Features of the Schedule:

Daily portions are laid out according to the *length* of the chapters. As stated above, some days you will have two chapters to read, while other days you will have only one (besides the Psalm/Proverbs passage). The difference is due to the *overall* length. In this schedule the portions have been “evened-out” so that you will spend roughly the same amount of time reading each day.

The plan also includes a weekly topical reading. Once each week, the assignment will include several short passages on a topic covered, in most cases, on one of the six preceding days. This topical approach not only provides some variety in your reading, but it also helps to reinforce a specific truth from God’s Word. **Suggestion:** Don’t hurry through these topical verses. It will likely be necessary to bookmark and read the passages more than once in your Devotional time in order to let the Word of God touch your heart with the overall theme.

In addition to the topical readings, to meet the goals of the schedule, one day each week has a lighter reading assignment and there are also a few “Catch Up or Review” days sprinkled throughout the schedule. These allow you to go back and do readings that you may have missed through the year or review/recall passages and personal thoughts that were a blessing.

Finally, located in the back of the schedule is a checklist. This enables you to mark off the date as you complete each day's reading. You will enjoy a sense of accomplishment as you progress through the reading schedule.

Other believers have found that this schedule has helped them in their time spent with the Lord. We pray that, despite its imperfections, the Holy Spirit will use it to generate a greater love for and appreciation of God's Word in *your* heart.

“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom” (Colossians 3:16).

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Reading Schedule

May 6th Reading: The Doctrine of God in Salvation (1-3)

- Ephesians 2 - The Blessings of our Salvation
- Ephesians 3 - The Mystery of the Church
- Psalm 119:121-152 - Prayer & Praise for God's Word

(Ch.2) As Paul discusses what was accomplished in Salvation, he mentions that God *quicken*ed believers [made them alive] *together with Christ* (vs.5). Where is the believer sitting now (vs.6)? Because of this position, what is the believer *far above* (see 1:20-21)? Am I claiming my position in Christ and living victoriously or am I a defeated Christian? Is there any real reason why I cannot live victoriously? To do: For encouragement in this matter read again 3:16,19-21.

May 7th Reading: Practical Outworking of Our Salvation (4-6)

- Ephesians 4 - The Growth of the Body
- Psalm 119:153-176 - A Passionate Cry to God

(Ch.4) As Paul describes the work of Christ in the church, why does he say that the Lord *gave* various men to help the local church (vs.11-12)? Am I allowing the Lord to use the church in my life that **I** might be *perfected for the work of the ministry*, or do I more often take a “pass” when it comes to serious involvement with church? To do: Ask the Lord to “develop” you through your church and the spiritual leadership He has chosen to place there.

May 8th Reading: Practical Outworking of Our Salvation (4-6)

- Ephesians 5 - Following Christ in Life & Marriage
- Ephesians 6 - Obedience & Spiritual Warfare
- Psalm 120 - Cry for Deliverance from Deceit
- Psalm 121 - The Lord is My Keeper

(Ch.5) As the foundation to his practical instructions, Paul gives a basic command. What is the believer to *be filled with* (5:18b)? To what action does he contrast this filling (5:18a)? To do: Think about how a drunken person is controlled by alcohol. Then ask yourself if the Spirit has influence over you to that degree? If He does not, why not?

May 9th Reading: Living the Christian Life (1-4)

- Philippians 1 - Paul's Attitude toward Suffering
- Philippians 2 - Christ's Example of Obedience
- Psalm 122 - Prayer for God's City
- Psalm 123 - Prayer for God to Be Gracious

(Ch.2) Paul encourages the believers to be united in their love, spirit and minds (vs.2). What key changes would have to happen for such unity to develop (vs.3a - negative; vs.3b,4 - positive)*? Who in my life is difficult to get along with? From these verses, what changes in my actions and viewpoint need to take place if unity is to be the result? Who do I imitate when I humble myself to obey the Bible in this matter (vs.5-8)? *[word study: vainglory = empty glory.]

May 10th Reading: Living the Christian Life (1-4)

- Philippians 3 - The Goal of Paul's Life
- Philippians 4 - The Answer to Anxiety and Need
- Psalm 124 - Deliverance from Certain Ruin
- Psalm 125 - God's Care for the Righteous

(Ch.3) Here Paul speaks of the various things in his life of which he might boast (vs.4-6), but then dismisses them in light of truly important things (vs.7-9). What does he say were some of the major goals of his life (vs.10)? Do I have similar goals in my life? Am I truly concerned about knowing Christ intimately, experiencing His power, etc.? What "focus" and action is required to arrive at the place Christ wants for me (vs.13,14)?

May 11th Reading: Why We Should Live for Christ (1-2)

- Colossians 1 - The Person & Work of Christ
- Psalm 126 - Praise for Restoration
- Psalm 127 - Divine Help & the Gift of Children

(Ch.1) Paul here tells the believers of his gratitude and prayers for them. What kinds of things does he ask God for on their behalf (vs.9-11)? Do I pray this way for others? What can I learn from this inspired prayer that would make my prayers for others more biblically accurate? Who could I pray these verses for right now?

May 12th Topical Reading: Filled with the Spirit

- Luke 1:41; 4:1; Acts 2:1-8; 4:31
- Acts 6:1-10 & 7:54-56; 11:22-24
- Psalm 128 - Blessings of Those Who Fear the Lord
- Psalm 129 - Call for Judgment of the Persecutors

These passages list some of the people filled with the Holy Spirit, and, in some cases, what that filling enabled them to do. Am I walking in such a way before God so as to be able to claim the Spirit's fullness?

May 13th Reading: Why We Should Live for Christ (1-2)

- Colossians 2 - Live in Relation to Christ
- Psalm 130 - A Cry to the Lord for Mercy
- Psalm 131 - Resting in the Lord

(Ch.2) Here Paul cautions against the results of *man-made* teaching (vs.8). What is the basis for his concern that they not be led away from Christ (vs.9,10)? Do I really understand that I am *complete* in Him and have everything I need *in Him* due to His *fulness* as God (cf.1:19; John 1:16)? Is there any indication in my life that I am trying to find "completeness" in something (or someone) else?

May 14th Reading: How to Live for Christ (3-4)

- Colossians 3 - Actions Involved in Living for Christ
- Colossians 4 - More Actions of a Christ-Centered Life
- Psalm 132 - Remembering God's Covenant with David

(Ch.3) Paul has been helping the Colossians in their faith. Since believers are *risen with Christ*, what action is to be taken (vs.1)? What command does he give to bring about a change of focus in a person's life (vs.2)*? In light of God's glorious work of hiding my life in Him (vs.3), am I giving Him the focus He deserves? See also Phil. 3:19b-21.

*[word study: *set your affection* = set your mind/focus]

Daily Checklist

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