

## Reading the Bible - Cont.

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removing them, but by altering our attitude through them. And that is what we need in depressing times; a good attitude adjustment, a good reminder, the Lord is with us. "I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from *all* my fears" (Psa. 34:4).

The Psalms contain such power to encourage. Which of us have not been moved by a reading of Psalm 23 – "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want"? It is so powerful that often it encourages those who need not be encouraged. Those still in their sin need to be reproved that they might be made free from sin. And yet vile offenders will quote Psalm 23 in their hard times repeatedly as they try and lift up their spirit. I mention this simply to demonstrate the power in scripture. Imagine how true it must be for one truly deserving of encouragement.

Through the years I have spent more time in the Psalms. As I age I know more of what Solomon says in Ecclesiastes 1:18, "For in much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases in knowledge increases in sorrow." The world's ways do not encourage a Christian and his ways. So we must often go back to God's book to find the encouragement that we need to continue on. I pray this helps you to read for encouragement in your time of need. Paul told Timothy, "But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of knowing from whom you have learned them,

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and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures" (2 Tim. 3:14-15). Just as Timothy received truth passed down so too did I. I thank my dear mother for passing this down to me.

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# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# Guest Article: Reading the Bible for Encouragement by Steve Monts

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There are some things passed down to you that you never forget. One day my mother told me of a time in her life that she was greatly discouraged. She had been trying to find a sound church to worship with in Washington State. She had trouble finding one that would stand for the truth on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage (one man, one woman for life with one exception). Her immediate family (including myself) was in the liberal church and so she would travel alone looking for a sound place to worship. She felt so small and isolated and became discouraged. She talked with Ron Halbrook on the phone and asked what she should do to help her spirit. Ron advised her to spend time reading the *Psalms and Job*. Both books were written by downcast and discouraged people. There you will find those that can sympathize and learn how they handled their trial.

This story was passed down to me from my mother at a time I was severely depressed and it is one I will never forget. I have passed it on to others in their time of need, whether it was for those who have had serious illness or anxiety. This advice has helped them, and it has helped me many times.

The power is in the word (Rom. 1:16). It has the power to convince, rebuke, and exhort (2 Tim. 4:2). Paul warned Timothy of perilous times (2 Tim. 3:1). He told Timothy “all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution...evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving

and being deceived.” That sounds really bad; it sounds really discouraging. The uphill battle will take its toll on the faithful.

What should Timothy do? “But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been *assured of*.” Truth is assuring and reassuring. It would help Timothy through his dark days. Paul goes on to say, “knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you *wise for salvation*.” His learning which was passed down to him would help him, yes, it would save him. Further, it will make him wise for salvation. He will have the appropriate solution for the problem at hand. Truth can make us wise for salvation too. Perhaps too often we turn to some “self help” book for our time of need. Sometimes they help sometimes they leave us empty still. But the Bible *always* helps. Listen as Paul continues, “All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:12-17). Scripture has so much power it can make us complete, whole, and mature in contrast to empty and in despair. And at the time of Paul’s writing, the scriptures Timothy knew from childhood were the Old Testament scriptures, which included the Psalms and Job.

If you are discouraged try reading the Psalms.

Notice the following:

*Feeling alone?*

“Help Lord, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.” David felt alone too and Psalm 12 informs us of his cry.

*Feeling as if God has forsaken you (righteous individuals)?*

“Why do you stand afar off, O Lord? Why do you hide in times of trouble?” “How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?” Psalm 10 and 13 offer help to such a feeling. God does not forsake the righteous though it may feel that way. But here you find those that can sympathize with such a feeling. You are not the first to feel that way. How did they deal with it? Read Psalm 10 and 13 to find out.

*Do you need reassurance in whom to place your trust?*

“O Lord my God, in You I put my trust; Save me from all those who persecute me; and deliver me.” “Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust.” Psalm 7 and 16 are reassuring you have not misplaced it in God.

You see, “*the righteous cry out and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart*” (Psa. 34:17-18). We know that it is good for us to go through trials and the Lord will deliver us out of them all, not by