

It may be thought, indeed, that such a mode of study is available only for students or ministers with plenty of time at their disposal. But how long does anyone suppose it takes to read a book of the Bible? Some of them can be read in a few minutes; many a one can be read in an hour; and there are very few that could not be comfortably overtaken in a couple of hours. Anyone might read through a book of the Bible on a Sunday afternoon or evening.

Would it be counted a great feat to read three of the novels of Thackeray in the course of a Winter? A reader doing so has read as many words as there are in the entire Bible.

If you try this method, write down on the Bible you are using daily, at the head of each book the theme of which it treats and the principal divisions of the material, indicating where each of these begins and ends. This will enable you, on coming back to the same book, to perceive the line of argument at a glance, or, if you open the book casually, to know in which part of the argument you are.

In any Bible dictionary articles on the different books will be found, which will assist the beginner to master the course of thought in each.

The Bible is the handbook of life and the guide-book to Heaven. The essence of the wisdom of the ages is concentrated in it, and it will make a man of the reader who reads it aright.

Study it to find God. When you are reading the Bible, God is very near. Say not, "Who will ascend up to Heaven to bring Him down?" or, "Who will descend into the deep to bring Him up?" As He met Adam among the trees of Paradise, so will He meet you among the leaves of this Book. It is His resting-place. As you open the Bible, hush! for God is here—"This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of Heaven."

A Prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven, and on earth, and everywhere, we flee unto Thee, and for a moment would be conscious of Thy presence; and in the light of Thy countenance would we remember our joys and our sorrows, our duties, our transgressions, and our hopes, and lift up to Thee the glad psalm of gratitude for all that we rejoice in, and aspire toward the measure of a perfect man, and so worship Thee that we shall serve Thee all the days of our lives with a glad-some and accepted service. So may the prayer of our hearts be acceptable unto Thee, and come out in our daily life as fair as the lilies and lasting as the stars.—Selected.

The Greatest Danger.

The greatest danger Paul sees for the Christian soldier is just at the point where he has "done all." And is not Paul right in his perception? Is not the arduous bit of a Christian's life rather the camp than the field? When a man feels he is surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses it is comparatively easy to lay aside every weight. But when there is no outward battle, no visible foe, no possible wreath for the victor; when the field is his own heart, and the enemy his own wish, and the spectator his own conscience; when there is no human voice to cry, "Well done," and no public opinion to say, "He has fought a good fight"—that is the time when he needs the Christian armor.—George Matheson, D.D.

Our Young People

Mar. 20. Great Little Things.

Some Bible Hints.

God knows the value of little things if men do not (v. 25). His universe is built of them.

Not many mighty are called (v. 26), but all that are called become mighty.

There are the wise, and there are the wise in their own conceits; only the latter are surprised at the power of little things (v. 27).

Why does God wish no flesh to glory in His presence (v. 29)? For the same reason that no father wants his child to boast before him.

Suggestive Thoughts.

One little thing that Christ makes great is a stammering word spoken for Him. In heaven it is ranked higher than an oration of Demosthenes.

Not the smallest self denial but is greatly blessed by God. A dollar's worth of self-denial brings forth ten dollars' worth of character.

Some of the shortest Bible passages are the greatest—such passages as "God is love," and "Follow me."

One little thing that Christ never fails to bless is a smile. It is as certain of blessed results as a sunbeam.

A Few Illustrations.

A little habit is like the slowly encroaching sand hills at the southern end of Lake Michigan, that have buried whole forests.

A little testimony for Christ is a small key, but it opens a great door of blessing.

A little word of praise is like the North Star—only a point of light, but it guides all journeys on the sea of life.

A little help in time of need is the child's hand over the hole in the dyke—it can hold back an ocean of ruin.

To Think About.

Am I neglecting the little things of character?

Am I refusing to do little things for Christ while waiting for great ones?

Am I trusting in Christ to magnify my small efforts?

A Cluster of Quotations.

It is in trifles that a mind betrays itself. "In what part of that letter," said a king to the wisest of living diplomats, "did you discover irresolution?" "In its u's and g's!" was the answer.—Lytton.

O germ! O fount! O word of love! O thought at random cast!

Ye were but little at the first, but mighty at the last.—Mackay.

Small as your actions may appear to men, like the widow's mites, they may appear great in the eye of heaven.—Bartol.

The seed alone in its tiny space
Contains the trees which the forest grace.

—Schiller.

"Our Own Church."

What do we promise, we Endeavorers, when we agree to "support our own church in every way"?

We promise to give our money for church expenses—as much money as we think Christ wishes, and to give it gladly and regularly.

We promise to give our time, as much as Christ would wish, and to give it on week days as well as Sundays.

We promise to give our thought, our interest, our enthusiasm, our prayers. A mind that does not bear interest is not very valuable.

We promise to give our words. He is a poor member of a firm that does not "talk it up."

We promise to give our strength. Vim is half of virtue. Whatever is worth doing is worth doing with all one's might.

We promise to give our best. We admit that it is the best of causes. What a misproportion to give it the second best of anything!

We promise, then, to give ourselves. These things make up ourselves. No one can take the Christian Endeavor pledge and long remain outside the church. So true is this that in many churches they have no active members that are not church-members.

Promises

Nellie had a habit of saying, "Promise me." One day she had asked mamma if she might have a birthday party. When mamma said yes, Nellie said, "Please promise me, mamma."

"Why, Nellie," said mamma, "yes is a promise."

"I know it," said Nellie, "but when you say, 'I promise,' it makes me feel so sure."

When Jesus made a special promise to his disciples he began by saying "Verily."

Do any of our little folks know a promise of Jesus which begins "Verily?" Ask some one what that means, and see how many promises you can find which begin in this way.

Never forget that a promise is a very solemn thing, and when you make one be sure that you keep it.

The horizon of life is broadened chiefly by the enlargement of heart.—Hugh Black.

A light weight hung on a swimmer's arm and a bad habit in a young man's heart are alike perilous to him who would win in the contests of life.

Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever the attitude of the body may be, the soul is on its knees.—Victor Hugo.

"But, when the hour of trouble comes to the mind or to the body, and when the hour of death comes, that comes to high and low, then it is not what we have done for ourselves, but what we have done for others that we think on most pleasantly."—Sir Walter Scott.

Nothing really noble and worthy is ever attained easily. One may get money by inheritance from an ancestor, but one can not get education, culture, or character, as an inheritance. These possessions can become ours only through our own struggle and self-discipline.—Westminster Teacher.

Daily Readings.

Mon.,	Mar. 14.—Little but wise.	Prov. 30: 24-28
Tues.,	" 15.—A little stone.	1 Kings 17: 12-15
Wed.,	" 16.—Some little victors.	Josh. 24: 11, 12
Thurs.,	" 17.—A little lad.	John 6: 9-13
Fri.,	" 18.—Paul's young deliverer.	Acts 23: 12-23
Sat.,	" 19.—One saves a multitude.	Acts 27: 31-44
Sun.,	" 20.—Topic—Little things that Christ makes great.	1 Cor. 1: 25-29.