



BAPTIST CHURCH

The “Do More” Challenge

“Read More”

Psalm 119:1-11

Introduction

1874 Cary First Baptist Church was established to address the problem of lostness in Cary, North Carolina.

“. . . We will strive together for the support of a faithful evangelical ministry among us; that **we will endeavor, by example and effort to win souls to Christ**; and through life amidst evil report and good report, **seek to live to the glory of Him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.**” — Cary First Baptist Church Covenant 1874

Lostness— Refers to a person who is far from God. Anyone that does not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is spiritually dead, separated from God, does not have the hope of eternal life and is destined for ruin, destruction and death.

Three principles we recognize about Lostness:

Lostness is Everyone’s Problem

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” CSB

Lostness is an Explosive Problem

Every day approximately 174,000 people die without Christ.

Lostness is an Eternal Problem

Matthew 25:41 “Then he will also say to those on the left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!’ CSB

Making an impact on Lostness in Cary, North Carolina requires we focus on the things that matter most to Jesus!

Matthew 28:16-20

Acts 1:8

Cary First Purpose Statement

Cary First exists to demonstrate the love and share the good news about Jesus everyday, everywhere, with everyone.

If Cary First is going to accomplish our purpose and impact lostness in our town we must “Do More!”

The “**Do More Challenge**” is a compelling task calling people to utilize their uniqueness, gifts, abilities, and resources to advance God’s Kingdom on the earth.

The “**Do More Challenge**” is a challenge to:

Dream More

Pray More

Read More

Serve More

Give More

Connect More

Have More Gospel Conversations

Scripture

How happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk according to the Lord's instruction!

2 Happy are those who keep his decrees and seek him with all their heart.

3 They do nothing wrong; they walk in his ways.

4 You have commanded that your precepts be diligently kept.

5 If only my ways were committed to keeping your statutes!

6 Then I would not be ashamed when I think about all your commands.

7 I will praise you with an upright heart when I learn your righteous judgments.

8 I will keep your statutes; never abandon me.

9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping your word.

10 I have sought you with all my heart; don't let me wander from your commands.

11 I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you. CSB

Quotes of the Day

"The Bible is the greatest of all books; to study it is the noblest of all pursuits; to understand it, is the highest of all goals." — Charles C. Ryrie

"When we read and meditate on God's Holy Word, His heart will transform our heart!" — Pat Kilby

In the article "**She read the fine print on her insurance policy. It won her \$10,000 in a contest,**" by Christopher Spata he wrote a true story about school teacher named Donelan Andrews.

Be sure to read the fine print. We've all heard it, but how many people actually read the fine print? At least one and it she won \$10,000.

Squaremouth, St. Petersburg-based company hid the instructions for claiming the prize in the document for every travel insurance policy they sold.

The company planned to run the contest for an entire year. They thought it highly unlikely that anyone would notice the section titled "**pays to read**"

on page seven of the nearly 4,000-word document. But they didn't count on high school teacher Donelan Andrews.

Mrs. Andrews is a self-described "nerd" who said she always reads the terms and conditions whether it's a digital software user agreement, or a travel insurance policy.

Mrs. Andrews printed out her policy and sat down to read it right away. Soon she came across a section that said, "This is a contest that rewards the individual who reads their policy information from start to finish. If you read the fine print and are the first to contact us, you may be awarded the Pays to Read contest Grand Prize of \$10,000."

Mrs. Andrews emailed the company immediately. She got a call back the next day to let her know she'd won the \$10,000 prize. "Reading the fine print has always been a passion of mine, it helps me become consumer aware." Citation: Christopher Spata "She read the fine print on her insurance policy. It won her \$10,000 in a contest," Tampa Bay Time (3-5-19)

When we read and meditate on God's Holy Word we will discover the deep and profound treasures for life and living. When we obey the Holy Word of God and commit our life to Him we win the Grandest Prize of all.

Psalm 119:103 "How sweet your word is to my taste—sweeter than honey in my mouth." CSB

"Honey is both sweet and nourishing. When we read and meditate on God's Holy Word we will find nourishment and truth for our soul to live by."

However, the Bible in America Study reports that 62 percent of the people in the communities surrounding our churches would like to read the Bible more. Another study reports 87 percent of the people in our churches want help understanding the Bible better.

Yet Bible reading is waning. Recent studies demonstrate that the number of Bible readers in America (a Bible reader is considered as a person who reads the Bible 3 or 4 times a year— an extremely low standard.) has fallen by 20 percent—the equivalent of 700 people per day. If this trend continues more than two-thirds of Americans will have no meaningful connection with

the Bible by the year 2040. Citation: The Bible in America Study annual report 2023.

Why should we read the Bible?

The Bible is God's Holy Word

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” CSB

2 Peter 1:20-21 “Above all, you know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from the prophet's own interpretation, 21 because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” CSB

The Bible will stand the test of time— The Bible is relevant for every person in every generation.

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever.” CSB

Matthew 24:35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” CSB

The Bible is Truth— The Bible contains Godly instruction for life and living

Psalms 119:160 “The entirety of your word is truth, each of your righteous judgments endures forever.” CSB

Proverbs 30:5 “Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.” CSB

Today we are going to examine **Psalms 119:1-11** in these verses we will discover six reasons to read and meditate on God's Holy Word.

To truly understand **Psalm 119:1-11** we need to understand the context of **Psalm 119**.

Psalm 119 is generally thought to be written by King David, probably towards the end of his life.

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible with 22 sections, 8 verses each with combined total of 176 verses.

Psalm 119 is a poetic tribute the Word of God.

Psalm 119 reveals the Word of God should have top priority in our lives.

Matthew Henry – the great 18th century Bible commentator – was introduced to **Psalm 119** as a child. His father, Philip Henry, told his children to take one verse of **Psalm 119** every morning to meditate on, and thereby go through the entire psalm twice in the year. Philip said to his children, “Reading and meditating on **Psalm 119** will bring you to be in love with all the rest of the Scriptures.”

Psalm 119:1-11 reveals six reasons to read and meditate on God’s Holy Word:

1. **Satisfaction comes to those who read and obey God’s Word**
2. **Clear Expectations are identified when we read God’s Word**
3. **Authentic Praise comes from reading God’s Word**
4. **Protection comes from reading and obeying God’s Word**
5. **Instruction for a righteous life are found by reading and obeying God’s Word**
6. **Commitment to God is a result of reading and obeying God’s Word**

Six reasons to read and meditate on God’s Holy Word:

1. Satisfaction comes to those who read and obey God's Word vv.1-3

How happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk according to the Lord's instruction! 2 Happy are those who keep his decrees and seek him with all their heart. 3 They do nothing wrong; they walk in his ways. CSB

The word translated **“happy”** comes from the Hebrew word **“ašerê”** meaning a state of happiness, satisfaction, and well being.

People who are **“happy”** are not necessarily wealthy, healthy, without problems or adversity. Matter of fact those who have a spirit of **“happiness”** could be suffering and seem pitiful.

Angela's Grandma Fleming and her Grandma and Grandpa Presnell and their family never had much money or possessions but they were rich in happiness and satisfaction.

There was much love, laughter and meaningful life in their family.

Those who chase after “the other, less important things” are less happy and satisfied than those who read and meditate on God's Holy Word and chase after Him!

Tyndale House Publishers found evidence that reading the Bible promotes a positive outlook. According to a study they commissioned with the Barna Research Group:

Eighty-two percent of regular Bible readers described themselves as "at peace" compared to 58 percent of those who said they never read the Bible.

Seventy-eight percent of regular Bible readers said they felt "happy" all or most of the time compared to 67 percent of nonreaders.

Sixty-eight percent of regular Bible readers said they were "full of joy" compared to 44 percent who said they never read the Bible. Citation: [The Southeast Outlook \(11-22-01\)](#); researchers interviewed 1,004 adults chosen to reflect the U.S.'s regional and ethnic makeup,

Those who consistently read and meditate on God's Word are much more happy and satisfied than those who do not.

Six reasons to read and meditate on God's Holy Word:

2. Clear Expectations are identified when we read God's Word vv.4-6

You have commanded that your precepts be diligently kept. 5 If only my ways were committed to keeping your statutes! 6 Then I would not be ashamed when I think about all your commands. CSB

God has commanded that we diligently keep His commands.

The phrase translated **“your precepts diligently kept”** comes from two Hebrew words:

“Piqqud” meaning an order issued by a higher authority that regulates behavior and thought.

“Shamar” meaning a person who intentionally and carefully obeys the expectations written in God's Holy Word.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 “This is the command—the statutes and ordinances—the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, so that you may follow them in the land you are about to enter and possess. 2 Do this so that you may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life by keeping all his statutes and commands I am giving you, your son, and your grandson, and so that you may have a long life. 3 Listen, Israel, and be careful to follow them, so that you may prosper and multiply greatly, because the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you a land flowing with milk and honey. 4 “Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one., 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. 7 Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your

forehead. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.” CSB

When we read and meditate on God’s Holy Word we understand the expectations of God and His blessings on those who keep them!

Six reasons to read and meditate on God’s Holy Word:

3. Authentic Praise is a result of reading God’s Word v.7

I will praise you with an upright heart when I learn your righteous judgments. CSB

The word translated “**praise**” comes from the Hebrew word “**Yadah**” meaning to confess, to give thanks, to sing with joy, to give praise and glory to God.

What does a life of authentic praise really look like?

It looks like St. Patrick

We know about the real St. Patrick (or Magnus Sucatus Patricius) because he wrote a record of his life called *Confessions*. As a young boy Patrick lived a comfortable life near an English coastal city where his father was a deacon in their church. But at the age of 16, his comfortable life unraveled. Irish pirates attacked his village, abducting Patrick and many of the household servants.

After arriving in Ireland, Patrick was sold as a slave to a Druid tribal chieftain who forced Patrick to work with a herd of pigs. In the midst of the squalor of pig filth, God began to transform Patrick's heart. In his book titled “*Confessions*” he wrote, "I was sixteen and knew not the true God, but in a strange land the Lord opened my unbelieving eyes, and I was converted." Patrick became convinced that the kidnapping and homesickness were actually opportunities to know Christ better. "Anything that happens to me," he wrote, "whether pleasant or distasteful, I ought to accept with serenity and give thanks to God ... who never disappoints."

After serving as a slave for six years, Patrick escaped, boarded a boat, and found his way back home. At long last, he was on British soil, warmly

embraced by his family and his community. In his own mind Patrick was done with Ireland for good. **According to Patrick, "It is not in my nature to show divine mercy toward the very ones who once enslaved me."** Once again, God would change Patrick's heart. Partially through a dramatic dream, Patrick knew that God had called him to return to Ireland—not as a slave, but as a herald of the gospel. His family and friends were understandably horrified by his decision. "Many friends tried to stop my mission," Patrick wrote. "They said, 'Why does this fellow waste himself among dangerous enemies who don't even know God?'" Despite these objections, in A.D. 432 Patrick used his own money to purchase a boat and sail back to Ireland. Patrick spent the rest of his life preaching the gospel in Ireland, watching many people commit their lives to Christ. He also passionately defended the human rights of slaves. For the rest of his life, Patrick would remain captivated by the grace of God. In his book *"Confessions"* he wrote:

"And I am certain of this: I was a dumb stone lying squashed in the mud; the Mighty and Merciful God came, dug me out and set me on top of the wall. Therefore, I praise him and ought to render him something for his wonderful benefits to me both now and in eternity."

Citation: John W. Cowart, *People Whose Faith Got Them into Trouble* (InterVarsity Press, 1990), pp. 31-42

Habakkuk 3:17-19 describes an authentic life of praise—"Though the fig tree does not bud and there is no fruit on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though the flocks disappear from the pen and there are no herds in the stalls, 18 yet I will celebrate in the Lord; I will rejoice in the God of my salvation! 19 The Lord my Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like those of a deer and enables me to walk on mountain heights!" CSB

When we have a spirit of Authentic Praise we will live with hope, peace and satisfaction even through adversity and hardship.

Six reasons to read and meditate on God's Holy Word:

4. Protection comes from reading and obeying God's Word v.8

I will keep your statutes; never abandon me. CSB

When we read, meditate and obey God's Holy Word we learn that God will never abandon us.

The phrase "**keep your statutes**" comes from the Hebrew word "**Shamar**" meaning a person who intentionally and carefully obeys the expectations written in God's Holy Word.

The word translated "**abandon**" comes from the Hebrew word "**azab**" meaning to leave, to leave behind, to forsake to forget.

God did not abandon Daniel in the lions den!

God did not abandon the three Hebrew boys in the fire!

When we are in trouble God will not abandon us!

When we are suffering God will not abandon us!

When we are sick God will not abandon us!

When we are in need God will not abandon us!

When we are weak God will not abandon us!

When we are dying God will not abandon us!

Psalm 71:9 "Don't discard me in my old age. As my strength fails, do not abandon me." CSB

Some day when I've traveled my last mile here
the call will be coming for me
I'll enter the life boat that will be near
to carry me over the sea

He'll hold my hand, as over death's river I go
Then safe I'll be in beautiful heaven I know.

When we keep God's Holy Word He will never abandon us!

Six reasons to read and meditate on God's Holy Word:

5. Instructions for a righteous life are found by reading and obeying God's Word v.9

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping your word. CSB

If a farmer doesn't plant seeds, he will never harvest a crop. It doesn't matter how weed-free his ground is; he must also plant and cultivate good seed.

In the same way, we can only reap a harvest of purity and integrity by planting the good seed of God's Word into our lives. I'm not talking about merely reading the Bible. I'm talking about allowing the Holy Spirit to plant the truths of Scripture deep into our hearts and minds through consistent Bible reading and memorization, meditation and prayer. To be effective, and to remain pure, the truth of God's Holy Word must be planted in our hearts daily. Citation: Gary Oliver, clinical director of Southwest Counseling Associates in Denver. Men of Integrity, Vol. 1, no. 1.

We have the opportunity to live a righteous life when we read, meditate and obey God's Holy Word.

Six reasons to read and meditate on God's Holy Word:

6. Commitment to God is a result of reading and obeying God's Word vv.10-11

I have sought you with all my heart; don't let me wander from your commands. 11 I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you. CSB

We recognize the voice of God when we read and meditate on the Holy Word of God.

We recognize the Will of God when we read and meditate not the Holy Word of God.

Eight Tips For Effective Personal Time With God

2 Timothy 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.” CSB

Matthew 6:5-6 “Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” CSB

Make personal time with God a priority

Set a consistent time

Go to a quiet place

Prepare to receive what God has to say.

Read the Bible in a consecutive and systematic manner.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to speak through His Word.

Meditate on verses, phrases or words of Scripture that the Holy Spirit reveals as distinct and prominent.

Focus on principles from God’s word and determine how to apply these principles in life.

Psalms 119:160 “The entirety of your word is truth, each of your righteous judgments endures forever.” CSB

