



### Today's Sermons

Morning: TBA

Evening: TBA

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	35
Sunday AM Worship	47
Sunday PM Worship	31
Wed. Bible Study	40
Offering	\$3060

**BATTLE PLAN**

**PRAY**  
WITHOUT CEASING  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

**FIGHT**  
PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD  
EPHESIANS 6:11

**TRUST**  
HAVING DONE ALL, STAND  
EPHESIANS 6:13



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**Times of Services:**  
Sunday  
 Bible Study:... 10:00am  
 AM Worship...11:00am  
 PM Worship:...6:00pm  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday  
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program  
 Sunday:.....7:30am  
 "Back to the Bible"  
 AM 580 WSKK  
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A  
 Warm & Cordial  
 Welcome  
 To All Our  
 Visitors!**

**TIPS ON READING THE BIBLE**  
 by Bill Boyd

Now is a good time to become a regular Bible reader for the rest of your life. If you are reading this article then the Bible is probably already a big part of your life. There is no other book that draws so many into an assembled thoughtful study of its contents week after week after week. However, many who gladly assemble for weekly Bible Study would benefit by becoming a regular Bible reader themselves. Here are a few tips that may help you get into the habit.

First: It is the end of the year. There is something about the psychology of a New Year makes us want to make resolutions, commitments, and changes in our lives. Also, December is a time of buying and giving, so it is a good time to buy yourself a nice Bible that you will enjoy reading. Money spent on a Bible that you will actually read is well spent. An electronic Bible is a good way to look things up, but you may find that books are better for deep meditative reading. Get a Bible with a good layout, and good binding and readable print. Study Bibles filled with notes can be helpful, but remember, those are just notes, and you will want to focus on the text itself. I heard

*Continued Inside*

that a lady once said, “The Bible sheds a lot of light on those commentaries!” And so also the text can shed light on those notes. (Update: You may want to consider a Bible with a reader's format. They are typically in paragraph form without obvious chapter and verse notation. You will want to keep a study Bible for study, but for reading, you may find the readers format a pleasant experience.)

Second: Try the King James Version. In two recent surveys, one by Christianity Today, and another by the Barna Group, it was discovered that most people who regularly read the Bible read from the King James Version. That means a lot of people have a lot of Bible versions that they do not read! Do not believe people who tell you that you cannot understand it, you can. The language is old, but it is simple. Other versions may seem easier to read for a moment because they sound more modern, but they can quickly start sounding bland. There is something about the simple rugged elegance of the old King James Version that draws you back. It is always beautiful. It may be counterintuitive because of what you have heard, but if you are having trouble getting into Bible reading then you should give your grandmother's old book a try.

Third: Do this test. Get a timer and see how long it takes you to enjoyably read the first three chapters of Genesis. That will be pretty much the time you would need to spend daily to read the Bible through in a year. You will be surprised how little time it takes, and I will be surprised if it takes you more than fifteen minutes. (Most of you will finish in less than ten minutes.) A goal to read the Bible through in a year can be a good motivator, but more importantly, just read. You do not have to read once a day; read several times a day, and it does not have to be every day, but it needs to become something you commonly do. You do not have to start in Genesis. You may want to start in the Psalms, or with the stories about Jesus in the New Testament. Once you find the joy of reading any of it you will seek it all.

Fourth: Take time. It is not just reading it; it is about enjoying it while you read it and spiritually benefiting from it. Underline passages. Write notes to yourself in the margin. Pray about what you read. You may find that the slower you read it the better it gets. One thing of which I am confident -- the more you read it, the more you will love it!

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*“Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).*

## ARE YOU A SAINT?

by Winford Claiborne

Have you ever heard someone say, “Well, I’m not a sinner but I’m not a saint.” Is there some position between a sinner and a saint? Did you know that the words “holy,” “saint,” and “sanctified” all come from the same Greek word? If you are not a sinner, then you are a saint. There is no third category. But are Christians saints? If you mean by the word “saint” someone who is without flaw, then obviously, no one belongs in that category. But that is not the meaning of the Greek word “hagios”. You know that is true if you have carefully read 1 Corinthians. Paul referred to the Corinthians as “saints.” You know how many sins are outlined in this great letter. The Corinthians were not perfect by any stretch of the imagination.

Peter explains what it means to be obedient children. We are not to fashion ourselves according to the former lusts of our ignorance (1 Peter 1:14). Then he adds: “But as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all manner of conversation” (1:15). God is the one who has called us into His service. His character is the standard of holiness. Since God is holy, He wants us to be holy. In fact, if we are not holy, that is, set apart for His service - set apart from the world - we cannot be His faithful followers. Fortunately, He has given us the means by which we can become holy, that is the gospel of Jesus Christ. When we obey the gospel of Christ, our sins are washed away (Acts 22:16) and we become holy in God’s sight.

We are urged to be “holy in all manner of conversation.” One who has not studied the Bible carefully may think Peter was speaking about our tongue—keeping our speech clean and pure. Holiness certainly includes that, but it is much more than that. The word, “conversation,” means manner of life. James asks, “Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom” (James 3:13).

Every day, and not just on Sunday, we are to keep our hearts and our lives pure. Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”

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*“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” (Revelation 22:12).*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dec 30 – Song Service
- Dec 31 – New Year’s Get-Together @ Winters’ Home
- Jan 6 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- Jan 13 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell