



# FROM THE PREACHER

By: Blake Hudson

## Reading, Fast and Slow

How should we study the Bible? There's a variety of correct answers to that question, but I would like to consider the depth and speed at which we read. We're all familiar with the idea of "missing the forest for the trees," how it's possible to get so caught up in details that we fail to see the big picture. On the other hand, if all we ever do is fly over the forest "at 30,000ft," we're not going to appreciate the details within the forest that make it so lively and interesting. What we want to do in our Bible study is to capture in our mind both the "forest" *and* the "trees" of Scripture. We want to be able to dig into the details while at the same time keeping the big picture in our mind. To do this, we must read fast and read slow.

Let's focus first on the big picture: the Story of God that stretches from Genesis to Revelation. In order to get this big picture in our mind, we need to read fast, moving relatively quickly through the Bible. By "reading fast," we don't mean skimming the text. No, we need to actually be reading, not just skimming. What we do mean, however, is that we should read at a steady pace that does not slow down to take notes, find answers to questions, or chase ideas. Admittedly, by moving quickly through the Bible in such a way we'll miss some details and leave some questions unanswered, but that's okay. The point of moving through the Bible at a steady pace is to capture the entire swath of Scripture within your mind, to capture the big picture. Doing so will allow you to see the "forest" of Scripture in all of its grandeur. It will also give context for your study of specific passages of the Bible.

Which brings us to the idea of reading slow. While reading quickly through the Bible is important for taking in its breadth, the only way to sound out the depth of the Bible is to read *slowly*. When we read slow, we focus on one book, or person, or maybe even one chapter and we stay on that one subject for a while. We move slowly through the text, taking time to ask questions, take notes, chase connections, and meditate on and memorize passages. We will read and re-read the same text multiple times, perhaps in multiple translations. Such reading is the only way to dig into the details of the Bible – there is no shortcut to deep study. But by doing so we'll get to see the details that give so much substance to the whole. We get to examine and admire the beauty of each of the "trees" that make up the forest.

Now, understanding the difference between broad and deep reading is not the challenge. The challenge is finding a sustainable way to implement it. With that in mind, I'd like to offer a few suggestions:

- 1) Consider setting aside two times each day to read the Bible. In one session, read quickly; in the other, read slowly. Or, if you only have one period of time to study, divide that time between fast and slow reading.
- 2) Alternating between the two approaches may work better for you. You can focus on reading quickly through a few books and then switch to reading slowly for a while.
- 3) Take advantage of audio Bibles! There is no rule against "reading" quickly by listening to an audio Bible during your commute, chores, etc.

Whatever works best for you, just be sure to find a schedule to read your Bible regularly. It is God's word to us and we are abundantly blessed with access to it. Read fast, read slow, but above all, read!

→ There are directory updates on the bulletin board.

## 2025 Summer Series

### "One of My Favorite Passages"

#### 8/13-Andrew Martinez-Carrizo Springs CofC

8/20- Algie Armstead-Westside Church of Christ

8/27 - Danlee Queen-League City Church of Christ



Our Ladies Bible Study will be this Saturday, August 16th, at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.



A new initiative for 2yo - 5th grade: Bible Scouts. We will have a planning meeting for those interested in participating on September 14th, after evening service. For more information please, see Blake.



## Canned Meat Drive

Goal: 10,000

Currently have: 1,248



Please put all can donations on the cart in the foyer. Office staff will count them and move them into the auditorium.

## SYMPATHY



We would like to express our love and sympathy to Pam Hillman on the passing of her step-mother, Betty Illgen. Betty passed away Saturday, August 8th.



**Sunday morning's Adult Bible class will be covering Acts 9:23-43**



Wednesday Night with The Master meals, activities and Bible classes will begin September 3rd.

# Please Pray

Deena Damron continues to have health issues...Joe Davis's cousin, Brenda Haralt, passed away 8/3...David Johnson, is home and doing better...Carol King, is scheduled for knee replacement 8/25...Karen Lowe, for strength as she cares for Johnny...Gloria Mares, had her procedure yesterday and is doing well...Phil Carter, will have a procedure done 8/19...Jackie Haynes and her son Gabriel Cranford, Jackie is having back surgery this Thursday and Gabriel will be worried about his mom...Doretha Mack, Kathleen Vereen's mother, is under hospice care...Bryan Rice, Mary Miller's grandson, needs prayer...Linda Shell, friend of Gloria Mares, is in need of prayer...Andy Tilley, Gary Faycosh's brother, is home but, continues to struggle...Johnny Toon, Karen Lowe's son, has been diagnosed with a brain tumor

### PLEASE REMEMBER:

Dorothy Booth, Robert Gautney, Jeanie Granger, Erin West Janik, David Johnson, Dorothy King, Marie Leblanc, Karen Smith, Ceaser Vereen, Maggie Walker