

Sermon Notes

Saddle Up - Prov 6:22

April 12, 2026

I. Introduction

This is the great adventure. The greatest journey the human heart will ever see. Saddle up. SCC

- a. one of Jessica's favorite songs... lights up when she hears it... Word of God is powerful and effective... but sadly... most Christians don't pay their bible much attention...
1Thess 2:13... "word of God works effectively in you who believe..."
Heb 4:12... "word of God is living and powerful... judges intentions of the heart..."
Daily - 11% Once a week - 9% Once a month - 8% Once a year - 13% Never - 29%
- b. impossible to thrive and live an abundant life without the word of God...
Josh 1... "this book of instruction must not depart from your mouth... meditate daily..."
Job 23:12... "I have treasured His words more than my daily food..."
Psa 1:1-3... "meditate on it day and night... whatever you do will prosper..."
Psa 119:130... "your word brings light... gives understanding to the open-minded..."
Matt 4:4... "man shall not live on bread alone... but every word from mouth of God..."
zao... enjoy real life; have true life; vital power; strong, efficient, active, powerful; active, blessed...
Luke 1:37 *ASV*... "no word from God shall be void of power..."
John 10... "sheep know and follow His voice... I've come to bring life in abundance..."
1Pet 2:2-3... "desire God's word as babies desire milk... then you will grow..."
Rev 1:3... "blessed is the one who reads aloud the words... blessed are those who hear..."
- c. this will be a 4-week series... ending on May 3rd... my challenge to you is to read your bible every day during this series... saddle up... go on a great adventure together... *pray*...
Psa 18:30... "God's way is perfect... the word of the Lord proves true..."
Psa 119:107... "I am severely afflicted... give me life according to your word..."
Psa 119:169... "give me understanding according to your word..."

**Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years.
The more you read the bible, the more you will be astonished by it. Charles Spurgeon**

II. Saddle Up

- a. lots of people don't read their bibles because they've never been taught how... especially men... we'd rather not do something at all than look foolish by doing it wrong...
Psa 119:9-11... "how can a young man keep his way pure... by keeping your word... don't let me wander from your word... I have treasured it in my heart so I will not sin against you..."
Amos 8:11-14... "days are coming when I will send a famine... not of bread or water... but of hearing the words of the Lord... people will stagger... seeking the Word, but not finding it..."
2Tim 3:16... "all scripture is useful... for teaching, rebuking, correcting, training..."

The bible often makes us uncomfortable before it comforts us.

We often think it is stale and lifeless... as opposed to living and active.

It can be hard to read... especially depending on your translation choice.

It is difficult to be consistent because Americans, for the most part, are undisciplined.

Bottom line: we don't read our bible because we don't want to read our bible. That can be indicative of our overall relationship with the Lord. A love for God equals a love for His word.

The Gospel Coalition

b. Bible Translations

get asked a lot which is the best bible translation... *the one you'll read...* don't think just one is best... multiple versions will help bring you more understanding as you read...
Essentially Literal - *word for word*... strives to translate the language of original text as closely as possible... minimizes translator error by not encouraging their own interpretation... can sometimes be a little hard to read, but is the most accurate... *KJV, NKJV, ESV, NASB, CSB, RSV, ASV, YLT*...
1Kings 20:11... "let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off..."
Dynamic Equivalence - *thought for thought*... seeks to reproduce thoughts or ideas in a way that a modern reader would understand... can result in *this is what I think it means*, rather than *this is what it says*... generally more readable and understandable than literal version... *NLT, CEV, NCV, GNB*...
1Kings 20:11... "warrior putting on his sword should not boast like a warrior who has already won..."
Paraphrase - *retelling of something in your own words*... commentary on scripture, not an accurate translation... it is not scripture... but can help our understanding... be careful to compare this version to other literal or dynamic translations... would not use as main study bible... *MSG, TPT, JBP, TLB*...
1Kings 20:11... "don't count your chickens before they hatch..."

c. How Do I Read My Bible

Dolly Parton entered look-alike contest and lost to a man... Hugh Jackman went to cosplay convention as Wolverine... costume got attention of two, who said, *not bad*... why, how... because we see what we expect to see and no one expected to see them enter a look-alike contest about themselves... same is true of bible reading... see what you expect to see...

If you believe the bible is a rulebook full of things to do... that's what you'll see.

If you believe God is a God of anger, wrath, judgment, and demand... that's what you'll see.

If you believe God is good and full of love, mercy, grace, and supply... that's what you'll see.

best way to read your bible is to look for Jesus in the center of everything...

Luke 24:27-45... "everything written about Me in the Law, Prophets, and Psalms..."

Acts 10:43... "all the prophets testify about Him..."

Heb 10:7... "in the volume of the book... it is written of Me..."

context, context, context... means to *weave together*... when you weave bible together you get a great story about Jesus... take Him out and you get a bad story... don't read it for rules and regulations... read it to deepen your relationship with God... easy to read it to see what we have to *do*... better to read it and see what He has done... is doing... will do...
John 6:28-29... "what must we do... *this is the only work God wants, believe in His Son*..."
John 19:30... "it is finished..."
Gal 1:12... "did not come from man... was not taught... came by revelation of Jesus..."
2Pet 1:1-3... "everything required for life... found in the knowledge of Him..."
2Pet 3:18... "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

d. Where Do I Go For Help?

what do you do when the pastor is not available to answer questions... ask HS... let Him lead and guide as you seek... important to get answers from a NC grace perspective...
Psa 17:6... "I call on you, God... because you will answer me..."
Matt 7:7-11... "ask and it will be given... seek and you will find... God gives to those who ask..."
Acts 17:11... "open-minded... listened eagerly... searched Scripture daily to see if true..."
James 1:5... "if anyone lacks wisdom... ask God... He'll give it to you generously..."

www.blueletterbible.org

www.gotquestions.org

www.escapetoreality.org

www.biblequestions.com

www.thegracecommentary.com

- e. let's go... saddle up... blaze a trail... greatest journey your heart will ever see... *pray*...
Psa 119:105... "your word is a lamp to my feet and a light on my path..."
Prov 6:20-23... "my words will guide you... watch over you... talk to you... protect you..."
Isa 30:21... "you will hear a voice saying... *this is the way, walk in it*..."
Isa 55:11... "my word will not return empty... it will prosper in what I send it to do..."