



# ***Anchor of the Soul***

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## **How Readest Thou?**

Author Unknown

'Tis one thing to read the Bible through;  
Another thing to read to learn to do.  
'Tis another thing, too, to read with delight,  
And quite another thing to read it right.  
Some read it with design to learn to read,  
But to the subject, pay but little heed;  
Some read it as their duty, once a week,  
But no instruction from the Bible seek.  
Some read to bring themselves into repute,  
By showing others bow they can dispute,  
While some read because their neighbors do,  
To see how long 'twill take to read it through.  
Some read the blessed book they know not why--  
It sometimes happens in the way we lie;  
While others read it with uncommon care,  
But just to find some contradiction there.  
One reads with his father's specs upon his bead,  
And sees the things just as his father said;  
One reads through others who are not inspired,  
And thinks it seeks precisely what they desire.  
Some read to prove some pre-admitted creed,  
Thus understanding but very little of what they read.  
And every passage in the book they bend,  
To make it prove that all-important (?) end.  
Some people read as I have thought,  
To teach the book instead of being taught,  
Yet many others read with highest purpose given,  
To learn to do the greatest work of heaven.

**Anchor of the Soul  
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## It's Not How You Feel

Aubrey Belue

Does it "feel good"? Does it feel "right"? If so, today's culture says, "go for it"! Thus, we make "right" what our feelings say it is, rather than what it really is. Somehow, we have reached the point in contemporary reasoning that most say that one can pursue his individual dream without having to confront the consequences of bad or wrong choices. Believe in God, or not; accept Christ, or not; live morally, or not--to those people, it is all the same. Do what you want to do, what you feel like doing, what you think is right in doing, and God will just set aside HIS rules to approve of you regardless. We confuse civic freedom with divine approval, and so long as it is "legal" (and some are not too "picky" about that), it is seen as acceptable.

The question is, "Is our standing WITH GOD determined by our feelings, or by the rule of divine law?" Is it a matter of God's will, or ours? Serious consequences follow the reasoning described above:

1) It nullifies the Bible as a defining book. In fact, the Bible becomes largely useless, since it can at any point be superseded by one's personal feeling. No doubt we "feel" like it has some value, but it can always be overridden by our feelings. There is no sense of responsibility to conform to its message.

2) It glorifies HUMAN wisdom and authority. The highest court of appeal becomes the human mind and thought, rather than the mind of God. If what I feel is right, even if it contradicts what God teaches in His word, then MY idea is seen as better than His; my authority as greater than His. In so doing we minimize the greater wisdom and power of an Almighty God.

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3) It results in anarchy and chaos. Rejecting a common source of authority -- the written word of God -- each becomes his own source. There are as many "rights" as there are people to think them up. No wonder we live in troubled times. No wonder our children are so confused as to morals and religion. Countless competing human ideas bombard them (and us) with equally justifiable claims to what is "right".

4) It ignores God's place in our universe. He has defined right from wrong, sin from righteousness, truth from error. Any course conflicting with His "law" exacts terrible penalties.

THE TRUTH? The solution to mankind's problems lie not in human minds, but in the unsearchable mind of an all-wise God. As we have observed before in this column, it is His world, we eat His bread, drink His water, and breathe His air. In addition to being ill-equipped by nature and inclination to determine "right", we belong to Him, and are obligated to be obedient. Man's way never "fixes" anything important, nor moves us one step toward fellowship with God. This may not be the popular line, but we are interested in TRUTH, not compromise, and all human objections aside, God's word is still TRUE, and His way is still the only way (John 14:6).

## **Come Worship the Lord With Us!**

Sunday.....Bible study	10:00 AM
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# Forgiveness Is A Wonderful Thing

By Byron Smith

The Bible, in a few words, is about God's plan to save us from our sins through Jesus. From *Genesis* chapter one through *Revelation* chapter 22 that is the theme. The thread of redemption runs from beginning to end. Briefly stated, it all points to the cross of Jesus (e.g. Gen. 3:15; Isa. 53). **He is the only source of forgiveness** (Jn. 14:6; Ac. 4:12; Eph. 1:7).

Through transgression of God's law man becomes guilty of sin (I Jn. 3:4) and consequently stands in desperate need of salvation (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). Jesus is the Savior (Mt. 1:21; Lk. 2:11; 19:10) who offers salvation to sinners (Mt. 9:12-13; 11:28-30). He was the sacrifice that was made to atone for sin (Jn. 1:29; I Pet. 1:18-19). The Bible reveals to man God's plan that brings the sinner in contact with the Savior, thereby imparting salvation or the forgiveness of sin (Rom. 1:16-17; Eph. 3:2-7; cf. II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:3). The point here is that **we need forgiveness and the Bible tells us all about it.**

How can you have your sins forgiven? It is quite simple! First understand that the plan involves God and man, **God's grace** (Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 2:11) and **man's compliance** (Mt. 7:21). God has certainly done His part in making salvation possible (Jn. 3:16). Man does his part by meeting God's terms of pardon (Heb. 5:8-9; I Pet. 1:22). For those who are not yet a Christian, God requires that they **hear** the word (Rom. 10:17; Jn. 5:24), **believe** in Jesus (Jn. 8:24), **repent** of their sins (Lk. 13:3; Ac. 3:19), **confess** that Jesus is Lord (Rom. 10:9-10), and **be baptized** in water "for the remission of sins" (Ac. 2:38; cf. Mk. 16:16; Ac. 22:16; Rom. 6:3-5; Gal. 3:26-27; I Pet. 3:21). Regarding those who have "obeyed the gospel" (Rom. 10:16; cf. II Thess. 1:8; I Pet. 4:17) in the past, yet have fallen back into sin (Rom. 11:19-23; I Cor. 10:12; Gal. 5:4; etc.), they also can be forgiven, if

were encouraged to because Mom and Dad were always reading and teaching us what they read. The message we got was loud and clear: nothing came before God and doing his will.

That doesn't seem to be the standard in many families any more. In each of the six gospel meetings I have preached this past year, I have had at least one person come up to me and say something like, "These lessons have been so good I sure hate to miss tomorrow night, but we have (fill in the blank: soccer, back to school night, Girl Scouts, etc.)." One person told me he wouldn't be back for Sunday evening worship because of a "soccer-fest." When I replied in amazement, "You are missing worship for soccer?" He said, "Oh, I'll get the tape!" Unfortunately, he had missed the point. However, my biggest surprise is not that many Christians are putting the world's things before the Lord, but that they are so open about it. They act like no one in their right mind would deny a child their special activity just to go to worship. In fact, it isn't the child that is feeling deprived, it is the parent.

Revelation 12:11 states, "*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*" We as parents need to be practicing and teaching this kind of fierce, unwavering commitment to the Lord. Even the threat of death will not quiet the word of our testimony. Children recognize priorities in their simplest form. We cannot say, "It is only Wednesday evening worship or only Sunday evening worship." It is what we do "instead of" something else that expresses what is important. It is whether we take time every week to tell our children about Abraham, Joseph, Daniel, and all the others, that makes a difference when they must make similar decisions. It is what we get most excited about and make sacrifices to do, that tells others, especially our children, where our heart is. "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Matt. 6:21).

# Priorities And Our Children

Berry Kercheville

I was 15. The classroom was filled with kids from their Freshmen to Senior year. This was a meeting of all the agriculture students to see who would be interested in joining the FFA (Future Farmers of America). I sat timidly as the teacher wrote down the names of students who volunteered. Then all eyes turned to me. "Are you joining, Kerch?" "I'd like to join," I stammered, "but I can't come to the meetings because I go to church on Wednesday nights." From the back of the room someone hollered, "You can't join if you don't come to the meetings!" Then one of the Juniors looked across the aisle and shouted, "What's the matter with you Kercheville? You want to go to heaven or something?" The room roared with laughter. A year later, after making straight A's in my Ag classes, the rule for Wednesday night attendance to the FFA meetings was waived and I was allowed to join. At the end of my Junior year, having never attended a meeting, some members of the club greeted me at school on Thursday morning with the news that I had been voted president of the FFA for the following year. I said, "That's great! My first order of business is to change the meeting to Thursday nights."

My parents never told me that I couldn't attend the FFA meetings. Even years before, when I had Little League games that conflicted with worship, they never made the rule that I had to miss the game. But I did. When it came time for school dances, my parents never forbade me to go. But I didn't go. It wasn't that I was an extra good kid. I got more "whippin's" than any of my siblings. You see, God was first around our house. Spiritual things were a daily topic of conversation. God and his Word were spoken of when we rose up, when we lay down, when we walked by the way (rode in the car), and when we sat in the house (Deut. 6:6-7). We were never specifically "told" to read our Bible. We

they are willing to **repent, confess** their sins, and **ask God to forgive** them (Ac. 8:22; I Jn. 1:9). Salvation or forgiveness is contingent upon meeting these conditions, however when they are met, forgiveness is assured (Mt. 26:28; Eph. 1:7)!

Now to our primary point with regard to forgiveness—it is a **wonderful thing!** "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson they shall be as wool" (Isa. 1:18). "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Ps. 103:12) God is described as casting "all our sins into the depths of the sea" (Mic. 7:19). Yes for sure, "He will abundantly pardon" (Isa. 55:7). Forgiveness means that one is free of guilt! Fault has vanished! Accountability is voided! It means that the record of wrongdoing has been erased! If you have lied or lusted, the record is gone. If you cursed or coveted the liability has been removed. The debt of sin has been canceled. What a wonderful God we have and what a wonderful plan for our salvation. "Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage...?" (Mic. 7:18; cf. Jer. 31:34).

Indeed, forgiveness is a wonderful thing and with it we should "be of good cheer" (Mt. 9:2). When "the sky is falling down on you", if forgiven, there is reason to cheer; **forgiveness means that one has a hope that looks far beyond this life** of toil and frustration (I Pet. 1:3-5). If one is deprived of every other blessing in life, if forgiven they have the greatest blessing (Eph. 1:3, 7)! If there is no other reason to rejoice but forgiveness, Christians should be a happy and rejoicing people (cf. Lk. 10:20; Phil. 4:4). **Why would any sensible, levelheaded person ignore God's requirements for salvation, thereby refusing the wonderful blessing of forgiveness?**

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# So Much Time To Read The Bible

How much time does it take to read from Genesis to Revelation? If you would read the Bible at a standard pulpit speed (slow enough to be heard and understood), the reading time would be seventy-one (71) hours. If you would break that down into minutes and divide it into 365 days, **you could read the entire Bible, cover to cover in only 12 minutes a day.** Is this too much time to spend reading about God? — Selected

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According to the A.C. Nielsen Co., **the average American watches more than 5 hours of TV each day** (or 35 hours/week, or 2.5 months of nonstop TV-watching per year). In a 65-year life, that person will have spent over 9 years glued to the tube.

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- Number of minutes per week that parents spend in meaningful conversation with their children: 3.5
- Percentage of Americans that regularly watch television while eating dinner: 66
- Percentage of day care centers that use TV during a typical day: 70
- Percentage of 4-6 year-olds who, when asked to choose between watching TV and spending time with their fathers, preferred television: 54
- Percentage of survey participants (1993) who said that TV commercials aimed at children make them too materialistic: 92

— Compiled by TV-Free America

## June Bible Reading

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 Study With Us! 7 PM	2 Jer. 13-16 Heb. 3	3 Jer. 17-20 Heb. 4-5	4 Jer. 21-23 Heb. 6
5 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	6 Jer. 24-27 Heb. 7	7 Jer. 28-30 Heb. 8	8 Study With Us! 7 PM	9 Jer. 31-32 Heb. 9	10 Jer. 33-36 Heb. 10	11 Jer. 37-40 Heb. 11
12 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	13 Jer. 41-45 Heb. 12	14 Jer. 46-48 Heb. 13	15 Study With Us! 7 PM	16 Jer. 49-50 James 1	17 Jer. 51-52 James 2	18 Lam. 1-3 James 3
19 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	20 Lam. 4-Eze. 2 James 4	21 Eze. 3-7 James 5	22 Study With Us! 7 PM	23 Eze. 8-11 1 Pet. 1	24 Eze. 12-15 1 Pet. 2	25 Eze. 16-17 1 Pet. 3
26 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	27 Eze. 18-20 1 Pet. 4	28 Eze. 21-23 1 Pet. 5	29 Study With Us! 7 PM	30 Eze. 24-27 2 Pet. 1-2		