

Please pray:

- ✳ New school year: Pray that the Lord will go before us to prepare the campuses, the venues, and the hearts of the students. May the Lord prepare them to be ready to receive the gospel; pray for the releasing of the ones that the Lord has already released in the heavens; pray that the ones released will be willing to be contacted by us and willing to come to the Bible studies, meetings, and/or have personal appointments with us; pray that the whole church will move with the Lord in this matter by praying and by going; pray for the Lord's strengthening and empowering of all the saints who will go out to the campuses; may the Lord give us remaining fruit this school year.
- ✳ Chinese-speaking gospel meeting (September 11): Pray that the Lord could gain more seeking ones to have a heart to read the Bible with us. Pray for more saints who could form vital groups and pick up the burden to shepherd these seeking ones through reading the Bible with them.
- ✳ French seminar by Rhema (September 11): Pray that the shepherds be released to attend this seminar; pray for the release of the contacts who are already released in the heavens to attend; pray for the preparation of the hearts of the contacts to be good ground to receive the Lord's speaking; pray for all the preparations for this seminar; pray that all the aspects will be covered by the Lord and that the enemy will have no ground in this time; pray that we will gain remaining fruit from this seminar.
- ✳ As the government of Quebec is easing up more and more the restrictions, may we be encouraged to meet in person with proper measures; may the Lord cover all the saints and bless the assembly of the saints; may the meetings and the blending times in person be fully recovered according to the Lord's timing.
- ✳ Pray for various local needs, including saints in Montreal, contacts, and those in need of care and shepherding.

Weekly Readings

- ✳ Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes: 1 Chron 27:1 – 2 Chron 8:18
- ✳ HWMR: The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age, and the Coming of the Lord, week 8

Announcements

- ✳ There will be a children's service orientation for all new and returning children's serving ones on Sept 12 at 1:00pm at the meeting hall or on Zoom. Please bring your lunch for this time.

- ✳ We will do a whole meeting hall cleaning the first Lord's table of the Month. Please bring your lunch on that day. The cleaning will begin after lunch.
- ✳ Please consider before the Lord carefully and provide us with the prayer burdens before Saturday of every week. Please send the prayer burdens to Allan Y. His email address is allan.yeow81@gmail.com. Note that due to limited space on the newsletter, we may not be able to put all the prayer burdens that are sent to us. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

Upcoming Events

- ✳ October 8-10, Online: **International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones**
- ✳ November 25-28: **International Thanksgiving Weekend Conference**
- ✳ December 20-25: **Semiannual Training**
The church website lists more events

This Week's Activities

5	✳ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table & Prophesying meetings
September	
LORD'S DAY	
6	✳
Monday	
7	✳ 7:30-9:00pm: English/French/Chinese prayer meetings by districts via conference calls
Tuesday	
8	✳
Wednesday	
9	✳
Thursday	
10	✳ 6:30-9:00pm: Various Home Meetings (English/French/Chinese) via Zoom
Friday	
11	✳
Saturday	
12	✳ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table & Prophesying meetings
September	
LORD'S DAY	✳ 1pm: Children's Service Orientation

READING THE BIBLE

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Psalms 119:9-11, 15, 105, 140, 148

III. DIFFERENT WAYS TO READ THE BIBLE

C. Intense Study during a Specifically Apportioned Time (Continued)

4. The Fourth Ten Minutes—Paraphrasing

The final ten minutes can be used to paraphrase the Bible. This exercise is very useful. Paraphrasing the Bible gives fresh insight into a passage. By paraphrasing the Bible with simple words, we express a passage in a way that others can understand at a glance.

For example, you may be doing a chapter-by-chapter study of the book of Romans. If a teen-ager comes and says, "I have read Paul's word in Romans, but I cannot understand it," you will have to think of some ways to explain this book to him using your own words. A paraphrase is not a commentary; you are merely using your own words to convey what Paul said so that those who do not understand it can understand. In order to do this, you have to learn to paraphrase the Bible with your own words. Take the book of Romans and try to paraphrase it with your own words. Paul wrote the Epistles in his words. Now you should try to write the same thing in your own words. Try your best to do this. Do it properly and intelligently so that you can understand it and so that other brothers and sisters who read it can understand it as well.

Such paraphrasing will show how well we know the Scriptures. Using our own words to reiterate the apostles' thought is a good way to prepare us for biblical exposition. Paraphrasing is the first step; exposition is the second step. First we should learn to paraphrase the text of the Bible with our own words. Our training before God must be in the proper order. Do not try to expound the Bible before learning to paraphrase it; this is too hasty. Learn to paraphrase the Bible first and then learn to expound it. If we cannot paraphrase the Bible well, it is impossible for us to expound it well. We must paraphrase first and then expound. We must all learn this basic lesson. First, paraphrase Paul's Epistles, then paraphrase the remainder of the New Testament.

In paraphrasing the Bible, try to avoid using the words of the Bible. Use your own words instead. The main lesson to learn here is to express the meaning of a passage with words that are within your grasp. After you have tried one book, you will know how precious the experience is and how profitable the exercise is. A careless and sloppy person cannot paraphrase the Bible. You must pray much before the Lord and read the Bible properly before you can paraphrase it correctly. After you finish a book, go back and revise your work once or twice, modifying it with appropriate words and polishing your sentences. This will give you a better impression of the book, and you will come to know what the apostles were

talking about. You need to paraphrase a passage before you can have a deep impression of it.

In order to paraphrase the Bible, one must first study it thoroughly. He must understand what a passage says and what is implied in the passage. He can then incorporate all his knowledge into his paraphrase. This requires a thorough understanding of a verse. A person can only paraphrase the Bible when he has a clear grasp of what it says. Through practicing a little every day, and through careful reading and meticulous writing, one will eventually be able to paraphrase one of Paul's Epistles. He will then be able to understand Paul's word and will be able to use other words to convey the same meaning.

We have mentioned four things already. First, study by topic; second, do a word study; third, gather information; and fourth, paraphrase. We should go through all twenty-eight methods one by one. A definite schedule of Bible study is an exercise for us. We must gird up our loins, be restricted and regulated before the Lord, and not be loose. If we have made up our mind to study for an hour, keep this hour. We should not shorten or lengthen the time, unless we are sick or on vacation. Other than such exceptions, we should always keep our schedule. If we persist in this exercise daily, we will soon reap the harvest.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #9, Reading the Bible by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.