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Date: August 19, 2012
Subject: Planted by the Rivers of Water - Ps. 1:1-3

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"Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law does he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper." PSALM 1:1-3

Hello my beloved friend, allow me a few minutes to share something with you, and maybe you will find it profitable to incorporate into your own personal Bible study.

Most of us - at one time or another - have memorized some portions of Scripture; but, if you're like me, maybe you wonder, "Which ones? How often? With what time? etc. etc."

Well try this beloved, in the morning - or if you work during the evening, then in the evening; you get the idea - as you read a few chapters in the morning, select one verse, or passage, and write it down on a piece of paper and carry it with you all day long.

Now the focus isn't on how many chapters you read - maybe just one chapter - strive for quality not quantity. And don't just scribble it down and then you're struggling to read it twenty minutes later; but print it very neatly and accurately.

Read it often throughout the day, even look away and try repeating it - keep doing this until you memorize it. Tape it to your monitor, or your refrigerator door; ~~get it where you can~~ ~~where ever~~ just someplace you can refer to it often; and focus upon the meaning of the words, remember its context from where you took it, keep doing this... meditating upon this precious Word of God.

"But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law does he meditate day and night." Psalm 1:2

Where-ever you are at in the Bible, you can start right there, select a verse from a chapter and meditate upon it all "day and night."

"I know what I'll do, I'll pick the verses I have already memorized..." Don't do this, beloved. This reminds me of my GED teacher back in Merward, he told us, "Cheat all you want, but you will only be hurting yourself."

Don't cheat yourself beloved, don't let it become a contest, or a "petri dish" for pride to breed; rather, let it come from the heart - that "inner man" of your service to your Saviour that nobody else can see.

We read so casually, don't we? We just kind of gulp down verse after verse, chapter after chapter, book after book... and fifteen minutes later can barely remember what we just read;

but O that fancy little "gizmo", or garment, or toy - whatever - we can name the place, the cost, the colour, accessories, details - the whole thing! Do you watch sports? Do you have the statistics of players or vehicles memorized?!

"... in His law does he meditate day and night."

Look at the example that follows in the next verse.

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,..."

Notice it doesn't say, "... a tree planted in a forest," as by other "trees"; nor does it read, "... a tree planted in a rainy area," for the rain would come and go; but He says, "... a tree planted by the rivers of water," so as never to exhaust its supply, and to be nurtured continually.

"I am the Vine, ye are the branches:
He that abides in Me, and I in him,

"the same brings forth much fruit:
for without Me ye can do nothing."
John 15:5

After doing this now for about a week and sharing this with some other people in here, I would like to offer some helpful suggestions to get you started:

1. Pray - Right from the beginning, prayer is essential to regular Bible study. Ask for wisdom to understand what you read, ask for God's guidance to select the passage that He wants you to meditate upon, etc. (Prov. 3:5-6; Isa. 26:3-4)
2. Holy Spirit - Although this relates to the first one, it is so important that I wanted to highlight it again. The Bible is a living Book, and it's the Holy Spirit that makes it come alive. Trust in the Holy Spirit for not only understanding, but to also live what you understand. "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Gal. 5:25). Don't settle for just outward changes; instead, focus on

the deep change from within that's possible only by the Holy Spirit of God.

3. Meditate - Don't stray into rote memorization, where you can recite a verse verbatim, but don't understand its meaning. Memorizing may impress your friends, but the meditation upon and the obeying of, God's Word, by the Holy Spirit, is how we please God. "And I will delight myself in Thy commandments, which I have loved. My hands also will I lift up unto Thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in Thy statutes." (Ps. 119:47-48 also John 14:15; Heb. 11:6). It is good to memorize the Scriptures, but so often this becomes the end, when it should be only the beginning.

4. Topic - The verses you select can be on any topic you like. It's helpful to select verses dealing with our sanctification, but you may also find great profit in meditating upon difficult passages too. There is no ~~wrong~~ text to pick - as long as it's "wrong".

it's from the Bible, it is the Word of God; therefore just trust completely in the Holy Spirit of God to guide you according to His will.

5. Personal - Reading the Bible with family and friends is good, but should be additional to our own personal readings. There may be certain things you are struggling with and so you may shy away from certain texts because you would have to explain why to others who would study with you. This is counterproductive to growing in grace; ~~therefore~~ therefore, to avoid these hinderances, select a text/verse that really speaks to you personally, and keep group study separate. (Phil. 2:12)

6. Family - Rather than choosing a different verse every day for the family (like for personal, above), you may find it more beneficial to select one verse per week, a "Scripture of the Week" and encourage the family to meditate upon

it together and reminding each other of it often. The text should be selected by the husband/father of each household (though considering the suggestions of wife and children).

Be like Joshua Dads! see Josh. 24:15

7. Study - On whatever verse the Spirit lays upon your heart to meditate upon, if you can, by all means, study some of the words before you leave for work, etc. This will help you get a better understanding right from the beginning, which you can further develop as the day progresses. "The heart of the righteous studies to answer" (Prov. 15:28 see also 2 Tim. 2:15 and 1 Peter 3:15).

8. Read - Remember that the objective is to incorporate this into your regular Bible reading, "Give us this day our daily bread." Every day as you read a little further in God's Word, you are selecting a passage from what you just read to meditate upon the rest of the day.

9. Believe - Believe what you read from the Bible. God's Word is full of His "precious promises" (2 Pet. 1:4) but they won't benefit you until you believe them, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit." (Rom. 15:13).

10. Notebook - i have found it rewarding to keep track of the verses i select, and rather than just recording the verse reference, i write out the whole verse (i do it in a Daily Planner; but a notebook would do just as well). Then at a glance you can review all of the verses you have selected to meditate upon, you can even include any comments or insights you gained along the way.

Well there you have it beloved, these are just a few simple suggestions to help get you started, in what i believe to be, a very profitable exercise in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God richly bless and increase your faith in Himself as you meditate upon His precious Word - the Bible. Let's be like that tree ~~to~~ my beloved friend, "planted by the rivers of water."

"But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law does he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper."
Psalm 1:2-3

Your servant for Jesus' sake,

Rev. D. F. Allen #

When Peace, Like a River by Bliss 1876

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea-billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say:
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, O the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul.