

# The Old Paths

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## “Read The Bible — Cover To Cover!”

Jarrod Jacobs

About this time of year, many Christians’ minds shift toward goals for the coming year. One goal folks have is to read the Bible through from cover to cover. Something that might help with this effort is to go to our website where one will find a Bible reading calendar which divides the Bible into daily readings. This allows a person to read the Bible through in the course of a year. Does reading all 66 books of the Bible seem like an impossible task to you? I hope not. I hope that all Christians will endeavor to read the Bible from “cover to cover” many times during their lives.

A Bible reading calendar is only one of many tools we can use to help us read the Bible from cover to cover. Knowledge, of course, is the best tool we have at our disposal. For example, when we know the average amount of time it would take us to read the books of the Bible, perhaps this knowledge will be just the motivation we need to read the Bible all the way through this coming year.

Would it surprise you to learn that on average, one can read the Bible in about 60 hours? Seeing that we have 8,760 hours in a year, (8,784 hours on leap years) it is evident that it is not impossible to read the Bible in one year! In fact, if we would apply ourselves to this privilege, we could easily read the Bible through 2 or 3 times in just one year!

How thankful we ought to be to God who has given us “all things that pertain to life and godliness” (II Pet. 1:3), and packaged it in such a way that man can read it many times over in his life! God’s revealed will has so many wonderful lessons contained in a short volume of books (Rom. 15:4)!

Below, we will find each book of the Bible listed, and the average reading time (A.R.T.) of each book. “A.R.T.” is the average time required for reading a book of the Bible if we simply sat down and read that book all the way through without stopping. Please consider the list below, and may the knowledge we gain from this list encourage us to read the Bible all the way through in 2006.

<u>Book</u>	<u>A.R.T.</u>
Genesis	3 hrs. 10 min.
Exodus	2 hrs. 20 min.
Leviticus	2 hrs. 1 min.
Numbers	2 hrs. 51 min.
Deuteronomy	2 hrs. 18 min.
Joshua	1 hr. 37 min.
Judges	1 hr. 35 min.
Ruth	14 minutes
I Samuel	2 hrs. 23 min.
II Samuel	1 hr. 48 min.
I Kings	1 hr. 7 min.
II Kings	1 hr. 55 min.
I Chronicles	1 hr. 54 min.
II Chronicles	2 hrs. 22 min.
Ezra	39 minutes
Nehemiah	1 hour
Esther	32 minutes
Job	1 hr. 47 min.
Psalms	3 hrs. 50 min.
Proverbs	1 hr. 27 min.
Ecclesiastes	28 minutes

Song of Solomon	14 minutes
Isaiah	3 hrs. 24 min.
Jeremiah	3 hrs. 44 min.
Lamentations	17 minutes
Ezekiel	3 hrs. 18 min.
Daniel	1 hr. 14 min.
Hosea	28 minutes
Joel	10 minutes
Amos	22 minutes
Obadiah	4 minutes
Jonah	7 minutes
Micah	15 minutes
Nahum	6 minutes
Habakkuk	7 minutes
Zephaniah	6 minutes
Haggai	5 minutes
Zechariah	29 minutes
Malachi	10 minutes
Matthew	2 hrs. 9 min.
Mark	1 hr. 21 min.
Luke	2 hrs. 16 min.
John	1 hr. 54 min.
Acts	2 hrs. 33 min.
Romans	1 hr. 1 min.
I Corinthians	1 hr. 2 min.
II Corinthians	38 minutes
Galatians	18 minutes
Ephesians	21 minutes
Philippians	12 minutes
Colossians	11 minutes
I Thessalonians	11 minutes
II Thessalonians	7 minutes
I Timothy	14 minutes
II Timothy	8 minutes
Titus	6 minutes
Philemon	3 minutes
Hebrews	40 minutes
James	14 minutes
I Peter	15 minutes
II Peter	8 minutes
I John	13 minutes
II John	2 minutes
III John	2 minutes
Jude	4 minutes
Revelation	1 hr. 6 min.

(Source: Kroll, Woodrow, Read Your Bible One Book At A Time, p. 37-105)

Perhaps some of our dear readers remember this "A.R.T." list from an earlier article. The list above was printed in this bulletin about a year and a half ago. I am glad to reprint it here for a second time as I believe it is a great motivator to folks to read God's word! Who among us could not carve out 15 minutes for reading the Bible per day? If one did this, he could read eleven Old Testament books and fifteen New Testament books! If we were motivated to read for 30 minutes every day, we could add five more Old Testament books and two more New Testament books to our reading. Just think, 33 books of the Bible (1/2 of the books in the Bible) have an average reading time of 30 minutes or less! In the last year, have you come close to reading half the Bible? Have you ever read that much of the Bible?

The apostle told Timothy to "...give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (I Tim. 4:13). He wrote the Ephesians and said, "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (Eph. 3:4). Furthermore, Jesus said, "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand" (Rev. 1:5). To these verses, we could add Deuteronomy 17:18-20; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:97-99, and many others. Obviously, there is a premium placed upon reading God's word. God expected His people in Old Testament days to read His word, and He expects and demands the same of us today. Will we obey Him? Do we love God's word to the extent that we say we want to read it daily? If we don't want to read and meditate upon God's word, how else

will our souls be nourished? It is God's word that is "milk" and "meat" to the soul (I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14). A famine of God's word in our lives means that our souls are malnourished! How sad it is to see folks whose souls are malnourished when this does not have to be!

Brethren, how much time do YOU have for God today? Look back at the list again. Can we give Him 4 minutes of our time? In four minutes, we could read Obadiah, Philemon, or Jude. Can we give Him 6 minutes, today? In six minutes, we could read Nahum, Zephaniah, Haggai, Titus, or a number of other smaller books. How about 22 minutes? In this time, we could read Ruth, Song of Solomon, Amos, Micah, Galatians, Ephesians, and many other epistles. God has done so much for us, and asks so little in return (II Cor. 5:14-15). Is it really asking that much to spend time in His book? After reading God's word, then take the next step and obey it (Heb. 5:9).

Make the decision today to read God's word from cover to cover in 2006. You'll be surprised at all you learn! Take the list above and place it on the refrigerator. Make a copy of it and put it in your Bible. Keep it before you as a reminder to read the Bible daily. May this list inspire and encourage us to read the Bible daily and learn its precious and soul-saving contents. (See: Jn. 12:48)

# Control Your Temper

James W. Adams

"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city" (Prov. 16:32). "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools" (Ecc. 7:9). "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice" (Eph. 4:31).

Too many react with anger to matters in the spiritual realm with which we disagree or misunderstand. Thus motivated, we say and do things that are hurtful and destructive. Persons motivated by anger have turned themselves over to the control of the animal nature ("the carnal mind") that lies caged within all of us. Robert G. Ingersoll, noted agnostic of another time, correctly said, "Anger blows out the lamp of the mind. In the examination of a great and important question, every one should be serene, slow-pulsed and calm."

(From: Words Fitly Spoken, p. 8)

Editor's Note: Let us also add James 1:19 to the above passages commanding us to control our temper, and control it!

**Have You Read Your Bible Today? Bible Reading Calendars Are Found At:**  
[www.southside-churchofchrist.com](http://www.southside-churchofchrist.com)



***I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!***

Come and meet with the church at Southside.  
Our address is: 2920 New Hartford Rd. Owensboro, KY 42303.

### **MEETING TIMES:**

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** \_\_\_\_\_ **9:30 am**  
**Sunday Morning Worship** \_\_\_\_\_ **10:20 am**  
**Sunday Evening Worship** \_\_\_\_\_ **6:00 pm**  
**Wednesday Evening Bible Study** \_\_\_\_\_ **7:00 pm**

Our call-in radio program is on **WBIO, FM 94.7 & 100.5**, Sunday afternoon from 12:30-1:00 pm. **Call: 683-9246 (WBIO)** with your Bible question.

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