

# Good News

*From Getwell*

Published by  
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The Getwell congregation sends monthly  
support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN  
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN  
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY  
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

#### **SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY**

##### **SUNDAY**

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship.....10:20 a.m.  
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

##### **WEDNESDAY**

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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## ON THE HOME FRONT

**Gary Colley**

It is our thinking that the work of the members meeting at Getwell and Dunn continues to go forward in a good way. It causes us great joy to see some who are continuing to grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord! Growth does not come by accident, but by intention and application. It will not come to the indifferent or the lazy, but will come to the active ones who search the Scriptures and live by them (Acts 17:11).

How does the Bible impact your life? Is its teaching proven to be for your good or for your detriment? It does not impact all people the same because all do not receive it in the same way! Jesus illustrated this in the parable of the sower, by showing the different hearts into which it would be given. That sower did his work well. The "seed" (the Word of God) was able to strengthen and even save. But some hearts were hard, some indifferent, and some started out well but became choked by the cares of this life. The good and honest heart produced good results because it was receptive and responsive to the Word! This will mean the difference between eternity in Heaven or Hell!! "He that hath an ear, let him hear."

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# Impossible To Renew Them Again - II

Gary Colley

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In our first article on the important question of whether one who is once saved can be finally lost, we studied Paul and Peter, rather than the doctrines of men, for the answers. We believe this is a wise course for all to follow. Paul speaks directly to the question of being once saved in Christ, but falling away.

From Hebrews 6:4-6, Paul writes that those he had in mind were "once enlightened" by Jesus, the light of the world, to a renewed state to which one can attain in Christ (Jn. 8:12; Eph. 5:8, 17); "and have tasted of the heavenly gift" by "tasting" or learning of the demands, plan, forgiveness, and promises of the Gospel (Jn. 6:44-45); "and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost" by imbibing His teaching and enjoying the renewing influence in our lives (Col. 3:16); "and have tasted the good word of God" in its goodness, its beauty, pleasure, love, comfort, completeness, authority, and power (Psa. 19:7-10; Heb. 4:12); "and of the powers of the world to come" as we enjoy the hope promises in the kingdom of an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (I Pet. 1:4). But Paul speaks then of those who have allowed sin to reestablish its reign in their lives!

## **"If They Shall Fall Away"**

The Greek shows that this should be written in the past tense, and "having fallen away" (Heb. 6:6). Those who had formerly been enlightened, tasted the blessings of Truth, and were made partakers by experience of the blessings, have now placed themselves beyond the reach of recovery! What a shame! No blame can be placed on the Heavenly Host, the powerful Word or on our brethren in the Lord for our lost condition. We are personally responsible! "Every man shall bear his own burden" of responsibility (Gal. 6:5). "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Cor. 10:12-13). "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man" (Jas. 1:13).

## **Let Us Study, Grow, and Guard Our Conscience**

Nothing should be more closely guarded than a tender, pure conscience. Its office is to prick us when we go against our moral judgement and to call us back from temptation and apostasy! The wise man said, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). Paul warned that it is possible to "depart from the faith" (I Tim. 4:1) and to have our conscience seared as with a hot iron" (I Tim. 4:1) to the extent that the Gospel will no longer appeal to us! The seared conscience has no more feeling, as it once enjoyed previously. It is at this point that these souls are beyond reach, and the Gospel is powerless to call them back to faithfulness, "For it is impossible" for them to be restored (Heb. 6:4-6). It is also at this point that "they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame" (Heb. 6:6). They now could have driven the nails in His hands and feet, and thrust the spear in His side, had they been present on crucifixion day!

Let the backsliding Christian realize the dangerous position in which he is engaged! "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for the judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries" (Heb. 10:26-27).



# RON'S REMINDERS



## Be A Better Bible Reader This Year

Joe Wilkie

If you're like me, consistency is a struggle. This is especially seen in my Bible reading. I always enjoy reading and studying God's Word and it brings me closer to the Almighty, yet I find myself struggling to do it on a regular basis. I don't believe I'm alone in work, family, and other activities getting in my way of consistent Bible reading. We know that as Christians we need to read our Bibles more, but as people in the always-busy 21st century, we can fail at fitting it into our busy schedules. What should we do? How can we make reading God's Word not just a dutiful habit, but a cherished part of every day? Consider these five brief and hopefully helpful tips.

First, make it a priority. I know this sounds super basic and like a "no-duh" point, but we basically do what we want to do. While I struggle to read my Bible, I don't seem to struggle getting through season after season of my Netflix show, or checking Facebook, or playing games on my phone. I often sleep as late as I possibly can before getting up and rushing around in order to get to work on time. My priorities are more sleep, more fun, more social media presence--not more Bible reading. For this new year, think about what you prioritize in your life. Is there anything that can be cut back or cut out completely to make time for 10-15 minutes of Bible reading a day?

Second, make a plan. By this, I mean a few different things. Make a reading plan and know what you are going to read every day. I suggest starting at either the beginning of the Old or New Testaments or choosing a chronological reading plan, though it's up to you. Also, make a plan by knowing what time you are going to do it each day and where. When I tell myself I'll read it "when I have time," I find myself running out of time. But if I make a daily plan to read it over my cereal before I get ready for work or when I'm lying in bed before I turn my light off, then I'm much more likely to stick with it.

Third, get accountable. If you find yourself starting your reading plan only to fail again and again, it can help to get accountable or to have a reading partner. The

church is an institution like no other with people all over the world striving for Heaven the same as you and me. Whether it be someone at your church or halfway across the world through social media, I'd encourage you to get someone to hold you accountable on a regular basis or to read with you. When someone is there to help you, encourage you, and even hold your feet to the fire at times, it can make a big difference.

Fourth, reward yourself. Of course, just getting to read our Bibles and growing closer to God is a reward unto itself. However, it can help to reward yourself with a treat from your local bakery, a new Bible, or a gift card somewhere. Each summer, libraries do a reading plan that rewards kids for the number of pages they read over the 3 months between school. And each Summer, millions of kids read more than they do the entire rest of the year. It's helpful to have some extra motivation and incentives, especially to start. The more you read, the more you'll find that being in God's Word is the true reward.

Fifth and finally, pray for God to give you a deeper love for His Word. I believe in the power of prayer and I have no doubt God will answer this prayer for you as He has for me on many occasions. Sometimes we just don't feel like reading our Bibles because there doesn't seem to be as strong of a connection to God as usual, but that's when we need to get on our knees. Prayer can have a profound effect and change the way we view our Bible reading. It shouldn't just be another thing we do in our day; it should be the best part of our day when we get the opportunity to grow closer to God.

We've been blessed by God with another new year. Let's make 2018 the best spiritual growth year of our lives by establishing consistent Bible reading and a deeper love for the Word of God.