

TOLLE LEGE

The Necessity of Reading the Bible

I. Biblical Illiteracy and the Lack of Reading in General

- A. Associated Press Poll (August 21, 2007)
 - 27% of Americans, during the last year, did not read one book of any kind
 - Of those who did read a book over the last year, 20% read romance novels
 - Those who said they never attend religious services read nearly twice as many books as those who attend frequently
- B. Recent Gallup Poll
 - Half of Americans could not name even one of the four Gospels in the NT
 - Fewer than half of Americans could name who delivered the Sermon on the Mount
- C. A.D. 1530
 - The bishop of London barred 22 of 56 ministers from practicing ministry because of their biblical ignorance
- D. A.D. 1551, Examination of Ministers
 - 33 did not know where the 10 Commandments were located in the Bible
 - 168 could not list the 10 Commandments
 - 39 did not know where the Lord's Prayer was located in the Bible
 - 34 did not know who the author of the Lord's Prayer was
 - 10 could not recite the Lord's Prayer

II. Reasons We Do Not Read Our Bibles

- A. I just don't have time.
- B. I'd just rather do something else.
- C. I just don't find the Bible relevant.
- D. There's just too much I don't understand.
- E. I just don't get anything out of it.
- F. I'm just not sure how to read it.

III. *Tolle Lege* Goals

- A. To become confident in our Bible reading
- B. To actually read our Bibles
- C. To, by our reading of the Bible, be fashioned more into the image of Christ

IV. Why We Must Read Our Bibles

- A. Necessary for receiving divine revelation
- B. Necessary for knowing God
- C. Necessary for spiritual health and nourishment
- D. Necessary for growth in godliness
- E. Necessary for spiritual competence and effectiveness
- F. Necessary for Christian obedience
- G. Necessary for divine insight and knowledge of God's will
- H. Necessary for praying according to God's will
- I. Necessary for suffering well
- J. Necessary for cultivating the hope of heaven