




Honoring
OUR VETERANS



Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

EPHESIANS 6:10



TURNING POINT
CHURCH of League City, TX

Welcome to . . .

Turning Point

CALL US FAMILY! CALL IT HOME!

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalm 37:4).

Delight in God has a transforming power and lifts a man above the gross desire of our fallen nature. Delight in Jehovah is not only sweet in itself, but it sweetens the whole soul, till the longings of the heart become such that the LORD can safely promise to fulfill them. Is not that a grand delight which molds our desires till they are like the desires of God? Our foolish way is to desire and then set to work to compass what we desire. We do not go to work in God's way, which is to seek Him first and then expect all things to be added unto us. If we will let our heart be filled with God till it runs over with delight, then the LORD Himself will take care that we shall not want any good thing. Instead of going abroad for joys let us stay at home with God and drink waters out of our own fountain. He can do for us far more than all our friends. It is better to be content with God alone than to go about fretting and pining for the paltry trifles of time and sense. For a while we may have disappointments; but if these bring us nearer to the LORD, they are things to be prized exceedingly.

NOV 13, 2022

SUNDAY – NOV 13

09:00 am **Sunday School**
Worship Service
Children's Church
Ladies' Monthly Meeting

WEDNESDAY – NOV 16

10:00 am **Intercessory Prayer**

SUNDAY – NOV 20

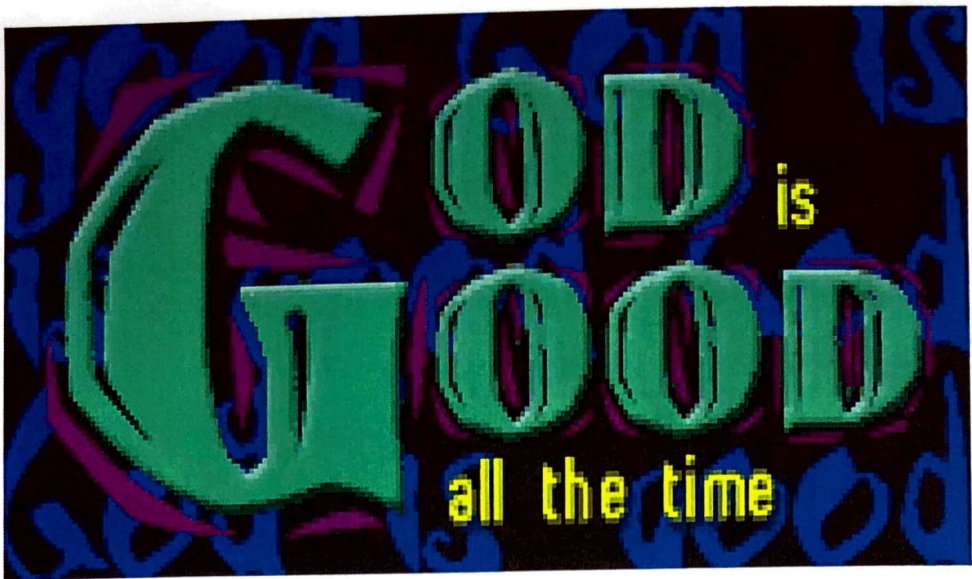
9:00 am **Sunday School**
Worship Service
Children's Church

*The offering today will go to our
Benevolent fund.*

SPECIAL PRAYER

Dahlia Hall
Lauretta Maxwell
Patsy McCarley
Meri-Lyn Evans

Bonnie Hatfield
Carollon Kivch
Raye Murphy
Cheryl Zielke



Ladies Monthly Meeting will be held here at the church on Nov 13th at 6:00 pm please come and fellowship with us and please bring a friend.

The God who created, names and numbers the stars in the heavens also numbers the hairs of my head. He pays attention to very big things and to very small ones. What matters to me matters to Him, and that changes my life.

–

Elisabeth Elliot

ONLINE GIVING! Just Google "Turning Point Church League City" to find our website, click "Giving" (upper right on home page) and follow the easy directions

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 1 Sunday School
 Worship Service
 Children's Church
 Ladies Monthly Meeting

Nov 16 Intercessory Prayer

Nov20 Sunday School
 Worship Service
 Children's Church

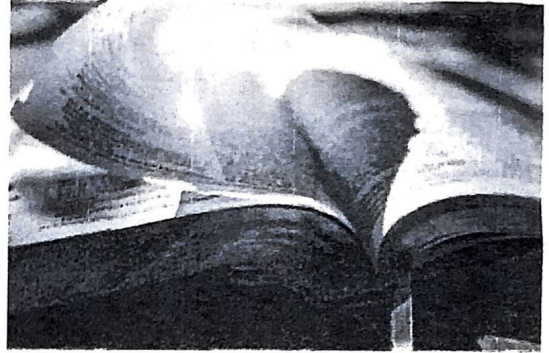
AND MORE TO COME

**Turning Point Church
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Pastor Jerry Hatfield
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Should We Still be Devoted to the Public Reading of Scripture?

Steve Burchett

Is the Bible read much at your church's meetings? Should it be?



At the beginning of 1 Timothy 4, Paul says the false teachers in Ephesus were “devoting themselves to . . . teachings of demons” (v. 1). Later in the chapter, he charges Timothy: “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.” Timothy was to “devote” (same word as 4:1) himself to a Bible reading ministry out of which would come exhortations and teaching (not every time the Scriptures were read in the meetings, but regularly). Why was this so strategic for his ministry in Ephesus? The answers to this question will reveal to us a few benefits of the public reading of Scripture for our churches.

First, the public reading of Scripture demonstrated the priority and authority of the Bible.

When Timothy gathered with believers, he was to be about one thing — the Bible. It might have seemed as if the false teachers were focused on the Bible because, after all, they read from the Old Testament law, including (and maybe especially) the genealogies (1:3-4, 6-7). But that was it. They were soon off on their rants and telling of far-fetched stories that were distant from the Scriptures and lacked any kind of authoritative appeal clearly derived from the Bible.

Timothy, on the other hand, would have read not only the Old Testament, but any apostolic writings he could get his hands on! His commitment to the public reading of Scripture told his listeners that there is a voice that must be heard and obeyed above all — God's — and that *all* of what he says is “profitable” (2 Timothy 3:16).

Nothing has changed today. Reading even at length from all over the Bible with care says to those listening, “We *must* hear from God, and reading his word is the fundamental way to do that.” And when exhortation or teaching does follow the reading of Scripture, the speaker is communicating to his listeners, “What I am about to say is based on what this book says. I am just a messenger of the Lord, communicating ‘as one who speaks the oracles of God’ (1 Peter 4:11).” The teacher might even read the passage multiple times to emphasize that point.

Second, the public reading of Scripture protected against heresy and promoted unity in the truth.

Timothy's devotion to the public reading of Scripture, along with exhortations and teachings, was a way to confront the unorthodox views of the false teachers and preserve the unity of God's people in the truth in the face of those grace-denying heretics. This does not imply that Timothy would have avoided reading the law. He just would not have stayed there. The storyline of Scripture finds its fulfillment in Christ, and Timothy would have made sure the believers knew the redemptive trajectory of the Bible and were equipped to keep believing and proclaiming the gospel of grace.

We should be equally devoted to the public reading of Scripture in order to guard ourselves from false teaching and to be strengthened in the grace of our Lord Jesus. False teachers still physically show up in our churches; some even arise from within. And today we face additional platforms for heresy like television and the internet, bringing false teaching into the lives of God's people. The consequences can be devastating and eternal. If we are going to persevere, we need *more* Scripture coming into our minds and hearts.

Third, people who could not read and/or did not have much access to God's word were blessed by the public reading of Scripture.

Access to Scripture was limited in Ephesus, and illiteracy was common. These were two reasons why it was imperative to read the Bible publicly, and what a blessing it was for those listening!

You might argue that today, in your English-speaking context, literacy is the norm and Bibles are ubiquitous, so there really is no need to emphasize the public reading of Scripture. However, it is worth it even if a small minority cannot read. Besides, what is not to like about more Scripture? Also, illiteracy and the rarity of copies of the Bible are not the only reasons to be devoted to this practice — see the first two reasons given above.

Answers?

I will ask again: is the Bible read much at your church's meetings. Only you can answer that. Should the Bible be read much at your church's meetings? I hope you know the answer.