

Dear Friends of the Foundation:

Thank you for your generous responses. In addition to the two personal plans for reading through the Bible and the seven published plans which I shared in an earlier email, we have several more suggestions, with some overlap among them.

The Reverend James C. Yearsley, Pastor of Village Presbyterian Church, Tampa, Florida, writes:

Two recommendations:

Several years ago - probably late 90's, Rev. Jim Davidson in Pittsburgh Presbytery developed and published The Year of The Bible. I, and many others in the Presbytery found it very useful.

[There is a story about this plan at this link:

www.pcusa.org/ideas/05spring/yearofbible.htm.]

You might also contact Dr. Carl, President Of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He has developed a very good reading plan as well.

The Reverend Kevin Cauley, Pastor of Darlington Presbyterian Church, Darlington, South Carolina, writes:

I appreciate greatly your e-mails. The plan I use to read through the Bible is Robert Murray M'Cheyne's which he devised for his congregation so that he could discuss the scripture readings with them when he saw his parishioners throughout the week. He starts at the four great beginnings of the Bible on January 1: Genesis, Ezra, Matthew, and Acts. Ultimately, you read through the Old Testament once and the Psalms and New Testament twice. He divides the four readings into Family Readings and Secret (or Private) Readings. I usually use this as morning and evening readings so that I read Genesis 1 and Matthew 1 in the morning, and then Ezra 1 and Acts 1 in the evening. John Stott in his book on preaching, *Between Two Worlds*, also discusses this reading plan. He says that he usually would read through of three chapters in the morning and then in the evening spend more time in detailed study of a particular chapter.

This year, however, I have encouraged my church to read through the Bible in a year together and we will usually read 3-4 chapters a day, two or three from the OT and 1 from the NT. This has helped me to appreciate even more the M'Cheyne Reading Guide because you don't read two or three chapters of Leviticus, etc. at the same time. I do well with just one chapter at a time.

[Here is a link to the M'Cheyne plan:

hippocampusextensions.com/mcheyneplan.html]

Dr. Daniel W. Massie, Pastor of First Scots Presbyterian Church, Charleston, South Carolina, writes:

Here at First (Scots) in Charleston we initiated "The Bible in 90 Days" starting on January 1 and it is by far the best thing we have done in a long time here. Over 200 members signed up to participate and many others have joined us. We will finish at the end of March and it has generated more interest and discussion than we could have imagined. At least 7 or 8 small groups meets weekly to discuss readings of the past week and to listen to one of two possible teaching sessions, one being more devotional and the other more academic or analytical. Our people are enjoying both and each week in worship I focus on one of the passages from the previous week. People in the community have come to participate with us and the community interest is so high that other churches are inquiring about this program, which was developed by a lay person at First Pres. in Houston, Ted Cooper. I would highly commend it to any congregation looking for a challenge.

You can go online to www.biblein90days.org and probably find all you need.

Dr. David J. Wood, Pastor of Hebron Presbyterian Church, Manakin-Sabot, Virginia, writes:

Jim: I have used a number of plans over the years, but the best has been one that I have seen by John R. W. Stott. His plan is in his book *Between Two Worlds* (Eerdmans, 1982), p. 183. He describes and recommends Robert Murray McCheyne's "Bible Reading Calendar." The logic of that plan is similar to what you describe in your Bible reading plan. I used a form of the Stott/McCheyne's approach but pulled the Psalms out. I read the Psalms on a seven week schedule like the one I gave you previously (from the BCP). With the Psalms pulled out then I would then be on four main reading tracks, not including the Psalms: 1) Gen through 2 Chron, 2) Ezra through Malachi, 3) Matthew through John, and 4) Acts through Revelation. I would read three chapters in the morning and three chapters in the evening: OT, NT, Psalm in the morning and then again OT, NT, Psalm in the evening. The Psalms were a fifth track cycling through every seven weeks. It is a great method, but intense. I did followed this plan faithfully for four and a half years, then had to stop. I was simply too full. Like the farmer's field I had to go fallow for a while. This was also the same time I discovered the ESV. I continue with the Psalms though on a less intensive schedule.

Having used Stott's plan (with djw modifications) I highly recommend it. Take

whatever you find useful and pass it along. djw

PS Gen-2 Chron is 403 chapters, I would read a few extra chapters to get through in one year;

Ezra - Mal is 526 chapters, minus the 150 Psalms = 376 chapters;

Matt - Jn is 89 chapters;

Acts - Rev is 171 chapters.

The Reverend Vicki L. Evans, Pastor of Waldensian Presbyterian Church, Monett, Missouri, writes:

I've been thinking about dropping the lectionary part and using the two year cycle from the Cambridge Daily Reading Bible (NRSV). The lectionary in the CDRB is *complete*; meaning that there are no idiosyncratic, ideological omissions. For example, yesterday's epistle reading [i.e., in the Daily Lectionary in the Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship*] was I Corinthians 14:20-33a, 39-40. Look it up, and you'll see what I mean.

Doctor Catherine M. Northrup, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Wichita, Kansas, writes:

Jim, I read scripture with no plan at the present time, but I used to just start at the beginning and go through it, then start again.

The Reverend Clint Cottrell, Pastor of Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers, Florida, writes:

The only method I have used is the one developed by Jim Davison, now heading the Cont. Ed. department at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. It is known as the "Year of the Bible" and it is designed to be a church wide event. I believe that it is available through Presbyterian Publishing.

Grace and Peace,

Jim

Dr. James C. Goodloe IV, *Executive Director*

Foundation for Reformed Theology

4103 Monument Avenue

Richmond, Virginia 23230-3818

(804) 678-8352

www.foundationrt.org

The Foundation is exempt from Federal income tax

under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3)
and is not a private foundation as defined by
Section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.