

Read it or Weep!

Over the years, I have known many Christians that have never read their Bible through from cover to cover. Countless others do not habitually read their Bible though each year. Jesus said, *"Everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more"* (Luke 12:48).

The older I get, the more I am beginning to wonder whether these people will be in heaven. It would be one thing if there was no Bible translated into their spoken language. But they speak English, the very language that gives them the greatest advantage for Bible study. Surely, of all the people on earth, more is required of literate English-speaking Christians who typically own several copies of the Bible.

There is a passage that seems to indicate that such people are going to be surprised at the judgment and condemned for their neglect of God's Word. In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus spoke a parable about three different stewards. Each was entrusted a certain amount of treasure by their master. Through their diligence, two of them doubled their master's treasure but one of them neglected his responsibility and did nothing with his master's treasure. At the accounting, the two who doubled the treasure were praised by their master. But to the one who neglected the treasure entrusted to him, the master said, *"You wicked and lazy servant!"* The master then commanded, *"Cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

So, to all literate Christians who own a Bible but do not read it through each year, or worse yet, have not even read it all the way through once, I suggest that you seriously take heed lest you find yourself in outer darkness gnashing your teeth! I just don't see why you should expect to avoid this outcome unless you repent right now. May God grant you repentance and a fresh desire to pour yourself into God's Word!

Just FYI, if you read just 3 chapters each day, you will read the Bible through in one year.

Thomas Bear, 5/2/2020

Οὐαὶ μοί ἐστιν ἂν μὴ εὐαγγελίζωμαι (Προς Κορινθίους Α 9:16)