

Blue Ridge Brandmarks

“...I bear on my body the brandmarks of Jesus” - Gal. 6:17

Volume 4

December 5, 2010

Number 12

A Year in the Life of a Bible

Jan 1 -- Family made a New Year's resolution to read me daily. They began with Matthew, Chapter 1.

Jan 2, 3, 5, 8 -- The first few nights of the New Year, they read me regularly.

Jan 20 -- No activity recently.

Feb 11 -- Owner used me for a short time. He had been asked to substitute as a Bible class teacher, and needed to look up some verses during breakfast. We went to Bible study, but I was put in car after class, before morning services.

Feb 14 -- Owner got into argument about St. Valentine, and paged through me in his car, but couldn't find anything in me about Valentine's Day!

Mar 7 -- Spring cleaning going on. I was dusted and put back in old place, on the shelf. I had been in owner's car since Feb 11th.

April 20 -- Grandma here for a visit. I was in her lap all afternoon. She spent most of her time in 1 Corinthians, Chapters 13 and 15.

April 21, 22, 23 -- Grandma read me every afternoon this week! (It's so nice to be used, and appreciated!)

May 4 -- I have a few green stains on my pages. Some early spring flowers pressed in me.

June 18 -- I look like a scrapbook! They have stuffed me full of clippings from a newspaper. One of the daughters got married.

June 27 -- They packed me in a suitcase with clothes and other things. Vacation trip, I guess.

July 5 -- I'm still in the suitcase, although nearly everything else has been removed. I thought they'd at least take me out on the Lord's Day!

July 11 -- Home again. Put me back in my old place. Quite a journey, though I don't see why they took me along. Stayed in suitcase the whole time.

Aug 10 -- Read by several family members over a three day period. Seems they got into family "row" about modesty, lasciviousness, public swimming, etc. Read all they could find about this subject! I never learned what they concluded!

Sept 29 -- They used me once today... read from Psalms. One of them is quite sick. They even had a prayer!

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The Bible

The Psalmist said of the Word of God, "*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*" (Psa. 119:105).

There are many reasons I could give as to why I believe the Bible to be the Word of God. We could examine the prophecies that have been fulfilled (Psa. 22; Isa. 53; Dan. 8:1-8), or the fact the Bible is historically and geographically accurate (Acts 21:1-12; Luke 10:30), or the fact it has stood the test of time and has been transmitted to as God has desired (Matt. 24:35).

However, in this article, I would like to tell you what others have said about the Bible.

On his deathbed, Sir Walter Scott, the British poet, said, "Bring me the Book!" When asked what book he replied, "There is but one book."

Andrew Jackson, the seventh president of the United States, said, "That Book is the rock on which this republic rests."

Thomas Jefferson, our third president, said, "I have always said, and will always say, that the studious perusal of the sacred volume will make better homes, better citizens, better fathers, and better husbands."

John Quincy Adams, our sixth president, said, "The first and almost only book deserving of universal distinction is the Bible. I speak as a man of the world to the men of the world and I say to you, 'Search the Scriptures.'"

Daniel Webster, a distinguished American who served as a congressman,

senator, and Secretary of State, said, "The Bible fits man for life and prepares him for death."

Benjamin Franklin, in a speech at the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention in 1787, said, "I have lived sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth -- that God governs in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings, that 'except the Lord build a house they labor in vain that build it.'"

In the winter of 1777 George Washington wintered at Valley Forge. Most of his soldiers were in rags, and only a few had bedclothing. Many had to sit by the fire all night to keep warm, and some of the sick soldiers were without beds or even loose straw to lie upon. Nearly 3,000 were barefoot, and many had frozen feet. In spite of all of this, Washington never doubted that in the end the American cause would triumph.

The story is told of a Quaker farmer, Isaac Potts, who approached the camp one day and saw George Washington on his knees in the woods, his cheeks wet with tears, praying for help and guidance.

When the farmer returned to his home, he said to his wife, "George Washington will succeed! George Washington will succeed! The Americans will secure their independence." "What makes you think so, Isaac?" inquired his wife. "I have heard him pray, Hannah, out there in the woods today, and the Lord

A Year in the Life - from Page 1 ►

Sept 30 -- Right now, I am cleaned up and my leather cover has been waxed. I've been placed on display in the center of the coffee table. I think their preacher is coming over.

Oct 19 -- I now have lots of company on the coffee table. A comic book, TV Guide, Time Magazine, and a Movie World on top of me. Wish I were read as much as they are.

Nov 11 -- Owner came home today from services... all upset over something the preacher had said. Snatched me up to

hunt for a certain verse, but couldn't find it.

Dec 15, 16 -- Quite a family discussion about when Christ was born. Each one had a different idea. I was read at different times by several of them. They were disappointed when I did not mention the date of Christ's birth!

Dec 26 -- Family has new TV set. Shelf space I formally occupied was needed, so they put me inside a cabinet. Expect to get out... hopefully... around Jan 1st!

◀Tony Eldridge▶

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will surely hear his prayer."

The Bible has been challenged in every century, yet stood the test of time against all its enemies and the corroding influences of time.

In 303 A.D. the Roman emperor Diocletian issued an edict to destroy Christians and the Bible. Over a burned Bible Diocletian built a monument on which he wrote "Extincto nomine Christianorum" (the name Christian is extinguished).

Twenty-five years later, Diocletian was dead and the new Emperor Constantine commissioned fifty copies of the Bible to be prepared at government expense.

In 1776 the French skeptic Voltaire predicted, "One hundred years from my day, there will not be a Bible on earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity-seeker." After his death, the presses used to print his books

printed Bibles and Voltaire's house was used by the Geneva Bible Society to distribute Bibles. One hundred years from the time of Voltaire's prediction, the first edition of his work sold for .11¢ in Paris, but the British government paid the Czar of Russia half a million dollars for an ancient Bible manuscript.

We need to be thankful that God has revealed His mind to us (1 Cor. 2:5-13). *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

The Word of God is given to us in life and will be opened before us in judgment. Jesus said, *"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him -- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."* (John 12:48). The Bible is not just a good book -- it is the Word of God!

◀David Padfield [padfield.com]▶

DECEMBER 2010 DUTY ROSTER

Weekday	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED
Date	12/1	12/5	12/8	12/12	12/15	12/19	12/22	12/26	12/29
Opening Prayer		James M.		Eric B.		.Jonathan L		Don H.	
Morning Message		Jimmy F.		Larry P.		Randy F.		John M.	
Announcements	John M.	John M.	Matt M.	Jimmy F.	David T.	Charlie K.	Jonathan L.	David T.	Jimmy F.
Leading Songs	Matt M.	Randy F.	Alan M.	John M.	Leo R.	Bill A.	Bill A.	Charlie K.	Randy F.
First Prayer	Eric B.	Larry P.	James M.	David T.	Bill A.	Eric B.	Tim P.	Kevin H.	Charlie K.
Lead at Lord's Table & Contribution		Leo R.		Alan M.		Jerry D.		Larry P.	
Assist		Brad F.		Jeremy P.		Kevin H.		Ed M.	
Assist		Jerry D.		Ed M.		Brad F.		Jeremy P.	
Assist		Don H.		Jonathan L.		James M.		Jerry D.	
Read Scripture		Alan M.		Kevin H.		Larry P.		Eric B.	
Preaching		Brent P.		Brent P.		Brent P.		Randy F.	
Wed. Exhortation	Jimmy F.		Leo R.		Eric B.		Don H.		Matt M.
Closing Prayer	Randy F.	David T.	Kevin H.	Jerry D.	James M.	Don H.	Matt M.	Tim P.	Jonathan L.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday

9:15 - Morning Message

10:00 - Bible classes for all ages

11:00 - Worship

Wednesday

7:30 - Bible Classes for all ages

Elders:

Jim Fields, Alan Moeller & Leo Rodrigue

Deacons:

Eric Bridge & John Malloy

Evangelist:

Brent Paschall

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