

Writing the Scriptures

Overview and Introduction

The Scriptures teach clearly that the Word of God is to live or dwell in the hearts of His children (Col. 3:16). One may do this by reading, studying, and applying the Scriptures. Yet, to truly meditate and ponder upon God's Word, memorization is essential. One way to help us learn, memorize, and recall Scripture is by writing it – letter by letter, word by word, and verse by verse.

To some, this may seem like a tedious exercise. However, it has both historic precedent and practical benefit. Historically, it was the way that the Word of God was made available for reading and study. Before modern inventions like the printing press, typewriter, copy machine, computer, digital scanner, or the internet, the words of Scripture had to be transcribed by hand. In the Bible, the word 'scribe' often refers to one whose duty it was to copy the words of Scripture (cf. Ezra 7:6, 11, 12, 21; Neh. 8:1; Matt. 2:4; 7:29; etc.). *{Because they spent so much time with the texts of the Bible, it was assumed that they were scholars in the law. Thus, their opinions were often highly valued. However, Jesus showed that knowing the Word takes more than reading and writing it. God's Truth must be accepted and followed without prejudice. It must be in one's heart and lived in one's life. Though the scribes were diligent to copy accurately the words of Scripture, in their application they often altered the meaning to fit their own sinful desires.}*

The practical benefits of writing the Scripture are familiarity, understanding, and recall. One becomes familiar with what a verse or passage states. One is helped in comprehending the teaching of a passage by knowing exactly what it says and the context in which it is written. One is aided in recalling verses because of the time and effort spent in writing them.

Weekly Plan

Day One – Sunday

On this day, new handouts will be given containing new passages for the week. It is a good day to refresh one's mind over the previous week's work by rereading what has been written. Some may also want to read ahead and become familiar with the passages for the coming week.

Days Two – Six – Monday – Friday

Each day will consist of a devotional period of at least 25 minutes. It is important to read over the passage of Scripture that will be written. This can be done before or after writing the verses, or both, but each passage should be read as one complete unit. Each group will consist of 10 – 15 verses which can be written in the allotted time. Be sure to write carefully, spell correctly, and include punctuation. Even if you have memorized a verse before, do not write from memory! After completing the writing, spend a few moments thinking about what has been written, what it means, and why God chose to include it in His Word. As you focus on God's Word, don't forget to pray.

Day Seven – Saturday

This day's devotional time will be used for reading back through the week's writings. Reread any notes you have made. Or use this time to write notes about these passages. What have you learned from them? What have you thought of as they came to mind during the week? Refresh your memory on their contents and give thank to God for His Word!