



# SCRIPTURE: WHO'S READING WHO?

CRAIG REES



Why does the minimum  
feel so radical?





Engaging with God's Word is a basic requirement, a bare minimum, of truly following Jesus. Yet, while we love the Bible in America, we don't read it.





The reason many people struggle to read the Bible is because the Bible doesn't read them.





# Hebrews 4:12-13

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For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 4:12-13





The Bible is not a dead text of an ancient age but the dynamic power of the Ancient of Days.





**Embrace God's Word.**





For the word of God is alive and active.

Hebrews 4:12a





Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:17





Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:7–8





In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

Revelation 1:16





To the angel of the church in  
Pergamum write: These are the words of him  
who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

Revelation 2:12





**The word of God is the living word  
(Hebrews 4:12) of a living God  
(Hebrews 3:12).**





# YOU READING THE BIBLE

ENGAGES THE HEAD • UNDERSTANDING

DEEPENS CONVICTION • BELIEVING

CHALLENGES PERSPECTIVE • WORLDVIEW

INVITES SPEECH • LEARNING

PRIORITIZES OBJECTIVITY • TRUTH

COMMUNALIZES INTERPRETATION • DISCIPLINE

PUBLIC PROCLAMATION • MISSION









**Engage with God's Word.**





Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 4:12b-13





The word of God poses a judgment that is more threatening and sharper than any double-edged sword...because it exposes the intentions of the heart and renders one defenseless before God's scrutinizing gaze.

W. L. Lane





# THE BIBLE READING YOU

ENGAGES THE HEART • INSPIRING

DEEPENS COMPULSION • FAITH

CHALLENGES ATTITUDES • CHARACTER

INVITES STILLNESS • LISTENING

PRIORITIZES SUBJECTIVITY • AFFECTION

INDIVIDUALIZES PURSUIT • DISCOVERY

PERSONALIZES REFLECTION • SANCTIFICATION









# Moving from Reading to Being Read:





# Moving from Reading to Being Read:

1. Sweaty palm syndrome.





# Moving from Reading to Being Read:

1. Sweaty palm syndrome.
2. From candle light to consuming flame.





# Moving from Reading to Being Read:

1. Sweaty palm syndrome.
2. From candle light to consuming flame.
3. Taking time to remember.





Reading the Bible and being read by the Bible are equally important but uniquely distinct activities.





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Do we engage with God's Word to nurture us individually, to experience God personally and grow in the fullness of salvation? Or, do we engage with God's Word in community, because the authority of the Scriptures talks of a kingdom and a church based on the integrity of discipleship, the sanctity of the church and the priority of Christian witness? YES!





Pietists and Puritans both sought answers to the same problem: there must be more to my faith than church and Sunday worship. The Pietists focused on a person becoming like Christ, while the Puritans focused on establishing the rule and reign of Christ through the church.

