



# The MBC Weekly

## An Epidemic Of Biblical Illiteracy!

A recent survey, of churchgoers, revealed that only 19% read their Bible every day! The writer of Psalm 119 uses 176 verses to describe the Word of God. He uses 8 different words throughout! He calls Scripture: God's PRECEPT, God's STATUTE, His COMMAND, His JUDGMENT, His PROMISE & God's WORD! So, when he finishes the Psalm with the words, "I wander like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commands" (v.176), he intends for us to understand that his "wandering", like a lost sheep, is from Scripture! That's the context! We, here in the west, resemble that remark! The American church has wandered away from God, like a lost sheep, because we've ignored the "compass" God has given us in His Word! God's Word is the only GPS that will help us navigate this lost world & keep us on course following Jesus! But, many of us have ignored it! We sing the song, "Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King" from time to time in our church worship service. And, there's that familiar verse that goes like this: "O to grace how great a debtor; daily I'm constrained to be! Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,

prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, Lord take & seal it, seal it for Thy courts above." We can identify with that verse, can't we? By the way, this is not the first time that the writer of this Psalm has talked about wandering away from God. Look at these very familiar verses: "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping Your word. I have sought You with all my heart; don't let me wander from Your commands. I have treasured Your word in my heart so that I may not sin against You" (vs. 9-11). Notice how sexual purity is attached to God's word! It's no wonder that even professing believers are caught up in sexual sin if 81% of churchgoers fail to read the Bible every day! And, what is the writer's hope & prayer? "... (God) don't let me WANDER from your commands..." is preceded by a seeking after God with all his heart! We can't be nonchalant or cavalier in our attitude toward God; or, we'll wander away from Him! I have to search for Him with all my heart! He has to be the only One or thing that I pursue with all my heart! Let's be clear here—the Psalmist is not making a promise that if you read your Bible every day that you'll never wander away from God! What he's confessing is that he's prone to wander! He's prone to cave into his flesh! He's broken by his sin!

## The Danger Of Wandering

The writer is saying that our failure to read God's word regularly is evidence that we're in danger of wandering away from God! Look back at that last verse, verse 176, of Psalm 119. Notice the middle phrase— "...seek Your servant..." We live in a church culture that constantly focuses on US seeking after God! And, clearly, Scripture does say: "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart" Jeremiah 29:13. But, Scripture also says that "The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and incurable— who can understand it?" Jeremiah 17:9. There is tension there! Our heart can deceive us, God says! We can think that we're doing OK spiritually; but, we can be deceived! We tend to think, "Oh, I hope so-and-so is listening to this message"; when, God has intended it for you! But, you're missing it because your heart has deceived you! So, ask God to SEEK you & to reveal to you your spiritual condition!

## "Greeting Team"

### For Sunday, May 9

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go "welcome" people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

## Greeters this week:

### Pastor Terry Sunday Night

- 1st— Erickson Thursday PM:  
Jen Hagler Thursday PM
- 2nd— Terry Embke Sunday Night;
- 3rd— Randy Ehlers Sunday Night;  
Donna Ehlers Monday Morning
- 4th— Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon;  
Tackett Sunday Night

## Small Groups @ MBC

Are The Primary Means  
For Carrying Out  
"Pastoral Care"  
In The Body

-Guide To: Small Group Ministry @ MBC

## Announcements

1. Looking For A Blog? Check out Owen Strachan's <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/thoughtlife/>
2. Woman's Bible Study? Try "Book of 1st Corinthians" by Jennie Allen on [www.rightnowmedia.org](http://www.rightnowmedia.org)