

The Minister's  
Hymn Book  
1840

Do not merely visit 1 Bible now & then - be at home in it - live in it.  
"Sanctify them in thy truth."

That you may know how to find passages when wanted - f. worship, inquiries, afflicted (J. H. Smith), children (1 mother), ~~Deacons~~ Also + you may employ 1 B. as your chief source \ ill<sup>n</sup>. This does good in several ways at once. Mr. Moody - "every ch. but six." (Yet Mr. M. uses much ill<sup>n</sup> for other sources also.)

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The Minister & his Bible.

Some good people urge that a ~~man~~ X<sup>n</sup> ought to read nothing but 1 Bible. César Malan & Charlotte Elliott - ~~but~~ why then did they write hymns. Ed. Connolly, In truth, there can be no thorough kn. v Bible w<sup>t</sup>. knowg its <sup>hist.</sup> ~~hist.~~ environment. Relat. v Israelites to Egyptians, Assyrians & Bab<sup>l</sup>, <sup>Phoenicians</sup> Phoenicians & Syrians, Persians. Cannot pass intelligently fr. O. T. to N. T. w<sup>t</sup>. gaining kn. v Intell. <sup>from</sup> ~~from~~ Syrian Greeks, & Romans. Ap. Paul quoted Gk. poets, as <sup>China</sup> a <sup>miss<sup>es</sup></sup> Confucius. But unwe<sup>l</sup>. to argue this point. Our danger is in 1 opp. direct<sup>n</sup>. It is ~~to be feared~~ <sup>so</sup> much more to read - so varied, attractive. ~~But~~ <sup>can</sup> many X<sup>n</sup>s, & not a few min<sup>rs</sup>. do not really read 1 Bible in any decent proport<sup>n</sup>: to 1 time they spend on other reading. Young min<sup>rs</sup>. - old min<sup>rs</sup>.

I <sup>briefly remind you</sup> var<sup>s</sup> reasons why a min<sup>r</sup>. ought to read 1 Bible.

- (1) Read primarily f. personal relig<sup>l</sup>. benefit - never perfunctory, as mere "bus<sup>s</sup> study" ^ (2) Read to gain materials f. preach<sup>g</sup> & teach<sup>g</sup> Enter profoundly into Bible views \ life, B. atmosphere \ thought & sentiment.
- (3) Read so t you can easily find texts, suited to any subject or occasion on w<sup>h</sup>. you may wish to speak. Often 1 text 1 starting point - but often also 1 subject or 1 occasion - & then it helps very much if one can find a really suitable text. "Step between me & death". So as to num<sup>r</sup>. doct<sup>l</sup>. & pract<sup>l</sup>. subjects on w<sup>h</sup>. becomes desirable to preach - great point to get on <sup>with</sup> ~~with~~ suitable text - partly nat<sup>l</sup>. gift (like ev<sup>ry</sup> thing else), but largely 1 result \ becoming, & keep yourself thoroughly acqu<sup>ainted</sup>. w. 1 Bible. (4) Read in order t

in it.  
inquiries,  
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(5) Keep thoroughly famil<sup>r</sup>. w. 1 Bible in order t you may be able to  
 read it aloud in an int<sup>s</sup> & impressive manner. Very imp<sup>t</sup>. - still desirable,  
 where all can read - 1 sympathies \ public reading, as well as p. prayers & p.  
 praise. What is needed - not only famil<sup>r</sup> w. 1 passage to be read, but w. 1  
 Bible in gen<sup>l</sup>. - e.g. 1 parallelisms - 1 Hebrew amplif<sup>ns</sup>, 1 peculi<sup>r</sup> imagery  
 - 1 tone v Bible. In gen<sup>l</sup>, you can read nothing god<sup>ly</sup> well unless you love it  
 - & you do not greatly love 1 B. if you are not constantly reading it, both  
 cause & as effect.

(6) Gain 1 most thorough & famil<sup>r</sup> kn<sup>w</sup> v Bible  
 in order to expos<sup>l</sup>. preaching. X Growing demand<sup>now</sup> why X ~~real~~  
 acceptance \ certain Eng. & Scottish preachers in our country, e.g. M.M.  
 Taylor, Rainsford. X "Bible readings" - 1 Chicago lay preachers, &  
 how it began. ~~Often~~ Sometimes made weak & wearisome, but t<sup>in only</sup> an abuse  
 \ a method t<sup>at times</sup> very effective. X How shall we learn to manage  
 expos<sup>l</sup>. preaching? (a) Know & love 1 B. (b) Try to make <sup>occasional</sup> sermons.

(c) Study specimens. Johnstone on James & Paul. Candlish. Chriss.  
 Vaughan on Replat<sup>n</sup>. W. M. Taylor. Hanna  
 X Expos<sup>l</sup>. remarks in <sup>public</sup> reading. Requires study (Spurgeon). <sup>reason</sup> Use? <sup>morning by morning</sup> <sup>quintessence</sup> <sup>read</sup> <sup>remains</sup>  
 brief - only ~~clear~~ clear explanat<sup>ns</sup>, or devot<sup>l</sup>. <sup>pract.</sup> applications. <sup>remains</sup>  
 often any expos<sup>l</sup>. sermon on a short text, a "textual" sermon <sup>but</sup> includes much <sup>exposit.</sup> ~~text~~  
 X Larger expos<sup>l</sup>. element in ~~old~~ topical preaching. X Can we not  
 introduce <sup>more gen<sup>l</sup>, into our Amer<sup>ic</sup>. ch<sup>rs</sup>.</sup> 1 Scottish practice \ having sev. Bibles in every pew. <sup>not</sup>  
 use v B. - Mr. Wall

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you may be able to quote 1 Bible <sup>freely +</sup> felicitously - Wm Jay - John Foster, ~~Dr.~~  
~~Dr. Secoy~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Rev.~~ ~~(S)~~ ~~had~~ ~~1~~ ~~B.~~ ~~constantly~~ ~~as~~ ~~1~~ ~~you~~ ~~may~~  
 employ it as your chief source & illustrate. This does good in ~~various~~ ways  
 at once. Mr. Moody "every ch. but six" using up materials - but be  
 not uneasy, your trouble as a preacher will never be that people know 1 Bible,  
 but ~~to~~

## II Various methods & reading 1 Bible.

In gen., read 1 B. <sup>in one sense</sup> exactly as you read other books - in another sense, <sup>understand as you do other lang.</sup> very differ<sup>tly</sup> fr. other books. a) A revelation <sup>to fix a theory, but fact.</sup> b) Spirit's sympathies - <sup>preach what you know</sup> ~~good~~ ~~will~~ ~~follow~~ ~~by~~ ~~life~~ ~~(~~ ~~obedience~~ ~~)~~.

1. Thorough study & some part: portion - book or part & a book, or group  
 & books, or select class & passages. Original, <sup>Expositions & grammars,</sup> Versions, anc. & modern,  
 & English. <sup>Patiently, slowly,</sup> Comm. dig out 1 meaning - carefully note, but very briefly,  
 in a note book, all results available fr. preach<sup>ing</sup> or part<sup>ial</sup> instr., or spec<sup>ially</sup>  
 helpful to yourself. In a sep. note book, put down plans & sermons &  
 come to you in 1 course & this thorough study. In this way go over  
 1 whole Bible, but not in 1 order & books as we find them - but  
 need<sup>ed</sup> in 1 chronological order. When you have fin<sup>ished</sup> <sup>v. B.</sup> one book or other  
 selected portion, consider thoughtfully <sup>with special prayer</sup> what you shall take up next.

By 1 time you get over 1 B. in this way - say an hour every  
 day fr 10 or 12 years - you can gladly begin again. News comment &  
 other helps - & you a new man - <sup>New exper<sup>s</sup>.</sup> Omnia mutantur, <sup>War & Peace</sup>  
 (Dr. Anderson).

If in reading 1 Heb. or Grk. sent. you do not catch 1 thought, simply read 1 Heb. or Grk. over again, perh. slowly, even sev. times - just as you do with an obscure passage 1 Shakesp.

Fix in your mind 1 lead's contents 1 each book - <sup>re-reads, at least 1</sup> in 1 case <sup>1</sup> <sup>mind.</sup>  
~~remember~~ <sup>remember</sup> prompt. subject 1 each, or ~~other~~ suggestive expressions, at beginning or end or elsewhere.

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2. Rapid reading <sup>v orig. Scr<sup>s</sup></sup> ~~whole Bible~~. ~~This also every day.~~ ~~Can you not~~  
 read at least a page or two <sup>v Heb. & Grk.</sup> every day? In gen., if we w<sup>d</sup>. truly  
 know & pract<sup>ly</sup> profit by any lang. we do not speak, it is highly imp<sup>t</sup>. to  
 read in it widely — Harper as to Heb. | Try to take 1 thought fr. 1 orig. —  
 not palimpsest. <sup>numerous</sup> Note shades \ meaning, nuances, & cannot be translated.  
 E.g. in Heb. <sup>v certain prophets</sup> Septuagint — esp. Apocrypha — in John,  
 1 emphatic pronoun. <sup>Now I use this rapid reading \ some</sup>  
 Heb. & some Grk. as an ev<sup>ry</sup> day practice. Keep it up <sup>for years</sup> until these  
 langs. become th<sup>o</sup>. famil<sup>r</sup>, & <sup>always afterw<sup>ds</sup></sup> you will delight to keep <sup>it</sup>  
Sec. they are famil<sup>r</sup>.

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3. Rapid reading <sup>Chalmers. During Sem<sup>r</sup>. course.</sup> English Bible. I sh<sup>d</sup>. decidedly recommend  
 + your habit<sup>ly</sup> read 1 Rev. Ver. // <sup>(One inc<sup>id</sup>. but imp<sup>t</sup>. adv. is that it is</sup>  
 printed in paragraphs.) (a) Read a book <sup>v B.</sup> as a whole, noting its  
<sup>reading</sup> mat. div<sup>ns</sup>, gen. char<sup>s</sup>, & then read each \ these  
<sup>mat. parts.</sup> (b) <sup>sometimes</sup> Pause in 1 hist., & introduce a prophetic book  
 or an epi. where it prob<sup>ly</sup> belongs. In other ~~cases~~ cases \  
 reading through 1 Bible, go on through 1 hist. (O. T. or N. T.), &  
 then take up 1 other book in prob. chronolog<sup>l</sup>. order, & earnestly  
 strive, by effort \ ~~best~~ hist. imag<sup>n</sup>, to place each book back in  
 its hist. posit<sup>n</sup> & surroundings. (c) But do not think you  
 must in ev<sup>ry</sup>. case read rept<sup>ly</sup> through 1 whole B. — some portions  
 sh<sup>d</sup>. be read often — only consider on what princ. you give prof<sup>t</sup>,  
 & be sure you do not seriously neglect any portion.

... at least  
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Bp. Potter.

(e) So as to certain places. All in 1 B. about Hebron, Bethl., Jms.,  
Jordan, 1 Lake 1 Gal.

Jo. Quincy Adams (Dr. Day).

(d) Read  
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(d) Read sometimes as to single persons - aiming to get whole story - some one ~~part~~ patriarchs, judges, kings, prophets, or an apostle - & fix it in mind, till you know each story family, in all its parts. And as you go on, observe lead. traits & person's character, & just where & how this or that trait appears.

The Bible persons present a great fund of material for highly attractive & helpful preaching. Get thoroughly acqu. w. one of them by reading again & again, & then while you feel enthusiasm, preach a sermon upon 1 whole story & char. of this person, or - what is usly much better - upon some part of story, or some feature of char.

of Jesus,

(f) In other cases, read through 1 B., or some part of it, fast, purpose w. some spec. design - Hist. Paro. - Hist. Redempt. (only few, w. wild allegorizing) or as to some pract. qu. <sup>2.g.</sup> private prayer, or family religion, or duties to 1 poor. Go through & collect for yourself what 1 B. teaches on 1 part <sup>subject</sup> by precept, <sup>ex.</sup> principle, or example - then consult treatises on 1 subject, talk with friends. What you h. yourself wrought out in this way will int. your own mind, & so you can better int. your hearers.

(g) If you read some mod. lang. with consid. ease, or 1. few yrs. go through 1 B. in one of these, as French or German. <sup>L'Esprit des Saints</sup> Or read 1 Latin B. through - great beauty & Lat. style. <sup>Or read a single book of B. in one of these lang.</sup>

In any & all these methods of rapid reading, mark freely, underscoring emphatic words, drawing lines to indic. connect., making ref. or other notes on 1 margin. Mark up your B. - Mr. Moody.

4. Devot<sup>n</sup> - reading \ brief passages - at least once a day. Let learned studies, cult<sup>n</sup> inquiries, collect<sup>n</sup> \ materials of preach<sup>s</sup>, all then subside & be absorbed into <sup>one</sup> purpose \ gaining spir<sup>it</sup>. profit to your own soul. <sup>Naked soul take</sup> \ imprint \ P.B.

Now I w<sup>d</sup>. earnestly urge t<sup>o</sup> each \ these 4 methods \ read \ P.B. sh<sup>d</sup>. be reg<sup>ularly</sup> practised by a min<sup>ute</sup> ev<sup>ery</sup> day. Not all at some one time <sup>days</sup> in immed. succession - seek \ best time of each, when least prob<sup>ably</sup> \ of interrupt<sup>n</sup>, or \ distract<sup>n</sup>. How much time? <sup>45 + 30 + 30 + 15.</sup> Can't spare it? Spare it for what? As to preach<sup>s</sup>, 2 hrs. a day given directly to yr. P.B. in these var<sup>ious</sup> ways will <sup>greatly</sup> enrich yr. preach<sup>s</sup> w. P.B. truth, & greatly facil. \ prof<sup>it</sup> \ yr. sermons. As to past<sup>or</sup>. visiting.

Let me add <sup>certain</sup> other ~~ways~~ ways \ handling \ P.B. with <sup>profit</sup>, in conn<sup>ection</sup> w. yr. gen<sup>eral</sup> studies & work.

- (1) Commit<sup>ment</sup> to memory. "P.B. at his fingers' ends". Mark passages, when read<sup>s</sup> for whatever purpose, t<sup>o</sup> you w<sup>d</sup>. like to commit; if you cannot make \ effort then, hunt them up at some other time. Many great preachers h. known large port<sup>ions</sup> \ P.B. by heart - Chrys., Spurgeon.
- (2) Pick up a P.B. at odd moments, instead \ a newspaper or mag<sup>azine</sup>, & look about for something you think of, or read where your eye falls.
- (3) When you choose a text for a sermon, read fully its connect<sup>n</sup>. You will thus help

Diffic<sup>t</sup> passages. Boast on 1 current.  
 prep<sup>n</sup> v sermon, & also incid<sup>ly</sup> increase of Kn. \ Ser. (4) When  
 you ~~read~~ study any book on Ser. geog<sup>y</sup>, or antiq<sup>y</sup>, or on 1 hist. \  
 some Ser. personage, hunt up 1 B. refs, instead \ running over  
 them. So in studying a ~~theol~~ treatise on theology, or on some  
practl. qu. — hunt up 1 passages relied on,

suggestions.

- Further, In read<sup>g</sup> 1 B, a min<sup>r</sup> will do well  
 to make lists \ passages, <sup>or</sup> Either <sup>write</sup> on fly-leaf or on <sup>a</sup> loose sheet  
 \ paper kept in 1 book, & then freq<sup>ly</sup> transfer to a blank book.
- (1) Of texts — with outline plan \ proposed sermon — or suggestive  
 thoughts briefly stated. Otherwiset<sup>ell</sup>.
  - (2) Of passages f. public or private worship. In public worship,  
 do not simply read 1 pass. contain<sup>g</sup>. of text, as so many do. ||
  - (3) List \ good passages bearing on part<sup>r</sup>. doct<sup>s</sup>, or duties. Remember 1 best.
  - (4) Of passages suitable f. <sup>read converts, preachers,</sup> inquirers, f. 1 sick, 1 bereaved, ~~1 dying~~,  
 1 young. Remember at least 2 or 3 ser<sup>s</sup>. \ each kind.

Conclud<sup>s</sup>, suggests.

- (1) Converse about 1 B. My recollections \ childhood.
- (2) Induce other people to read 1 B. Skeptics. Gibbon. <sup>Converts.</sup> Young.
- (a) Propose to an ind<sup>l</sup>. — something def. — <sup>3 or 4 Psalms,</sup> <sup>Young</sup> single ch., <sup>book,</sup> e.g.  
 a part<sup>r</sup>. Gospel, James, 1 Peti., 1 John. <sup>Jo., Rom., Heb<sup>r</sup></sup>
- (b) Offer some def. undertak<sup>s</sup>. to S. S., or Young People's Meeting,  
 or whole congreg<sup>n</sup>. ~~Read~~ Well known gen. schemes.

My exper<sup>ce</sup> w. country ch<sup>rs</sup>. — taking text, or lesson, or ill<sup>ms</sup>, fr. some port<sup>n</sup>. recently read, w<sup>t</sup>. saying so, & watch 1 people's faces.

Young Brethren in 1 min<sup>ty</sup>, I have tried to give you some wholesome impulse, & some helpful suggestions, on this great matter \ requiring an ever grow<sup>ng</sup> kn. & B. You will \ c. adopt my hints only so far as you think proper, & find practicable. But I beseech you make it a marked feature \ of: mind, life & labors, & you are deeply int. yourself, & unceasingly strive to int. others, in read<sup>s</sup> \ B. Apollos.