



bits from bob....

A Practical Tool for Increasing Bible Reading **August 31, 2020**

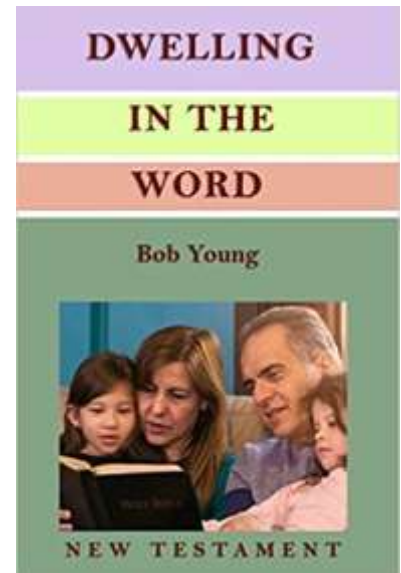
In late July, under the headline, *Bible Reading Drops During Social Distancing*, David Roach wrote about a decline in Bible reading during the 2020 pandemic. For several years, daily engagement with Scripture had been declining in the US, but the level has dropped during the pandemic, according to an annual State of the Bible report.

Here is an edited summary of some major findings.

The COVID-19 pandemic is shifting US Bible reading habits. Many who are socially distanced from their spiritual communities are turning to Scripture less. From early 2019 to early 2020, the percentage of US adults who say they use the Bible daily dropped from 14% to 9% of the population, according to the *State of the Bible 2020* released by Barna and the American Bible Society.

A decrease of 5 percentage points in a single year was unprecedented in the annual survey's 10-year history. Between 2011 and 2019, daily Bible readers had held steady at an average of 13.7% of the population. The decline continued during the initial months of the coronavirus pandemic. By June, the percentage of daily Bible users had dropped to 8.5 percent.

During the pandemic, a significant decline was observed among those who say the Bible is important to them, perhaps connected to less participation in church-related activities.



In the face of such reports, the August 1 release of my new book, *Dwelling in the Word*, is especially timely!

Paul wrote to the Colossians, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you in abundance" (3:16). God wants his people to dwell in his word (Deut. 6:6-9; Ps. 119:15-16). By reading the Bible, we see the bigger picture – God reveals himself, his character, and his eternal purpose to save the world through Christ. The focus is not on the Word. The focus is on the God who gave us his Word.

The most important thing that can happen in your life is that you will develop an intense spiritual desire, hungering and thirsting for the word of God. No greater benefit can come to a local church. Awakening the spiritual desire makes time in the life-giving word of God a blessing and a pleasure. You will soon see results that you may find unexplainable – your life being transformed into the glory and likeness of Jesus Christ!

One of the greatest boosts to spiritual development in a local congregation is the use of a shared Bible reading plan that is reinforced with classes, sermons, and frequent encouragement. Families, Bible class, small groups, and entire congregations have been blessed by reading the Bible together and using the shared readings for discussion and spiritual growth.

You will find the book on Amazon at this link → <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1943245614>

The book is also available from booksellers.

Bulk rates are available from the publisher for congregational purchase: jameskaypublishing@gmail.com.