

# North Christian Church -

## Pastor Ed Collins

[www.nccdighton.org](http://www.nccdighton.org)

11/20/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Grace and Works - Part 22

### **J. C. Ryle - 8 Profitable Ways to Read the Bible**

1. *Begin reading your Bible this very day. The way to do a thing is to do it; and the way to read the Bible is actually to read it!*

### **J. C. Ryle - 8 Profitable Ways to Read the Bible**

2. *Read the Bible with an earnest desire to understand it. Do not think for a moment, that the great object is to turn over a certain quantity of printed paper, and that it matters nothing whether you understand it or not.*

### **J. C. Ryle - 8 Profitable Ways to Read the Bible**

3. *Read the Bible with child-like faith and humility. Open your heart as you open God's book, and say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening!" Resolve to believe implicitly whatever you find there, however much it may run counter to your own desires and prejudices.*

### **J. C. Ryle - 8 Profitable Ways to Read the Bible**

4. *Read the Bible in a spirit of obedience and self-application. Sit down to the study of it with a daily determination that you will live by its rules, rest on its statements, and act on its commands.*

### **J. C. Ryle - 8 Profitable Ways to Read the Bible**

5. *Read the Bible daily. Make it a part of every day's business to read and meditate on some portion of God's Word.*

### **J. C. Ryle - 8 Profitable Ways to Read the Bible**

6. *Read all of the Bible and read it in an orderly way. I fear there are many parts of the Word which some people never read at all. This is to say at the least, a very presumptuous habit. "All Scripture is profitable." [2 Timothy 3:16].*

### **J. C. Ryle - 8 Profitable Ways to Read the Bible**

7. *Read the Bible fairly and honestly. Determine to take everything in its plain, obvious meaning and regard all forced interpretations with great suspicion. As a general rule, whatever a verse of the Bible seems to mean it does mean!*

### **J. C. Ryle - 8 Profitable Ways to Read the Bible**

8. *Read the Bible with Christ continually in view. The grand primary object of all Scripture, is to testify of Jesus!*

### **If You Lack Peace**

You know you lack peace if you're persistently very tired, but you still cannot find rest.

### **Synthesize**

Satan and his servants pretend to be angels of light (2Co 11:14-15). How great is your darkness (how much do you lack true understanding) if you think you are in the light (Satan's counterfeit light) (Mt 6:23)!

### **Deacon Johnson**

*"I'd rather be pummeled by hard lessons, by grace, than have my feelings stroked. I'd rather walk out of here a little sore than artificially uplifted. God knows what I need."*

### **My Family**

They not only know how difficult being a godly shepherd is, they see it every day, and are affected by it always. When my heart cracks and shows signs of breaking, theirs do, too.

### **Tammy Collins, My Wife**

*"I was thinking about our conversation regarding how God the Holy Spirit has you teach the tough lessons as I was reading Heb 12:11-12 on the subject. Our God is pouring out His magnificent grace on us!"*

### **Rev 3:18**

*I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.*

### **When Sheep Minister To the Shepherd**

Text: "Rom 8:18 - praying for your heart today"

### **The Value of the Minister**

Sometimes you're just so weary that God provides another person to reach into the jar of medicine (e.g.: eye salve - Rev 3:18) and apply it for you. (e.g.: Mt 4:11; Php 2:25-30; Gal 6:6-10)

### **Ministering Spiritual Nourishment**

Man doesn't live on bread alone. How powerful is an emaciated man, even if, when totally healthy, is a force to be reckoned with??? The distracted man is the starving man.

### **1Co 7:35**

*This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.*

### **Definition of Temptation:**

ANYTHING that takes one of God's children away from His will for them (good, bad, or ugly). For example, if you become a slave to the blessing, rather than the

One who blesses, consider yourself as having fallen. However, do not despair (Lam 3:22-23; Pro 24:16).

### **Wisdom**

There's a big difference between walking in darkness and walking in the Light. In darkness (as an unbeliever), you are blind; whereas, in the Light, you can see, even though you may trip/stumble from time to time (fall to temptation).

### **Wisdom**

Notice that believers "walk" (Eph 5:15) - not always "wisely", but nonetheless, they have been made ABLE to walk. Walking in the light is IMPOSSIBLE for an unbeliever (1Jn 1:5-7). Paul could have NEVER written Eph 5 to unbelievers and expected it to settle into their souls with any real meaning.

### **A "Professional" Christian**

Professionals care about the little things; in fact that's what makes them good professionals, in any field. That's part of what makes a "good soldier" for Christ (2Ti 2:3-4).

### **Pro 4:23-24 [Message]**

*Keep vigilant watch over your heart;  
that's where life starts.*

*Don't talk out of both sides of your mouth;  
avoid careless banter, white lies, and gossip.*

### **Pro 4:25-27 [Message]**

*Keep your eyes straight ahead;  
ignore all sideshow distractions.*

*Watch your step,  
and the road will stretch out smooth before you.*

*Look neither right nor left;  
leave evil in the dust.*

### **Deacon Johnson**

*"I'd rather be pummeled by hard lessons, by grace, than have my feelings stroked. I'd rather walk out of here a little sore than artificially uplifted. God knows what I need."*

### **Deu 8:3**

*"He humbled [ana (Hebrew) - to oppress, humiliate] you and let you be hungry...that He might make you understand." God uses whatever means necessary to impress His will/purpose upon man's heart, whether it is accommodating to man's sensibilities, or not - this is TRUE GRACE!*

### **Grace**

God will humble us if we aren't already humbled. This is grace that is designed to produce something (humility) that opens us up to even more grace, and so on. (ala Mt 13:12; Jas 4:6)

### **Grace Isn't Always "nice"**

Man has pigeonholed grace into a one-sided thing, where it is defined as all things

that accommodate man's predisposition about God's benevolence towards His creatures. These are the inventions of man's flesh.

### **Grace and Works**

Any confusion about works is preceded by confusion about grace!

### **Jesus' Gracious Words**

By grace, at salvation, YOU have been given a new nature. Like Jesus' perfect nature, your new nature cannot say/do anything inconsistent with grace! Your old nature is just the opposite, hence Paul's own admission of his struggle between the two in Ro 7.

### **The New Creature**

A true believer, a person who has been saved by grace through faith, has been made "new". This new nature is a partaker of the divine nature of Jesus Christ. This is a grace gift given at salvation, or not at all. It is not something a person chooses after being saved; for that supposition implies a person has not been truly saved from sin (Ro 6:2).

### **Greek - aorist-active-indicative**

Refers to something that dogmatically happened at a specific point in the past and continues to hold true. A perfect example is when a person is saved.

### **"died to sin"**

aorist-active-indicative - from apothnesko - means that when a person is saved, sin loses its dominion over them (they become "dead to sin", from sin's perspective). Being made a "new creature" (2Co 5:17) means being placed "alive to God in Christ" (Ro 6:11).