
Sunday, January 29, 2017
Did You Know?

Going Old School

There is no doubt that technology has made a dramatic impact on our interaction with the Bible. I jumped all over the YouVersion Bible app and promoted it to just about everyone. Because of that app, our smart phones and data plans, we can read the Bible just about anywhere. Of course, we're still able to do that with paper Bibles. What makes the app unique is that you could play the audio Bible and listen to it while driving, doing the dishes, or walking to school. I even wrote an article encouraging that.

For the past two years I've been primarily using the Bible app for my personal Bible reading. In particular I was using the audio Bible quite a bit. For 2017 I've decided to go old school -- back to the 600 year old technology of a printed book. Here's why I decided to change:

1. If God were in my house wanting to speak to me, would I be doing the dishes, exercising, or brushing my teeth. Of course not. I would give him my undivided attention. I realized that the audio Bible got me into this frame of mind that I could kill two birds with one stone. Frankly, the audio Bible made me a passive rather than, active listener.
2. I didn't hear God as well when I was listening to the audio Bible. Sounds strange doesn't it? Here's what I mean...when I read the paper Bible, and a verse or word or paragraph catches my attention, I can stop right there and re-read the verse, read the surrounding verses, contemplate, meditate, and pray, but I found that with the audio Bible, I never pressed pause, I just let the dude finish reading the chapter. My interactions with the Bible got weaker, not stronger.
3. I can see the bigger picture with a paper Bible. A friend of mine said that even though much of the world is going digital, architectural plans are still printed on paper. The architect and builder need to see the whole building or section in one view. It doesn't help to swipe or scroll the drawings on a digital screen. I feel the same way with the paper Bible. On our phones we only see about 3-10 verses at a time, depending on your font and screen size, but with our paper Bibles, we can see the surrounding context in one view or just a page turn away. That helps me to remember that the Bible is not just a compilation of verses, but a compilation of 66 books.
4. Though you can take notes on a digital Bible, they remain hidden with some indicator that you had made a note. With the paper Bible the note is there on the page, indelible, for you to read and reread every time you turn to that passage.

I have to confess. I splurged over Christmas and bought myself a really nice Bible, with a larger more readable font. I'll let you smell the leather if you ask nicely.

That's why I'm going old school, back to paper, back to slowing down with the Word of God, back to giving God his due.

Pastor Peter