

Reading and Writing

But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name.—John 20:31

In my Elementary Special Education Methods class this week, we talked about the importance of teaching children to read and write. In the early days of this country, great importance was placed on teaching children to read God's word. The Northwest Ordinance established some of the first public schools in America for the purpose of teaching children to read the Bible.

One of God's purposes in giving us His written word is recorded in John 20:31. God has given us His word that we might believe and that believing we might have eternal life. God gave us His written word so that there would be a permanent record. When people repeat a message it often gets distorted; but, the written word is preserved.

God commands us to read His word for our personal instruction, and He tells us to read it for others to hear. Paul wrote, "*I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be **read** to all the holy brethren*" (1 Thessalonians 5:27). John recorded a blessing that is given for reading the book of Revelation: "*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand*" (Revelation 1:3).

God gave us the written word that we might read and learn and obey. He expects us to read it, obey it, and to instruct others in it. "*And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house*" (Deuteronomy 6: 6-7a).