



Reason number 3 for memorising Scripture: It is part of being a disciple

Matthew 28:19-20 - The word "observe" in the Great Commission comes from a Greek word meaning to guard or keep.

Matthew 27:54 -It's used to describe how the centurion was assigned to "Guard" Jesus on the cross.

Acts 16:23- It's used to describe how the jailor was charged with "keeping" Paul and Silas locked up in prison.

Jude 1:6 -It's used to describe how the fallen angels are being "reserved" in chains until their judgment.

Together, these verses suggest "observing" means to lock up God's Word so securely, it can never be taken from you. To me, that sounds like memorisation!

Testimony from Dan Vis:

Through memorization, I could fix my eyes on Jesus anywhere--by simply meditating on verses I knew. Through memorization I was able to lock up the Bible in my mind, and keep it there safely. Through memorization, I was able to reserve the Scriptures, so they would be ready for any trial I faced. Memorizing God's Word connected me to the one who gave us the Word.

It wasn't easy, at first. I didn't have a great memory, and I had little exposure to the Bible growing up--so it was all brand new to me. But I was determined, and persevered in investing whatever time it took to get my verses learned each week. Little by little, my store of treasures began to grow.

At one point, something clicked. I had probably accumulated 50 or 60 verses, when I started noticing them popping up in sermons. Or I'd be studying a passage in my devotions, and some verse I had memorized would come to mind, shedding light on what I was reading. Or I'd be praying about something, and I'd suddenly think of a promise directly related to that request. And old temptations began losing their hold in my life, as I discovered how powerful quoting Scripture can be. When asked a question, it seemed I always happened to have just the verse I needed to explain my faith. It was as if Jesus were right there at my side, day by day.

In fact, the more it happened, the more exciting it got. At the time, I had a job that enabled me to memorize while at work--and I took advantage of it. Soon I had moved from 2-3 verses a week to 2-3 verses a day. Memorization was getting easier, and I couldn't seem to get enough. The Bible became "the joy and rejoicing of my heart" (Jeremiah 15:16).

And it soon began to open doors. Though young, and quite new to the church, I was soon asked to teach Sabbath School. And then prayer meeting. Soon I was preaching sermons.

Looking back now, I'm amazed at the doors God opened. With no formal training, I was soon invited to teach Bible at a local academy. Then a second academy. Then a small college. I went on to serve as an administrator in two evangelistic training centers. And ultimately, was asked to pastor a church in the Chicago suburbs--where I was ordained to the Gospel ministry. I've preached in hundreds of

churches in more than a dozen countries. The last two decades have just been a blur of amazing adventures.

Reason Number 4 for Memorising Scripture - We won't always have access to our Bible Give an answer for faith

1 Peter 3:13-17 -We need to be ready to give a defense! Even if we don't have our Bible's on us.

The servants of Christ were to prepare no set speech to present when brought to trial. Their preparation was to be made **day by day in treasuring up the precious truths of God's Word**, and through prayer strengthening their faith. When they were brought into trial, the Holy Spirit would bring to their remembrance the very truths that would be needed. - *To Be Like Jesus*

Key #5. Focus on Retention. - Proverbs 4:4-5

God wants us to not only memorize His Word, but to "engrave" it in our mind. He wants us to retain it, keep it, hold it fast, and never forget it. We are to give "earnest heed" to our verses, "lest at any time we should let them slip" (Hebrews 2:1). After all, why invest time memorizing a verse you will just go on to forget a day or two later? The secret, of course, is an effective review system. Here is what we suggest:

Once you have memorized a verse, date it, and put it together with other recently memorized verses. Review this group of verses every day— Look at the side of the card with only the reference, quote the verse, and then turn the card over to check your accuracy. After a couple of weeks a verse will become easy to quote—but don't stop there! It will take a full two months to get the verse permanently engraved in your brain.

Once the date indicates a verse has been in your daily review for two months, move it to another review pile. Work through these verses at least once a week, at first. Later, after you have accumulated several hundred verses, you may wish to move your better-known verses to a section for monthly review. Do this consistently, and every verse will stay sharp, right on the tip of your tongue. Imagine, if we get to the point where we are memorising two verses a week, and reviewing them, we will have over one hundred verses in less than a year.

Key #6. Know your References. -2 Timothy 2:15

You should not only know what a verse says—but also where it is found. It's not enough to be able to quote it, you must be able to turn to it in your Bible and show it to a friend. Many people struggle with remembering references, but it's not that hard, if you just follow these simple suggestions:

First, make sure you learn the reference with the verse. One way to do that is what I call "reference glue" Basically, try saying the reference, and just the first part of the verse rapidly, ten or more times—until it sticks. And then repeat as often as needed. Basically, it sounds like this: 1 John 1:9, If we confess our sins... 1 John 1:9, If we confess our sins...etc

Second, when doing your daily review, always quote the reference before and after the verse—every time. Think of it like a sandwich: reference, verse, reference. This cements the verse to the reference and vice versa. So when you hear the reference, you think of the verse. And when you hear the verse, you think of the reference. It works!