



THE CROSS *and* CROWN

"No Cross, No Crown"

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"Brothers and sisters, pray for us." 1 Thessalonians 5:25

In the book of Amos, God declared that there would be a famine; "not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord." (Amos 8:11)

Whenever there is a shortage of something, one thing you can count on is that someone will come in and take advantage, profiteering on the backs of the needy. When there's a famine for God's word, people get very rich by cherry-picking passages of Scripture, to push their own agenda rather than the truth of God. Throughout history, humans have shown themselves to be easy to be deceived by a charismatic leader who can quote a few Bible verses out of context but with conviction.

As Christians, we are responsible for knowing the Word of God and for using it to judge everything that we hear proclaimed as God's message. Like the Berean believers, we must receive the message eagerly, and we must examine the Scripture to see whether or not that message is true. (Acts 17:11)

The Bible was never meant to be the province of the few, with only the rich and educated having access to it. God gave Moses the Law with the instruction that the people were to keep his words in their hearts, to pass them along to their children, to talk about them wherever they go, and put them on their doorframes and gates (Deuteronomy 6:6–10). The Holy Spirit helps us to understand Scripture and use to judge the preaching and teaching that we hear, but he can only do this if we have the Word of God in us.



For as long as I've been in ministry, the leaders with whom I've served have struggled to figure out how to build biblical literacy in the church. I've come to realize that we can't get there on preaching and teaching alone. It could take decades to go through the entire Bible on Sundays and in midweek Bible studies. Biblical literacy has to be built in the way that God prescribed, with each of us taking the responsibility to immerse ourselves in the Bible and let it flow through every aspect of our lives.

Let's commit to reading through the entire Bible every year. Let's devote ourselves to discussing it, with our families and with fellow Christians, everywhere we go. Ask God to give you a passion for his Word – and let it be contagious!

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. (Joshua 1:8)

Brothers and Sisters, Pray for Us!





Thank you for supporting us in spreading the Gospel! Please continue to pray with us for:

- a new, Spirit-given urgency to reach the lost,
- a long-time member who is currently being tested, like Job, in many areas,
- maintaining our historic building and finding a facilities manager,
- God's wisdom, direction and provision for the church and the Academy.

We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

Please do keep in touch! We're always delighted to hear from you and to pray with you!

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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did You Know?



There are known to be more than 7,000 languages in the world, but the Bible has only been translated into about 10% of them. Margaret Peoples Shirer, who was ordained by E. S. Williams and was one of Highway's earliest missionaries, translated the Bible into the Mooré language while she served in Burkina Faso. Search our digital archive (highway.ag/archives) for more on her fascinating life.

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. (Revelation 14:6)



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