

Bible Reading

In the oldest book of the Bible, Job makes a remarkable statement...

'I have esteemed the words of [God's] mouth more than my necessary food!' (Job 23:12)

Job understood that hearing and savouring the things God has to say are more valuable to him than even normal food.

The Word of God is our spiritual milk and meat, and it gives us the nourishment to live for and please God.

In this study, we are going to look at:

- 1) Why read the Bible?
- 2) How to read the Bible?

At the conclusion of the study, you will find a very helpful article by George Müller on 'The First Great and Primary Business of Every Day' that will illustrate many of the things taught in this lesson.

KEY VERSE: Joshua 1:8 'This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.'

CHAPTERS TO READ THIS WEEK: Psalm 8-14

1. WHY READ THE BIBLE?

a. We should read the Bible because it is God's Word and it is how we get to know God.

Because God is a speaking God, we should listen as He speaks through His Word.

Hebrews 1:1-4

¹ God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; ³ Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; ⁴ Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Hebrews 2:1-4

¹ Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. ² For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; ³ How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; ⁴ God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Scripture is the very words of God.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

If the Bible is God's Word to us, we should be motivated to read it because...

It contains eternal truths about big questions each of us have.

It allows us to know the thoughts and the mind of the great God of heaven.

It reveals truth that we could never come up with on our own.

b. We should read the Bible to enjoy close fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ and to be fruitful in our Christian Life.

John 15:1–17

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. 16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. 17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Notice from the passage above:

- The words of Jesus purify us so we can draw close to God (v.3).
- To abide in Christ is to have His words abide in us (v.7).
- Keeping Christ's commands helps us abide in His love (v.10).
- Real friendship with Christ is doing whatsoever He commanded (v.14).

In summary, the word of Christ is essential to abide in Christ, to have Christ abide in us, to make us clean and usable, to make us fruitful and to get our prayers answered.

c. We should read the Bible to have victory over sin and to defeat the lies of Satan.

David understood that God's Word would keep him from sin.

Psalm 119:1–11

¹ ALEPH. Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the Lord. ² Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, And that seek him with the whole heart. ³ They also do no iniquity: They walk in his ways. ⁴ Thou hast commanded us To keep thy precepts diligently. ⁵ O that my ways were directed To keep thy statutes! ⁶ Then shall I not be ashamed, When I have respect unto all thy commandments. ⁷ I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, When I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. ⁸ I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly. ⁹ BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. ¹⁰ With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. ¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, That I might not sin against thee.

Jesus defeated Satan's lies with the power of the written Word.

Matthew 4:1–11

¹ Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. ² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. ³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. ⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. ⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. ⁸ Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. ¹¹ Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

d. We should read the Bible because it is very, very good for us.

The Bible is profitable, makes us mature and ready for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

The Bible includes many example to us and is written for our admonition (warning).

1 Corinthians 10:11

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Only by reading God's Word regularly and obeying it can we expect the blessings (the success) that is promised in it.

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Questions for those who fail to read the Bible:

Have you lost confidence that it is really God's Word?

Do you no longer desire to know God or fellowship with Christ?

Is there sin in your life that has corrupted your love for the Lord Jesus?

Do you not long to draw close to Christ and be used by Him?

Do you think that you can make it on your own?

2. HOW TO READ THE BIBLE?

a. Read the Bible.

The best way to learn how to ride a bike is on a bike. The best to learn how to swim is in water. **And the best way to learn how to study the Bible is with an open Bible.**

Reading the Bible is the foundation and the precursor to Bible study. It is the first step in beginning to see, understand, and apply what God has said in His Word.

Notice how often Bible reading is talked about in the Bible:

- When God gave Israel the words of His covenant through Moses, Moses wrote them down and then read them to the people (Exodus 24:1-7).

Exodus 24:7

And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.

- All kings over Israel were instructed to write a copy of the book of the law and read it everyday (Deuteronomy 17:14-20).
- Every seven years, the entire nation of Israel (men, women, children) were to gather before the Lord and the law was to be read to them (Deuteronomy 31:9-13).

Deuteronomy 31:11-12

¹¹ When all Israel is come to appear before the Lord thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. ¹² Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law:

- When Israel came into the Promised Land, Joshua read them the words of the law.

Joshua 8:34-35

³⁴ And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law. ³⁵ There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.

- The book of law was lost for a period which coincided with Israel spiritual decline under the later kings. When the book was found during Josiah's reign, it was read and re-read and produced a short period of national revival (2 Kings 22-23).

2 Kings 23:2

2 And the king went up into the house of the Lord, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the Lord.

- After a period of captivity and a remnant of Jews returned to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, they gathered together as one group and asked Ezra to bring the book of the law and read to them. He read to all of them from morning to midday while the people stood and listened. Not only did they read, but they read distinctly, gave the sense, and caused the people to understand the reading (Nehemiah 8:1-8).

Nehemiah 8:8

So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

- Numerous times Jesus asked the question when he was teaching, 'Have ye not read?' (Matthew 12:3,5; 19:4; 21:16; 21:42; 22:31).
- When Jesus went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day in Nazareth, he read the Scriptures (Luke 4:16-21).

Luke 4:16

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

- Scripture reading was common practice in the Jewish synagogues on the Sabbath.

Acts 13:27

For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.

Acts 15:21

For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

- The writings of the New Testament were to be read.

Colossians 4:16

And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

1 Thessalonians 5:27

I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

1 Timothy 4:13

Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Are you reading the Bible regularly?

b. Read the Whole Bible.

2 Timothy 3:15–17

¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

We need all of Scripture.

It is all given by inspiration of God.

It is all profitable to us.

It is what we need to be perfect and throughly furnished unto all good works.

Romans 15:1–4

¹ We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ² Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. ³ For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. ⁴ For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Paul backs up his point by quoting from Psalm 22:9.

Then he explains why he does this. The things that were written aforetime (before) were written:

- For our learning.
- That we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

This means that we need the things that ‘were written’.

1 Corinthians 10:1–11

¹ Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; ² And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; ³ And did all eat the same spiritual meat; ⁴ And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. ⁷ Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. ⁸ Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. ⁹ Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. ¹⁰ Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. ¹¹ Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

v.1-5 The Corinthian believers (mostly Gentiles) were reminded of the Jewish ‘fathers’:

- How they were led by the pillar of cloud, went through the Red Sea, were covered by the cloud and the sea, ate manna, drank water from the Rock.
- Yet many were overthrown in the wilderness.

v.6-10 These things are examples to not lust, not be idolaters, not commit fornication, not tempt Christ and not murmur.

v.11 These things happened for ensamples and were written for our admonition in this last age.

Are you reading the entire Bible?

You do not necessarily have to read straight from Genesis to Revelation, but you should get a plan that eventually takes you through the entire Bible.

Examples of whole Bible Reading plans:

- Old & New Testament every day
- Chronological Plan
- M'Cheyne Plan (OT, NT, Psalm, Proverb every day)

c. Read the Bible Repeatedly.

It's not enough to read the Bible once. We are going to need to read it over and over again.

Deuteronomy 17:19–20

19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: 20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.

The kings of Israel were to read it every day, so that they:

- Would **learn to fear** the Lord God
- Would **keep** *all* the words of God's Word and **do them**
- Would **not be lifted up in pride** above others
- Would **not turn aside** to the right or the left
- Would **prolong his days** in his kingdom

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Joshua was told to 'not let it depart out of his mouth.

He was to meditate therein day and night, so that...

- He would **observe to do** according to all that is written therein.
- He would **make his way prosperous.**
- He would **have good success.**

There is no way to understand the Bible with just one reading.

We need to be consistently reading the Bible every day for the rest of our lives.

d. Read Meditatively.

The verse in Joshua 1:8 mentioned something that is important - 'meditate therein day and night'.

Meditation is often associated with religions like Hinduism and Buddhism, but there is a Biblical version of meditate that is very important as we seek to understand Scripture.

The word 'meditate' is a unique word that, according to Webster's 1828 dictionary, means:

- To dwell on any thing in thought
- To contemplate
- To study
- To turn or revolve any subject in the mind

Joshua 1:8 KJV 1900

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

- Joshua was to keep the law in his mouth.
- He was supposed to meditate therein day and night.
- This show us that it is not just about reading.
- Joshua was to keep God's Word in his mouth, which means that there was some type of verbal expression, some time of reading and speaking that was going on.

Ways the word meditation is used:

- Can refer to noises of discomfort or displeasure (Isa 16:7; 59:11; Jer 48:31 'mourn').
- Also used for talking indistinctly, usually in a low voice (Ps 115:7 'mutter').
- Can refer to the roaring of a lion (Isa 31:4).
- Can describe secret plans or plots of the wicked (Ps 2:1 'imagine'; Prov 24:2 'studieth').
- Can also be used for articulating something verbally with a cry, shout, or noise (Job 27:4 'utter'; Ps 35:28 'shall speak of'; Isa 49:3 'mutter').

The way the word is used in Joshua 1:8 is to do with thinking deeply about God and God's Word:

Genesis 24:63

And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming.

Psalms 1:2

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; And in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 63:6

When I remember thee upon my bed, And meditate on thee in the night watches.

Psalms 77:12

I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.

Psalm 119:15

I will meditate in thy precepts, And have respect unto thy ways.

Psalm 119:23

Princes also did sit and speak against me: But thy servant did meditate in thy statutes.

Psalm 119:48

My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; And I will meditate in thy statutes.

Psalm 119:78

Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: But I will meditate in thy precepts.

Psalm 119:148

Mine eyes prevent the night watches, That I might meditate in thy word.

Psalm 143:5

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.

1 Timothy 4:15

Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Meditating on the Bible is very, very important for understanding and applying.

The idea of meditating is thinking about, considering, pondering, musing, weighing up, chew it over (i.e. ruminating, chew the cud).

The more we do this, the more we will get out of our Bible reading.

e. Read with Faith.

The word only profits us when it is mixed with faith.

Hebrews 4:1–2

¹ Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. ² For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Unbelief hinders the work of the powerful Word of God.

Hebrews 4:11–12

¹¹ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. ¹² For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

f. Read with Humility.

The Word of God must be received as God's Word.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Josiah, the king of Judah, models how to hear and listen to the Word of God.

2 Kings 22:15–20

¹⁵ And she said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Tell the man that sent you to me, ¹⁶ Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read: ¹⁷ Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched. ¹⁸ But to the king of Judah which sent you to inquire of the Lord, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard; ¹⁹ Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the Lord, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again.

THE FIRST GREAT AND PRIMARY BUSINESS OF EVERY DAY

Article By George Müller

While I was staying at Nailsworth, it pleased the Lord to teach me a truth, irrespective of human instrumentality, as far as I know, the benefit of which I have not lost, though now . . . more than forty years have since passed away.

*The point is this: I saw more clearly than ever, that **the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord.** The first thing to be concerned about was not, how much I might serve the Lord, how I might glorify the Lord; but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man might be nourished. For I might seek to set the truth before the unconverted, I might seek to benefit believers, I might seek to relieve the distressed, I might in other ways seek to behave myself as it becomes a child of God in this world; and yet, not being happy in the Lord, and not being nourished and strengthened in my inner man day by day, all this might not be attended to in a right spirit.*

*Before this time my practice had been, at least for ten years previously, as an habitual thing, to give myself to prayer, after having dressed in the morning. Now I saw, that **the most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the Word of God and to meditation on it,** that thus my heart might be comforted, encouraged, warned, reprov'd, instructed; and that thus, whilst meditating, my heart might be brought into experimental, communion with the Lord. I began therefore, to meditate on the New Testament, from the beginning, early in the morning.*

*The first thing I did, after having asked in a few words the Lord's blessing upon His precious Word, was to begin to meditate on the Word of God; searching, as it were, into every verse, to get blessing out of it; not for the sake of the public ministry of the Word; not for the sake or preaching on what I had meditated upon; but **for the sake of obtaining food for my own soul.** The result I have found to be almost invariably this, that after a very few minutes my soul has been led to confession, or to thanksgiving, or to intercession, or to supplication; so that though I did not, as it were, give myself to prayer, but to meditation, yet it turned almost immediately more or less into prayer.*

When thus I have been for awhile making confession, or intercession, or supplication, or have given thanks, I go on to the next words or verse, turning all, as I go on, into prayer for myself or others, as the Word may lead to it; but still continually keeping before me, that food for my own soul is the object of my meditation. The result of this is, that there is always a good deal of confession, thanksgiving, supplication, or intercession mingled with my meditation, and that my inner man almost invariably is even sensibly nourished and strengthened and that by breakfast time, with rare exceptions, I am in a peaceful if not happy state of heart. Thus also the Lord is pleased to communicate unto me that which, very soon after, I have found to become food for other believers, though it was not for the sake of the public ministry of the Word that I gave myself to meditation, but for **the profit of my own inner man.**

The difference between my former practice and my present one is this. Formerly, when I rose, I began to pray as soon as possible, and generally spent all my time till breakfast in prayer, or almost all the time. At all events I almost invariably began with prayer. . . . But what was the result? I often spent a quarter of an hour, or half an hour, or even an hour on my knees, before being conscious to myself of having derived comfort, encouragement, humbling of soul, etc.; and often after having suffered much from wandering of mind for the first ten minutes, or a quarter of an hour, or even half an hour, I only then began really to pray.

I scarcely ever suffer now in this way. For my heart being **nourished by the truth**, being brought into experimental fellowship with God, I speak to my Father, and to my Friend (vile though I am, and unworthy of it!) about the things that He has brought before me in His precious Word.

It often now astonished me that I did not sooner see this. In no book did I ever read about it. No public ministry ever brought the matter before me. No private intercourse with a brother stirred me up to this matter. And yet now, since God has taught me this point, it is as plain to me as anything, that **the first thing the child of God has to do morning by morning is to obtain food for his inner man.**

As the outward man is not fit for work for any length of time, except we take food, and as this is one of the first things we do in the morning, so it should be with the inner man. We should take food for that, as every one must allow. Now what is the food for the inner man: not prayer, but the Word of God: and here again **not the simple reading of the Word of God, so that it only passes through our minds, just as water runs through a pipe, but considering what we read, pondering over it, and applying it to our hearts. . . .**

I dwell so particularly on this point because of the immense spiritual profit and refreshment I am conscious of having derived from it myself, and I affectionately and solemnly beseech all my fellow-believers to ponder this matter. By the blessing of God I ascribe to this mode the help and strength which I have had from God to pass in peace through deeper trials in various ways than I had ever had before; and after having now above forty years tried this way, I can most fully, in the fear of God, commend it. **How different when the soul is refreshed and made happy early in the morning, from what is when, without spiritual preparation, the service, the trials and the temptations of the day come upon one!**