“How Readest Thou?”

Introduction:
A. Pointing to the Bible for answers in spiritual matters makes one “peculiar” and “narrow” in today.
   1. But, it is exactly what Jesus did in our text.
   2. Jesus said, “it is written,” over 20 times in the four gospel accounts.
B. Pointing to the Bible is not enough, one must read it correctly – “How readest thou?”
C. There are certain failures in reading the Bible that could keep one from eternal life.

Discussion:
I. The Failure to Read at All.
   A. The results is general ignorance of God’s will.
      1. Do not know what is written (Matt. 22:29; Hos. 4:6; Acts 3:17)
      2. Accounts for much of the hold that error and superstition has on people.
      3. Accounts for much of our church problems and the inability to solves them easily.
   B. The cause is general indifference toward reading and learning the Scriptures (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15)
      1. Not a lack of time – 30 minutes a day a slow reader could read Bible through twice each year.
      2. Not a lack of opportunity – Bibles are cheap and plentiful.
      3. A lack of interest – interested person only limited by ability.

II. The Failure to Read Correctly.
   A. Do not know how to read what is written – “rightly dividing” (2 Tim. 2:15)
   B. We need to read like Jesus and the apostles read.
      1. Treat stories as fact, not fable or myth.
         a. The creation story (Matt. 19:4; 1 Tim. 2:13; 2 Pet. 3:5)
         b. The flood story (1 Pet. 3:6, 20; Matt. 24:37, 38)
         c. The “fish story” (Matt. 12:40).
      2. Interpret in light of all Bible says (Matt. 4:5-7).
      3. Insist on “word for word” significance (Gal. 3:16; Heb. 8:13)
      4. View silence as prohibitive rather than permissive (Heb. 7:14).

III. The Failure to Read Honestly.
   A. The lawyer was not honestly seeking the truth (v. 25)
      1. His question was a great one.
      2. His motive was not good – was neither to help himself or Jesus.
   B. The lawyer knew the Biblical answer (v. 27, 28).
      1. Further proving he was not asking for information.
      2. His motive was to tempt Jesus and justify his disobedience.
   C. The lawyer was a self-justifying quibbler (v. 29)
      1. Many quibble over words to avoid obedience and standing for right.
      2. Many seek to justify themselves by comparisons – “Am not as bad as, or no worse than”
      3. Many seek to minimize sins by magnifying the sins of others.
      4. Many try avoid obedience by difficult hypothetical questions.

Conclusion:
A. Brother or sister, “how readest thou?”
   1. At all?
   2. Correctly?
   3. Honestly?
B. Sinner friend, how do you read the great invitation to “come unto me...”