

The Public Scripture Reading & Pastoral Prayer in Corporate Worship

Geoffrey R. Kirkland

Christ Fellowship Bible Church

Why does Christ Fellowship Bible Church publicly read Scripture aloud from the pulpit every Sunday? Here are some reasons.

- 1. Reading Scripture Publicly allows God to speak substantively through His inspired Word while the entire congregation is assembled.**
- 2. Reading Scripture Publicly demonstrates a local church's conviction and commitment to the priority, sufficiency, and life-changing efficacy of the read Word.**
- 3. Reading Scripture Publicly teaches everyone in the congregation that a regular, systematic reading of Scripture (through a book) speaks to, applies to, and transforms the hearts and lives of Spirit-indwelt saints.**
- 4. Reading Scripture Publicly exemplifies the careful, passionate, energized, reverential way in which to read the true Word of God.**
- 5. Reading Scripture Publicly providentially brings pertinent Scripture texts to situations that people currently face (God's sovereign timing).**
- 6. Reading Scripture Publicly enhances a theme for the corporate worship service as the Scripture text that the minister reads can be integrally related to the topic, theme, text, and purpose of the sermon.**
- 7. Reading Scripture Publicly evangelizes the lost in that it reveals the commitment that the people of God have to the Word of God and the dedication that the children of God have to hearing the voice of God and walking obediently to God.**
- 8. Reading Scripture Publicly leads into a pastoral prayer where the minister can pray through that portion of Scripture just read and thereby teach the people of God how to read the Word and pray through the Word.**
- 9. Reading Scripture Publicly highlights the church's commitment to the inspired, sufficient, and life-giving Word of God which is like a rock that shatters, a scalpel that cuts, a sword that pierces, a surgery that heals, a hammer that shatters, and a generator that gives life and power.**

These, then, are a number of brief reasons why we at Christ Fellowship Bible Church are committed to faithfully, regularly, deliberately, and reverentially reading the Word of God in the corporate worship gathering each week.