

Writings of the Church Fathers

- Again, if we have been steadfast in our integrity, we gain more benefit, (if we are acquainted with the word;) for as soon as one comes to the gospel, he by a mere look both rectifies his understanding and ceases from all worldly cares. And if careful reading also follows, the soul, as if initiated in sacred mysteries, is thus purified and made better, while holding converse with God through the Scriptures.

(St. John Chrysostom- Discourse on the parable of the rich man and Lazarus: 3, 2)

- When you read watch out so that the distraction of the enemy will not say: first take care of this matter, and then go and read unhindered. When he suggests this, he will endeavor to convince you doing something else rather than reading and benefiting from Scripture.

(St. John Chrysostom)

- He calls the Scriptures a door, for they bring us to God, and open to us the knowledge of God.

(St. John Chrysostom - Homily of St. John Chrysostom, Gospel of St. John: 59, 2)

- There is, after all, no ailment of soul or body besetting the human race which cannot come to healing from this source (remedies from Scripture appropriate to ourselves)

(St. John Chrysostom - Homily on Genesis: 29, 2)

- we sow this spiritual seed and even if we reap no harvest on account of the indifference of the listeners, our reward will be complete. You see, we have spent money that is borrowed, carrying out the command of the Lord; later an account is due from the listeners with him who will be looking for what has been spent plus interest."

(St. John Chrysostom – Homily on Genesis: 41, 2)

- most men are attracted, not so much when something great and sublime is said of God, as when mention is made of His kindness and mercy or something conducive to the salvation of those who are listening.

(St. John Chrysostom: Homily on the Gospel of John, 18, 1)

- But of those who are subject to the Priest, the greater number are hampered with the cares of this life, and this makes them the slower in the performance of spiritual duties. Whence it is necessary for the teacher to sow every day (so to speak), in order that by its frequency at least, the word of doctrine may be able to be grasped by those who hear.

(St. John Chrysostom - On the Priesthood, 6. 4)

- We need not only to read Sacred Scripture, but learn it as well, and grow up in it. Realize that nothing is written unnecessarily. Not to read Sacred Scripture is a great evil.

(St. Basil the Great)

- That we should not think that we achieve success in preaching through our own devices, but we should rely entirely on God.

(St. Basil the Great – Morals, 70, 27)

- Any word that is not accompanied by action is vain, and has no value.

(St. Gregory of Nyssa)

- If one's actions do not follow from one's teaching, then such teaching is worthless.

(St. Issac, the hermit)

- As you begin to read Sacred Scripture, strive to read as though you were required to pass on what you have heard.

(St. Ephrem the Syrian)

- When you read Sacred Scripture, read regularly, and carefully paying attention to stop at every verse, do not simply turn pages, but if need be read the verse over again, two, three or several times in order to understand its power.

(St. Ephrem the Syrian)

- When reading Sacred Scripture, do not approach it without prayer and asking God for help. Prayer is an important key so as to be able to understand Sacred Scripture properly.

(St. Isaac the Syrian)

- Not to know Sacred Scripture is not to know Jesus Christ.

(St. Jerome)