

**Reading the Bible**  
**for understanding and transformation**  
**October 8, 2021**  
**Class 2 outline**

**Opening remarks.**

**Aim of the course.**

- To give us opportunity to read the Bible.
- To think about and focus on how God uses the Bible to transform us.
- To name and address potential obstacles that may hinder your Bible reading and engagement.
- To refresh and renew our commitment to asking God to change us through engagement with Holy Scripture.

**Proper Orientation.**

- week 1: humble eagerness.
- week 2: God speaks ... to us, personally!
- week 3: God speaks ... to us, collectively!
- week 4: total wisdom

**Potential Obstacles.**

- week 1: Technical Efficiency
- week 2: Moralistic Therapeutic Deism
- week 3: Rugged Individualism
- week 4: Dualism & Secularism

**Hebrews 4:12-13**, “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

***Lectio Divina.***

- literally, “Divine reading”
- read. ponder. pray. sit.

**Scripture Engagement**  
**With *lectio divina***  
**Psalm 139**

- 1 O LORD, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you understand my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You examine my path and my places of rest, \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my tongue, \*  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 You have enclosed me behind and before, \*  
and have laid your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, \*  
so excellent I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where shall I go then from your Spirit, \*  
or where shall I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make my bed in the Grave, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning \*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there shall your hand lead me, \*  
and your right hand shall hold me.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me," \*  
then shall my night be turned to day.
- 11 Even the darkness is not dark to you, and the night is as clear as the day; \*  
the darkness and the light to you are both alike.
- 12 For you yourself made my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will give thanks to you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; \*  
marvelous are your works, and my soul knows it very well.

- 14 My bones were not hidden from you \*  
when I was made in secret and fashioned in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my substance, while I was yet unformed; \*  
and in your book were all my members written,
- 16 Which day by day were fashioned, \*  
when as yet there was none of them.
- 17 How dear to me are your thoughts, O God. \*  
How great is the sum of them!
- 18 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand. \*  
When I wake up, I am present with you.
- 19 Oh, that you would slay the wicked, O God! \*  
Depart from me, you bloodthirsty men.
- 20 For they speak unrighteously against you; \*  
your enemies take your Name in vain.
- 21 Do I not hate those, O LORD, who hate you, \*  
and do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
- 22 Indeed, I hate them with a perfect hatred; \*  
they have become my own enemies.
- 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; \*  
try me and examine my thoughts.
- 24 Look well if there be any way of wickedness in me, \*  
and lead me in the way everlasting.