



# Professor Grant Horner's Bible-Reading SYSTEM

*Professor Grant Horner's unusual, challenging, and life-changing Bible-Reading System is unlike any other you have ever seen. Try it for ONE MONTH and find out for yourself! You will never be the same.*

"I have more wisdom than all my teachers, for thy testimonies are my meditation." Psalm 119:99, right-hand page, left-hand column, dead center of page.

Many people ask me how it is that I know precisely where virtually *everything* is in my Bible. The answer: this system.

I began in 1983 (adapting and tweaking the basic design of another system) as a brand-new convert; within 3 years I knew the text of my Bible very well. Twenty-five years later it is essentially imprinted on my mind and heart. I have been all over the country and have taught this system in many churches. I have done open-microphone Q&As on Bible and theology -- with 1200 people in the audience -- as well as cultural-analysis live radio shows where you have to think fast -- and it has been the "imprinting" value of this system that has helped me provide quick, clear, heavily contextualized scriptural answers.

I have no Seminary degrees, no Bible-college or Christian school education -- hey, I never even went to Sunday school. All I *did* have was a chair, a lamp ... and my Bible.

This is *not* merely a speed-reading program, nor is it a 'study' system. Read the description provided here to see how it works. **DO NOT** be intimidated! I was a college dropout, ex-heavy-druggie when I started it. If I can do it -- so can you!

**TRY IT FOR A MONTH.** Then tell me what is happening! (Contact information provided on the last page.) You can also join the Facebook group I created for this system at

[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831](https://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831). There you can make posts about your struggles, the effects it is having on your biblical understanding and discernment, and to encourage others.

But one more note before we start. I remember very clearly in 1983, when my soon-to-be father-in-law handed me his old but unused 1967 Scofield Study Bible as an off-the-cuff gift. I had never seen a good study Bible before, and was just starting to listen to MacArthur and Swindoll and Stanley on the radio. I was determined as a new believer to get to know the Bible. So I adapted the present system and have tweaked it many times since.

Its present form dates from the mid-1990s when I was in doctoral work at UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke and wanted to keep my head screwed on somewhat straight. That old Scofield was literally read *to tatters* by then -- covers absolutely gone, spine vanished away, glue-backing visible and all curled up, stitching coming apart, the prefatory material destroyed all the way up to Genesis 1 and the concordance vanished past the entry for "sin." But as a poor grad student, I had no money for a quality re-bind.

Sometime later, I was flown out by Masters College for a 3-day interview/grilling process. The culmination was, of course, being ushered in to Dr. MacArthur's private study, which is where he asked me his one question: "Can I see your Bible?"

I thought he would be horrified, because it looked like it had been through a typhoon -- it looked unloved and neglected.

Something from a dumpster. It was unbound, with stringy mess and paper debris hanging out. I was so embarrassed. I thought he would chastise me and recommend I get a new study Bible if I was serious about the Word.

However he flipped through it and handed it to his wife and said, "If your Bible is falling apart, you probably aren't." And I was basically hired on the spot.

I have done the system sometimes doubling up (2 sets per day, or 20 chapters), and other times by alternating days (5 chapters per day). The key is to *get into a habit* for a month. Then you'll see you've probably been starving yourself.

The very best effect it has is rapid, broad-scale contextualizing across both testaments and all the different biblical genres. Did you know about all the similarities between Ecclesiastes and 2 Corinthians? How about the relationship between Deuteronomy and Matthew? It is like no other system that way, and it provides constant variety (which humans love) as well as consistent conviction (which humans hate).

I'd love to hear any thoughts you may have on facing up to the challenge, how you are doing in your first days, first week, first month....

## **'The System**

Each day you will read one chapter from each of ten lists. That's right -- **ten chapters per day!!!** Use ten bookmarks or sticky notes with the individual lists on them to keep track of your locations. Or use the set of bookmarks provided on the last page of this document.

On day one, you read Matthew 1, Genesis 1, Romans 1, and so forth. On day 2, read Matthew 2, Genesis 2, etc. On day 29, you will have just finished Matthew, so go to Mark 1 on the Gospel list; you'll also be almost to the end of 2nd Corinthians and Proverbs, you'll be reading Psalm 29 and Genesis 29, and so forth. When you reach the last chapter of the last book in a list -- start over again. Rotate all the way through all the Scriptures constantly.

Since the lists vary in length, the readings begin interweaving in constantly changing ways. You will NEVER read the same set of ten chapters together again! Every year you'll read through all the Gospels four times, the Pentateuch twice, Paul's letters 4-5 times each, the OT wisdom literature six times, all the Psalms at least twice, all the Proverbs as well as

Acts a dozen times, and all the way through the OT History and Prophetic books about 1 ½ times. Since the interweaving is constantly changing, you will experience the Bible commenting *on itself* in constantly changing ways -- the Reformer's principle of 'scriptura interpretans scripturam' -- 'scripture interpreting scripture' IN ACTION!

After you've read any particular book once or twice, your speed in that book usually *doubles or triples* because you're familiar with it and can move quickly and confidently -- because you are no longer merely decoding the text but thinking it through in the context of all of the scripture!

Even an 'average' reader, if focusing on moving through the text, rather than trying to figure everything out, can usually do this in about an hour a day -- 5-6 minutes per chapter. Many people report moving confidently through the ten chapters in 35-40 minutes. If it is taking you longer, then you are 'reading wrong' -- stay relaxed, focus, and just keep it moving. Moderate but consistent speed is the key. This is "gross anatomy" -- looking at the whole body; you're **not** closely studying organs or systems or tissues or cells -- it is **not** microbiology. BUT -- microbiology and the study of organs makes more sense when you know what the *whole* structure of the human body is like, and how all the parts, large and small, relate in perfect interdependence.

After just a few days the reading gets *much* easier; in a month it will be a habit, and in six months you'll wonder how you ever survived before on such a slim diet of the WORD. And then -- you'll tell others to start the system!

I began in 1983 as a new Christian and have now read (most of) the Bible hundreds and hundreds of times. You also need to get ONE Bible, keep it, and do all your reading in it, so you learn where everything is. I've had the same Bible since 1983 and I know it intimately. If you keep switching Bibles, you 'lose' this intimacy with the text. Find a translation and format you like and stick with it. THIS IS CRUCIAL.

Your Bible is the only thing on Earth that, as you wear it out, will actually work better and better.

Please share this Bible-reading system with all the Christians you know, as well as anyone who is thinking about reading a Bible, even for the first time.

***Put these instructions in your Bible and review them from time to time.***

# The Ten Lists

List 1 (89 days)

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

List 2 (187 days)

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

List 3 (78 days)

Romans, I&II Cor, Gal, Eph, Phil, Col, Hebrews

List 4 (65 days)

I&II Thess, I&II Tim, Titus, Philemon, James, I&II Peter, I,II&III John, Jude, Revelation

List 5 (62 days)

Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

List 6 (150 days)

Psalms

List 7 (31 days)

Proverbs

List 8 (249 days)

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I&II Samuel, I&II Kings, I&II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

List 9 (250 days)

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

List 10 (28 days)

Acts

## Secrets to Success

• Read one chapter from each list each day; in one sitting or two. At the end of a book; go to the next book. At the end of the list; start it again. Do it in the order given above.

• Read quickly (without “speed-reading”) in order to get the overall sense. Read as fast as you comfortably can with moderate retention. You’re not studying deeply or memorizing; shoot for 5-6 minutes per chapter. At the end of a chapter, move immediately to the next list.

• GET THROUGH THE TEXT – no dawdling, back reading, looking up cross-references!

• There are different ‘kinds’ of reading: super-quick skimming, careful moderate-paced, studying the text, deep meditation. You should be between the first and second kind.

• Most people decrease their time spent and increase their retention after just two-three weeks! I now read and retain the entire text of Matthew in 35 minutes, Romans in 20, Genesis in *one hour!*

• Don’t look up anything you ‘don’t get’ – real understanding will come through contextualizing by reading a LOT of scripture over time. Get through the text!

• If you miss a day or two – ok, get over it, then keep going. Don’t cover yourself in sackcloth and ashes and quit! Move the bookmarks along, to find your place(s) quickly next day.  
Heb 4:12&5:11-14; Eph 5:26&6:17; Col 3:16; 2 Tim 3:16; Ps 119; Ezra 8; Prov 3: 1-2, 10:14; Dan 1

• If you are wondering why you should read Acts (or Proverbs) all the way through *every single month*, then -- you’ve just shown that you NEED to read them that often!

• The goal of this system is simple, and twofold: To know scripture, and to love and obey God more!

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### Professor Grant Horner

Professor Horner’s academic specialty is the literature, theology and philosophy of the Renaissance and Reformation, with primary concentration in Milton, Shakespeare, Erasmus, Luther, Calvin and late sixteenth and seventeenth century poetry and prose. He is an Associate Professor at The Master’s College north of Los Angeles, and is also Chair of Humanities at Trinity Classical Academy (<http://www.trinityclassicalacademy.com/>).

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<http://www.masters.edu/academics/profiles.asp?depname=6>

<p><b>list 1</b> (89 days)</p>	<p><b>Matthew, Mark, Luke, John</b></p>	<p>Prof. G. Homer's Bible-Reading System</p>	<p><a href="http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6">http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831">http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831</a></p>
<p><b>list 2</b> (187 days)</p>	<p><b>Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy</b></p>	<p>Prof. G. Homer's Bible-Reading System</p>	<p><a href="http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6">http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831">http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831</a></p>
<p><b>list 3</b> (78 days)</p>	<p><b>Romans, I &amp; II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philipians, Colossians, Hebrews</b></p>	<p>Prof. G. Homer's Bible-Reading System</p>	<p><a href="http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6">http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831">http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831</a></p>
<p><b>list 4</b> (65 days)</p>	<p><b>I &amp; II Thessalonians, I &amp; II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, James, I &amp; II Peter, I, II &amp; III John, Jude, Revelation</b></p>	<p>Prof. G. Homer's Bible-Reading System</p>	<p><a href="http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6">http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831">http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831</a></p>
<p><b>list 5</b> (62 days)</p>	<p><b>Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon</b></p>	<p>Prof. G. Homer's Bible-Reading System</p>	<p><a href="http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6">http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831">http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831</a></p>
<p><b>list 6</b> (150 days)</p>	<p><b>Psalms</b></p>	<p>Prof. G. Homer's Bible-Reading System</p>	<p><a href="http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6">http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831">http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831</a></p>
<p><b>list 7</b> (31 days)</p>	<p><b>Proverbs</b></p>	<p>Prof. G. Homer's Bible-Reading System</p>	<p><a href="http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6">http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831">http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831</a></p>
<p><b>list 8</b> (249 days)</p>	<p><b>Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I &amp; II Samuel, I &amp; II Kings, I &amp; II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther</b></p>	<p>Prof. G. Homer's Bible-Reading System</p>	<p><a href="http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6">http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831">http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831</a></p>
<p><b>list 9</b> (250 days)</p>	<p><b>Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi</b></p>	<p>Prof. G. Homer's Bible-Reading System</p>	<p><a href="http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6">http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831">http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831</a></p>
<p><b>list 10</b> (28 days)</p>	<p><b>Acts</b></p>	<p>Prof. G. Homer's Bible-Reading System</p>	<p><a href="http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6">http://www.masters.edu/academics/prof/gc.asp?dept=6</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831">http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46416541831</a></p>