

No. 24 “Continue Applying Yourself to . . . Reading”

Note to the speaker:

Talk with audience participation and videos. Highlight the need for public readers to prepare well and to be familiar with studies 11 and 14 in the *Ministry School* book when handling reading assignments

READING IS A GIFT FROM GOD (3 min.)

The greatest benefit that comes from reading is that it can enable us to “find the knowledge of God” (Pr 2:5)

How we read scriptures and Bible-based publications at congregation meetings can do much to help others comprehend God’s thoughts (Ne 8:8; Ac 13:15)

Our effectiveness in the field ministry is greatly affected by the way we read (Heb 4:12)

For these reasons, do your best to “continue applying yourself to public reading” (1Ti 4:13)

OUR MOTIVATION TO READ WELL (11 min.)

In February 2014, the Teaching Committee presented a reading seminar for members of the Bethel family who serve as readers for our audio publications

Later, this seminar was shared with all members of the Bethel family

The program helped all to reevaluate the effectiveness of their public reading

The Governing Body felt that this valuable and practical information would benefit congregation elders and ministerial servants

We are pleased to share some excerpts that should prove helpful to you when handling public reading assignments

Our first presentation is by Brother Ken Flodin, who serves as a helper to the Teaching Committee

This presentation is entitled “Our Motivation to Read Well”

<<PLAY VIDEO [3 min. 12 sec.]>>

Question: What is our motivation to read well?

The effective reading of Bible verses and material at the *Watchtower* Study and Congregation Bible Study is a part of good teaching and contributes to the spiritual progress of others

It requires more than pronouncing words correctly

You must understand the meaning of the words and comprehend how the thoughts they express relate to the main points and the theme of the material (*be* 105)

Thorough preparation and practice are needed to improve our public reading skills

HOW TO ACHIEVE NATURALNESS (32 min.)

Key elements to being an effective reader involve reading with warmth, feeling, and naturalness (*be* 118-120; 128-130)

As a spirited delivery persuades the mind, reading with warmth and feeling stimulates the heart

Strive to express the emotion that the Bible text conveys by your tone of voice and facial expressions; visualize yourself in the scene (*be* 120 ¶1)

To highlight the importance of naturalness in our public reading, we will now give attention to Brother David Schafer, who serves as a helper to the Teaching Committee

Listen carefully and try to pick up four key points that will help you improve your reading

His part is entitled “How to Achieve Naturalness”

<<PLAY VIDEO [25 min. 20 sec.]>>

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Question: What four things will help us to read with naturalness? [Awareness of the meaning of the text that we are reading; phrasing; tempo; and empathy]

Naturalness in public reading requires identifying the principal ideas and understanding how they are being developed in the material (*be* 130 ¶2-4)

Read in a way that makes the material live

Consider altering the voice slightly for each character in a Bible passage without being overly dramatic

Applying the suggestions in study 11, “Warmth and Feeling,” and study 14, “Naturalness,” of the *Ministry School* book will enable you to put appropriate feeling, emotion, and conviction into your reading

PUBLIC READING THAT TEACHES OTHERS (11 min.)

Brother Geoffrey Jackson, a member of the Governing Body, will now present a summary of the reading seminar

<<**PLAY VIDEO [9 min. 6 sec.]**>>

CONTINUE APPLYING YOURSELF TO PUBLIC READING (2 min.)

When the apostle Paul told Timothy to continue applying himself to reading, Paul was specifically referring to reading for the benefit of others (1Ti 4:13)

Effective public reading involves understanding the meaning of the words and comprehending the thoughts they express

Only then can we convey the ideas correctly and reproduce the emotions accurately

So prepare well for each reading assignment and follow Paul’s exhortation to “continue applying yourself to public reading”

[Introduce the next part on the program]