



(from www.PonderingGod.com)

Observations from a Coffee Shop

“Just Reading”

This morning I stopped into my local coffee shop for a fresh cup of coffee and a little time in the Word before heading to the office. It was a typical morning in a very typical coffee shop. There was someone who was there for the long haul, he had papers and drawings spread across the table and was working his way through a large ice coffee. There was a woman reading the morning paper and someone who was on a conference call at another table with his headset microphone in place.

I took my coffee and found a table by the window and sat down to have some time in the Word. I noticed when I came in a young man sitting in one of the comfortable chairs by the door, he appeared to be reading a Bible, but I was not 100% sure it was a Bible. As I was finishing my reading from John's Gospel I noticed he had set the book on the table and was enjoying his coffee. It was a Bible he had been reading.

I caught his eye and asked, "What have you been reading this morning?" he replied, "The Bible" I waited for more information assuming it would come...it didn't. I decided to rephrase the question, "Anything in particular that you were reading? I just finished reading a couple of chapters on the early ministry of Jesus in John's Gospel." I was not ready for his response. He gave me a quizzical look and said: "Just reading." With these words, he picked up his Bible and headed out the door.

"Just Reading" His answer made me ponder how many times I came to the Bible and was found to be "Just reading." I prayed for that young man that the Living Spirit of God would help the words he read today to speak to his heart. God promises that His Word never returns void, but it always accomplishes that for which it was sent. As I ponder his words again I have to admit that more often than I like I to have been guilty of "Just reading" the Word, and not letting it penetrate, not letting it encourage, rebuke, correct or train me.

¹² For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11 (NIV)

SOMETHING TO PONDER: What do you do to help you do more than "Just read" the Bible? Really..... I would love to hear from you.

Taken from "Pondering God" a blog by Craig McCourt

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