

“Tips For The Month Of Love”

February has become the month of love. More commercials, articles, and blogs will focus upon romance these twenty-eight days than any other time in the year.

So, I thought I'd “jump on the bandwagon,” but not to provide ways to put the fire back in your marriage. Instead, I want to suggest practical guidance in how to increase your love for God.

Fueled By Scripture

Love for God is not just a nice thing to possess for the Christian. It is essential. Jesus teaches us in Matthew 22:37 that the most important commandment is to love God with all we have. Love for God is so essential those who truly know Him can be identified as those who love Him (Romans 8:28; James 1:12). Another way to put this is that eternal life is about knowing God intimately (Jeremiah 9:23-24; John 17:3). If we think about it, this is not dissimilar to a human relationship. A marriage usually results from two people meeting, getting to know each other, and seeing their love develop.

Our love for God comes by His Word of truth, the powerful gospel, working in us (Romans 1:16; Ephesians 1:13; James 1:18). Additionally, our love for God is fueled and grown by that same Word (Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:9-10; 1 Thes. 2:13).

Since this is true, one of the most important things we can do is to put together some good tools to help us understand the Bible and thus to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

The Indispensable Helps

Here are some tools that will benefit you greatly.

The Reformation Study Bible

For years I have said this is the best study Bible on the market. I still believe it is among the top two. I recommend it as a person's first and main study Bible since it has the best easy-to-use theological articles, has very good notes at the bottom of each page on the text itself, contains excellent book introductions, and is easier to carry than some other options.

The ESV Study Bible

I would also encourage a person to get their hands on this great tool. By far, it has better notes at the bottom of the page on the biblical text than any other option. It also has great treatments of the entire message of the Bible and how everything fits together, as well as an on-line version to which every owner is given access.

Between the notes and articles in these two study Bibles, few other reference resources would ever be needed by most Christians.

Our Web Site

A great free resource is our web site (mindenefc.org). From the *One Year Bible* reading plan to the *One Year Bible* commentaries, to all the helpful articles on Christian living, ministry, and family issues, you can find great help for understanding the Bible and growing in your knowledge of God.

Why don't you make it your goal in this month of love to learn to delight yourself in our great God through His Word!