

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Wed 26 Mar: "Seed to Harvest" - outreach equipping series fourth Zoom session - "Demonstrating the Gospel Through Service" (note change of date)



Sunday 30 Mar: 10:30 AM.

Malcolm speaking. Mothering Sunday.

Sunday 06 April: 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 13 April: 10:30 AM. Lance speaking

Monday 14th April: Mentoring training

Sunday 20 April: 10:30 AM. Easter Sunday

Monday 26th May: Mentoring training

Sunday 08 June: 10:30 AM. International Service

Sunday 06 July: Outdoor Wellington Country Park service hosted by the Thames Valley churches of Christ

Monday 7th July: Mentoring training

Sunday 20 July: 10:30 AM. Dr Rolan Monje is our visiting speaker from the Manila ICOC.

Monday 1st September: Mentoring training

3-5 October: Young Professional's retreat

Making the Bible your 'hobby' - Part 8. Transformation over Information

Introduction

Welcome to the final episode in our series on making the Bible your hobby. Over the past several weeks, we've explored the richness of Scripture, encouraged curiosity, made Bible study fun and creative, connected it to personal interests, fostered community, introduced helpful resources, and, last week, emphasised consistency over quantity.

But today, we close with the ultimate purpose: The Bible is not just meant to be understood; it is meant to *transform* us. Our study should not simply fill our minds—it should shape our hearts and lives, making us more like Christ.

Beyond Knowledge—Towards Christlikeness

We live in a time when information is everywhere. We can listen to sermons, read commentaries, and access Bible apps at any moment. But transformation doesn't happen simply by gathering knowledge—it happens when we allow Scripture to penetrate our souls and change us.

Consider Romans 12:2:

'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.'

Paul's words remind us that God's Word renews our minds, not just educates them. When we engage with Scripture, we should always ask: *How is this changing me?*

Engaging the Bible for Transformation

How do we ensure that our time in the Bible is truly transformational? Here are three key ways:

1. Read with the Goal of Obedience

Jesus made it clear: *'If you love me, keep my commands'* (John 14:15). Our Bible reading should not just be about gaining insight but about discovering how to live more like Jesus. Each time you read, ask: *What is God calling me to do differently?*

2. Pray the Scriptures

Use the Bible as a guide for prayer. When a verse challenges you, turn it into a conversation with God. For example, if you read Philippians 2:3—*'Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.'*—you could pray: *'Father, help me to be humble today. Show me ways to put others first.'*

3. Live What You Learn

James 1:22 warns us: *'Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.'*

The best way to make the Bible your hobby—and your life—is to practice what it teaches. Find small ways to apply what you've read each day.

Reflecting on the Journey

As we wrap up this series, take a moment to reflect: How has your approach to the Bible changed? What has been most helpful? What's one thing you will continue doing?

The Bible is an endless well of wisdom, comfort, and challenge. The more we approach it as a joy rather than a duty, the more it shapes us into the image of Christ.

Your brother, Malcolm

P.S. The podcast version can be found here: <https://audioboom.com/posts/8665052-how-to-make-the-bible-your-hobby-part-8-transformation-over-information-malcolm-cox-que>

Matt Penny and the Watford YMCA

Next Sunday, 30th March, I have invited my friend Matt Penny to come and share some thoughts with us. Matt is the head chaplain at the Watford YMCA. Some of us have engaged with him before, either at the main YMCA in central Watford or in connection with some Ukrainian and Afghani refugees who came to live on the Holywell estate.

Matt, David Dodwell (senior pastor at Wellspring Church), and I have been meeting monthly for prayer for several years. I have found Matt to be wise, compassionate, and spiritually sensitive. The work he and his team do at the YMCA is truly impressive. I am grateful he has accepted my invitation to come and talk about the YMCA with us. We may find ways in which the Spirit will guide us to cooperate with what they are doing to the blessing of people, especially on the Holywell estate. Please pray for God to guide him in what he shares, and give him a warm welcome next Sunday.

<https://oneymca.org/>

Malcolm

Watford Contribution Details

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Watford Media

