

## New City Catechism

Question 42: How is the Word of God to be read and heard?

*Answer: With diligence, preparation, and prayer; so that we may accept it with faith and practice it in our lives.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Being able to read is a precious gift. What do people gain when they read various kinds of books... a fictional novel? A memoir? A current newspaper article?

Today's Q&A has to do with God's Word. Question 42 reads:

How is the word of God to be read and heard?

Before we look at the answer, how do you think reading God's Word is different from reading other material?

Let's see what God has to say about this: Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Spend some time picking this passage apart:

What is the source of the words in the Bible? ("*breathed out by God*")

- What is it useful for?
- Can any of those things be said for other books?
- What do we learn about the purpose of God's Word?
- God's Word is meant to be interactive. We are supposed to use it. It has the power to produce righteousness in us and to equip us for good works! Can that be said about any other book you have ever read?

If it is true that God's Word is "*breathed out by God,*" how does that change how we might read the Bible? Pose today's question again and then look at the answer. According to the answer, how are we to read God's Word? Make sure everyone knows what it means to read with...

- **Diligence** (study, seek answers to questions we might have about it, do it regularly)
- **Preparation** (prepare your heart, mind, gather tools to understand)
- **Prayer** (ask for God to use his Word to change you, ask him to help you understand and apply it).

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Finish today by reading the Commentary found on the New City  
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