



SCRIPTURE MEMORY — FELLOWSHIP —

May 2016 Newsletter - "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...." Psalm 139:14

Unlimited Capacity

The cover story for the November 2007 National Geographic features a fascinating analysis of the immense caverns of human memory. Some people's memories catalog in great detail virtually every life event while others may show the devastating erosive effects of diseases that damage the memory. Regardless, nearly every expression of your individuality comes from the archives of memory. Your favorite foods and personal preferences, the ability to recognize the face of a loved one, and even reading this paragraph in English depends entirely on your capacity to remember. According to the piece, the average adult brain contains 500-1000 trillion synapses, dwarfing the 32 trillion bytes of information in the entire Library of Congress's print collection! "Every thought we think alters the connections within that vast network." In view of the prodigious influence and capacity of memory, the value of filling it with Scripture looms large. May it be said of us as it was said of the disciples following Christ's resurrection: "And they remembered His Words" (Lu. 24:8). We remember, and He brings them to our remembrance (John 14:26).

It's Here! - SMF App for iPhone / iPad

We're excited to announce the availability of our Bible memory app to iPhone users. This is a significant milestone, as the SMF app is now available on both major smartphone platforms used by nearly two-thirds of Americans. Just search "Scripture Memory Fellowship" to access our classic memory books complete with verse notes, study questions, and rewards on your mobile device.



search for "Scripture
Memory Fellowship"

- ✓ Poetry-style Scripture in your favorite translation (KJV, NKJV, ESV, NASB, or NIV84)
- ✓ Verse commentary and thought-provoking application questions
- ✓ Record and play back your memory verses to check yourself for accuracy
- ✓ "Hide" and "reveal" your verses line by line
- ✓ Earn points as you memorize and redeem those points for free rewards
- ✓ Track your progress

A Place and A Time

Table Talk of Martin Luther, nuggets of wisdom from the great reformer's well-attended table, came into English in an unusual way. In 1645, Captain Henry Bell was repeatedly hindered from translating it. Then, in a dream, "an ancient man...arrayed all in white having a long and broad white beard" appeared at his bedside, rebuking him: "Will you not take time to translate that book which is sent unto you out of Germany? I will shortly provide for you **both place and time to do it.**" Two weeks later Captain Bell was arrested, and for five of his ten years in prison he translated this good book. **A "place and time to do it"**—do you ever wish God would gift-wrap several weeks or years of time for you to accomplish good Scripture memorizing goals or other worthy tasks? I suspect we'd be better off making time to seek God's kingdom and righteousness before confinement forces us to prioritize better! But God's will be done! Luther wrote in *Table Talk*:

"Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of worldly vanity, which lead him on to his destruction."

“What a Precious Word”

Vi Hanson, now with Christ, formerly of Dallas, wrote: “I praise the Lord for all you are doing to challenge people, young and old, to learn God’s Word. What a precious Word it is, a Word that when believed can change us from natural beings to spiritual beings, who will spend eternity with the Lord. What a hope!”

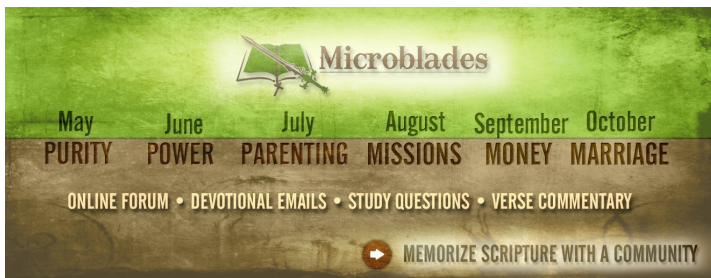
First Draft = Final Draft

The letter you hold in your hand took hours for the SMF staff to draft, review, edit, and improve. Words were cut, sentences revised, and entire ideas were even discarded altogether. Yet in spite of our best efforts, we sent out a less-than-perfect publication, destined for quick relocation to the recycle bin.

Scripture on the other hand, contains zero needless words or imperfections. The God-breathed writings of apostles and prophets contain no flaws of any sort. The first draft was the final draft (what a thought!), and “every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever” (Psa. 119:160). As Agur observed in Proverbs 30:5, “Every word of God is pure,” “like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times” (Psa. 12:6). And the end result of heeding pure words and hiding them in our hearts, is that we ourselves are purified by their truth (Psa. 119:9-11).

Straight Teeth vs. Straight Hearts

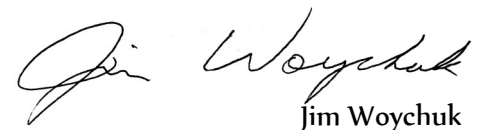
A typical monthly orthodontist payment costs nearly 100x as much as the monthly subscription to SMF’s new memory plan, Microblades. Now some wise-guy will be quick to say, “Well, you folks are obviously in the wrong line of work.” Truly, our culture probably values orthodontically straightened teeth over biblically straightened hearts by a ratio of 100:1 or higher. But man’s ways are not God’s, man’s thoughts are not God’s thoughts (Isa 55:8-9); what is highly esteemed in the sight of man is often an abomination to God (Luke 16:15). Now for health and hygiene’s sake, children ought to get good dental care, but how much more valuable is it for parents to make sure children’s hearts are well-stocked with that which can give them rest, strength, peace, and ultimately eternal life itself (Psa. 119:165; 2 Tim. 3:15)!



Ministry Update

Please do pray for our ministry, especially for the upcoming conventions and camps. Pray that God’s Spirit would cause His Word to bear fruit in many lives where it’s been planted. If you’d like to support our camp effort, we have about 100 memorizers earning scholarship spots at camp that cost us \$100 each. May Christ be your gladness and strength (1 Chron. 16:27).

We thank God for you. Much grace to each of you,


Jim Woychuk



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*Scripture Memory Fellowship exists to help you
grip the “sword of the Spirit” (Eph. 6:17)
through Scripture memorization, knowledge, and application.*

Scripture Memory Fellowship P.O. Box 550232, Dallas, Texas 75355
scripturememory.com 888.569.2560 contact@scripturememory.com