

Christmas To Do-ers List



Welcome to Christmas To Do-ers List

Rush, rush, slush, slush. Sleigh bells ring, can you hear them? 'Tis the season to get busy, right? This year how about we exchange rushing, stressing, and fretting for believing, seeking, and watching for Jesus? This blessed season of Advent let's not just be *doers*, but *doers* of the *Word*.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."
James 1:22-25

How many times have you heard a portion of scripture, thought

to yourself, *Wow, I really need to do that*, and then promptly forgot about the task at hand? The To Do-ers List Bible Study will help you move from being a hearer of the Word, to becoming a doer of the Word. Let's work together to develop the godly habit of applying Scripture to our lives and circumstances by intensely focusing on one Scripture a day. It is our prayer you become a doer of the Word.

Some of the benefits of being do-ers of the Word.

1. Grow in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16)
2. Walk in wisdom (Psalm 19:7)
3. Live in freedom (John 8:32)
4. Enjoy the abundant life (John 6:68)
5. Act in strength (Joel 2:11)
6. Strengthen your faith (Romans 10:17)
7. Receive comfort, revival, and peace (Psalm 119:7-16)
8. Plus many, many other benefits.

We can be listeners, hearers, watchers, thinkers, and gatherers of His word, but there must be a point in time when we become **doers** of the Word.

*Beginning Sunday, November 29th, and running through Wednesday, December 23, check our website every Sunday morning and Wednesday morning starting at 5:00 a.m. to get your **Christmas To Do-ers List Bible Study**. Two lessons a week will give us time to study and apply. Read your lesson and pray for wisdom on how "to do" it. Throughout the week, feel free to check in at our private Facebook Christmas To Do-ers page to share insights, request prayer, and encourage others. Community sharing is one way to grow in faith, and we'd love to hear what God is teaching and how you're being a do-er of His word.*

We pray this study will set the tone for an Advent and Christmas season that is focused on Jesus. May He inspire you in ways you can't yet imagine to be a do-er of His word. We'll see you on the 29th! **Please sign up below** so we have an accurate list of the participants, and we can send you a list of resources. But remember to check our website for the posts every Sunday and Wednesday, as we won't be mailing the posts.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

Mary and Jane

Christmas To-doers List

Name:

Email:

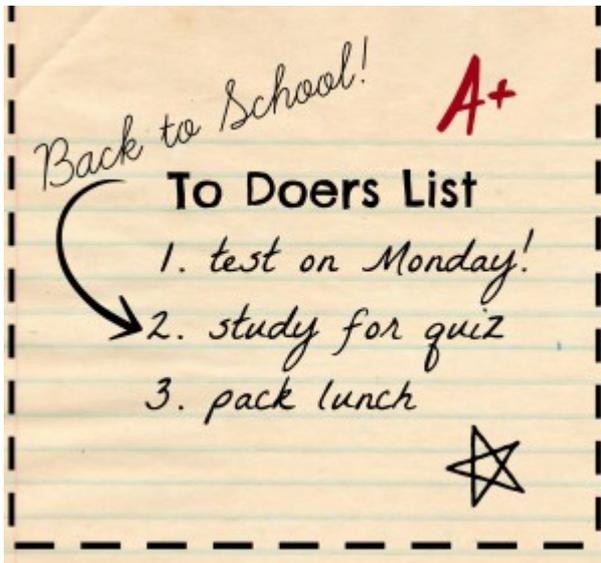
SIGN UP NOW!

We respect your [email privacy](#)

[Powered by AWeber Email Marketing](#)

[OnlyByPrayer.com](#)

To Do-ers List, Back To School, Day 5: Study



To Do-ers List: Back to School

Day 5: Study!

10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men."

Acts 17:10-12

"... and [they] searched the Scriptures daily ..."

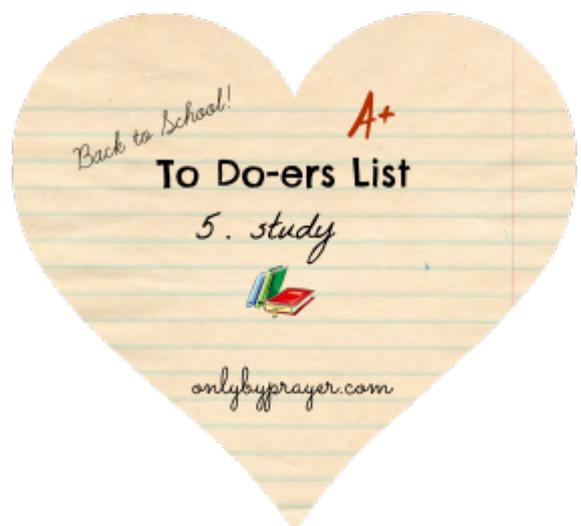
Study. Examine. Search. *Searched* in the Greek transliterates as *anakrin*, which means "to examine, to scrutinize, sift and question, to examine specifically in a forensic sense of a judge to hold an investigation." What is on trial? The Word of God. Why? To see if it contains the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

The final verdict? God's Word has stood the test of truth. Communism couldn't silence it. Hitler couldn't destroy it. Voltaire couldn't banish it. God's Word is eternal. No force, power, religious system, political regime or law can silence it. And God's Word will continue to witness of His power and majesty forever and ever, amen.

Read or study?

Any serious student can tell you there is a big difference between *reading* and *studying*. We can read the Word of God and let its truths skim the surface or we can **study** the Word of God and plant it deep in our heart. Reading takes a little effort. Studying requires energy, perseverance, and a willingness to learn. Verse 11 lists a crucial aspect of Bible **study**. Readiness.

How do we become ready to study?



1) By opening our minds, 2) By not having made a prior decision the Bible is just a book of stories, 3) By being teachable. The Bereans were teachable. Eager to learn. They did not judge The Book by its cover; they judged it by what's between the covers. They **studied**. The result of their open-minded study of the Bible was ... *many of them believed* ...

Salvation. Redemption. Restoration.

Study.

I cannot study in a noisy room with the television blaring. I need to set the stage for spending time with God—a quiet comfortable place apart from the busyness of the world. I have a small bedroom in my house that serves as my study place. It is furnished with a comfy chair, Bibles, commentaries, colored pencils, notebooks and (of course) electronic devices! Find a quiet place and meet consistently with God.

For today:

It's time to get your **study** on. We are not talking reading the Word, but **studying** the Word. Follow the steps below.

1. **Choose a verse** for today and write it on a note card. Carry it with you wherever you go and pull it out and meditate on it as often as possible.
2. **Study your verse** at www.blueletterbible.org Click on the link to the left, view the short tutorial and invest some time in the Word of God. God will reward you richly for your **study**.
3. **Do your verse**. Pray and ask God to give you the strength and opportunity to be a Doer of the Word.
4. **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to open your mind to the truth of God's Word.

Resources:

To help you organize your daily study and record your experiences, please download and print the following PDF, or download the journal app to your favorite Apple device.

- [To Do-ers List Study Guide PDF](#)
- [Days Lite: My Wonderful Life App](#) free app from App Store.

Extra Resources:

- [Study God's Word: Joyce Meyer](#)

Don't forget to comment on your experience in the comment section below! Choose your verse/s for today and be a Doer of the Word.

School is in session. **Study!**

Previous Sessions of To Do-ers List, Back to School:

[Day 1: New Clothes](#)

[Day 2: The Book](#)

[Day 3: Pack a Lunch](#)

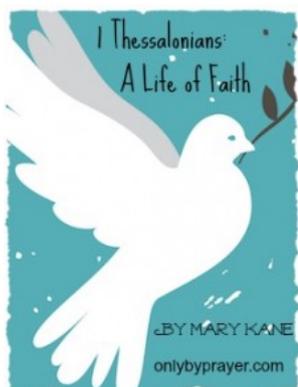
[Day 4: Listen to The Teacher](#)

Mary Kane

all rights reserved

copyright 2015

1 Thessalonians, Part 18: Time and Seasons



What time is it, Honey?

Due to my poor eyesight, I cannot see the digital clock in our bedroom. Every morning, the first thing out of my mouth is an inquiry about the **time**. **Time** is very important to me.

Usually, I wake up every morning around 6:30 a.m. (I am an early riser). After a quick breakfast, I write my schedule for the day.

Bible study 7:30-8:30

Morning walk 8:45-9:45

Housework 10:00-10:05

Write for website 10:05-11:30 ...

You get the idea.

Vacation time

This summer, we vacationed in a little cabin in northern Michigan. Much to my chagrin, the cabin did not have a working clock. I was flabbergasted. How would I be able to schedule my vacation without knowing the time?

At first I struggled with the whole time issue; I never realized how often I checked my phone ... until it didn't work. The internet is dicey at best in northern Michigan. But, after a few days, I sank into a delightful rhythm.

Time?? Who needs to know the **time**? *A pox upon all clocks and time pieces*, I thought with reckless abandon. We ate when we were hungry and slept when we were tired. I was no longer ruled by

the tick

and the tock

of an

unrelenting clock.

The tyranny of time.

While Jesus does not want us to be ruled by the tyranny of **time**, He does want us to have a sense of urgency about the **time and the seasons**. All **time** is moving towards an awe inspiring event – the Day of the Lord. What do the times and seasons tell us about this day? How can we prepare for this crucial event? Please click on the link below for more information.

[1 Thessalonians, Session 18: Time and Seasons](#)

To Do-ers List: Always do Good



Day 6

To Do-ers List: Always do Good

15 "See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people.

16 Always be joyful. 17 Never stop praying."

1 Thessalonians 5:15

There was a saying when I was growing up, "It's payback time." Eye for an eye. Tooth for a tooth. If someone did something to you, you did it back to them and then some. It was the law of the street. One of the problems with paybacks, however, is they never end. The cycle of hatred churns and escalates. Hatfield and McCoys.

Cain and Able.

Notre Dame and Michigan.

Do we even remember what we are fighting about?

God has a different idea.

Do good. **Always do good.** Instead of payback, pay-it-forward. Good for evil. Blessings replace cursing. Help instead of hate. **Always do good.**

Why?

Because that's what God does; it's who He is. It's what He did for us. While we were yet sinners, Jesus died on the cross for us. We were enemies of God by our wicked works and He died for us. What if He had waited for us to do something GOOD until He did something good? He'd still be waiting while we spent eternity in hell.

What is good?

In the Greek, *good* translates as *agathos*, which means *good, pleasant, agreeable, joyful, happy, honorable, upright, excellent*. Part of the word means *sacrifice*. To ***always do good***, we must

[sacrifice our right to be angry, our right to be hurt, and our right to be bitter.](#)



[Tweet This](#)

It's part of the abundant life.

This one is hard for me. Really hard. I learned and lived by the law of the street. I can payback like the rest of 'em. It's a wonderful witness when you *convey a rude gesture* and have a fish sticker on the back of your mini-van. I still struggle with it today. Why? Pride. I'm better. I act better. I think better. How dare you do that to ME. It's ugly and sinful. But, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, I'm making progress.

Long time ago I came across the following maxim:



Satan repays good with evil;

Man repays evil with evil and good with good;

God repays evil with good.

Always do good.

It's a choice we make ... to love instead of hate, to bless instead of curse, to **always do good**. We were created in the image of God. Like Father, like daughter. He is good; therefore, we must **always do good**.

For Today:

Today will be tough. Look for ways to do good to those who aren't good to you. Doing good to another can be a kind deed, graceful words, or prayerful thoughts. Look to do good to everyone, regardless of how they treat you. Do we **always do good** because others deserve it? No, we **always do good** because it's the right thing to do.

Use the To-Doers List Study Guide or a

journaling app to plan and journal your day.

- [To Do-ers List Journal Study Guide PDF](#)
- [Days Lite: My Wonderful Life App](#) free app from App Store.

For ideas on how to always do good, please check the resources below.

- [Overcoming Evil with Good](#)

If you missed a few days, you can catch up by clicking the links below.

[To Do-ers List, Day 1: Love God](#)

[To Do-ers List, Day 2: Love Others](#)

[To Do-ers List, Day 3: Pray 'bout Everything](#)

[To Do-ers List: Day 4: Walk by Faith](#)

[To Do-ers List: Day 5: Word in Me](#)

Please take a moment to pray and ask God for His strength to do good to everyone you meet today (and the people you live with). Don't forget to leave a comment in the comment section below. Please remember, Jane and I have been praying for you. Have a blessed day!

Mary Kane

by Mary Kane

Copyright 2015

all rights reserved

To Do-ers List: Walk by Faith



Day 4

To Do-ers List: Walk by Faith

7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

2 Corinthians 5: 7-9

It was a harrowing time when my sons were learning to walk. My oldest was determined from the beginning to stand on his own

two chunky feet. Staggering from chair to couch to table, he'd continue to lurch and reel until he'd tumble to the ground. Bruised-yes. Vanquished-no. The process continued, day after day, bump after bump, until one day, at the age of nine months Erik could walk.

Learning to walk by faith is also a process.

We stumble.

We stagger.

We fall. Bumped, bruised, and hurt-yes. Vanquished-no. We are not beaten because we fall; we are only beaten if we refuse to rise. We get up and try again. We learn to *walk by faith*.

What does a walk of faith look like?

A *walk of faith* looks like a series of good decisions based on the truth of God's Word.

- A friend invites you to a party. You know your parents would not approve. You also know they will never find out. You say no. *You walk by faith*. "*Children, honor your parents.*"
- Your co-workers are chewing up a colleague no one likes (for good reason) at the lunch table. You change the subject. *You walk by faith*. "*Let no unwholesome talk proceed out of your mouth.*"
- Your husband has asked you to make a pie for tomorrow's work picnic after he has just delivered a five-point lecture on how to park the car. The nerve of him. You make the pie. *You walk by faith*. "*Repay evil with good.*"
- Your sister/spouse/boss/mother-in-law snaps at you

during a conversation. You choose (it takes all your strength) to answer with respect. **You walk by faith.** *“Repay no one evil for evil.”*

- You KNOW God has called you to serve in the new ministry at church. It doesn't make sense – everyone says so. Some say you aren't qualified, skilled, or educated enough to do it. God calls you anyway. You say yes. **You walk by faith.** *“Be on your guard before Him and obey His voice.”*

[Walking by faith is obeying God when it's easier not to.](#)



[Tweet This](#)

Walking by faith is usually scary, uncomfortable, and involves stepping out of the usual. But I have to tell you, I have never regretted a single step of faith. How do we avoid walking by sight? By keeping our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

What is the outcome of walking by faith?



Our faith grows.

The faith of others grows.

Our lives produce fruit.

We are entrusted with greater work.

The greatest benefit of walking by faith is listed in verse 9 ... we please our Father.

For Today:

Make decisions based on faith; not fear, not feelings, not the usual. When faced with a decision today ask yourself, *What would a faithful person do?* And do it.

Use the To-Doers List Study Guide or a journaling app to plan and journal your day.

- [To Do-ers List Journal Page PDF](#)
- [Days Lite: My Wonderful Life App](#) free app from App Store.

For ideas on how to walk by faith, please check the resources below.

- [How Strong is Your Faith?](#)
- [Keeping Faith Strong Through the Summer](#)

Please take a moment to pray and ask God for His strength to walk by faith. Don't forget to leave a comment in the comment section below. Have a blessed day!

Missed a day? Don't worry. Just click on

the links below!

[To Do-ers List, Day 1: Love God](#)

[To Do-ers List, Day 2: Love Others](#)

[To Do-ers List, Day 3: Pray 'bout Everything](#)

Mary Kane

by Mary Kane

Copyright 2015

all rights reserved