

The Crisis of Biblical Illiteracy
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- I was a Boy Scout
 - Scout Oath - On my honor I will do my best, To do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.
 - Scout Law - A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.
- Before earning a rank you have to go to a Board of Review where you need to recite both the Oath and the Law.
- I am horrible at memorization. I spent my entire week at Boy Scout camp memorizing the Oath and Law. At every meal, during every free time, around the clock – I practically ate the Scout Oath and Law.
- With a lot of work – I made it through. In hindsight the board of reviews might not have been so tough.
 - My friend Justin holding his breath until he passed out.
 - Boy scouts are weird.
- Ride home from Camp.
 - VW Bus, Seats and a Table, Engine under the seat.
 - Card Game, Playing Cards, Skip-Bo Cards
 - Knife to my Throat
 - A Scout is Brave
 - There is truth to the phrase, “You are what you eat.”
 - That week I ate the Scout Oath and the Scout Law; all but literally.

And in a moment of trial what came out of me was the Scout Law.
- Today, Dan read a section of scripture where Jesus faces three temptations.
 - The Greek Word for Temptation can also be translated Trial.

- And Jesus rebukes these temptations with the power of Scripture.
- I faced my trial with the scout law, Jesus faced his with scripture.
- Let's take another look at that passage.
 - Jesus responds with Deut. 8:3
 - Satan gets clever and responds with Psalm 91:11,12
 - Jesus responds to the next temptation with Deut. 6:16
 - Jesus responds with Deut. 6:13
- Christians, when we face temptations and trials, my hope is that what comes out of us is Scripture.
 - You are what you eat; eat this book.
- Jesus did not know this scripture because of some supernatural power.
 - He knew scripture because early education was the memorization of the Pentatuch, of which Deuteronomy is a part.
- The fact is Jesus knew scripture, because he valued scripture.
- We're told this in Luke 2; the only story of Jesus as a boy.
 - Jesus goes missing
 - He's found in the temple; studying with the teachers.
 - After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. – Luke 2:46-47
 - You are what you eat. Jesus ate this book, and was able to call on it for help.
- The idea of eating scripture is found in other places:
- **Ezekiel 3:1** - And he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel."
- **Jeremiah 15:16** - When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty.
- **Revelation 10:9** - So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but 'in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.'"
 - The Jeremiah passage kills me.

- Biola professor Kenneth Berding recently wrote an article called the Crisis of Biblical Illiteracy. In that book he uses the illustration of a woman, Stacy Irvine, who collapsed after eating nothing but Chicken McNuggets for 15 years. Berding, argues, that like Stacy, we are living on junk food.
- Berding writes: “Christians used to be known as “people of one book.” Sure, they read, studied and shared other books. But the book they cared about more than all others combined was the Bible. They memorized it, meditated on it, talked about it and taught it to others. We don’t do that anymore, and in a very real sense we’re starving ourselves to death.”
- Berding knows this not only because the latest Gallup polls show that biblical literacy is at a record low
- But because as a professor at a Christian college he sees it,
 - “I remember a student — not a new believer — who asked a question after class about Saul’s conversion in Acts 9. She wanted to know whether this was the same Saul who was king over Israel. No. King Saul’s story is found in the Old Testament; the Saul of Acts — also known as Paul — is found in the New Testament.”
- This would not have happened at any other time in church history. The modern church is starving ourselves to death. We are starving... I am starving.
- In the book of Amos, people who experienced a “famine of hearing the words of the Lord” are portrayed as undergoing divine judgment. Amos paints a picture of people without access to God’s revelation searching for a message from God like desperate people — hungry and dehydrated — in search of food and water (Amos 8:11–12). In Amos they want it, but are not permitted it. In our case, although we have unlimited access, we often don’t want it.
- I want us to first and hunger for scripture like that.

- I tell you today that you are what you eat: eat this book.
- Remember that Jeremiah verse: When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty.
- Friends, we have got to become people who take scripture seriously.
 - We have got to delight in scripture.
 - We have got to arm ourselves with scripture.
 - We have got to eat this book, because you are what you eat.
- Houseboats