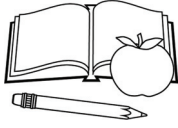




*Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart...
I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.*
Psalm 119

Dear Friends in Christ,



Here we are... September... Back to School time...
Whether we're young or old, a parent, a student, a teacher,
or even body and soul nowhere near an institution of
learning, Back to School time touches us all.

There's an excitement in the air, of new adventures, new possibilities, and a sense that it's time to let go of the long summer laze, and start to get back to business, whatever ours is. Now is an especially apt time to remember our call to be disciples... that's *disciples*, from the Latin word *discipuli*, meaning... students!

Christians, followers of Christ, are called to be steeped in the Word:
in Christ, the living Word of God, and, the word of God revealed to us in the bible...
that's THE BIBLE... the most amazing collection of words ever bound together... the
story of the redemption of the entire human race!



The most important book to us in this Back to School time, and every other time, is the bible, the inspired story of humanity's relationship to God, and the unfolding of God's children (*us!*) from sin and eternal death. If that's not exciting enough, I can assure you, there's something in the bible for everyone—history, poetry, philosophy, doctrine, ethics, excitement, adventure, inspiration, intrigue, humor, guidance, hope, amazement, grace... (Seriously, I could go on here for a reaaaaally long time). There is no book like this. Anywhere. Ever.

The bible is God's gift to us. An endowment of priceless value. As relevant today as millennia ago. It will challenge us. It will show us the way of real peace. It will draw us closer to God. It will enfold us in God's love. It will save our lives. *If we learn it.*

Now's the time to get back to the business of being a disciple, a student. Pick up the bible. Pray for understanding before you read.
Read. Ponder. Pray some more. And call me with questions.
Blessed reading, my friends.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Diane