



By William E. Hull

In the summer of 1973, the legendary folk singer Johnny Cash handed his eighteen year old daughter Rosanne a sheet of yellow lined paper on which he had listed "100 Essential Country Songs." Discussing with his daughter the launching of her own musical career, he had become alarmed at the songs she didn't know, and so he set about to identify the best of what he had spent his life singing to leave as a legacy, lest this heritage be forgotten.

At first Rosanne laid the list aside as she forged her own vocational pathway. It lay forgotten in a box of memorabilia until she happened upon it in 2005. Soon her fans began to ask when she was going to record the songs selected by her father, a suggestion she at first rejected in order to concentrate on her work as a songwriter. Finally her husband convinced her to begin the project and now we have the hit CD appropriately entitled "The List" containing twelve of the songs that her father had chosen.

Borrowing from the concern of Johnny Cash that at least "100 Essential Country Songs" not be forgotten, is it not infinitely more important that at least "100 Essential Scripture Passages" not be forgotten? Just as Cash looked back over a lifetime of singing to make his musical selections, so I have looked back over a lifetime of teaching and preaching the Bible to make my scriptural selections, the results of which you see in this brochure.

Admittedly my choices are personal, but if you think of passages more meaningful to your spiritual life than the ones I picked, make substitutions and eventually the list will become yours rather than mine. But how can only 100 passages containing 2,184 verses do justice to the totality of Scripture with 31,101 verses? Here, the idea behind the word "Essential" is to provide a core, comprising only seven percent of the Bible's total content, in the hope that mastery of these pivotal passages will inspire you to study all the rest!

Even a summary effort such as this can be facilitated by a systematic plan, so let me suggest one for your consideration. These 100 passages average twenty-two verses, each which can be read carefully, thoughtfully, and prayerfully in ten minutes or less. Surely you can budget that much time each day for one of these passages even when the hectic pace of life competes for attention at every moment. I have arranged the passages in their biblical sequence so that reading them consecutively will give some sense of the sweep of Scripture. This is the finest legacy I can offer. And it is yours for the taking.



In 2008, my father in law, Dr. William Hull, was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Over the course of 5 ½ years, until his death on December 10, 2013, many people sought to glean as much of his biblical knowledge as they could. There were days that students, dear friends, and family would sit with him in his study, talking and discussing passages of scripture, current events, and family lore. Those last years provided a treasure trove of his love and knowledge. As he was nearing his death and knowing the story of Johnny Cash and his daughter Rosanne, my husband, David, asked his father to share his own list of what he considered to be the 100 Essential Scripture Passages.

David reflects about his father:

For the last sixty years my Dad has been preaching and teaching the Scriptures in churches, seminaries, and colleges. His work as a biblical scholar, pastoral preacher, and administrative leader gives him a unique perspective to offer a list of 100 Essential Scripture Passages.



Here are some suggestions for a special season in the life of Union Christian Church as we enter 2019.

1. Begin on **January 12** and read one passage per day. Let these words of scripture lead you into a time of prayer. Discuss what you are reading each day with family and friends. The 100 passages will take you from **January 12** until **Easter**. If we all set out on such a journey, this would make an enriching time of spiritual renewal for us individually and as a church.
2. As we enter the New Year, we will spend some time together walking through these 100 Essential Scripture Passages. You have already selected your favorite passages and you will see them listed in this brochure. I will preach on the eight passages that have been most requested by the church. Our worship together as a community will hopefully strengthen our private devotions and daily reading over these months.

I am so grateful for THE LIST. I invite you to make a sacred journey through these verses in the hope that we will all be blessed by the music of God's grace.

Pastor Jane

The List

100 Essential Scripture Passages

1. Genesis 1:1 – 2:3
2. Genesis 3:1-24
3. Genesis 18:1-15
4. Genesis 28:10-22;
32:22-31
5. Genesis 42:1-5; 43:1-9;
44:18 – 45:5
6. Exodus 2:23 – 3:15
7. Exodus 20:1-17
8. Joshua 1:1-18
9. Judges 7:1-23
10. 1 Samuel 3:1 – 4:1a
11. 1 Samuel 17:1-11,
32-54
12. 1 Kings 8:22-30, 54-61
13. 1 Kings 19:1-18
14. Ezra 9:5-15
15. Nehemiah 8:1-12
16. Job 38:1-18; 40:1-9;
42:1-6
17. Psalm 8:1-9
18. Psalm 23:1-6
19. Psalm 32:1-11
20. Psalm 51:1-17
21. Psalm 73:1-28
22. Psalm 90:1-17
23. Psalm 139:1-24
24. Proverbs 2:1-22
25. Proverbs 3:1-35
26. Proverbs 8:1-36
27. Isaiah 6:1-8
28. Isaiah 35:1-10
29. Isaiah 40:1-31
30. Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12
31. Jeremiah 7:1-15
32. Ezekiel 37:1-14
33. Daniel 6:1-28
34. Hosea 1:2-9; 3:1-5
35. Hosea 11:1-11
36. Amos 5:4-24
37. Jonah 1:1-10; 3:1-10
38. Micah 6:1-16
39. Habakkuk 2:1-14
40. Malachi 3:1-12, 16 – 4:6
41. Matthew 3:13 – 4:22
42. Matthew 5:1-16
43. Matthew 6:1-18
44. Matthew 25:31-46
45. Matthew 28:1-20
46. Mark 2:1 – 3:6
47. Mark 4:1-34
48. Mark 8:27 – 9:8
49. Mark 11:1-24
50. Mark 14:22-42
51. Luke 4:14-44
52. Luke 10:25-37
53. Luke 15:1-32
54. Luke 23:33-49
55. Luke 24:13-35
56. John 1:1-18
57. John 3:1-21
58. John 6:35-65
59. John 11:1-44
60. John 13:33 – 14:27
61. John 17:1-26
62. John 20:1-31
63. Acts 2:1-47
64. Acts 9:1-30
65. Acts 15:1-35
66. Acts 20:17-35
67. Romans 6:1-23

68. Romans 8:1-39
69. Romans 12:1-21
70. 1 Corinthians 12:4-27
71. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
72. 1 Corinthians 15:1-58
73. 2 Corinthians 4:1-18
74. 2 Cor. 5:11 – 6:10
75. Galatians 5:13 – 6:10
76. Ephesians 2:1-22
77. Ephesians 4:1-16
78. Ephesians 6:10-20
79. Philippians 2:1-18
80. Philippians 3:4 – 4:1
81. Colossians 1:3-23
82. 1 Thess. 4:13 – 5:11
83. 2 Thess. 3:1-3
84. 1 Timothy 6:2b-19
85. 2 Timothy 2:1-19
86. Titus 2:11 – 3:8
87. Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10
88. Hebrews 11:1-40
89. Hebrews 12:1-29
90. James 2:1-26
91. James 1:26-27; 3:1-12
92. 1 Peter 1:13 – 2:10
93. 1 Peter 3:8-17
94. 1 Peter 4:7-19
95. 2 Peter 1:2-11
96. 1 John 4:7-21
97. Revelation 1:9-11;
2:1-29
98. Revelation 3:1-22
99. Revelation 5:6-14;
19:1-10
100. Revelation 21:1-7;
22:1-5

Union's Top Selected Scriptures

Psalm 23:1-6
Matthew 5:1-16
John 3:1-21
Acts 2:1-47
Romans 8:1-39
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Hebrews 11:1-40
1 John 4:7-21