

“For the Love of God (vol. 1 & 2)” by D.A. Carson

Many of you may try to spend some time each day doing some devotional reading from the Scriptures. I’ve enjoyed doing that as the day begins with “For the Love of God” by D.A. Carson. The book is laid out on a calendar basis with a reading plan that includes four sections of Scripture each day. If one follows the reading schedule (which Carson strongly urges) he will read the NT and Psalms twice and the rest of the Scriptures once in a year. With each set of daily readings, Carson includes a reflection on one of the four readings. Carson expresses his goals in this way:

“In no way do these pages pretend to be a commentary as that word is commonly understood. My aim is much more modest: to provide edifying comments and reflections on some part of the designated texts, and thus to encourage readers to reflect further on the biblical passages they are reading. If there is something unusual about these comments, it is that I have tried to devote at least some of them to helping the reader keep the big picture of the Bible’s “story line” in mind, and to see what relevance this has for our thinking and living. In other words, although I want the comments to be edifying, this edification is not always of a private, individualized sort. My aim is to show, in however preliminary a way, that reading the whole Bible must stir up thoughtful Christians to thinking theologically and holistically, as well as reverently and humbly¹”

Even if you use another reading plan for your daily reading, I think you will enjoy Carson’s work. I have found his comments insightful and often have cut and pasted something from his devotional as a starter for a sermon. Carson is emeritus professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois, and cofounder and theologian-at-large of The Gospel Coalition. His observations, though reflecting a scholar’s point of view, are often very helpful in understanding the text being reviewed and offer practical insights for teaching. These volumes are available from Logos Bible Software Library.

¹ D. A. Carson, [*For the Love of God: A Daily Companion for Discovering the Riches of God’s Word.*](#), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1998), 13.