

A LOVE LETTER TO YOU

Mortimer Jerome Adler, a native of New York City, was a philosopher, educator and author of five books.

In his famous volume *How to Read a Book*, he notes the one time when everyone reads as they should – when reading a love letter.

They read it over and over, he said, between the lines and in the margins, taking into account context, insinuation and implication.

Words, phrases, punctuation and style – all are important to the person in love. A love letter is the most cherished writing in the world – to the recipient, at least.

Isn't it ironic, however, that the world's greatest love letter has not been more cherished by those to whom it was written? The Bible can be rightly viewed as God's love letter to mankind – a disclosure of His love, a record of His sacrifice for His beloved bride (the church), a promise of His faithfulness and fidelity.

Writing on this subject in his book *Turning Points*, Dr. David Jeremiah, pastor of the Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California, asked: "How many of us still have shoeboxes filled with letters and cards from the days of our courtship, still savored after so many years? Our hearts and passions are stirred afresh when we read them, just as they would be if we pored over God's letter to us with equal fervor."



Then Dr. Jeremiah issued a challenge: "Next time you open your Bible, read it as a love letter from God to you and see what a difference it makes."

In February, the month featuring Valentine's Day, when love letters and Valentine cards will be flying, let's accept the pastor's challenge. To give God's words the honor they are due is to cherish them above all others.

How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth (Psalm 119:103 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter