Ding

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Scripture: Psalm 119: 97-105
Idea: *God has texted us. We should probably read it.*

Say this with me, "If I could see as God sees, I would do as God says."

Introduction

1. There was a time when you would be at home and the phone would ring and you would say (or your parents would say): "Let it ring, they'll call back." Then your parents would say, "Let it ring. The answering machine will get it."

2. In the olden days, it was easy to focus on what was at hand—pong, dinner, people in the room—and ignore the unknown caller.

3. Then we started texting . . . and we can't ignore a text.

4. And understandably so: a text is always personal; it's from someone you know and who knows you. No spam yet. No wrong numbers. It's short; it's relevant; it might be an emergency. It's instant. You don't want to miss something important. It's convenient. And best of all, you can get information without having to respond immediately. You are "in control." You won't get drawn into something you don't have time for.

5. The assumption is that we'll read 'em. People don't ask, "Did you read my text?" They ask, "Did you get my text?" Of course you read it!

6. And here's something I've never heard. "I got your text, but I didn't read it. I don't really like to read. Could you just call me? I like to talk."

7. Most texts are not that important.

8. Most of us grew up around a *text* that had we read and applied it would have enabled us to avoid our greatest regrets. Would have saved us a lot of money. Would have informed our relationship decisions, career decisions, and all kinds of things.

9. Like the texts you will receive this next week . . . or during this message . . . it's personal, it's relevant, it's from someone who knows you, who created you, who understands your emotional makeup, who knows how your past is impacting your present.

[Pull out Bible]

10. And whereas this *[Hold up phone]* needs charging every other day, this *[Hold up Bible]* never does.

11. This text message that so many people have high regard for, but is rarely read, contains a perspective that reflects the way God views just about everything.

SAMPLE

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Text #1
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