

For all its vast diversity and unevenness, [the Bible] is a book with a plot and a plot that can be readily stated. God makes the world in love. For one reason or another the world chooses to reject God. God will not reject the world, but continues his mysterious and relentless pursuit of it to the end of time. That is what he is doing by choosing Israel to be his special people. That is what he is doing through all the passion and poetry and invective of the prophets. That is why history plays such a crucial role in the Old Testament – all those kings and renegades and battles and invasions and apostasies – because it was precisely through people like that and events like those that God was at work, as, later, in the New Testament, he was supremely at work in the person and event of Jesus Christ. Only ‘is at work’ would be the more accurate way of putting it because if there is a God who works at all, his work goes on still, of course, and at one and the same time the Biblical past not only illumines the present but becomes itself part of that present, part of our own individual pasts. Until you can read the story of Adam and Eve, of Abraham and Sarah, of David and Bathsheba, as your own story, Muilenburg said, you have not really understood it. The Bible ... is a book finally about ourselves ...

-- **Henri Nouwen, Now and Then**

CHECKING OUT THE BIBLE

February 27, 2019

Rev. John Fanestil

INTRODUCTION

1. *The Bible as a Library*

THE DIVERSITY OF THE BIBLE

2. *The Books (& Shelves) of the Old Testament*
3. *The Books (& Shelves) of the New Testament*

THE UNITY OF THE BIBLE

4. *The Formation of the Scriptures*
5. *The Printing of the Bible*

THE BIBLE IN AMERICAN CONTEXT

6. *The (Protestant) Origins of American Culture*
7. *Modernism, Fundamentalism and Beyond*

CONCLUSION

8. *Living the Bible*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Today

- *Lunch, Conversation, Communion*

Wednesday, March 6, 10:30 am

- *General Conference Debrief with Phil Amerson & John Fanestil*
- *Imposition of Ashes (Ash Wednesday)*

Wednesday, March 13, 10:30 am

- *First Session: THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT with Phil Amerson*

WITH WHAT LENS WILL YOU READ IT?

MY FAVORITE BIBLE:

MY FAVORITE TRANSLATION:

MY FAVORITE BOOK:

MY FAVORITE CHARACTER:

MY FAVORITE VERSE:

MY FAVORITE "SAINT":

CHECKING OUT THE BIBLE

WHAT I PLAN TO READ NEXT:

WHEN I PLAN TO READ IT:

WHO WILL I READ IT WITH?

WHAT QUESTIONS WILL I BRING TO MY
READING?

WHAT GIFT DO I HOPE TO RECEIVE?