



■ † **Eighth Sunday of St. Luke**

Reading Holy Scripture
with attention, discernment, and love*

To the man who asked how to be saved, the Lord on His part posed a question: “**What is written in the law? How readest thou?**” (St Luke 10:26).

In this way He showed that to resolve all perplexity one



must turn to the word of God. And for there to be no such perplexity at all, it is best always to read Holy Scripture **with attention, discernment and love, applying it to your own life**, and fulfilling in your own thoughts what relates to thoughts, in your own feelings and dispositions what relates to the senses, and in your deeds what relates to deeds.

One who hearkens to the word of God receives illumined understanding of all that is in him, around him, and above him. He clarifies his obligations in all aspects of life, and sacred principles, like precious pearls, are strung onto the thread of his conscience, which in turn precisely and definitely indicates how and when to act so that he might please the Lord. He tames the passions, which the reading of the word of God always acts to assuage. **No matter what passion troubles you, begin to read the word of God and the passion will become quieter and quieter, and at last it will be entirely calmed.** He who enriches himself through knowledge of the word of God is overshadowed by the pillar of cloud which guided the Israelites in the desert.



(*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God.*