

RESTORE
J. VERNON McGEE
Saturday, June 6
Reading: Psalm 34:8-15

John Vernon McGee¹ was born in Hillsboro, Texas on June 17, 1904 to a hard working but poor family. His father died in a cotton mill accident when Vernon was 14 and the family then moved to Tennessee. Through the help of various mentors, including the bank manager for whom he had worked, McGee was able to receive degrees from Southwestern University in Memphis, Columbia Theological Seminary, and Dallas Theological Seminary. He pastored several churches before moving back to Texas to pastor a church in Cleburne. It was here that he met Ruth Inez Jordan and fell in love at first sight. He proposed on their second date and they were married a year later.

In 1940, Dr. McGee was called to pastor Lincoln Avenue Presbyterian Church in Pasadena, California. The next year he was asked to broadcast weekly on a local radio station. In 1949, the once-a-week program became a daily half-hour program. Also in that year, Dr. McGee was called to pastor the Church of the Open Door in downtown Los Angeles where he served for the next 21 years. In 1965, McGee had cancer surgery and the doctors gave him only six months to live. But God had other plans and he lived for another 23 years.

In 1967, McGee began to broadcast what he called “The Bible Bus” on the radio. From messages recorded at his church, he took listeners on a systematic study of every book in the Bible in 2½ years. After he retired from the pastorate in 1970, he focused his time on the *Thru the Bible* radio program. Realizing that 2½ years was not enough time to teach the whole Bible, he began a 5-year study of every book of the Bible with his listeners. The goal was that these messages would continue to be broadcasted even after Dr. McGee was gone. McGee would often say, “Just play the tapes until the money runs out.”

On December 1, 1988, J. Vernon McGee fell asleep in his chair and awoke in the presence of Jesus. At the time of his death, the *Thru the Bible* radio program was broadcast in 34 languages. Today, *Thru the Bible* is heard around the world in over 120 languages on radio, shortwave, and the internet. You can listen to Dr. McGee on over 800 radio stations in North America every weekday. You can also purchase commentaries with his teaching covering the entire Bible. The ministry provides resources and study guides so you can follow along each day with the radio broadcasts.

The ministry still follows their founder’s vision of “The whole Word to the whole world.” Dr. McGee often said, “The great sin of the average Christian is ignorance of the Word of God.”² The goal of the life and ministry of J. Vernon McGee was to remedy this problem. It is by a serious study and application of the Word of God that we are truly blessed. And so I conclude the way Dr. McGee closed all his broadcasts, “May God richly bless you, my beloved.”

¹ <https://ttb.org/about/dr-j-vernon-mcgee>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Vernon_McGee

² https://www.azquotes.com/author/20247-J_Vernon_McGee