

How To Study The Bible

Lesson 2

Memorize (Select One) –

- ✓ Acts 17:11 - Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.
- ✓ II Timothy 2:15 – Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

The Christian's growth, usefulness, spiritual strength, influence, joy, and victory over temptation all require a knowledge and application of the Scriptures. Five methods of learning the Scriptures are:

- ◆ Hearing (Romans 10:17)
- ◆ Reading (Revelation 1:3)
- ◆ Studying (II Timothy 2:15)
- ◆ Memorization (Psalm 119:11)
- ◆ Meditation (Psalm 1:2 & 3)

Each of the above play an important part for the truths of the Scriptures implemented into the life of the Christian.

I. Hearing God's Word

A primary means of hearing the Word is with others when the church assembles for worship. This is a time to hear the Word both read and explained (I Timothy 4:13).

II. Reading God's Word

It has been well said that the Bible is worthy of the careful reading of a biblical detective, searching for clues as to the meaning of the text. Reading to observe is where Bible study begins. Four things to look for when reading are:

- Commands to be obeyed _____
- Promises to claim _____
- Warnings to heed _____

- Truths about God

I John 5:21 Luke 10:27 Matthew 5:9 Hebrews 12:29
(Match the verses to the above).

A plan for daily reading can be found in most study Bibles.

III. Studying God's Word

Bible study is more than reading, it involves 3 basic steps:

OBSERVATION – What do I see (as I carefully read)

INTERPRETATION – What does it mean (by what it says)

APPLICATION – How does it work (in my life)

From Ezra 7:10, for what reason did Ezra set his heart to study God's Word?

According to Acts 17:11, how did the Bereans receive the Word?

A. Key principles of interpretation are:

1. Remembering that there is only one correct interpretation of any particular passage – what the author meant by what the author said.
2. Always interpret a passage in its context. The verse before and after the passage you are studying. The context of the paragraph and purpose of the section as a whole.
3. Comparing Scripture with Scripture. Is the interpretation of the passage consistent with the rest of the Bible? Consult the cross references in your study Bible.
4. Determine the definition of key words, especially verbs.
5. Use Bible study tools such as:

- Bible Dictionary
- Bible Concordance
- Bible Handbook
- Bible Encyclopedia
- Bible Commentary
- Bible Study Software

IV. Memorizing God's Word

A. How did God command Israel to remember His Word?

1. Deuteronomy 11:18a _____.
2. Deuteronomy 11:19 _____.

B. Read Matthew 4:3 – 10. During Christ's confrontation with Satan, how did He overcome His temptation?

V. Meditation Upon God's Word

Meditation is the prayerful reflection on Scripture with the goal of life transformation.

*"How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he _____
_____. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers."
Psalm 1:1-3*

✓ According to James 1:22, describe the Christian who avoids self-delusion? _____.
The ultimate goal of Bible study is not to do something to the Bible but to allow the Bible to do something to you!

VI. Maligning God's Word

A. *Allegorize or Spiritualize the Bible*

This is done by finding or forcing a wrong meaning into the Bible and missing the intended meaning.

B. *Attempt Application Without Study*

It is impossible to know how the Bible works until you know what the Bible says and means. Don't put the _____ before the horse!

C. *Relying Only on Secondary Sources*

There is no substitute for your own personal intake of God's Word. Read the Bible, learn and study first on your own. Then learn and benefit from others.

D. *Cram an Opinion into the Bible*

Avoid making the Bible say something you want it to say, rather than what it does say. Most error (false doctrine) begins with an intended "truth" that gets crammed into a passage. This is called "isogesus" and it is the most common way that God's Word is maligned.

E. *Isolate a Passage Out From its Content*

Always interpret Scripture in light of Scripture. A text isolated from its context will easily become a false pretext. The Bible must be studied inductively, from the part to the whole. Every verse in the Bible has a context that aids you in the proper understanding of that particular passage.

"Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His Words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar." – Proverbs 30:5 & 6