

How to Study the Bible: Session 1

WHAT Bible We Study...

“The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous.

*They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.*

By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.”

(Psalm 19:7-11, NIV)

- The Word is **perfect**.
- The Word is relevant.
- The Word is **good**.
- The Word is clear.
- The Word is eternal.
- The Word is true.
- The Word is **available**.
 - ▶ The need for translations...
 - + Total world languages: 6,912.
 - + Languages with no Bible: **2,286**.
 - ▶ The question of translations...
 - + Which translation should I use?
 - + Look at the **process** behind the translation.
 - ▶ The process of translation...
 - + A **Divine** Author.
 - + Human Authors.
 - + Original Text.
 - + **Copies** of the Original Text.
 - + Critical Text.
 - + Translator or Translation **Team**.
 - + Translation.
 - + Contemporary Reader.
 - ▶ The continuum of translations...
 - + The Formal Approach: “**word**-for-word.”
 - + The Functional Approach: “**thought**-for-thought.”
 - ▶ A recommendation for English translations...
 - + New International Version
 - + English Standard Version
 - + New American Standard Bible

WHY We Don't Study The Bible...

- “I don't see how the Bible really **applies** to my life.”
- “I've **tried**, but I just don't know how to study the Bible.”
- “I'm not a professional; isn't that the **pastor's** job?”
- “I just don't have **time**.”
- “I'm not sure if the Bible is even **true**.”
- “To be honest, it just seems **boring** to me.”

WHY We Must Study the Bible...

- Because it's essential for spiritual **growth**.

*“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk,
so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.”
(1 Peter 2:2, NIV)*

- ▶ We need it.
- ▶ We **want** it.
- ▶ We can't grow up without it.

- Because it's essential for spiritual **maturity**.

*“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”
(Hebrews 5:11-14, NIV)*

- Because it's essential for spiritual **effectiveness**.

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
(2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV)*

WHO Can Study the Bible?

- **Anyone** can study the Bible.
- Only those who have the Spirit of Christ can **understand** the Bible.

“We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

(1 Corinthians 2:12-14, NIV)

- ▶ The Spirit **inspired** the Word.
- ▶ The Spirit illuminates the Word.
- ▶ The Spirit **instructs** us in the Word.

So HOW Do We Study The Bible?

- Study the Bible Prayerfully.
 - ▶ We NEVER study the Bible alone.
- Study the Bible **Humbly**.
 - ▶ Do you really want to know Him?
- Study the Bible **Carefully**.
 - ▶ We want to understand the text rightly.
- Study the Bible Joyfully.
 - ▶ Bible study involves the thrill of personal discovery.
- Study the Bible **Simply**.
 - ▶ You, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit...
 - ▶ If you can read, you can study.
- Study the Bible Confidently.
 - ▶ The Holy Spirit is in you to enable you to do this!
- Study the Bible Consistently.
 - ▶ We need to be equipped to study every text of every book.
- Study the Bible **Diligently**.
 - ▶ Learning to study the Bible will not happen overnight.
- Study the Bible Intentionally.
 - ▶ Always study with a notebook and pen/pencil in hand.
- Study the Bible **Personally**.
 - ▶ You will fall in love with the Author of the Book.
 - ▶ You will find true life under the authority of the Book.

DANGEROUS APPROACHES TO BIBLE STUDY...

- The emotional approach.
 - ▶ What **feels** right to me?
- The spiritual approach.
 - ▶ What deep, hidden meaning is there for me?