



How to Study the Bible

The Plea for Bible Study

I. THE FAMINE OF BIBLE STUDY

A. A Survey of Bible Reading

1. A survey entitled “*Protestants, Catholics and Mormons Reflect Diverse Levels of Religious Activity*” was done by *The Barna Group of Ventura, California* (www.barna.org) in the year 2001. This survey provided the percentages of religious people who **read** their Bible in the past seven days other than while at church.
2. By religious group
 - a. Adventist = 49%
 - b. Assembly of God = 66%
 - c. Baptist of any type = 55%
 - d. Catholics = 23%
 - e. Church of Christ = 53%
 - f. Episcopal = 30%
 - g. Lutheran = 32%
 - h. Methodist = 43%
 - i. Mormons = 67%
 - j. Nondenominational = 66%
 - k. Pentecostal = 75%
 - l. Presbyterian = 48%
3. A more recent survey (2015) found that 45% of regular church goers read the Bible more than once a week; 40% read the Bible once or twice a month; and 20% NEVER read the Bible.

B. The Absence of Private Bible Reading and Bible Study

1. We are to give attendance to **reading** the Bible (1 Timothy 4:13).
 - a. 1 Timothy 4:13 (New International Version) Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.
 - b. 1 Timothy 4:13 (New American Standard Bible) Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.
 - c. 1 Timothy 4:13 (Contemporary English Version) Until I arrive, be sure to keep on reading the Scriptures in worship, and don't stop preaching and teaching.
 - d. 1 Timothy 4:13 (Holman Christian Standard Bible) Until I come, give your attention to public reading, exhortation, and teaching.
 - e. 1 Timothy 4:13 (New International Reader's Version) Until I come, spend your time reading Scripture out loud to one another. Spend your time preaching and teaching.



2. We are also to **study** the scriptures (2 Timothy 2:15).
 - a. 2 Timothy 2:15 (New International Version) Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
 - b. 2 Timothy 2:15 (New American Standard Bible) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.
 - c. 2 Timothy 2:15 (Contemporary English Version) Do your best to win God's approval as a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed and who teaches only the true message.
 - d. 2 Timothy 2:15 (New King James Version) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 - e. 2 Timothy 2:15 (Holman Christian Standard Bible) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.

C. The End of This Movement

1. The events moving away from Rome
 - a. "If God preserves my life, I will cause a boy that driveth a plow to know more of the Scriptures than the pope." – William Tyndale
 - b. With the publishing of the King James Bible it was said that "The Reformers dethroned the Pope and enthroned the Bible." – *God's Secretaries – The Making of the King James Bible*
2. The events leading back to Rome
 - a. Dependency upon the original languages for Biblical understanding
 - b. Dependency upon the preacher for Biblical understanding
3. Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: (Amos 8:11)

II. THE FAMINE OF SOUND BIBLE FAMILIES

- A. The Role of the Man
- B. The Role of the Woman
- C. The Rearing of Children

III. THE FAMINE OF SOUND BIBLE TEACHING AND PREACHING

- A. Replaced with Social Issues or Self Help
- B. Replaced with Man's Teaching (Mark 7:13; 2 Timothy 2:2; Colossians 2:8)
- C. Replaced with the Dreams and Visions of Men (Jeremiah 23:16-17)
- D. Replaced with Standards and Convictions



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The Purpose for Bible Study

- I. FOR PROFIT (Joshua 1:8)
 - A. Psalm 19:7-11
 - 1. Converting the soul (Psalm 19:7)
 - 2. Making wise the simple (Psalm 19:7)
 - 3. Rejoicing the heart (Psalm 19:8)
 - 4. Enlightening the eyes (Psalm 19:8)
 - 5. Warning the servant (Psalm 19:11)
 - 6. Offering great rewards (Psalm 19:11)
 - B. Psalm 119
 - 1. The removal of shame (Psalm 119:6)
 - 2. The cleansing of a man's ways (Psalm 119:9)
 - 3. The withholding from sin (Psalm 119:11)
 - 4. The provision of delight and counsel (Psalm 119:24)
 - 5. Strength (Psalm 119:28)
 - 6. Liberty (Psalm 119:45)
 - 7. Comfort (Psalm 119:50)
 - 8. A song in the house of pilgrimage (Psalm 119:54)
 - 9. Wisdom (Psalm 119:98)
 - 10. Understanding (Psalm 119:99-100, 104)
 - 11. A lamp and a light (Psalm 119:105)
 - 12. Rejoicing (Psalm 119:162)
- II. FOR PERFECTING (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - A. For Doctrine—Teachings
 - 1. Concerning Christ and Salvation (John 5:39, 46)
 - 2. Concerning Truth (Matthew 22:29; Acts 17:10-11)
 - B. For Reproof—Enlightenment of Error
 - C. For Correction—Enlightenment of Righteousness
 - D. For Instruction in Righteousness—Instruction Needed to Do Right
 - E. The Perfecting of the Believer—Growth of a Believer (2 Peter 3:18)
 - F. The Furnishing of the Believer—Equipping for Obedience



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The Preparation for Bible Study

I. MENTAL PREPARATION

A. A Ready Mind (Acts 17:11)

B. A Focused Mind

1. Moses (Exodus 3:1-4)
2. Samuel (1 Samuel 3:7-10)
3. Enoch (Genesis 5:21-24)
4. Paul (Galatians 1:11-17)

II. SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

A. Make Sure of Your Salvation (1 Corinthians 2:14)

1. The Spirit of God is the teacher (John 14:26; John 16:13).
2. Without the Spirit of God, a man is a natural man and cannot fully grasp the truth of the word of God (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:14).

B. Pray Before Studying (Psalm 25:4-5)

1. For open eyes (Psalm 119:18; Ephesians 1:18)
2. For open ears
 - a. The phrase “ears to hear” is found ten times and is always connected to learning truth.
 - b. A similar wording is used at the end of the letters to the churches of Asia Minor (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; Revelation 3:6, 13, 22).
 - c. Israel could not grasp the identity of Christ because of a hearing problem (Matthew 13:15).
 - d. The Lord can open the ears of man (Job 33:14-18).
 - e. The ears are given by God for the purpose of hearing and hearing leads to faith (Romans 10:17).
3. For a prepared heart
 - a. An unprepared heart was behind Israel’s rejection of the Messiah (Matthew 13:15).
 - b. The parable of the sower likens the soil of the ground to the heart of a man (Mark 4:15).
 - c. A hardened heart hinders:
 - (1) A man’s knowledge (Psalm 95:7-10; Mark 8:17)
 - (2) Faith (Mark 16:14)
 - (3) Hearing (Hebrews 4:7)



C. Receive the Lessons

1. Receive the lessons from God's mouth (Job 22:22).
2. Receive the lessons without murmuring (Isaiah 29:24).
3. Receive the commandments (Proverbs 10:8; Proverbs 21:11).

D. Love of the Saviour (John 14:21)

1. Notice the triangle of events.
 - a. He that hath my commandments
 - b. He keepeth them.
 - c. He it is that loves the Lord.
2. The Lord will manifest Himself to that man.

E. Obedience

1. A man's understanding is dependent upon his obedience to what he knows (Psalm 119:100).
2. Doing the will of the Father yields a knowledge of His doctrine (John 7:17).

F. Praise

1. The psalmist approached the Lord with praise and asked to be taught (Psalm 119:12, 68).
2. The Lord's goodness leads Him to teach (Psalm 25:8).
3. Our humility prepares us to be taught (Psalm 25:9).

G. Fear of the Lord

1. A man that fears the Lord shall be taught in the way (Psalm 25:12).
2. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10).
3. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (Proverbs 1:7).
4. The Lord gives attention to a man who trembles at His word (Isaiah 66:2).

H. Affliction (Psalm 119:71)

1. Affliction yields lessons concerning the Lord's statutes (Psalm 119:71).
2. Trials give a better revelation of Christ (Luke 8:22-25).
 - a. The disciples apparently did not know that the wind and the water had to obey Jesus (Luke 8:25).
 - b. They saw a side of Jesus they could not have seen without the storm.
 - c. This event proved Jesus Christ to be God (Psalm 65:5-7).

I. Exercise (Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3)

J. Desire (1 Peter 2:2)