

## **How to Study & Teach the Bible – 10/14/18 – Part I**

- 1. Believe it**
- 2. Pray for understanding**
- 3. Study it**
- 4. Meditate upon it**
- 5. Memorize it**
- 6. Rightly divide it**
- 7. Correctly interpret it**

Job 23:12 says: “...I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.”

Psalms 138:2: I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

The word of God is important, God Himself places more importance on His word than His own name.

One of my goals as pastor of this church is to drive home the importance of this book.

The way you believe is the way you live, and what you believe must correctly come from this book!

We will spend most our time in this lesson on point #6, this is where most everyone gets messed up; this is one of the main reasons why there are so many heresies and isms and schisms in Christianity, and so many denominations.

The Bible is our final authority on all matters of faith and practice, it should supersede all your ideas and beliefs, if what you have been

taught and what you believe doesn't align with this book, then throw it out.

When history doesn't align with the book, throw it out.

When archeology doesn't align with the book, throw it out.

When science doesn't align with the book, throw it out.

When psychology doesn't align with the book, throw it out.

When the pastor or the Sunday school teacher doesn't align with the book, throw them out; well, not literally.

Many Christians confess that that when it comes to studying the Bible they do not know where to begin.

The student is encouraged to search all that will be presented in this study and review all references given.

The best way to study the Bible is book by book. Take a book and read it through several times, see if you can find a central theme and several theme verses, understand the context, the setting, and the audience.

Secondly, another good way to study the Bible is to do what we call a "topical bible study". For example, when you study money, look at all the verses that deal with money. Another example, when you study a Bible character, look at all the verses that deal with that individual, etc.

In this lesson I want to give you several principles that will help you learn and study your Bible, and eventually reach a point where you will be able to teach it yourself.

Hebrews 5:12: For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

Paul is telling them: “You should be teachers, but are still in need of being taught; you are spiritual infants!”

2 Timothy 2:2: And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Paul taught Timothy, and now Paul exhorts Timothy to teach others.

### 1. Believe it

I believe it from cover to cover, even the cover.

John 5:47: But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

Jesus here was referring to the OT cannon. Jesus was accusing the Jews that the reason they did not believe in Him was because they did not believe in God’s written word.

In our Bible lower case “w” in word refers to the written word, and upper case “W” refers to the living word—Jesus Christ.

John 1:1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Likewise if you do not believe what God says about Himself in His word, then how will you believe that God will do what He says in your life?

1 Thessalonians 2:13: For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

John 8:47: He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

Faith is not knowing that God can, but that God will.

Hebrews 11:6: "But without faith it is impossible to please him..."

## 2. Pray for understanding

Pray for understanding, you have a promise that the Holy Spirit will teach you all things.

John 14:26: But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Psalms 119:130: The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Matthew 24:15: When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Luke 24:45: Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Ephesians 1:18: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

2 Timothy 2:7: Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

Sometimes it may take several weeks, months or even years of praying before you receive the understanding from the Lord on a particular topic.

I was raised in church that taught you could lose your salvation; I had all the verses to prove it. So, when I came across the doctrine of eternal security, I struggled with it so I prayed and asked God for direction and clarity. A few weeks later I got a booklet in the mail from Daily Bread titled: *Eternal Security*. To this day, I don't know who sent it or how it was sent to me—I had never subscribed to the Daily Bread.

There are other things that I have struggled with and prayed over for several decades before the Lord gave me the understanding I sought.

And some things I am still praying for understanding. But I believe the promise that God the Holy Spirit will teach me all things.

### 3. Study it

2 Timothy 2:15: Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

In the second chapter of Second Timothy the believer is presented as being involved in one of seven different vocations: he is called a son in vs. 1, a soldier in vs. 3, an athlete in vs. 5, a husbandman in vs. 6, a workman in vs. 15, a vessel in vs. 21, and servant in vs. 24.

In verse 15, Timothy is told what is required of him as a workman.

We are commanded by God to study His word; a workman exerts time and effort. According to this verse the word of truth contains right divisions. Any study which ignores these divisions will be largely confusing and contradictory.

You are to be a workman so that you do not have to be ashamed. One who is ashamed is embarrassed or guilty because he has been taken off guard.

When you are asked a question regarding the Bible can you answer it? When a cultist comes preaching their heresy are you stumped, are you like a deer caught in the headlights? This is what God doesn't want to happen to you.

Can you support and defend your doctrinal positions with the Bible?

1 Peter 3:15: But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Remember the Bereans. When Paul preached to them, they examined what he said with the word of God.

Acts 17:11: These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Notice the word daily, every day they studied their Bibles.

#### 4. Meditate upon it

Most Christians do not mediate; meditation comes with negative connotations. Eastern religions teach meditation, which for them

means emptying yourself of all negativity and think positive; discover your inner self.

But scriptural meditation involves the practice of dwelling on God's word. It involves thinking about a verse that jumped out at you during your Bible reading, it involves thinking about something that God has done for you, or thinking about this universe and all that's in it and that it was all made by God!

It takes discipline to meditate on God's word. It takes time and intention.

Meditation is pondering the word in our thoughts, letting it sink in our hearts, allowing it to soothe our souls, and personally applying it to our own lives and circumstances.

The man after God's own heart practiced mediation; he mediated upon the word and works of God. He pondered these things in his heart. Nine times David says he meditates...

Psalms 1:2: But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 119:148: Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.

Psalms 143:5: I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.

Meditation changes the way you think.

Philippians 4:8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever

things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

## 5. Memorize it

David said in Psalms 119:11: Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

How did he hide it in his heart? Memorization.

Dallas Willard, professor of Philosophy at the University of Southern California, wrote, "Bible memorization is absolutely fundamental to spiritual formation. If I had to choose between all the disciplines of the spiritual life, I would choose Bible memorization, because it is a fundamental way of filling our minds with what it needs. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth. That's where you need it! How does it get in your mouth? Memorization."

Memorization is the next step following meditation.

Someone said that Paul quoted or paraphrased 183 OT passages in his writings.

By memorizing God's word, the Holy Spirit can bring it to your remembrance when needed.

The Holy Spirit has His own cross reference system, the more of God's word you are familiar with the more often He will bring it to your attention.



John 14:26: But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, **and bring all things to your remembrance**, whatsoever I have said unto you.

#### 6. Rightly divide it

When you pick up your bible you will notice a division in it; you will notice an OT and a NT.

There are two testaments in the Bible, both were instituted by the death of testator. The Bible itself bears witness of this.

2 Corinthians 3:14: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

And we are told that the OT was done away with and that the NT was instituted with the death of Christ.

Hebrews 9:15: And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that **by means of death**, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 9:16: For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

Hebrews 9:17: For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

Everyone can agree in at least these two divisions, but there are more.

Our study this morning will be focus mainly on this point: rightly dividing the word of truth. God has not always done things exactly alike

throughout the history of man; yes God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8), but things different are not the same.

The bible is written to three groups of people:

1. The Jew
2. The Gentile
3. The Church

So not all Scripture will apply to you, i.e. to the church. Most of the OT documents the history of the Jewish people and any reference to the Gentile nations is done in relation to Israel.

The OT Jew was promised physical blessings if he obeyed the Law of God.

Exodus 23:25: And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.

You cannot apply this verse to the church. We are taught to be content with food and raiment (1 Tim. 6:8).

Abraham was called to inherit a physical piece of property (Gen. 12:1); we called to inherit heaven (Heb. 3:1).

God commands us to pray for our enemies, God promised to destroy the enemies of Israel.