

## How should I study the Bible?

We are called to be students of God's Word, the Bible. The mechanisms employed to study it are needed in order to get the most out of the study.

1. What is the purpose of studying the Bible?

2 Timothy **2:15**

1 Corinthians **6:9-11**

2 Peter 3:18

Ephesians **4:11-15**

Romans **7:7-10**

1 John **5:3-4**

2 Corinthians **10:4-6**

Philippians 3:8-11

We study the Bible in order to come to be equipped to separate truth from error. The Bible explains the reality of our own sinful condition and that since all are sinners we should not believe ourselves to be any better than anyone else but to have compassion on them, their struggles, and their unbelief. Since the Bible describes our sinfulness it will also describe our need for Christ and give us a desire and the guidance to seek to keep the commandments of God for our own benefit and to know that what God tells us to do we will desire to do it. The Bible will help us to curb our selfish and lustful thoughts so that we might be purged of all that is contrary to the knowledge of God and His Holy character. The study of the Bible is designed to draw us closer to Jesus Christ and the knowledge of Him.

2. What is the Bible all about?

1 Thessalonians **2:13**

Romans **3:9-18**

Luke 24:27

1 Timothy 3:15-16

1 Corinthians **3:16-18**

Romans 3:19-23

John **5:39**

Hebrews 10:7

Galatians **3:24-25**

First of all the Bible is about God and God's word to man. The Bible exposes the sinfulness of every human being and thus God's just and proper condemnation of him. Having exposed the reality of our great sinful condition, the Bible will tell us about Jesus. From the very beginning of the Bible we are being directed to God toward Jesus, our only hope and our only savior. The Bible teaches us how to conduct our lives in the House of God, which is ultimately everywhere we go.

3. What are some necessary principles for studying the Bible?

2 Timothy **2:15-16, 23**

Deuteronomy **8:2-3**

Luke **24:27**

1 Corinthians **2:12-16**

1 Corinthians **10:5-13**

Matthew 4:3-4

Isaiah **28:9-13**

When studying the scriptures, it is important to be able to properly divide what is true, from what is false, from what is speculative and not get caught up in worthless debates and arguments that cause strife and division. As we study the Bible, we need to keep in mind that the Bible is first and

foremost God's word. Since it is God's word it needs to be respected as the authoritative voice that it is. If we disagree with what God is saying it is our understanding that is flawed not God's word. Furthermore, as we study the Bible, we need to keep in mind that it is providing many examples of life not only from sinful man's perspective but also from the perspective of a Holy and righteous God. The Bible is also about Jesus. When studying the Bible we need to deal with what the Bible is specifically teaching to the people of that time, the original audience, and what example to either follow or avoid that it provides and also what the Bible tells us about Jesus. Our understanding of the Bible in its larger message and in its details will grow over time. As we study, we need to learn to understand not only the details ("line upon line") but also the larger message of the passage, the book and the totality of scripture ("precept upon precept"). As we study the Bible we need to learn to understand the more complex or confusing passages in light of the major message of the Bible (Jesus Christ) and the simpler passages of the Bible ("precept" and "line"). Finally keep in mind that the Bible is to be spiritually understood. Do not take that to mean that our goal is to find some deeper "spiritual" meaning but that much of the Bible will not be understood without the guidance and teaching of the Holy Spirit.

4. What are some commitments I should make regarding the study of the Bible?

Deuteronomy **29:29**

James **1:21-25**

2 Peter **3:16-17**

When studying the Bible, we need to be committed to the reality that God has not told us everything about everything. Some things (like the timing of Jesus' return or the events and timing of the tribulation period) have not been told us so we need to be willing to be flexible in some areas. As we study the Bible, we need to be committed to believing it and doing it. The Bible was written to be obeyed and not just convey information. Some parts of the Bible will be very difficult to understand, some will even be impossible. Some parts of the Bible will challenge even our most basic of beliefs. Regardless of the difficulties we have in understanding the Bible, we need to trust that what God said, He meant and that it is in our best interest to believe and operate accordingly.