

How To Study the Bible and Enjoy It

Lesson 1: Learning to Love Bible Study

I. Introduction

I would to God that the ploughman would sin a text of the Scripture at his plough-beam; and that the weaver at his loom with this would drive away the tediousness of time. I would the wayfaring man with this pastime would expel the weariness of his journey. And to be short, I would that all the communication of the Christian should be of the Scripture...(Erasmus of Rotterdam)

1. Many times, Christians consider Bible study to be more of a duty rather than a pleasure. The newspaper, a magazine, or comic book seems to be more interesting.
2. Reasons why Christians many times do not enjoy their Bible study:
 - a. Because man is an “earthly” being, he concentrates on PHYSICAL things, not the SPIRITUAL things.
 - b. Sometimes, children were forced into Bible reading at an early time when it was difficult for them to understand it.
 - c. There has been a wrong teaching in religion that only the “highly educated” can really understand the Bible.
 - d. Is it possible that the “traditions of men” have overshadowed the Word of God? These human traditions can make void God’s Word (**Matthew 15:1-9**)
 - e. Christians often have not grasped the absolute importance of Bible study. They have not understood WHY God considers it essential (**John 12:48**)
 - f. Christians sometimes have not tasted the joy of their own personal discovery of God’s truth. Many times, they just listen to others rather than “digging” for themselves.
 - g. Many times, Christians do not understand the Bible. They will cry out like the Ethiopian, “How can I [understand] unless someone guides me?” (**Acts 8:30**)

II. The Scriptures Teach Us That We Should Delight and Find Joy in the Scriptures

1. “I rejoice at Your Word as one who finds great treasure” (**Psalms 119:162**)

- a. Notice the “delight” of the Psalmist as he considers the Word of the Lord (*Psalm 119:14, 24, 70, 77, 92*)
2. Blessed is the man who walks not in the way of sinners, but his “delight” is in the Law of the Lord, and he meditates on it day and night (*Psalm 1:1-6*)
3. Job had not departed from the commandments of the Lord, but had “treasured” the Words of His mouth (*Job 23:12*)
4. Jeremiah had “eaten” the words of the Lord, and they had become the joy and delight of his heart (*Jeremiah 15:16*)
5. Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you” that “your joy may be full” (*John 15:11*)
6. After Jesus’ resurrection, on the road to Emmaus, He interpreted to two disciples the Scriptures concerning Himself, and their hearts “burned” within them (*Luke 24:27, 32*). Does our heart “burn” within us as we study the Word of God?

III. Requirements for Enjoyable Bible Study

1. A humble submission to the Lord, and fervent prayer for wisdom and insight (*James 1:5; Philippians 1:9-11*)
2. A positive decision to LOVE the Word of God! There is a great difference between the person who eats with an appetite and a person who eats out of a sense of duty. Decide to love truth!
 - a. “Great peace have those who love Your law” (*Psalm 119:165*)
 - b. “Consider how I love Your precepts” (*Psalm 119:159, 47, 48, 97, 103, 113, 119, 163, 167*)
 - c. “I love Your commandments” more than “fine gold.” Therefore, “I hate every false way” (*Psalm 119:127, 128*)
 - d. Those who do NOT love truth will be judged (*2Thessalonians 2: 10-12*)
 - e. People did not understand because they could not “bear” to hear His Word (*John 8:43*)
3. Christians MUST read and study the Bible with an expectation that they WILL understand.
 - a. Paul expected the readers of the inspired Word to understand what they heard. Note that he asked that these Scriptures be read to the church (*1Thessalonians 5:27; Colossians 4:16*)
 - b. Paul, by revelation from God, made known the “mystery” of the gospel. His understanding came from God, but when the Ephesians read the Word, they could not understand this “mystery” hidden in generations past, but now revealed (*Ephesians 3:1-6*)
 - c. If we do not really desire and expect to understand the Word of God, then our study is just a hopeless waste of time

4. We should read and study the Bible truly BELIEVING it to be what it is: THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD.
 - a. The Thessalonians heard the message from Paul, and accepted it NOT as the word of men, but the Word of God *(1Thessalonians 2:13)*
 - b. When we read and study, think of the words as coming from the living God with an attitude that says, "Speak Lord, for Your servant hears" *(1Samuel 3:10)*
5. As noted above, Christians should study with the expectation that the Lord will help us. Ask God for help! *(James 1:5; Psalm 25: 4, 5)*
6. Christians should study expecting to apply the Scripture to themselves first. "What does this Scripture say to me?" It is a "lamp to our feet!" *(Psalm 119: 105)*