**Bible Study**

Learning to properly study the Bible is a process that takes a lifetime to do effectively. The benefits associated with good Bible study are invaluable for the follower of Jesus Christ. In this study we will explore how to study the Bible more effectively so that as Paul prayed for the believers in Colossae, “since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:9-10).

Ultimately, growing in our ability to study the Bible enables us to grow in our ability to obey all God asks of us!

**God’s Word**

**Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17.**

In 2 Timothy 3 Paul describes our non-believing world. He encourages Timothy to remember all that he has been taught from the Scriptures. How do verses 16-17 contrast God’s purpose for the Bible with how unbelievers are described?

Paul lists four ways that Scripture is useful. Describe how the Bible is useful for each of them:

- **Teaching:** _____________________________________________________
- **Rebuking:** ____________________________________________________
- **Instruction:** ___________________________________________________
- **Training in righteousness:** ________________________________________

Paul uses the term “God-breathed” in verse 16. This is a more literal rendering of a Greek word which most English translations interpret as “inspired.” How does the picture of God breathing, or inspiring, Scripture help you to understand the Bible’s reliability?

The Bible’s inspiration means that God guided human authors to write in their own words what He wanted to reveal about Himself to humanity. According to these verses how much of the Bible is inspired?

According to verse 17, what is the purpose of inspired Scripture?

**Read verses 2 Peter 1:16-21.**

Peter uses a sailing term denoting the way wind fills the sails of a boat to describe the Holy Spirit’s role in prophecy. It emphasizes God’s guiding force in the message of the prophets.

What does Peter indicate as more trustworthy, his own eyewitness account or the voice of the prophets?

How do these verses add to your understanding of inspiration?

**Read Heb 4:11-13.**

Beginning in Hebrews 3, the author has been comparing the “rest” provided by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ with the inability of the nation of Israel to receive God’s promised rest in the exodus from Egypt. According to what you have read, how is the word of God able to help the follower of Jesus Christ accomplish the task of “entering the rest”?

What do you think the author means by saying that the word of God is able to divide “soul and spirit, joints and marrow”?

What confidence does this give you that diligent study of the Bible will help you to become a better follower of Jesus Christ?

**James 1:19-27**

How do these verses relate to following Jesus Christ?

What is the role of the Bible or “the perfect law”? Why do you think James calls God’s law “the law of liberty”? Do you think most people view the Bible or God’s commandments as freeing? Why or why not? What is your attitude toward this description of the law? Do you feel that the Bible sets you free or confines you?

James was written to believers. Why do you think he states that God’s word is able to “save” us?

**The Benefits of Study**

**Read Psalm 1:1-3.**

How does knowledge of God’s law make the person “blessed” in Psalm 1?

How would this blessing benefit you to follow Jesus Christ?
Read Psalm 119:1-16, 97-105 (See also Psalm 1)
Psalm 119 is written as a celebration of God’s law. Notice how the Psalmist describes “blessing” in the opening verses of this psalm. How do they relate to Psalm 1?

The Hebrew word translated “blessed” in both these psalms connotes a completeness of life. According to the Bible this type of complete life can only be found in relationship with God and more specifically through obeying what he commands. How can understanding the meaning of “blessed” help you relate following God and knowing His word?

Going Deeper
An easy-to-follow method for getting more out of your Bible study is known as the inductive Bible study. The following outline will help you to become familiar with this method and aid you as you begin to study the Bible.

Prepare-We should always begin our study of Scripture with prayer.
Observation (What does it say?)- In this step ask the following questions as you read the text: who, what, where, when, why and how. In this step, it is important to move past what we think the Bible says and really observe what it does say!
Interpretation (What does it mean?) The aim of this step is to bring out the meaning for the people to whom the passage was written and for us today! In this step, look for definitions, the relationships of words and implications that the passage presents.
Application (What does it mean to me?)- Look for ways that the passage relates to your life, particularly in the areas of obedience, relationships, and attitude. What areas of your life is God asking you to change through the main points of the passage.
Proclamation (What can I share with others?)- Look for ways you can relate what you are learning to others. This step should help you to influence others to see how your relationship with Jesus Christ makes a difference in your life!

Make it personal
Plan this week to begin studying the Bible as it has been suggested in this study. Make goals for your study and spiritual growth and stick to them!

Recommended Reading:
Howard G. and William D. Hendricks, Living by the Book.
Gordon D. Fee, How to Read the Bible for All It’s Worth.
John R. W. Stott, Understanding the Bible.

Discipleship Study Guide
These study guides have been designed to help you discover the importance of discipleship. Check the Baseball Chapel website for other study guides in this series and other books of the Bible.

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