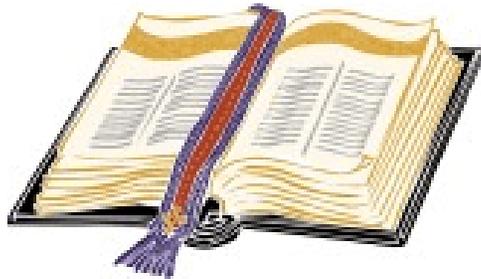


BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

WORKBOOK 1

How to Study the Bible



by
Ronald D. Gilbert

Lesson One

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Introduction:

1. II Timothy 2:15 We are to study the Bible
2. John 8:32 We can and must know the Truth
3. John 5:39, Search the Scriptures
4. Knowledge of God's Word is essential
5. Most are not serious about knowing the Word of God
6. Consider these tools:

I. GOOD BIBLE

1. One that is reliable — KJV is the one I recommend. Also, the NKJV (New King James Version).
2. Good size print and quality binding with good helps, cross references, maps, dictionary, concordance in back
3. No substitute for being familiar with the Bible

II. GOOD DICTIONARY — such as Webster and a good Bible dictionary (if you have access)

1. Why both?
2. Webster defines the current usage of a word, such as Christian
3. Bible dictionaries define and explain in view of Bible time, with more emphasis given to Bible names, places, and events

III. CONCORDANCE (if you have access)

1. Can look up every time a word appears in the Bible and see it may have different meanings — example: love

- a. There are different Greek words for the word “love” — *agapao*, *phileo*, *storge*, *eros*
- b. e.g., In John 21:15, Jesus was using one Greek word, Peter was responding with a different Greek word
- c. Can look up every time a word is used and understand its meaning

IV. WORD STUDY BOOKS (if you have access)

1. Such as W. E. Vine
2. You may not know Greek, but someone had to learn it in order to translate it into English
3. Illustrate importance
 - a. Galatians 5:19-21 — works of the flesh
 - b. Lasciviousness — “denotes excess, licentiousness, absence of restraint, indecency, filthy conversation, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females.” Associated with revellings and dancing.

V. GOOD SET OF SOUND COMMENTARIES (if you have access)

1. Must use caution
2. Can be of great help
3. One can benefit by the experience and studies of others

VI. CONCLUSION

1. Must study the Bible
2. Seek to understand
3. Ask questions — seek answers
4. Importance of context, I Corinthians 2:9
Many read this and apply to heaven, but heaven is not the context
5. Importance of viewing a passage or point in view of the whole New Testament — John 3:16; Mark 16:16

6. Get the proper tools, use them.
7. Study your Bible

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do we gain knowledge of the Bible?
2. Why should we study the Bible?
3. How should we study the Bible?
4. When should we study the Bible?
5. List some things that will help one study the Bible.
6. How important is it to know the Bible?

Lesson Two

HOW TO STUDY AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

Introduction:

1. The inspiration of the Bible
 - a. The fact of:
 - 1) II Timothy 3:16-17
 - 2) II Peter 1:20-21
 - b. The mechanics of inspiration
I Corinthians 2:6-13 — each word inspired
 - c. The meaning of inspiration — God breathed
 - 1) John 12:48 — Bible, the objective standard
 - 2) James 1:21 — Word able to save —
I Timothy 2:4 — Luke 8:11 — I Peter 1:22 —
Truth the Word of God
 - d. Any theory of approach which rejects the total inspiration of the Bible will be a subjective approach, thus, false.

2. Bible made up of words, sentences, must be interpreted
 - a. Nehemiah 8:8
 - b. Acts 8:26-40
3. Matthew 9:10-43 — Jesus quoted Hosea 6:6 in Matthew 12:7, Jesus said if you had understood Hosea 6:6, you would not have condemned the guiltless
4. Luke 24:27 — Christ began at Moses and prophets; He “expounded” unto them — Greek “as one who interprets a foreign language” — understanding comes before learning
5. Some object to the idea of interpretation of the Scriptures. They say they just read and let it speak to them.
 - a. Genesis 6:14 — make an ark. Is this commanded for us today?
 - b. Job 2:9 — curse God and die
 - c. II Timothy 4:13-21 — bring coat and parchments
6. The Bible is a book that can be understood.
Ephesians 3:4 — When you read ye may understand

I. **ATTITUDES THAT HELP PROPER INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE**

1. Belief in divine inspiration
2. God in the Bible is speaking to me
3. Love of the Word
4. The Bible is understandable
5. The Bible is relevant today
6. There is order and system in spiritual matters
7. The Bible is personal yet universal
8. Approach Bible study with right attitude toward purpose of interpretation
9. One must have a burning desire to know the will of God (Matt. 5:6)

II. OUR SOULS DEPEND UPON PROPER INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE. HUGO OF ST. VICTOR SAID “LEARN FIRST WHAT YOU SHOULD BELIEVE AND GO TO THE BIBLE AND FIND IT” — WRONG APPROACH — THIS IS WHY TODAY THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS GROUPS

III. CONCLUSION

1. We can understand the Bible
 - a. John 8:32
 - b. Ephesians 3:4, 9
2. Our attitude toward the Bible is essential to proper understanding of the Bible
 - a. II Corinthians 2:17 — Some corrupt the Word
 - b. II Corinthians 4:2 — Handle Word of God deceitfully
 - c. II Corinthians 11:3 — As serpent beguiled Eve, so your minds should be corrupted from simplicity that is in Christ
3. There will always be those willing to help to misunderstand the Bible if you let them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Define inspiration.
 2. What percent of the Bible is inspired?
 3. Why do some say the Bible cannot be understood?
 4. How do we know the Bible can be understood?
 5. Does one have to know everything in order to know something?
 6. How important is it that we understand the Bible?
 7. What causes men to not understand the Bible?
-

Lesson Three

UNDERSTANDING BIBLE PRINCIPLES

Introduction:

1. The Bible is a unique book, none like it in:
 - a. Origin — from God, II Timothy 3:16-17
 - b. Unity — written by about 40 men many years ago
2. The Bible needs no revisions or updates
3. There are principles that must be understood if we are to understand the Bible
For example: under the old law — “thou shalt do no murder”
 - a. Notice the Bible did not list all possible ways to murder
 - b. Also, notice that not all killing during the old law was murder (war, execution, self-defense)
4. In view of Bible principle what about:
 - a. Hiring someone to kill for you — Ahab, Naboth’s vineyard, I Kings 21
 - b. David sending letters by Uriah to withdraw from him in battle so he would be killed — II Samuel 11
 - c. Think of all the possibilities today of murder:
 - 1) Poison
 - 2) Tamper with a car
 - 3) Cause a gas leak
 - 4) Abortion
 - 5) Mercy killing
 - d. Think of these principles in other areas

I. **HONESTY**

1. Ephesians 4:28 — Let him that stole steal no more
2. Romans 12:17 — Provide things honest in the sight of all men
3. Philippians 4:8
4. Hebrews 13:18 — In all things willing to live honestly
5. The Bible does not have to mention every form of dishonesty, it simply condemns dishonesty.
6. These principles of honesty apply in all future times and situations
7. Dishonesty is wrong in any form
8. 100 years from now there will be new ways to be dishonest — they will be wrong also

II. **MODEST APPAREL**

1. I Timothy 2:9
2. Matthew 5:32 — lust
3. David and Bathsheba — who was to blame? Both
4. Notice Bible does not mention styles — they come and go — principle, wear enough clothes in public to be decent
5. Many could not care less what they wear, the more revealing and seductive the better they like it
6. Ask, would Christ be pleased with this?

III. **THINK OF ALL THE DIFFERENT PRINCIPLES THAT ARE SET FORTH IN THE BIBLE**

1. Moral issues — dancing, gambling
2. Marriages — fornication
3. Drugs and alcohol — any mind-altering substance that harms the body for pleasure
4. The Bible does not have to mention every possible evil thing that man could think of and say “thou shalt not”

5. I Thessalonians 5:21 — Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good
6. Colossians 3:17 — do all by the authority of Jesus

IV. **Conclusion**

1. Understanding Bible principles very important
2. The Bible is so unique
3. II Peter 1:3 — All things that pertain to life and godliness have been given
4. The Bible furnished man with the answers to any and all situations that he can or ever will get in, with the principles set forth in the Bible.
5. Study these principles and let them govern your life

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways would you say the Bible is different from other books?
2. How does God feel toward those who add to or take away from His Word?
3. What all does the Bible supply for men today?
4. Does the Bible name every specific sin?
5. Discuss Colossians 3:17
6. Do we need more than the Bible to know how to live?

For more information contact:

International Bible Teaching Ministries
PO Box 49494
Cookeville, TN 38506

rdgmissions@charter.net