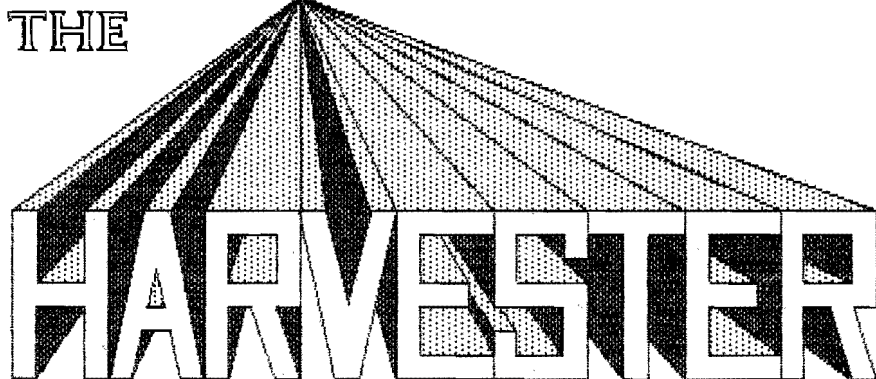


# THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray  
ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send  
forth laborers into his harvest." [Luke 10:2]

AUGUST 1994

No. 104

## BIBLE STUDY

One of the most neglected duties among Christians today is the admonishment given from Paul to young Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15, and that is to *"Study and show ourselves approved unto God"*. In this hectic and fast paced world, the study of God's word seems to be neglected and set aside in lieu of other things.

This article is written with the intent to instill in Christians the desire to be as the noble Bereans and *"search the scriptures"* and to aid them in keeping with the commandment to *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ"* -- Acts 17:11, 2 Peter 3:18.

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## The Need for Bible Study

The Bible is God's word. Contained in the sacred pages is the mind of God and His will for man. Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16,17 set forth the importance of Bible study when he said, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* The scriptures are to be our guide in all matters of faith. In them we find the doctrine of Jesus, the information for reproof and correction, and the instructions for leading a righteous life. In short, we need the scriptures to know what God requires of man.

In order to be pleasing in the eyes of God, we must do his will; that is, we must obey him. In order to be obedient we must know what He commands, thus the need for study is manifest.

All must realize that the word of God is the only revealed truth. We must study to ascertain the will of God. Jesus said in John 6:45, " . . . every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me." In Matthew 11:26, Jesus said, *"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me;"* To learn implies studies, thus to keep the commands of Jesus we must study His word.

## Points for Successful Study

1. Must be daily: We all understand that in any of the great subjects of the world today man must study for mastery of that subject. Take for an example the field of medicine. How many would go to a doctor who only skimmed through his textbook while in school and didn't really learn what the books offered him? Or perhaps he just learned a few things and didn't bother with going too deep in his field? Would we still choose him as our physician? In

order to become a serious student of the Bible one must engage in Bible study daily. In Acts 17:11, we read that the Bereans studied and searched the scriptures daily. For this they were called noble. Jesus said in Matthew 4:4 that *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God"*. We all understand that we need food daily to live. So how much more is the need for Bible study?

2. Study to understand the word: Contrary to popular belief, the Bible can be understood. Many have been heard to say, "It's too difficult to understand the Bible". This is just an excuse for not studying God's word. God who created man gave the Bible to man and for man. He talks to us through the Bible in a way we can understand. Jesus said, *"Ye shall know the truth and the truth will make you free"* -- John 8:32. We can understand God's will. In Ephesians 5:17, Paul commands: *"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is"*. Did Paul ask us to do something we cannot do? Certainly not. We need to study and learn. It is definitely possible to learn the will of God.

3. Bible study is objective: One should study with the objective to grow by the truth learned. That is why he or she should incorporate what they learn from God's word into their lives. They should make applications of the word to their lives whenever the need arises. In I Peter 2:2 one should *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"*. This can only be done by constantly examining ourselves and comparing our lives to fit the word, not as many do who try to change the Bible to fit their lives.

4. Bible study should be rightly divided: Paul in his epistle to Timothy said to *"rightly*

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Lk. 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, and all correspondence to:

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*divide the word*". One must take note of who the author is speaking, and under what dispensation of time he is speaking. Many false doctrines are held simply because men fail to rightly divide the word of truth.

5. It must be exhaustive: When one sets about his task of studying a particular subject, he must read and study all that has been said about that particular subject. False positions have been taken and taught because men have failed to research and read all that pertains to that particular subject. For example the plan of salvation: Many hold the belief that faith only saves. They base this doctrine on just a few passages of scriptures. One reads in John 3:16 that he must believe to have eternal life, but he must also realize that in other places the Bible teaches other things essential to eternal life as well as faith in Christ. That faith is just one of the conditions. One must also repent, confess and be baptized and live faithfully a life as a Christian. (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6; 2 Pet. 3:9; Matt. 10:32; Acts 2:38; Rev. 2:10)

### In Conclusion

The study of God's word is something to be enjoyed. When one considers all the assuring characteristics of His word, such as its permanence (Matthew 24:35), its purity (Psalms 12:6), its guiding power (Psalms 119:105), & its

sure and precious promises (2 Peter 1:4, 3:9; Romans 8:18), one cannot help but want to spend hours in study of this beautiful book, the Bible.

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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Give the Hebrew name of any one of the three youths thrown into the great furnace?
2. In the sole Gospel account of Jesus actually writing, with what and on what did He write?
3. Jezebel, queen of Israel, forged letters to obtain what for her husband?
4. Which two prophets ate honey-flavored scrolls?
5. Who wished his words to be letters of lead set into carved rock?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. What was Laban's oldest daughter's name?  
LEAH (Gen. 29:16)
2. Where will Christ put all His enemies?  
UNDER HIS FEET (1 Cor. 15:25)
3. What did the Lord command Moses to do when he drew near to the burning bush?  
TAKE OFF HIS SHOES (Exo. 3:5)
4. Does the Levitical law state that anything coming in contact with a consecrated article thereby becomes consecrated? NO (Hag. 2:12)
5. Name the three accounts of the Gospels that record Jesus' temptation in the wilderness? MATTHEW, MARK, AND LUKE

## WHICH SYNDROME DO YOU HAVE?

A syndrome consists of a number of symptoms or characteristics that occur together and identify a specific condition. When we speak about spiritual conditions, then we can also recognize certain "syndromes" which are spiritual in nature. These diseases can be easily spotted by their symptoms. Let us now examine four different but closely labeled syndromes and see if we might be afflicted with one or more of these.

**"IDOL" SYNDROME.** This was the most common religious disease of God's people during the OT days of Israel. God had warned them, *"Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the Lord your God"* (Lev. 26:1). But they would not obey and their idolatry accounted for their captivity. Under the NT era the "idol" syndrome is making a fantastic comeback! Just look at the signs. More and more people (including members of the church) are spending more time with their "idols" than worshipping God *"in spirit and in truth"* (John 4:24). Some have already bowed down to the idol of money, the idol of family, the idol of career, the idol of hobby, and the idol of sports! Do you have this syndrome? Be careful because it is very contagious!

**"IDLE" SYNDROME.** Here is another syndrome which is gaining popularity, even among our brethren. Are you suffering with this one? The obvious symptoms are laziness and slothfulness. Those who are sick with the "idle" syndrome tend to make a lot of excuses for getting out of work. The *"s sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold"* (Prov. 20:4) and the lazy man will say, *"There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets"* (Prov. 22:

13). Do you make similar excuses for neglectful duties, wilful sins or missing church services? Do you sometimes find that you have nothing better to do than to waste precious time and stir up trouble (1 Tim. 5:13)? If you answer yes to any of these, you could have "idle" syndrome. I can only recommend that you get to the Great Physician quickly!

**"EYE DULL" SYNDROME.** Seeing problems characterize this syndrome. When the spiritual eye becomes spiritually dull, sight is not as sharp or as keen as it should be. Hence, there is spiritual blindness. Many of us might be blind right now and not even be aware of it. We could have the "eye dull" syndrome without knowing it! Is your eye evil, always looking at the wrong things? Then your whole body is full of darkness (Matt. 6:23). Do you have obedient faith in Christ? If not, then the god of this world has blinded your mind (2 Cor. 4:4). Do you hate your brother? Then you walk in darkness and again, your eyes have been blinded (1 John 2:11). Any of the above items would qualify you for the "eye dull" syndrome. The only cure for this disease is to spiritually "look" toward the crucified Christ, just as the Israelites had to look at the brazen serpent in the days of Moses (John 3:14, 15).

**"I DOLE" SYNDROME.** The last syndrome of this class that we will study is unlike the others. Someone affected with the "I dole" syndrome tends to distribute or share or give to those who are truly in need. In other words, I dole out to the poor and helpless! When the opportunity presents itself, someone in this condition automatically lends a helping hand to all his neighbors, like a Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). The man struck with the "I dole" syndrome is full of good deeds and abounds to "every good work" (2 Cor. 9:8). He gives

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
August 5 - 7	Fairview Church Oxford, AL	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)
August 7 - 12	New Bethel Church Cullman, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
August 14 - 19	Rainsville, AL 7:00 each evening	Sam Dick and James McDonald
August 26 - 28	Pleasant Ridge Church Woodbury, TN	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
Sept. 4 - 9	Mt. Zion Church Brookhaven, MS	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Sept. 19 - 23	Mt. Zion Church Crab Orchard, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Sept. 26 - 30	Lily Church near London, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

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(continued from page 7)

plenty of his time toward the cause of Christ and for the spreading of the Good News to lost souls (2 Tim. 4:2). And on the first day of the week he doles out a cheerful distribution (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7). Wouldn't it be wonderful if every one had this syndrome instead of the others previously mentioned?

So which syndrome do you have: "idol", "idle", "eye dull" or "I dole"? By looking at the symptoms you display, it should be obvious. *"They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick."* (Matt. 9:12)