

How to know the Bible

Review from last week-

Why is the bible important?

1. How important is the bible in regard to Christian Life/discipleship?

- It is imperative. From it flows all of the revelation of God and what is necessary for life and the pleasing of God to whom we will give account. Matt 24:35, Duet 8:3, 1 Pet 1:23, John 5:24
- Origins
- Destiny
- Judgment
- Christian Living, relationships, etc...

2. How important is biblical knowledge in regard to discipleship?

- Imperative – how else will you give direction and teaching?
- What will you teach?
- How will you give counseling?

Reasons for Understanding the bible

1. It is imperative to instill in the disciple a reverence for the Word that elevates it to its proper stature.

What must you instill in the one you disciple in regard to the scripture?

- It is truly the WORD OF GOD!
- Inspired, inerrant, infallible – 2 – Tim 3:15-16
- Awe and Reverence for the Word – Psalm 138:2
- Proper understanding of approach to the Word – 2 Tim 3:16
- It is a complete resource for EVERY life issue! – 2 Pet 1:2-4, Psa 19,119
- It is personally authoritative – if not you have no basis for discipleship! Luke 11:28, Isa 48:17-18, 66:2, John 8:51,
- Spiritual Maturity comes in direct correlation to understanding and obeying scripture – Prov 2:1-8
- Meditation on scripture must be a daily endeavor – Psa 1, Josh 1:7-8
- It is to be fully obeyed – blessings and cursings – Psa 119:4, Duet 4:1-2, 6:1-18, 28,

Questions ?

How to know the bible -

Hear it -

1. Obedience is the key to knowledge
2. What should the disciplemaker do?
 - Make the Word clear and help bring understanding

Read it –

1. Why did Paul tell Timothy this? How is this important to disciplmaking?

Study it –

1. How important is it to have answers to doctrinal questions to people you are discipling?
2. Categories you should have a general knowledge of or are growing in;
Bible – revelation, inspiration, historicity
Theology – God’s character, attributes, providence, problem of evil
Salvation – mankind, sin , atonement, Work of the Savior, justification, sanctification, glorification, predestination, judgment
Church – What, why and how the church meets, fellowship, government,
Eschatology – Heaven, Hell, last things, Angels
Apologetics – Defense of scripture, creationism, Deity of Christ, Problem of evil, Existence of God, Resurrection of Christ, Virgin birth

Memorize it –

1. In every situation in life – What does the bible say?

Meditate on it –

1. Read, consider(ponder, cogitate, mull), pray
2. Pray for understanding, where does it come from? 1 John 2:27

Bible Study –

Preparation

Always approach with repentance and hunger.

Observation

Who?, What, Where, When, How?

Interpretation

What does it mean?

What are the clues to its meaning?

How does this compare to known established doctrine?

Helpful keys to understanding

1. Taken in its customary, normal, and natural sense – unless otherwise pointed to an obvious non-natural sense
2. Taken within its **context** of word, phrase, or larger passage
3. Scripture must interpret scripture, and be compared to scripture
4. Antinomies, scripture never contradicts scripture, it is always consistent with all of scripture – **Paradoxes do exist.**

Key words to understand in symbolic scripture-

Hyperbole- A hyperbole is an exaggeration used for effect-- an overstatement. "I'm so hungry I could eat a horse" obviously is not literally true. It is an exaggeration used to convey the idea of extreme hunger

Metaphor- A simile makes a comparison by using a word such as "like": "Life is like a circus." A metaphor is a similar comparison, except that it omits the word "like": "The world is a stage." Metaphors such as "I am the door" <John 10:9> are easily recognized.

Anthropomorphism- Do rivers have hands to clap <Ps. 98:8>? Does God have eyes <Ps. 33:18>, although He is spirit <John 4:24>? Anthropomorphism's in the Bible describe non-human objects as though they have human characteristics.

Parable- A symbolic story used to illustrate a given truth or principle. The kingdom of God is like.... <Mark 4:26>

Application

Example – James 1:27 – How have we applied this verse from Sundays sermon?

Bible Study Tools

There are a number of very helpful Bible study tools.

1. SEVERAL VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE

You can get a better sense of the meaning of the original Greek and Hebrew by using several versions of the Bible.

A translation = AS LITERAL AS POSSIBLE. An example is the New American Standard.

A paraphrase = A FREE OR LOOSE TRANSLATION. An example is The Living Bible. A paraphrase is always easier to read, but it may not always be accurate. Many times a paraphrase includes some of the translator's ideas of what the text means. In other words, the translator also does some explaining along the way.

A Study Bible = a translation with all kinds of notes, and introductions, and study helps built right into the Bible. There are a number of them available, some good, some not so good. One of the better ones is the Thompson Chain-Reference Bible. It lists many topics, has a very good chain-reference through the Bible, outlines and a topical index are also included.

2. CONCORDANCE

A concordance is an alphabetical list of all the words in the Bible. It is a tool, then, that allows the Bible student to study all of the places in the Bible where certain words or ideas are found. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance has Hebrew and Greek dictionaries, which are designed for the use of English readers. It is called an "exhaustive" concordance because it includes every single word in the Bible.

3. WORD STUDIES

Word studies are expanded dictionaries of words used in the Old and New Testament. They tell you the wider meanings of Greek and Hebrew words and how they were used in their historical setting and in the Bible. Word Studies frequently use Strong's numbering system as a reference. A set of Word Studies is a must for a serious bible student.

4. BIBLE DICTIONARIES

A "word study" as Number 3 above, is a dictionary of Greek or Hebrew words used in the Bible. A Bible Dictionary is like a one volume encyclopedia of Bible facts, including people, places, and doctrines.

5. BIBLE HANDBOOKS

A Bible handbook is a kind of combination Bible Dictionary and Bible Commentary. Instead of listing topics alphabetically, a Bible handbook lists them in the order of the books of the Bible, giving historical and theological information along the way. I recommend either Unger's Bible Handbook or Halley's Bible Handbook. Both have been around for years, and one or the other is available in bookstores.

6. BIBLE COMMENTARY

A commentary is a chapter by chapter, verse by verse, sometimes word by word explanation of the Bible, taking into consideration matters of language, history and theology. Nearly any one volume commentary by a major Christian publishing company is going to be helpful. There are also many individual commentaries on each book of the Bible, if you want more detail. Or you can get commentary sets, which may have twenty or thirty volumes of commentaries, something like an encyclopedia. As you can well imagine, building a Bible study library can become an expensive proposition!

7. CROSS REFERENCE HELPS

A cross reference is an invaluable tool to help you find other passages in the scripture that deal with the same concept or thought or phrase. Most study bibles have a cross reference column in the center.

8. BIBLE SOFTWARE

There are many types of bible software that are available. Bible software is loaded with many types of bible tools. This has become the most economic way to obtain many bible study tools.

9. REFERENCE BOOKS

There are many different books written by men concerning all kinds of topics and teachings. These can be a great help, but always be very careful to make sure proper interpretive rules are employed.

Canon of Scripture – The word canon is a Greek word meaning, "a reed used for measuring, a standard". The canon of scripture refers to what books of the bible are considered to be divinely inspired and therefore God's word. In the Old Testament, books were canonized if they were considered to be written by a PROPHET. Those books accepted were written by prophets beginning with Moses and ending with Malachi. In the New testament, books were canonized if they were considered to be written by an Apostle.

Translations – Which translations are reliable? See chart pg 1637 Thompson Chain Bible