

You Should Study the Bible

By Lee Delbridge

Some people are “people” people, some are “things” people and some are “information” people. But every person should study the Bible at least some. If you are a people person or a things person, you may not study as much as the person who is by nature a “information” person. You should still study it some. This little tract will tell you why and how. Every Christian should be a Bible student.

Why Study the Bible

The Example of Godly Men

Ezra	Ezra 7:10
Jeremiah	Jeremiah 15:16
Jesus	Matthew 4:1-11
<i>(Quoted Scripture to overcome temptations)</i>	
Peter	Acts 2:14-36
<i>(Nearly 1/2 of his sermon was Scripture quotations)</i>	
Stephen	Acts 7:1-60
<i>(Quoted 90 passages from 10 OT books in one sermon)</i>	

Because of what the Bible is

It is the Word of God	II Timothy 3:16-17
It is eternal	Isaiah 40:8; Mark 13:31
It is powerful	Isaiah 55:10-11; Hebrews 4:12
It is your “final exam”	John 12:48

Because of what the Bible can do for you

It can lead to salvation	II Timothy 3:15; I Peter 1:23
It can develop faith	John 20:30-31; Romans 10:17; I Peter 2:2
It can lead to success	Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:1-3
It can help your prayers	John 15:7

A SIMPLE WAY TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Write the answer to the following questions on each passage of Scripture you study:

WHO? Who is writing or speaking? To whom? About whom? Who else is present? What do you know about each person? etc.

WHAT? What’s going on? What events led to this? What are the meanings of the words? What is the outcome? etc.

WHEN? When did this take place? Was it before or after the death of Jesus Christ? etc.

WHERE? Where is this taking place? Where else does the Bible teach on the same subject? (Look up some of these references) etc.

WHY? Why did this take place? Why do you think it is included in the Bible? etc.

HOW? How did it happen? How are the people to obey? etc.

SO WHAT? Make application to your life. What are:

- The **facts** to be *believed*,
- The **commands** to be *obeyed*,
- The **warnings** to be *heeded*,
- The **promises** to be *enjoyed*,
- The **examples** to be *followed*, or
- The **principles** to be *applied*?

How NOT to Interpret the Bible

Do not interpret the Bible like the...

Catholics — who believe that tradition and church doctrine is just as important as the Bible.

Jews — who took the parts they liked and ignored the parts they didn't like (liked Messiah being a king, but did not like Him being a suffering servant).

Liberals — who explain away all the miraculous or super-natural events in the Bible.

Cults — who take passages out of context and don't consider the whole of what the Bible teaches.

“Spiritualizers” — who believe that there is always some hidden or mystical meaning more important than the plain meaning.

How To Interpret the Bible

Pray— Ask God to help you understand and apply His Word to your life.

Normal Language — If the literal sense makes sense look for no other sense unless you end up with non-sense.

Word Meaning & Grammar — like any literature.

Context — Consider the context (what goes before & after the passage you are studying).

Historical Situation — What was going on at the time of the writing that influenced what was written.

Author's Intended Meaning — Seek for what the author meant, not what you want it to mean.

Other Scriptures — Allow the Bible to interpret the Bible. Always compare Scriptures on the same topic.