

How to Read Your Bible

By
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Romans 15:4
2 Timothy 2:15

The importance of reading God's Word cannot be overstated. As believers we need to learn about the Lord and what He expects of us. We find our answers in the Bible. There are benefits from reading the Bible and applying it to our life.

For believers God's Word is food for our spiritual soul. All of us understand that physically we must eat good food for as part of a healthy life. The same is true spiritually, we must have good, godly food to have a healthy spiritual life. Our faith grows and develops in proportion to our understanding and application of God's Word to our life. John 17:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God". To walk with God as we should, we need to know and apply God's Word to our life.

Benefits

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Hebrews 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Promises

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Let's get started. What you find important in your life, you find time to do.

Set a time – don't just fill in left over time, God should get our best not leftovers

Set a place – don't have to ramble around looking where it would work

Set a program – get one or develop your own

As we look at the Bible, we need to remember that it is primarily a book about God. In our modern American society, we tend to think that everything is about us, man. The Bible does show me things about myself, but it is always through the lens of Who God is. We must understand what a passage teaches about God before we ask it to teach us anything about our self.

The Bible is a Book about God.

I.E. Moses and the burning bush—Exodus 3:2-5

Moses thought it was all about him—Exodus 3:10-11

Who am I to go?

God's response revealed Himself—Exodus 3:12

I will be with you

Moses wasn't reassured by this answer and asks—Exodus 3:13

What should I do?

God's response wasn't about Moses

God tells him what He has done, is doing and will do—Exodus 3:14-22

God answers Moses's "Who am I?" with the only answer that matters:

"I AM"

Our insecurities, fears and doubts can never be banished by the knowledge of

who we are

They can only be banished by the knowledge of "I AM"

As Moses learned during the Exodus, who he was bore no impact on the

outcome of his situation.

Who God was made all the difference

Our minds transform our heart

Our minds must oversee our heart. We should not operate based on our emotions only.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked who can know it?

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.

The heart cannot love what the mind does not know – J. Wilkins

To love God more we should

Learn to see Who He is more clearly

Learn to understand about Him more clearly

Learn to think about Him more clearly

Bad Habits

1. Making the Bible all about ME

Reading the Bible to feel better....

How the Bible can serve me, rather than how I can serve the God it proclaims

Bible doesn't always make us feel better—Jeremiah 17:9

There is comfort to be found in the Bible

But context is what makes that comfort lasting and real

Limits our reading to passages that will deliver an immediate dose of emotional satisfaction

2. Reading where the Bible opens to

Gives no thought for culture, history, textual context, authorship, or original intent

Disrespectful way to treat the Bible

3. Placing our finger on a random verse and reading it for the answer to the questions on our hearts

Bible not a magic book to serve our whims

Expecting the Bible to tell us “What to do” instead of “Who to be”

Bible is more concerned about the decision-maker than with the decision itself

4. Searching individual verses on certain topics

Takes the verses possibly out of context and thus altering the meaning

Topics should be addressed as it arises in Scripture rather than attaching Scripture to a topic

5. Reading what someone says about the Bible instead of the Bible itself

We are called to love the Lord our God with all OUR mind (not the mind of another person)

Books about the Bible can be extremely helpful but they are no substitute for Bible study on our own

6. Picking and choosing what is easy to understand

All Scripture is given for our profit

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

We need all the styles of the different books of the Bible to see the full character of God from different angles

Five P's of Bible study

Study With....	Description
Purpose	Understand where your text fits into the Big Story of creation-fall-redemption-restoration
Perspective	Understand the “archaeology” of your text (its historical and cultural context)
Patience	Resolve not to hurry; set a realistic expectation for your pace of study, focusing on the long-term learning
Process	Begin methodically reading for comprehension (What does it say?), interpretation (What does it mean?), and application (How should it change me?)
Prayer	Ask the Father to help you before, during, and after your study time

Questions to ask

How does this apply to me?

What do I need to change to be more Christlike? Romans 8:29

Memorize God's Word

Begin with verses to encourage you

Verses that will help you deal with an area in your life that you struggle with

An example of what to look for

1 Corinthians 10:9-14

Clear command	v.14
Promise of deliverance	v.13
Truth illustrated	v.9-11
Warning	v.12