

SERIES: HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

"Spiritual Preparation for Bible Study" (Psalm 119)

INTRODUCTION: The longest chapter in the Bible is a chapter that covers the importance of the Scriptures. It is a chapter that teaches us the value of God's Word. It is a chapter that teaches us how to study God's Word. And as we are going to see, it is a chapter that teaches us how to be mentally and spiritually prepared to read God's Word. One difference between reading the Bible and reading any other book is the fact that the Bible is completely inspired by God Himself.

II Peter 1:21, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Another major difference about the Bible is that we have the ability to have the author in the room with us as we study. We have the ability to learn from the very one spoke every word into existence. So we can't just pick up God's Word and read it like we would another book. There are specific things we must do in order to be prepared spiritually and to be prepared mentally.

I. BE PRAYERFULLY PREPARED (PSALM 119:12, 18-19, 27, 33-34)

A. PRAY THAT GOD WOULD OPEN YOUR EYES (PSALM 119:18)

- The word *open* here comes from the Hebrew word *galah* meaning to bring into captivity.

B. UNDERSTAND YOUR CITIZENSHIP IS NOT OF THIS EARTH (119:19)

"We need to completely understand that no commentary, no lexicon, no amount of intellect on our part, nor the complete understanding of hermeneutics can ever unlock the door of revelation of Divine Scripture to which only the Holy Spirit of God is the key."

C. UNDERSTAND THAT GOD CAN HIDE TRUTH FROM YOU (119:19)

I Corinthians 2:7, "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:"

Matthew 25:28-29, "²⁸ Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. ²⁹ For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."

I John 2:18-19, "¹⁸ Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

II. BE SAVIOR SEEKING (PSALM 119:2, 10, 114)

A. THE BIBLE IS CENTERED AROUND CHRIST

John 20:31, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

B. WE OUGHT TO SEEK CHRIST IN EVERY VERSE WE READ

Mark 8:12, "And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign?"

I Corinthians 1:22-23, "²² For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: ²³ But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;"

I Corinthians 2:2, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

"Christ Himself is the very life content of the Christian Faith." – W. Ian Thomas

II Corinthians 3:18, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

PRINCIPLES:

- 1) Begin your Bible Study praying that God will open your eyes that you may see wondrous things and that He will place your mind into His captivity.
 - 2) Begin with the understanding that the Bible is written to the spirit, not the carnal mind and have the attitude of complete dependence on God's Holy Spirit to give you understanding.
 - 3) Begin your Bible study with a fear of God that understands that an independent attitude can cause God to hide His truth from you.
 - 4) In every Book, every chapter, every verse, every precept and every word, seek to find the Lord Jesus Christ.
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