

PURPOSE OF STUDY: To help the student to know how to understand the Word for themselves.

TEXTS:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. 2PE 1:19-21 | 6b. 1CO 2:13 (IS 28:9, 10) |
| 2. 2TI 3:16 | 6c. JN 8:31-2 (7:17; JAS 1:22) |
| 3. PS 119:130 (119:99) | 6d. JN 5:39 (LK 24:25-27) |
| 4. JN 17:17 | 7. JN 6:63 (HEB 4:12) |
| 5. PR 28:26 (16:25) | 8. 1PE 1:23 |
| 6. 2TI 2:15 | 9. 2PE 1:2-4 (2TI 3:17) |
| 6a. 1CO 2:13-14 | |

THE STUDY:

1. **How has God chosen to communicate His will to us? 2PE 1:19-21**
“Holy men” communicated what the Spirit revealed, and they put it into their own words under the guidance of the same Spirit. This means that the concepts revealed by God were communicated in human terms and concepts, but God guided the process to safeguard the integrity of the Bible.
2. **Since the Bible was written by human beings, how much of it is actually inspired? 2TM 3:16**
All of it!
3. **Don’t you have to be a scholar to understand the Bible? PS 119:130 (119:99)**
The entrance of God’s word enlightens the understanding of even the most simple-minded reader.
4. **What is it specifically that God’s word gives us an understanding of? JN 17:17**
The Bible defines what truth according to God’s idea. It is the only safe guide for the person who wants to understand and practice what is true and right.
5. **Is it possible to know the truth by just following what’s in our hearts? PR 28:26 (16:25)**
No. Our feelings are not a reliable guide and will mislead us if we let them.
6. **Is there a “technique” to studying the Bible? 2TI 2:15**
Yes, there is a right way of “dividing,” or interpreting, the Bible, and there is also a wrong way. For this reason, it’s important for us to look at some basic rules of study –
 - a. **What must we do before we open God’s word for study? 1CO 2:13-14**
Spiritual things are spiritually understood, therefore we must always pray for divine guidance in understanding God’s Word.
 - b. **What method should we use to interpret the Bible? 1CO 2:13 (IS 28:9, 10)**
We must compare spiritual things with spiritual; that is, allow the spiritual things written in the Bible to explain other parts of the Bible; let the Bible be its own interpreter.
 - c. **What attitude must we have when we study the Bible? JN 8:31-2 (7:17; JAS 1:22)**
We must be willing to apply what we learn to our daily lives. This is what it means to “abide” in the Word. To read the Bible without a determined purpose to abide by its teachings is a form of self-deception.

d. What should be our ultimate goal of Bible study? JN 5:39 (LK 24:25-27)

Jesus encouraged a study of the scriptures, not merely for factual information, but for the purpose of knowing Him. We must be willing to search diligently in order to find Jesus there.

7. How did Jesus describe the power of His words? JN 6:63 (HEB 4:12)

Jesus said His words are LIFE. He is the Creator, and His own Creative power is in the Bible. This is why the apostle Paul describes the Bible as “living and powerful.”

8. What spiritual experience comes through the study of the Bible? 1PE 1:23, 2:2

We are born again through the Word of God, and we must grow by that same Word. Our spiritual lives can only grow through a regular study of the Word; it creates and sustains spiritual life in the believer, because it brings him in contact with the Living Word, Jesus, who upholds all things by His creative power.

9. How well does the study of the Bible prepare us for living the Christian life? 2PE 1:2-4

God’s power through His word supplies us with everything we need to live a godly life.

APPEALS:

God is longing to reveal Himself to you through His word. The Bible teaches us of Jesus and how he saves; it infuses spiritual life, and helps us to live a life that is pleasing to God. His word doesn’t fail, but accomplishes His purposes. He wants it to accomplish his purpose in your life. Won’t you choose just now to commit to spending regular time studying His word?

DIFFICULT TEXTS/OBJECTIONS:

The Consistency of the Bible is One of the Strongest Arguments in its Favor

Internal

The Bible was written by 30-40 authors over 1500 years and across 3 continents (Asia, Europe, and Africa). It also covers the most controversial issues (i.e., nature, character, and existence of God). Lastly, Jesus endorsed the Scriptures.

Translational

Dead Sea scrolls are a complete collection of pre-100 BCE manuscripts of the OT Scriptures that were discovered in 1947 in a series of caves around the Qumran Wadi near the Dead Sea. Among the many verifications they provided, a most important fact that came to light was the fact that the Old Testament that Jesus possessed was identical to the Old Testament that we have today. This ancient library contained portions of every book in the Old Testament except Esther, including a perfect scroll of Isaiah. This book was 99% accurate to our current day Isaiah, notwithstanding the fact that over 2000 years have passed since the writing of that particular scroll.

There are over 5,000 New Testament Greek manuscripts in existence today (of which 500 are complete copies). They date from 137-1100 AD and the degree of consistency between all the manuscripts is 98 percent, with most inconsistencies related to appellations (i.e., titles of God). The extraordinary and accurate preservation and translation of the Bible strongly suggests its supernatural origin.

Cultural

The Bible has universal cultural appeal; people everywhere love it. There is not a culture on the earth that does not have people who continue to fall in love with this book! “Simply put, the Bible is pretty much the best-selling book of the year — every year” (CBS News.com, Apr. 5, 2007, Article “In the Beginning There Was the Bestseller”).

Experiential

I have experienced the transforming power of the Bible in my own life, recognizing it as the God’s voice to me personally.