

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Tools for Bible Study

Text: Acts 17:11

Introduction:

1. Our last lesson reminded us of the power and simplicity of the Bible.
2. Hopefully, it motivated us to desire to study and learn the Word of God.
3. This lesson will begin a practical look at studying the Scriptures.
4. Let us consider some tools – things that will help us – in our study of God's Word.

I. The Bible

- A. Need an accurate translation
 1. KJV
 2. ASV
 3. Other versions may be used for comparison
- B. Do not need a "study Bible"
 1. Man's opinions and doctrines added alongside the text
 2. Can actually hinder from seeing what God has said
 3. Can lead one astray
- C. Good to have cross-references
- D. Good to have dictionary/concordance in back
- E. Good to have maps
- F. Need sturdy binding and quality paper
 1. For much use in turning pages
 2. For taking notes, highlighting, etc.
 3. Wide margins are a plus

II. Time

- A. True, beneficial Bible study demands devotion and a willingness to sacrifice (Acts 24:25; Romans 13:11-12; Ephesians 5:15-17).
- B. Regular study is essential.
 1. At least 15 minutes daily, preferably at the same time each day
 2. Under controlled conditions
 3. In a consistent environment
- C. This will allow knowledge to be stored in long-term memory and thus provide greater understanding and recall.
- D. Also, this will cause one's study to become habitual.

III. Additional Books (Tools)

- A. Dictionary
- B. Concordance
- C. Atlas / Maps
- D. Hebrew / Greek Dictionary
- E. E-Sword (www.e-sword.net)

IV. The Right Kind of Heart (Matthew 13:1-23)

- A. Not “wayside” soil
 - 1. Reading with distractions
 - 2. The word will not be learned, but stolen away.
- B. Not “stony” ground
 - 1. Studying without consistency
 - 2. The word will be learned temporarily, but soon forgotten.
- C. Not “thorny” soil
 - 1. Studying with prejudice or opinions of men
 - 2. The word will be crowded out by what man says.
- D. But, “good” ground – an honest and good heart
 - 1. Observation – Reading and studying what God has said
 - 2. Interpretation – Understanding what God has said
 - 3. Application – Practicing what God has said
 - 4. The word will be learned, remembered and built upon in future studies.
- E. Each study should begin with prayer and end with meditation.