

# A Closer Walk With God

## STUDYING THE BIBLE

### LESSON #5

TEXT: **1 Pet. 2:2**

#### INTRODUCTION:

- A. BIBLE STUDY NEGLECTED BUT MOST IMPORTANT.
- B. OUR TEXT REFLECTS THE RIGHT ATTITUDE( **1 Pet. 2:2** ).

#### I. WHY BIBLE STUDY IS IMPORTANT?

- A. BECAUSE IT POSSESSES THE POWER OF "SANCTIFICATION."
  - 1. "Sanctification" means "to set apart" for God's purpose
  - 2. The Word of God is the means by which God does this...
    - a. As praised by David in his psalm( **Psa. 19:7-11** ).
    - b. As mentioned in the prayer of Jesus( **John 17:17** ).
  - 3. If we are going to be useful to God we need to study his word.
- B. BECAUSE IT POSSESSES THE POWER OF "PRESERVATION."
  - 1. A lack of knowledge destroyS the people of God( **Hos. 4:6** ).
  - 2. But the YOUNG can keep their ways pure by the Word( **Psa. 119:9** ).
  - 3. ELDERS were exhorted to keep the church by the Word( **Acts 20:28-32** ).
  - 4. One of the first steps to backsliding is neglect of God's word!
- C. BECAUSE IT HAS THE POWER OF "SALVATION" &"CONDEMNATION."
  - 1. Received properly, it can save our souls!( **James 1:21** ).
  - 2. It will be the standard by which we will be judged( **John 12:48** ).
  - 3. Will the Word save us, or will it condemn us? Careful study and application of the Bible will make the difference!

#### II. WHY BIBLE STUDY IS OFTEN NEGLECTED.

- A. SOME PEOPLE JUST "TAKE THE PREACHER'S WORD."
  - 1. For this reason, they do not study for themselves
  - 2. Most preachers are good men, but they can still be wrong( **Acts 18:24-26** ).
  - 3. It is our responsibility to "test the spirits" ( **1 John 4:1-2** ),
  - 4. And to be able to identify "false apostles"( **2 Cor. 11:13-15** )
- B. SOME PEOPLE SAY "THEY CAN'T GET ANYTHING OUT OF THE BIBLE"
  - 1. May be because they read it so little, or they don't know how to study.
  - 2. Often it is because they do not use a modern English translation.
  - 3. Most have simply made little effort to understand it
  - 4. Paul said that we could understand it when we read it( **Eph. 3:3-4** ).
- C. SOME PEOPLE SAY "THEY DON'T HAVE THE TIME."
  - 1. People who DO study are busy too.
  - 2. We must put the things of the kingdom of God FIRST( **Matt. 6:33** ).
- D. THERE IS REALLY NO EXCUSE FOR NEGLECTING THE WORD.

#### III. METHODS OF BIBLE STUDY.

- A. THE "SUBJECT" METHOD
  - 1. This involves selecting some subject (e.g., "baptism"), then collecting and studying each passage in the Bible on the subject.
  - 2. This method has its advantages, but it can be easy to take things out of context and draw the wrong conclusions.
- B. THE "BOOK" METHOD.
  - 1. This consists of an intensive study of a single book of the Bible
  - 2. Since the Bible was written a book at a time, this is probably the best way to study the Bible
  - 3. DAILY BIBLE READING programs can very easily utilize this approach to the Scriptures
    - a. Following a program to read through the entire Bible each year.
    - b. Taking a chapter each week to read and study daily, you can cover the New Testament in depth over a five year period.

#### IV. SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR BIBLE STUDY.

- A. SET A REGULAR TIME
  - 1. Regularity is a key to success, so set aside some regular time for study
  - 2. Family study is a good practice, but each person needs also to have a regular time in which he or she can come face to face with God's message ALONE.

- B. PRAY AS YOU STUDY.
1. Begin your study with prayer( **Psa. 119:18** )
  2. Ask God for the wisdom and strength to understand and obey His Word (**Psa. 119:5, 6** ).
  3. End your study with prayer( **Psa. 119:10-11** ).
- C. UTILIZE VARIOUS HELPS
1. TRANSLATIONS
    - a. The more reliable translations are KJV, NKJV, ASV, NASV.
    - b. One should not put much stock in versions translated...
      - 1) By one man (e.g., The Living Bible)
      - 2) By a denomination( New World Translation).
  2. DICTIONARIES
    - a. An ordinary English dictionary can be used.
    - c. Original language like "Vine's Expository Dictionary".
  3. CONCORDANCE
    - a. Words in alphabetical order with a list of verses where they are found.
    - b. It can be a great time saver in finding verses based on a given subject.
  4. ENCYCLOPEDIAS
    - a. This type of reference gives detailed articles on the people, places, and things mentioned in the Bible
    - b. Two good sets are:
      - 1) Zondervan's Pictorial Encyclopedia Of The Bible
      - 2) The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia
  5. COMMENTARIES
    - a. Books written by scholars commenting on various books of the Bible.
      - 1) These scholars are not inspired and are subject to mistakes.
      - 2) But their insights and the fruit of their own study can be helpful.
    - b. It might be good to ask mature Christians what commentaries they can recommend

### **CONCLUSION: SOME QUESTIONS TO STIMULATE YOUR THINKING...**

1. How long do you study the Bible daily?
2. Do you study the class lessons at home that you have in church?
3. If you are not doing so now, are you willing to spend 15-30 minutes daily in Bible study?
4. What's your biggest problem in studying?