

Diving In World's Best Seller, Pt. 3

- Review
 - ▶ Introduced you to the Bible
 - ▶ Why can we trust it as the unique Word of God
 - ▶ Today: how to understand the Bible

Bottom Line:

The Bible was given for our transformation, not our information.

Why Read the Bible

2 Timothy 3:15-17 (NLT)

¹⁵You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

¹⁷God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

How to Read the Bible

- Responsibly
 - ▶ **2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)**
Be diligent to present yourself to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 - ▶ Avoid “Skip-N-Dip” method
 - ✓ A systematic approach ... in other words ...
- Repeatedly
 - ▶ The more you read the Bible the more you will understand.

- ✓ John
- ✓ Read same passage for 30 days
- ✓ Read one chapter a day from Psalms & Proverbs

- Prayerfully

Psalm 119:18

¹⁸ Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

- Patiently

2 Peter 3:15b-16

¹⁵ ... Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

¹⁶ He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand....

- ▶ Being patient brings rich joy of EUREKA moments
- ▶ Focus on what is understandable, not on what isn't

Psalm 119:125

¹²⁵ I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.

- Imaginatively
 - ▶ Bible is an historical account of real people in real places
 - ▶ When it says that Jesus was teaching by the sea ... see and hear the waves!
- Responsively

Psalm 119:33-34

³³ Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end.

³⁴ Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

James 1:22

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

- ▶ DL Moody
The Bible wasn't given for our information but for our transformation

What to do as you read

- Use a pencil & take notes
- Mark key words and phrases
- Ask detective questions
 - ▶ Who, what, when, where, why, how

Look for Things That Are:

- Emphasized
 - ▶ The amount of space devoted
 - ✓ Abraham (13); Isaac (3); Jacob (9); Joseph (13)
 - ▶ Stated purpose
 - I Corinthians 15:3-4**
³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance....
- Repeated
 - ▶ Terms ... phrases ... clauses
 - ▶ Old Testament Quotes
 - ✓ (Four pictures in a row)
- Compared

- ▶ Simile (like or as)

I Peter 5:8

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

- ▶ Metaphor: when a comparison is made by direct statement

John 15:1

¹ I am the vine, you are the branches

- Listed

I Timothy 6:11

¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

- General Principles

- ▶ A succinct statement of a universal truth

Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

- ✓ move from the specific to the general
 - ◆ I Corinthians 8 - eating meat that was sacrificed to idols
 - ◆ Principle: exercise your liberty in Christ with sensitivity towards others
 - ~ Just because "I can" doesn't mean "I should"

Application Questions to Ask: Is there a/an

- ▶ Reference to memorize
Example to Follow
Attitude to Change
Deed to perform
- ▶ Sin to confess
Command to obey
Reason to rejoice
Insight to share
Prayer to repeat
Truth to believe
Urge to resist
Reward to claim
Error to avoid
- ▶ Marks of a good application
 - ✓ It is Personal:
 - ◆ shouldn't focus on what someone else needs to do
 - ✓ It is Practical
 - ◆ doing it should be beneficial
 - ✓ It is Possible
 - ◆ one person can't solve the world's problems

- ▶ Bible overview books: Talk Thru the Bible
- ▶ Commentary: Life Application Bible Commentary
- ▶ Books on how to study the Bible
 - ✓ Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods
 - ✓ How To Study Your Bible, by Kay Arthur
 - ✓ Living By the Book, by Howard Hendricks
- ▶ Websites
 - ✓ BibleGateway.com
 - ✓ BibleStudyTools.com
 - ✓ YouVersion.com
 - ✓ StudyLight.org

Closing

- We don't read the Bible so we can "figure it out" ... but so that we may be changed through it by God himself

Bottom Line:

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Action Steps:

- Keep reading one chapter a day from John
- Download the Resource List for WBS
 - ▶ Study Bible
 - ✓ Life Application Study Bible
 - ✓ NIV Study Bible