

Dear Church: How to Study the Bible, Part 3

A Bible study for individuals, groups or classes

Background scripture:

2 Timothy 2:15 (mentioned initially at 2:41)

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Podcast Sections:

- 0:00 Review of parts 1 and 2
- 1:35 Where do I start in studying the Bible? Study starts with a plan
- 2:25 (1) Consistency is needed, a routine of regular Bible study
- 3:48 (2) Study needs to be systematic, working through tough passages, not cherry picking
- 6:16 Study is God speaking to you
- 7:44 The Bible is one consistent story
- 8:37 (3) Study needs to be contextual
- 10:57 We need to learn what the passage meant to the original audience
- 12:35 We need to look at the style of the writing
- 15:55 When people say, "That's your interpretation"
- 17:56 We are each responsible for our understanding of the Bible (John 12:48)
- 18:10 Eagerness is a key to Bible Study (2 Tim 2:15)
- 19:42 You can teach and know scripture if you put in the effort to learn (Heb 5:12-14)
- 21:38 Approach scripture with joy and a desire to learn
- 22:33 We need to know the Word (John 12:48)
- 24:33 Study helps such as different translations, reading through each year
- 29:10 Bible study must ultimately affect how you live
- 30:29 Beware of overconfidence, realizing your understandings may change with time

Discussion questions:

1. Chris and Fred say Bible study needs to be consistent (2:25), with a regular routine, and systematic (3:48), where you plan how to work your way through the entire Bible. Have you ever considered a plan of Bible study where you have set times each week for Study and a plan for moving through scripture? If yes, has that made a big difference in your learning?
2. Chris says Bible study is God speaking to you (6:16) and Fred says it is like receiving a personal letter sent to you from God (6:49). Discuss the idea that we tend to read scriptures as they impact all Christians or the Church, but sometimes forget to make it personal. How might that change our Bible study?
3. Discuss the idea that understanding a scripture means knowing what it meant to the original audience (10:57). How often do you see others pull a scripture out of context,

either for inspiration or as part of an argument? How can we avoid taking scripture out of context?

4. Read John 12:48 (listed in the scriptures below and referenced at 17:56 and 22:33 in the video). What impact does this passage have regarding those that never get around to studying their Bible?
5. Discuss the idea that the Bible is an ocean (31:54 to 32:55). Does the richness of the Bible encourage you or trouble you?

Advanced scripture study

John 12:48 (referenced at 12:32)

⁴⁸The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.¹

Acts 17:11 (mentioned at 17:09)

11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

Philippians 2:12b-13 (referenced at 18:02)

work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Hebrews 5:12-14 (referenced at 20:06)

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.