

Five key attitudes will help us study the Bible successfully. We must realize that just common, ordinary people like us are capable of understanding the Scriptures (Ephesians 5:17), without the official interpretation of some learned doctor, priest, or church hierarchy. We must love the truth enough to set aside our prejudices or anything else that hinders our acceptance of the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12). When we study, we must act from proper motives. A “noble and good heart” reads to learn the Lord’s will, not to prove what one already believes (Luke 8:15; cf. John 6:26). We must be reverent (respectful) toward the Scriptures. The Bible is not simply a good book. Although the Lord’s name is “holy and awesome” (Psalm 111:9), He has magnified His word above His very name (Psalm 138:2). The Lord is pleased with those who tremble at His word (Isaiah 66:2), i.e., who approach it with profound reverence that causes them to believe it and obey it without reservation or hesitation. Christians must bring their thoughts into captivity to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Since I am His servant, it matters not what I desire or what my opinion might be. All that matters is what the Lord has said.

Five Key Attitudes

- ☛ **Realize you can understand the Bible.**
- ☛ **Love the truth.**
- ☛ **Act from proper motives.**
- ☛ **Be reverent.**
- ☛ **Bring your thoughts into captivity to Christ.**

Program

Finally, to grow in our knowledge of the Scriptures, we must have a regular program of Bible study.

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing (making proper application of - KS) the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

There are several simple things we can do to accomplish this crucial goal.

We can learn from sermons preached from our pulpit. Be present every time the word is proclaimed: Sunday morning, Sunday evening,

and during gospel meetings (Hebrews 10:24-25). Come with a desire to hear God’s word (Acts 10:33), not with a nervous eye on your watch, wishing the preacher would quit so you can get out to engage in more important activities. Listen carefully with an open but critical mind, checking the Bible references and taking notes for later study (Acts 17:10-12).



We should each have a regular program of “meditation” (studying and thinking about the meaning of the Scriptures) (Psalm 119:97,99). Attend all the Bible classes. Study your lesson carefully before class and be prepared to discuss the material. Read good Bible papers and bulletins. Read the Bible daily in your home with your family (also pray and sing together).

Conclusion

Israel went into apostasy and was destroyed because of their ignorance of God’s word (Hosea 4:6). The same thing can happen to us. But if we diligently study the Scriptures, we will grow in our knowledge of the Word and become mature Christians (2 Timothy 3:16-17), able to “discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing (accurately handling - New American Standard Bible) the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

Questions for Review

I. Matching

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| 1. _____ perfect | A. studying and thinking about the meaning of the Scriptures |
| 2. _____ hearts | B. mature, complete |
| 3. _____ meditation | C. accurately handling |
| 4. _____ rightly dividing | D. minds |

II. True/False

1. _____ We should become mature, capable of digesting the meat of the Scriptures
2. _____ We can know God's will by contemplating our inner selves.
3. _____ By learning the Scriptures we can become "perfect" Christians.
4. _____ Thoughts mold attitudes, attitudes set character, and character determines destiny.
5. _____ Ordinary people are not capable of understanding the Scriptures without help from clergy.
6. _____ The Bible is just another good book.
7. _____ We must bring our thoughts into captivity to Christ .
8. _____ God has magnified His name above His word.
9. _____ We should study the Bible to prove what we already believe.
10. _____ Each Christian needs a regular program of Bible study.
11. _____ The only means of our salvation is through a knowledge of the word.
12. _____ The true basis of faith and hope is a feeling better felt than told.
13. _____ The Lord is pleased with those who scoff at His word.
14. _____ You should read the Bible daily with your family.
15. _____ All that matters is what I want.
16. _____ Israel went into apostasy and was destroyed because of their ignorance of God's word.

Bible Correspondence Course Lesson Twenty The Importance of Bible Study

A healthy child is a child who grows. If a child quits growing, something is wrong. If a child remains underdeveloped and unable to eat solid food, the parents become frantic. They seek the best medical help available to solve the problem, for the health and even life of their precious child is at stake.

The same is true of children of God. Christians must not remain spiritual babes, able only to take the milk of the word. We should become mature, capable of digesting the meat of the Scriptures (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Let us find out how we can grow in our knowledge and understanding of the Word of God.

Importance

First, we must recognize the critical importance of Bible study. A tiny baby craves nourishing milk. A child with no appetite is sickly. But some children of God have no appetite for the word. They are spiritually weak and ill. You must "as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby (1 Peter 2:2).

If we will recognize five important truths about Bible study, we will want to study the Scriptures diligently. We must realize that only through the study of the Bible can we know God's Will (1 Corinthians 2:11-13). The only means of our salvation is through a knowledge of the word (James 1:21). It is our sole means of learning what sin is that we might avoid transgression (Psalm 119:11). Only by learning the Scriptures can we become "perfect" (mature, complete) Christians (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 4:14-15). Furthermore, our knowledge of the word of God is the only true basis for both faith and hope (Romans 10:17; 15:4).

Proper Attitudes

We must also have the right attitudes toward the Scriptures if we are to grow in our knowledge of the Bible. How we think in our hearts (minds) will determine whether we live or die spiritually (Proverbs 4:23). This is because thoughts mold attitudes, attitudes set character, and character determines destiny.