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## How to Study the Bible

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates **day and night**" (Ps. 1:2 RSV).

### Introduction.

Psalm 1 presents two portraits. The first three verses describe the happy man of faith. The last three verses describe the unsuccessful man who has no faith in God and who lives a life of wickedness.

In this inspired portrait of a happy man, there is an explanation for his success. He makes some great choices. There are some great negatives in his life. There are some things he will not do. There is a great positive in his life. He gives the sacred Scriptures a prominent place in his life day by day. He takes delight in the teachings of God's Word. He meditates upon these teachings both day and night.

How do you relate to the Bible? We hope that you recognize it as the inspired, authoritative record of God's self-revelation and of human response to Him.

The Christian needs to do something more than just hold the sacred Scriptures in reverence. We all need to study God's Word day by day and thus nourish our spiritual growth (I Peter 2:1-2).

No one can do your eating for you.  
No one can do your sleeping for you.  
No one can do your learning for you.  
No one can do your worshiping for you.  
No one can do your Bible study for you.

Some things we simply must do for ourselves. Particularly this is true with reference to Bible study.

Let us look at some of the ways that we can profitably study the Word of God and do it day by day.

### I. Study to Find Promises to Claim.

The Bible contains many promises from God to His people. By faith and with an attitude of obedience, you can claim those promises as your very own.

## **II. Study to Find Commands to Obey.**

God loves us and has absolutely no desire to deprive us of anything that is good. We need to believe in His benevolent purpose for us as we face the commandments of His Holy Word.

There are some negative commandments which prohibit certain types of activity. To disobey these commandments is to break ourselves upon the very laws of the universe. God is not trying to deprive us with prohibitions. Behind every prohibition there is the divine desire to help us avoid harming ourselves and hurting others.

Some commandments are positive and call for affirmative action. To respond to these will bring joy into our lives and good into the lives of others.

## **III. Study to Find Examples to Follow.**

There are some biblical characters that can serve as ideals for us. We can follow their examples and reap good results.

The Bible also contains accounts of some who failed. These should serve as red lights along the road of life to encourage us to stop the conduct that we might be engaging in.

## **IV. Study to Find Sins to Avoid.**

Sin not only hurts the heart of our Father God, but sin brings hurt and harm into our lives and into the lives of others.

As we study the Word of God and discover there the end result of sinful ways of behavior, we can discover sins that we need to avoid.

## **V. Study to Find Solutions to Your Problems.**

The daily study of God's Word can be considered as the listening side of the prayer experience. When we pray we not only talk to God, but we should let Him talk to us.

## **Conclusion.**

The psalmist said, "I have laid up thy word in my heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Ps. 119:11 **RSV**). We deposit God's Word in our heart only when we study it. We should study it for the good of our spiritual life as regularly as we eat food for the good of our physical life.

May God bless each of you as you let the Word of God have a greater place in your life.