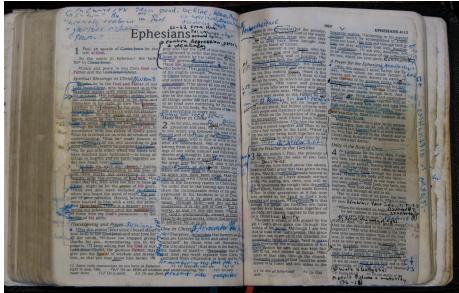


Studying The Bible



"The works of the LORD *are* great, Studied by all who have pleasure in them." -Psalm 111:2

The Bible Is A Neglected Book!



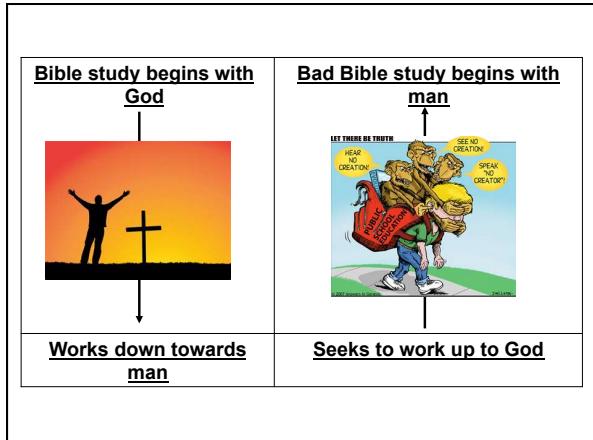
The Bible is a neglected book because the more you study the Bible it becomes more difficult to understand the meaning. People give up reading their bible because they either find it boring or hard to understand.

The Teacher As A Guide

- “So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.”
- The word for “guide” in the original language is “hodegeo” which means “to lead or guide in the way”.
- It is this guidance that people need today even more than ever because there are so many blind leaders of the blind.**

A Huge Problem Exists

- Although people believe that the bible is God’s sacred word they rarely read it let alone take the time for study. Therefore there is a spiritual lack of knowledge when it comes to spiritual things.
- “Bible illiteracy is stealing the next generation of Christians. We’re at genuine risk of losing biblical Christianity in just one generation.” Today, 86 percent of American teenagers claim to be Christian. Three out of five say they believe the Bible is totally accurate in all that it teaches. They [teenagers] don’t know the Bible for the same reason their parents don’t know the Bible—neglect.”-Kroll
- The result is that teenagers are getting their understanding of spiritual things from movies and novels they see and read.



The Bible Is Perfect

- If we truly believe that the Bible is the word of God then we must also understand that it is perfect because God cannot do anything else but perfection.
- “The law of the LORD is **perfect**, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple”-Psalm 19:7
- It is perfect in its literal form.
- It is perfect in its structure.
- It is perfect in its words.
- It is perfect in its truth.
- “I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.”-Psalm 119:162

God Is The Originator And Initiator Of All Revelation

- At the core of Bible study is the fact that God has spoken in various times and in various ways. If God did not speak there would be no revelation. Every truth given to us since the beginning of time has been a revelation of the character and person of God.
- The **fulfillment** of God's revelation is Jesus Christ
- The Bible is first and foremost a **revelation** that God has given to us and as we study His word as a whole **we rely upon Him for the interpretation.**

Opening The Door To The Fallible Ideas And Theories Of Man

- **Eisegesis:** Interpreting the Scripture according one's own ideas, i.e. **reading into** the word of God **with our own opinions.**
- Eisegesis unlocks the door to man's ideas



Eisegesis Results In Making The Word Of God Of No Effect

- "For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men.... All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition...making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."--Mark 7:8,9,13

Opening The Door To God's Word

- **Exegesis:** Reading out of the Scripture and letting the word of God speak for itself within its context
- Exegesis unlocks the door to understanding of God's word



Exegesis Results In The Word Of God Being Effective In The Life Of The Believer

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.--
1 Thess 2:13

As We Study

- Recognize that The Holy Spirit will teach us as we study.
- Recognize that God desires us to understand His Word.
- Recognize that God means what He says, and says what He means. He is not trying to confuse us.
- Recognize that the Bible is an integrated whole and should be interpreted that way.

Romans 15:4

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

The Holy Spirit Interprets The Word

- “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, or prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”-2 Peter 1:20-21
- Studying the Bible begins by praying for understanding.
- Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”- 2 Timothy 2:15
- Strength in teaching the Bible comes from diligent study to divide the word of God so that God approves and as a workman we are not ashamed.

Rightly Dividing The Word

- It is necessary for Bible study to rightly divide the Word of Truth.
- As to its literary form.
- As to its subject matter.
- As to its times and ages.
- As to its truth and teaching.

The Three Distinct Groups

- The Bible is written to the Jews, the Gentiles, and the Church of God.
- Keep in mind when studying the Bible which group of persons the context is addressing.
- **The Bible is written to a particular people at a particular time in a particular context, but its application is for all people for all time.**
- God chose to reveal Himself to the Jewish people; therefore the writers are Jewish, the culture is Jewish, the religion is Jewish, the traditions are Jewish and the concepts are Jewish. In order to get a better understanding of the Bible it is necessary to gain insight into Hebrew history and culture.

The Subject Of The Bible Is Jesus And His Redemptive Work

- “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they **which testify of Me.**” ---John 5:39
- “Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the **Psalms concerning Me.**” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.” ---Luke 24:44-45
- **Jesus reveals the Father. The Bible reveals Jesus. The Holy Spirit reveals the teaching of Jesus in the written and spoken Word.**

Methods Of Bible Study

- **Observation:** What does the passage say?
 - ① Who are the people that it is speaking to?
 - ② What words stand out?
 - ③ What is the context?
- **Interpretation:** What does the passage mean?
 - ① What do the words that stand out mean?
 - ② What other scripture references help to interpret the passage?
 - ③ Who are the people and their culture?
- **Application:** How is the passage applied?
 - ① How are we to live in light of the interpretation?
 - ② Do we need to change our thinking in light of the passage?

- **Read the Old Testament with the New Testament in mind**, and read the New Testament with the Old Testament in mind. The New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament.
- **Never interpret the Bible with an agenda** in mind. Let it speak for itself.
- **The goal of Bible study** is to reproduce the sense or meaning which the biblical author intended for his original audience. (Example, Hebrews, James)

Sources

- <https://www.biblegateway.com>
 - Bibles and word searches
- www.blueletterbible.org
 - Dictionaries, interlinear bible and concordance
- <http://www.preceptaustin.org>
 - Commentaries
- <http://www.biblebelievers.com>
 - Articles about the theology
- The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible!
- Interpret the Bible from within itself and use outside sources as they pertain to the subject matter.

George Muller

“I believe that the one chief reason that I have been kept in happy useful service is that I have been a lover of Holy Scripture. It has been my habit to read the bible through four times a year; in a prayerful spirit, to apply it to my heart, and practice what I find there. I have been for sixty-nine years a happy man; happy, happy, happy.”

Muller Quotes

