

## **THINGS NEEDED FOR PROFITABLE BIBLE STUDY 411**

Text: Jn. 8:31-32- Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. The Bible is God's revelation to man.
- B. In it is the revealed will of God, and He expects us to study its contents, so that we can live as He directs.
- C. While it is true that the Bible is a revelation, it still must be studied.
- D. God never forces anyone to obey Him against their will.
- E. The willing student will find that he can learn anything that the Lord wants him to know.
- F. The following shows that God meant for His word to be understood:
  - 1. Jn. 6:44-45 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.
  - 2. Eph. 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
  - 3. 2 Tim. 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**BODY: Things That We Need For A Profitable Bible Study:**

### **A DESIRE TO KNOW AND DO THE TRUTH.**

- A. In Jesus time many did not want to know and do the truth.

1. Matt. 13:10-15 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: `Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'

2. 2 Thess. 2:10-12 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

B. W/O this desire you can learn about the Bible, but not much.

1. It is difficult for those devoid of this desire to see the truth.

2. James 1:23-25 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

3. 2 Tim. 3:7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

C. What happens when people don't have this desire- Acts 13:44-48  
44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge

yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. "For so the Lord has commanded us: `I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.' " Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

## II. THE REMOVAL OF RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE:

A. This implies the necessity for a right attitude of mind.

B. One may not be exactly dishonest in handling the truth, yet he may be so biased in his opinions he can not see the truth.

1. Matt. 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

2. Jn. 8:31-32 Truth makes you free txt. "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

C. While studying the Bible we should maintain an open mind and not reach a conclusion until all the facts in the case are in.

D. James Harvey Robinson, "Of all human ambition an open mind eagerly expectant of new discoveries and ready to remold convictions in the light of added knowledge and dispelled ignorance and misapprehensions, is the noblest, rarest and the most difficult to achieve."

## III. THE EXERCISE OF COMMON SENSE.

A. Common sense-practical understanding, the ordinary capacity to see and take things in their right light; sound judgment.

B. Revealed and common sense are both from God and do not clash.

C. Being a natural thing does not mean that it can not be greatly increased- Heb. 5:14 **But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

D. All admit the need of this gift in every other branch of learning, but think it useless in Bible study: They want dreamy, speculative minds.

E. Examples of the this gift:

1. Who was baptized in Acts 8:38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Debates over this. Who wanted baptized.

2. Which one justified in Lk. 18:14a I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Read 18:9-14- who humbled himself and who exaled himself.

#### IV. FAITH IN THE INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

- A. This does not mean that the unbelievers can not learn anything.
- B. Their mind is unfavorable to any through investigation.
- C. To receive a letter from George Washington, while believing that someone else sent it for a joke, would not cause great investigation of that letter.
- D. Faith that the Bible is from God will change the way you read it.
- E. Notice:
  - 1. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
  - 2. 2 Pet. 1:20-21 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

#### V. GETTING THE SETTING OF THE PASSAGE.

A. In order to do this ask four questions:

1. Who is speaking?
2. To Whom?
3. What is the subject?
4. Under what circumstances?

B. Example Job 1:11 "But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

Job 2:4 So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. (NIV) "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life.

1. Language of Satan.
2. Only part true.
3. Some would do this but not all, not Job.

C. No passage of scripture should be made to contradict any other passage, it can be explained with it.

1. Acts 9:7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. - hearing a voice.

2. Acts 22:9- Did not hear the voice of Him who spoke. And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me.

3. Acts 26:14 solves this- Spoke in Hebrew. And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, `Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.

4. Must gather the evidence and all the evidence.

## VI. THE EMPLOYMENT OF MENTAL INDUSTRY.

- A. The Disciples of Jesus did not understand his parables, but later they asked him- Matt. 13:10-16. And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.' But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;
- B. The Bereans- Acts 17:11-12 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.
- C. Timothy had a wonderful background and a great teacher:
1. 2 Tim. 1:3-5 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.
  2. 2 Tim. 3:10- But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance. V. 14-15- But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy

Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

3. Yet still told to study “Study to show thyself. . . 2 Tim. 2:15”

D. Man heard a gospel preacher preach a sermon and asked him how long it took him to prepare the sermon “Twenty-five years.”

#### CONCLUSION:

A. So you want to know what the Bible says:

B. You will need:

1. Desire.
2. Open Mind (Remove prejudice).
3. Common sense.
4. Faith in Bible.
5. Get setting (Keep in context).
6. Mental industry (work at it).