



Get More from Your Bible

Psalms 19:7-11

We need to make every effort to be the kind of Christian worker that God accepts rather than one who is _____ when God inspects his work (2 Timothy 2:15). What people believe and teach matters to _____ and it matters to your _____ (1 Timothy 4:16). Only sound and healthy teaching can help us _____ strong in our faith. Paul warned Timothy to _____ out for religious teachers who did more harm than good (2 Timothy 2:16-18). If you do not know the truth, you can easily be deceived and fall into _____. God's Word provides us an unfailing _____ of truth by which we can test what is right and what is wrong. Because God's Word is utterly _____, we can place our faith and rest our souls on it (Romans 10:17). If you want a deeper _____ then go to the Word, the Bible. If you want to _____ the truth, then go to the Word, the Bible. If you want to _____ sin and error out of your life, then go to the Word, the Bible.

The Bible is a _____, but the Bible will do you no good if you leave it on the _____. If you yearn to get _____ out of your Bible, then read it over and over. Each _____ holds a vast treasure, and you'll not get it all at one reading. Read it _____ times. Get so familiar with its words and ideas that its message cannot fail to just saturate your _____. God wants His Word to be _____ on your heart (Hebrews 8:10).

If you are _____ of the corruption in our society, set your heart on the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:13-15). God's Word is _____ and it is all-sufficient for our spiritual needs. It will _____ us what is right and wrong; it will _____ us when we go astray; it will correct our _____; and it will train us in righteousness. The Word of God fully _____ us for every good work. That's why we should be "like newborn _____, (who) long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may _____ in respect to salvation" (1 Peter 2:2-3).

Let's take some time to _____ at this book, the Bible. No book in the _____ of the world has been more loved and studied than the Bible, and it remains the all-time _____ seller. The Bible is unique. It's actually a library of 66 _____, written by about 40 men over a space of 1500 years.

Correctly understanding the Scriptures means that there are certain basic _____ that must be followed. The Bible must _____ for itself and should never be made to say things that were never intended by the writers (Proverbs 23:23).

First, familiarize yourself with the _____ - _____ books of the Bible. Each book is a treasure of itself, written in its own time and for its own _____. The books of the Bible are written in _____ styles of literature; some are history, some narratives, some are poetry, some are wisdom literature, some are prophetic, some are letters and some are apocalyptic. A good Bible _____ notices what kind of literature is found in each book and reads those passages accordingly.

Second, select some good Bible study _____; a Bible dictionary, a Bible atlas, a Bible handbook, and a concordance. The Bible was written many centuries ago in a foreign land; and these _____ will help you comprehend the people, places and customs that may be unfamiliar to you. The concordance will help you to _____ the passages which have the key terms that you're studying. A good study Bible will often have a lot of these helps all in _____ book.



Third, read each _____ in its context. Many people misunderstand the Bible because they have never taken the _____ to investigate the background of these verses that they read. Ask these questions of the passage: Who's _____ the passage? To _____ is the author writing? Not everything in the Bible is written to every _____. The Old Testament was written to the _____, the New Testament to _____. When was the passage written? What was the author's _____ in writing? What circumstances _____ the writer to say these things? What would this message _____ to those to whom it's written? To interpret a passage and not _____ the context is to misinterpret it; to interpret it contrary to its context is to _____ falsehood for truth. The _____ of a word or phrase is best defined by its immediate context. Read the verses _____ and _____ the one that you're studying.

Fourth, learn to draw out the _____ of the passage; don't read into the passage something that wasn't originally there. Be _____ not to read into a passage your own personal prejudices or concepts that you think ought to be in the Bible. You have to read God's Word with a _____ mind, open to learn what God says, and to understand that Bible for what it says for itself. The Bible is always its own _____ interpreter.

Fifth, let the Bible _____ itself. For instance, in Ephesians 4:4 Paul says that there is "one body" and this body is defined as the _____ in Ephesians 1:22-23. A plain, clear passage should _____ be used to make the difficult passages clear. A difficult passage never denies or contradicts plain _____ of the Scripture.

Number six: the Scriptures _____ us not to add or take away from what's revealed (Deuteronomy 12:32; John 8:31-32).

Number seven: take _____ that the Scriptures teach on any one subject. All the truth on any one _____ is not usually found in the same passage. Something may be true but not the _____ truth. It's true that we're saved by faith (John 5:24), but there's more to be _____. Faith apart from love and faith apart from obedience will _____ save. Faith apart from repentance or baptism will not save (Luke 13:3; Acts 22:16).

Number eight: when you come to the Word of God come with the right _____. A love for God and humility are essential to good Bible _____. The seed, which is God's Word, must be _____ in a good and honest heart if it is to bring forth fruit. When you approach the Bible do it as you approach _____, because the Bible is God's Word.

Number nine: apply the message of the Bible to your _____. Respond to what you read with an _____ heart and be willing to live it out. When you're reading the Word of God, ask yourself, does this passage _____ something that I'm not doing? Does it suggest a _____ in my behavior? Does it tell about a new spirit or attitude that I _____ to show? Does this passage _____ a belief that I already hold? Or does this verse challenge my _____? How would it change matters if I _____ this command? What would Jesus do if He were in your _____?

Get more out of your Bible by _____ more in your study, and it will bless you.