

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #1 - INTRODUCTION

John 14:23, 24

Illustration: Let's say that I bought all of the materials to make a DIY doghouse. All of the plywood and the boards have been purchased. I even printed off some very easy to follow, step-by-step instructions for you. You have everything that you need to build a nice doghouse. Right?

NO!

What you are missing is TOOLS - you will need a saw, a hammer, nails, measuring tape, a drill, and... potentially several other things.

If you are missing the TOOLS - then you CANNOT build the doghouse!

If you have the TOOLS - then you can COMPLETE the project.

Often times, we tell people to read and study the Bible and we even include how RICH and REWARDING it is to study the Bible, but we fail to provide Christians with the proper TOOLS of Bible study.

What I'd like to do over the next few weeks is to provide you with the TOOLS that, IF YOU USE THEM PROPERLY, you can have an understanding of the Bible which you can BUILD your FAITH upon.

Tonight will be a simple INTRODUCTION to the next few weeks. So you probably won't be blown away with anything earthshaking tonight, but hopefully we can whet your appetite for what is ahead.

Now we read John 14:23, 24

It's not about how much you KNOW the word of God... it's about how much you LOVE the word of God.

- There are too many folks walking around who have a great deal of KNOWLEDGE about the Bible but they don't APPLY IT!

If you LOVE God's words - you will not only seek to KNOW them, but LIVE them!

It's not about how much you get into the word of God... it's about how much the word of God gets into you.

cf. 2 Timothy 2:15

I. THE HOW OF BIBLE STUDY - RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

2 Timothy 2:15 - This is a VERY IMPORTANT passage when it comes to LEARNING the Bible.

We are commanded to STUDY God's word - this is a command for ALL saved people, not just pastors or Bible teachers.

1. The MOTIVATION for Bible study - "to shew thyself approved unto God"

- Contrast with **Acts 2:22**

2. The MISSION of Bible study - "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed"

- God PREPARES you for His work through studying the Bible

3. The METHOD of Bible study - "rightly dividing the word of truth"

- This is a principle in itself that we will tackle down the road in this study

So let me begin by saying that your Bible is an OPEN book and you CAN understand it... with the proper TOOLS!

cf. 2 Corinthians 11:1-3 - the value of SIMPLICITY!

- It is SIMPLE to be SAVED... and God has made understanding the Bible a SIMPLE task when armed with the CORRECT tools.
- The key to UNDERSTANDING is simply BELIEVING every word

II. THE WHAT OF BIBLE STUDY - BELIEF

HOW were you SAVED? What ACTION had to take place on YOUR behalf for you to be SAVED?

- **cf. John 3:36** - it was BELIEVING

cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 - the Bible only WORKS in you, and you only UNDERSTAND it when... you BELIEVE it!

There is NO SECRET or MAGIC FORMULA

Believe God's word and you are well on your way to LEARNING God's word.

Let me give you a warning though. It is NOT POPULAR in the day we live in to be a Bible BELIEVER - and it wasn't popular in Paul's day.

cf. Acts 24:14

- Not only the world, but the RELIGIOUS crowd will call you a HERETIC for BELIEVING God's words.

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III. THE WHO OF BIBLE STUDY - JESUS CHRIST & THE HOLY SPIRIT

cf. Luke 24:44, 45

- v. 44 - mention of the WRITTEN WORD
- v. 45 - it is Jesus Christ who OPENS up the UNDERSTANDING of the Scriptures

Who BETTER to teach you the Scriptures than God manifest in the flesh? There is no better teacher... but, Jesus Christ is not here today.

So, what are we to do?

cf. John 14:25, 26

- It is the Holy Spirit WHO teaches the Scriptures to the believer.

cf. John 16:13, 14

The Holy Spirit is to be your:

- GUIDE - He GUIDES you into all truth

As we go through this series on Bible study principles - you will have ZERO understanding if you do not KNOW the Lord Jesus Christ as YOUR Saviour.

If you DO know the Lord Jesus Christ, then He has given you the Holy Spirit to TEACH and GUIDE you as you journey through the Scriptures.

With the Lord's help, I will do my best to give you the TOOLS needed to study the Scriptures - but they will be of no use to you if you:

1. Are not saved
2. Fail to put them to use