



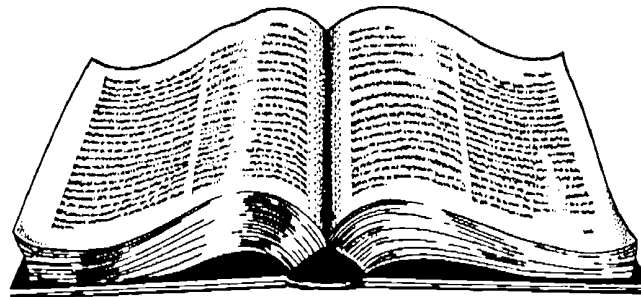
EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

BIBLE STUDY: GOD'S WORD IN YOUR LIFE

A sword is to be used skillfully in battle as both an offensive and a defensive weapon. God has equipped you with such a weapon for your spiritual battle—"the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" (Ephesians 6:17). The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to accomplish the work of God.

The great need of the hour among persons spiritually hungry is twofold: first, to know the Scriptures, apart from which no saving truth will be vouchsafed by our Lord; the second, to be enlightened by the Spirit, apart from whom the Scriptures will not be understood.
—A. W. Tozer¹

VERSES Pg. 759



Gods Word—His Communication to You

The Bible is the most remarkable book ever written. The writing was done by about forty men of many occupations. They wrote over a period of approximately 1,500 years, and in three languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Yet the Bible has one great theme and central figure—Jesus Christ. The compilation of this Great Book didn't just happen by coincidence. It would have been impossible unless the Bible had had one supreme Author—the Holy Spirit of God.

1. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 say about the Scriptures? (Circle the letter of the correct answer.)
 - a. Some of the Bible is inspired by God.
 - b. All of it is inspired by God.
 - c. Only the parts that speak to you in a personal way are inspired by God.

(Inspired comes from a Greek word meaning "God-breathed.")

The meaning, then, is not that God breathed into the writers, nor that He somehow breathed into the writings to give them their special character, but that what was written by men was breathed out by God. He spoke through them. They were His spokesmen.

—John R. W. Stott²

¹ From *The Root of the Righteous* (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Christian Publications, 1955), page 37.

² From *Understanding the Bible* (London: Scripture Union, 1972), page 183.

The Bible At A Glance

(66 Books)

<i>"The New is in the Old concealed..."</i> Old Testament (39 Books)		<i>"...The Old is in the New revealed."</i> New Testament (27 Books)	
History (17 Books) Law— Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Prophecy (17 Books) Major Prophets— Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	History (5 Books) Gospels— Matthew Mark Luke John Acts	Prophecy (1 Book) Revelation
History and Government— Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	Minor Prophets— Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi	Teaching (21 Books) Paul's Letters— Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon General Letters— Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude	
Poetry (5 Books) Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>—God used different men over a period of about 1500 years in the writing of the Bible (1400 B.C. to A.D. 90).</p> </div>		

2. How was Scripture given? 2 Peter 1:20,21 _____

Who, then, helps you understand the Bible? 1 Corinthians 2:12,13

3. How do the following verses describe God's Word?

Matthew 24:35 _____

John 17:17 _____

Hebrews 4:12 _____

4. Examine Psalm 19:7-11 carefully. Use the following chart to aid you in your investigation.

Verse	What The Bible Is Called	Its Characteristics	What It Will Do For Me
7	Law Statutes	perfect trustworthy	refreshes spiritually gives wisdom
8			
9			
10			
11			

In the chart above, place a check by the two or three thoughts which impressed you most about the Bible.

It is the very nature and being of God to delight in communicating himself. God has no selfishness. God keeps nothing to himself. God's nature is to be always giving.
—Andrew Murray³

³From *Absolute Surrender* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1962), page 21.

How the Bible Helps You

5. Look up the following verses and summarize some of the ways the Bible is important to you as a Christian.

Jeremiah 15:16 _____

John 5:39 _____

2 Peter 1:4 _____

1 John 2:1 _____

6. Analogy is a form which explains something by comparing it point by point with something similar. In the following verses, what is God's Word compared with?

Object

Function

Jeremiah 23:29 _____

Matthew 4:4 _____

James 1:23-25 _____

Your Responsibility

7. "The Glories of God's Word" is a title given to Psalm 119. Nearly every verse of the Psalm speaks of His Word, and about applying it in daily living. Notice the psalmist's attitudes and actions concerning God's Word. Beginning with verse 9, fill in the diagram below.

Verse	Attitude	Action
9		Keeping God's Word—pure life
10	Wholeheartedly sought God	Prayed—"Don't let me wander"
11		Hid Word in his heart
12		Asked God to teach him
13		
14		
15		
16		

8. According to John 8:31, what qualifies a man to be Christ's disciple?

How would you explain these words to another person? _____

9. From the following verses fill in the remaining blanks.

Action to Take

Why

Psalm 78:5-7 _____

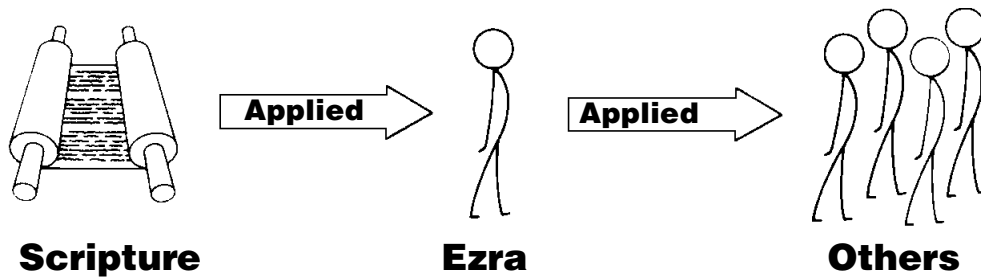
Acts 17:11 _____

James 1:22 _____

Revelation 1:3 _____

10. Ezra is a good example of a man who felt a responsibility toward God's Word. What was his approach to Scripture? Ezra 7:10

Note the order of Ezra's actions. He applied the Scriptures to his own life before he taught them to others.

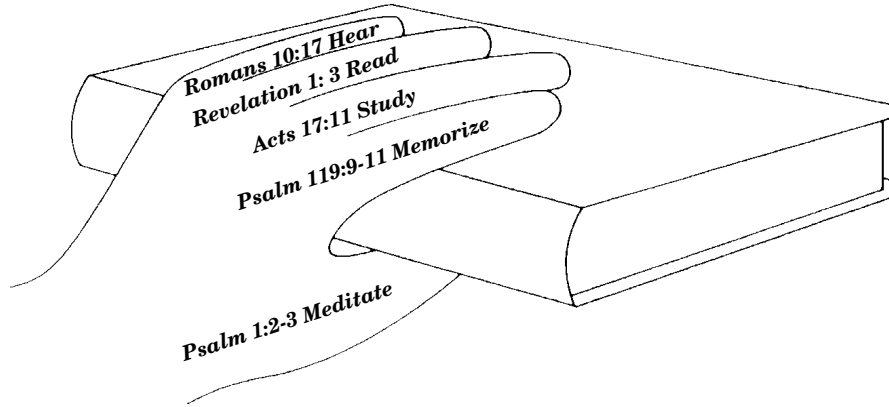


11. Reflect carefully on Colossians 3:16.

a. What practical steps can you take to allow Christ's Word to "dwell in you richly"? (Examples: take notes during sermons; write out memory verses.)

b. Number them in the order of effectiveness for yourself.

c. During the next week, how can you put into practice the first two methods you numbered?



The Importance of Meditation

Meditation on the Scriptures is prayerful reflection with a view to understanding and application. The goal is to *conform your life* to God's will by prayerfully thinking how to relate God's Word to your life.

12. From Joshua 1:8, answer the following questions.

a. What should be the source of your meditation? _____

b. Briefly state the relationship between meditation and application. _____

c. What are the results of meditation? _____

13. Meditate on Psalm 1, and record your findings. Here are some questions to help you get started.

How is the Christian like a tree?

What are the differences between the godly and the ungodly man as to habits, stability, and future?

What new ideas from this Psalm will help you in your relationship with God?

In the space below, draw a simple picture that depicts the content of verses 2 and 3.

Remember These Points:

- *God has communicated to man through His Word—the Bible.*
- *Through the Scriptures you can get to know God better, understand His desires for your life, and discover new truths about living for Him.*
- *God commands believers to let His Word dwell in them richly. It is very important that you give yourself wholeheartedly to studying God's Word, allowing it to fill your life.*
- *God places emphasis on the act of meditating in His Word, because meditation leads to personal application.*