

What’s the difference between studying and knowing?

You study an inanimate object, or even a person, but that doesn’t mean you know it.

Study Abraham Lincoln, Payton Manning, but never meet them, therefore you don’t know them

Study gravity or economics, but you can’t know ideas.

Knowing something implies a relationship and a layer of depth

Hebrews 4:12- For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Scripture is a living thing, not an inanimate object. By knowing scripture we come to know God. When we look at His Word, we look at Him.

Jesus is the revealed Word of God (John 1)

The Word brings life through the Gospel (Romans 10)

The Dogma is in the Drama.- M. Horton

God doesn’t solely give us lists of what He is like. We don’t have inspired systematic theology books. We have the Bible, where God shows himself through the story of scripture. If we want to know Him, we must know His Word. And if we are serious about knowing Him, and thereby knowing His Word, we must undertake the discipline of Bible Study.

What are some objections that people have to either studying or even reading the Bible?

Too hard to understand, don’t see how it applies to me, boring

Perspicuity of scripture- scripture is inherently clear and can be understood by any Christian

“One-hand clapping” language vs. honor your father and mother (one is clear language, one is not)

Doesn’t mean we will get it right away or understand every nuance, but rather the meaning can be grasped though it may take work.

Why is this class important?

“If the Bible were the most boring book in the world, dull, uninteresting and seemingly irrelevant, it would still be our duty to study it. If its literary style were awkward and confusing, the duty would remain. We live as human beings under an obligation by divine mandate to study diligently God’s Word. He is our sovereign, it is His word and he commands that we study it...” -R.C. Sproul

Do you believe that? Do you believe that you cannot know God apart from knowing His Word. No amount of prayer or personal reflection or observing the world around you or reading books about the Bible will help you know God if you are not in His Word. They may lead you towards God or point to some truths about him, but you will not know Him.

(Je 9:23–24)- Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, **that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD** – we know God through the way he has revealed himself, His Word

(Mt. 4:4) Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’

(2 Tim. 3:16-17) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

We must know scripture to know God, Father, Son, and Spirit.

We must know scripture to be able to tell others the truth about God.

Children, co-workers, friends, lead our family...

We must know scripture to be able to discern truth from error in a fallen world.

We must know scripture to discern our calling in place God has set us-

Romans 12:2- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

How can you know what you should watch on TV, what you should read, how you should speak to others, how to comment on politics or economics, how to parent, how to love your spouse, how to behave in a fallen world without the renewal of your fallen mind by knowing scripture?

Here’s how this class will tackle this important topic

7/3: 1-Introduction & Knowing Your Tools- *Know the Tools of the Trade*

7/10: 2-What do we bring to the Bible (Hermeneutics & Presuppositions)- *Know Your Bias*

7/17: 3-Knowing How To Study Commands- *Knowing Commands*

7/24: 4-Knowing How To Study Stories- *Knowing the Stories*

7/31: 5-Knowing How To Study Poetry- *Knowing the Writings*

8/7: 6-Knowing How To Study Prophecy- *Knowing Prophecy*

The Tools of the Trade – By 9:50

Bring- *ESV Study Bible, MacArthur Study Bible, 1 Strongs Concordance, Interlinear Bible, Horton's Systematic Theology, Grudem's Systematic, God's Big Picture, 1 Romans Commentary, Sproul's Knowing Scripture, Principles of Biblical Interpretation, Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*

I. Your Bible- read it, know where things are, memorize the books of the Bible

-paper, electronic, audiobook, whatever will get you in the book

-Takes about 75 hours for the average person to read the entire Bible

-117 Hours for the Harry Potter Series

-70 Hours for just first 2 Game of Thrones books (Over 200 hrs for the 5 books that are out)

-67 Hours for LOTR + Hobbit (or about 90 if you read the books and watch the movies)

You have the time to read God's Word- will you make time for it?

II. Study Bible (i.e. ESV Study Bible, MacArthur Study Bible)

A. Notes- read them with discernment – Each bible has certain presuppositions that tilt the interpretation a certain way (we'll talk about those next week)

B. Cross Reference- look up similar references, especially if they are directly quoted in the passage

C. Translations- hard vs. soft

Hard- KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV, RSV

Paraphrase- NIV, TNIV, NLT

•Different original texts to work with

III. Concordance / Treasury of Scripture knowledge

A. Similar words- you can often find the same word used in another verse and that will help explain how to define that word in your verse.

•Make sure the numbers line up in the front, or you can just turn to the back and see all the definitions together.

B. Words used in other passages

IV. Language Studies

A. Strong's Numbers

1. Greek

2. Hebrew

3. Using the numbers

B. Interlinear Bible

V. Systematic/Biblical Theology Reference books

VI. Books about Studying the Bible (i.e. Commentaries)

In Small Groups (by 10:10)

How do these resources bring depth to a passage? – BlueLetterBible.org / Use phone as example, allow them to use the resources I brought – Groups of 5-8, have verse in handout for them to look at and put it on the board.

For God so **loved** the **world**, that he gave his **only** Son, that whoever **believes** in him should not **perish** but have eternal life. John 3:16 (ESV)

Loved- 25 (αγαπαω, root word αγαπη- love, to delight in, opposite of neglect)

Other passages-

World- 2889 (χοςμος- Kosmos- the world, specifically referring to its inhabitants and God's order over them)

Other passages-

Only begotten- 3439/ (NIV-3666) (μονογενής- monogenes- one of a kind or only one of a certain kind, unique)

Other passages-

Believes- 4100 (πιστευώ- pisteuo, from πιστις- pistis, meaning faith)- to believe and rest upon, implying action following belief

Other passages-

Perish- 622 (απολλυμι- apollumi, to be destroyed eternally)

Other passages-

What we learn- God's unconditional love of the people in the world is what caused Him to send His son who is unique in that He is God, so that whoever has faith (with proof by action) might not suffer eternal death, but rather eternal life.

Next week - presuppositions and hermeneutics (what we bring to our study sessions)