



WHY DO WE STUDY THE BIBLE?

Why Study God's Word?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

1. To **know** God (*John 5:39-40*)
2. To **transform** our hearts **by training our minds** so that we can live for Him.

God's Word does this by:

- Growing us to **maturity** in our faith (*Hebrews 5:13-14*)
 - Helping us to **discern the will of God** (*Romans 12:2*)
 - Training us in **righteousness** (*2 Timothy 3:16*)
 - **Equipping us to do battle** against the enemy and our flesh (*Ephesians 6:17; Luke 4:1-13; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5*)
3. To **love** and disciple others (*Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 2:1-2, 15; 3:16-17*)

HELPFUL APPROACHES

Approaches to Scripture that are helpful:

1. The best way (*although not the only way*) **to study** the Bible is **book by book**.
2. Helpful steps to take when studying God's Word:
 - **Pray first!**
"Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law." Psalm 119:18
 - **Read the text.**
(Do this several times, then begin marking with your symbols.)
 - **Observation:** What does the passage say about God?
(Seek to understand the historical setting, date, context, the author, the original audience and the author's intended purpose for writing.)
 - **Interpretation:** What does it mean?
(This includes marking, reading cross references of Scripture, paraphrasing in your own words)
 - **Application:** How should this change me?
(This is the process of conforming to the Word of God. Applying scripture can be the hardest thing to accomplish for the believer. We need the Spirit's help!)