**How To Study the Bible**

**Why should a Christian study the Bible?**

* **To Learn what it says firsthand**
* **Personal Edification**
* **Teach others**
* **To know God Better**
* **To Know Me Better**
* **To Avoid Error**
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**What are some reasons you don’t study the Bible personally?**

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**What is the Bible? (2 Tim 3:16-17)**

* The Bible is the account of God’s action in the world, and his purpose with all creation.
* The writing of the Bible took place over sixteen centuries and is the work of over forty human authors.
* This compilation of booklets contains an astonishing variety of literary styles. It provides many stories about the lives of good and bad people, about battles and journeys, about the life of Jesus, and about early church activity. It comes to us in narratives and dialogues, in proverbs and parables, in songs and allegories, in history and prophecy.
* The accounts in the Bible were not generally written down as they occurred. Rather they were told over and over again and handed down through the years, before eventually being written down. Yet the same themes may be found throughout the book. Along with the diversity, there is also remarkable unity throughout.
* A guide for living life to the full. It gives us a road map for the perilous journey of life. Or to put it another way, on our voyage through life’s ocean, the Bible is an anchor.
* A storehouse of wonderful stories for children and grownups. Remember Noah and the ark? Joseph’s coat of many colors? Daniel in the lion’s den? Jonah and the fish? The parables of Jesus? These stories emphasize the triumphs and failures of ordinary people.
* A refuge in trouble. People in pain, in suffering, in prison, and in mourning tell how turning to the Bible brought strength in their desperate hour.
* A treasury of insight as to who we are. We are not meaningless robots, but we are magnificent creatures of a God who loves us and gives us a purpose and a destiny.
* A sourcebook for everyday living. We find standards for our conduct, guidelines for knowing right from wrong, and principles to help us in a confused society where so often “anything goes.”

**Why is it so hard to understand? (2 Peter 3:16)**

* **Different Time**
* **Different Culture**
* **Different Languages**
* **Our Flesh (1 Cor 2:14)**
* **Our Sinful nature**
* **Context**
* **Weak Reading Skills**
* **Laziness**
* **Our motivation**

**How do you tackle Bible study?**

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**Some real Dangers.**

* **It’s just a task**
* **False Guilt**
* **Failure to Apply**
* **“Personal Revelation”**
* **Pin Knife approach**
* **Skimming the Surface**

**How to deepen your personal Bible Study**

* **Pray**
* **Read (Context Matters)**
* **Meditate**
* **Contemplate**
* **Apply**

**Where do I start?**

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**The Pastoral Epistles**

**1 Timothy – Titus**

**Monday: Read 1 Timothy at least twice.**

**Read it one section at a time noting any questions or thoughts you may have**

**Tuesday: Timothy Charged to Oppose False Teachers (1:1-11)**

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**Wednesday: The Lord’s Grace to Paul (1:12-17)**

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**Thursday: The Charge to Timothy Renewed (1:18-20)**

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**Friday: Read all 1 Timothy again; Any new Questions or answers?**

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