

How to Study the Bible

(Lesson 1)

Introduction:

1. There always has been and always will be a need for men and women to study the Bible.
 - a. Negatively, this point is made by the fact that a failure to study the Scriptures caused the Israelites to be destroyed (Hosea 4:6).
 - b. Positively, this point is made by the fact that the people in Berea were highly commended because of their approach to studying the Scriptures (Acts 17:11).
2. This series of lessons:
 - a. is based on the workbook "How to Study the Bible" by Earle H. West
 - b. is designed to help us learn how to study the Scriptures more effectively.

Discussion:

- I. WAYS IN WHICH THE BIBLE MAY BE USED INCLUDE:
 - A. "Devotional Use" (Psalm 23; Romans 8:18-39, etc.)
 - B. "Public Reading" (Nehemiah 8:1-3; Luke 4:16-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:27)
 - C. "Meditation" (Psalm 1:1-2)
 - D. "Memorization" (Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 119:11)
 - E. "Daily Bible Reading" (Acts 17:11)
 - F. "Personal Study" (Acts 8:26-28)
- II. TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS A COLLECTION OF 66 BOOKS
 - A. These books were written by about 40 people from 1400 BC to 100 AD.
 - B. The books of the Bible are divided into 2 main sections:
 1. the Old Testament (39 books written between 1400 BC and 400 BC)
 2. the New Testament (27 books written during the 1st century AD).
 - C. The Old Testament books are divided into 4 main groups:
 1. 5 books of LAW (Genesis - Deuteronomy)
 2. 12 books of HISTORY (Joshua - Esther)
 3. 5 books of POETRY (Job - Song of Solomon)
 4. 17 books of PROPHECY (Isaiah - Malachi)
 - D. The New Testament books are divided into 4 main groups:
 1. 4 books of GOSPEL (Matthew - John)
 2. 1 book of HISTORY (Acts)
 3. 21 EPISTLES [LETTERS] (Romans - Jude)
 4. 1 book of PROPHECY (Revelation)