

How to Study the Bible
(Lesson 10)

Introduction:

1. According to Hebrews 1:1-2, God has spoken to us.
2. We learn from 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that the Bible is God's Word.
3. When the Bible is read, it can be understood (Ephesians 3:4).
4. To understand the Bible, it must be "rightly divided" [handled accurately] (2 Timothy 2:15).
5. This is an important matter because it is possible to study the Scriptures and fail to understand them.
 - a. Jesus illustrated this in His parable of the sower (Matthew 13:4, 19).
 - b. The eunuch also failed to understand the Scriptures he read (Acts 8:26-34).
6. The science of interpreting the Bible is known as "hermeneutics."
7. By following some basic guidelines the Scriptures can be interpreted properly, and they can be understood.

Discussion:

- I. THE SCRIPTURES MUST BE STUDIED WITHOUT PRECONCEIVED IDEAS AND BELIEFS
 - A. Those who deny that miracles occurred will interpret the Scriptures accordingly.
 - B. Those who believe in evolution will also interpret the Scriptures to accommodate their beliefs.
- II. THE CONTEXT OF A PASSAGE MUST BE CONSIDERED
 - A. By ignoring the context, the Bible can be made to say almost anything (Genesis 6:14; Luke 10:37; John 13:27).
 - B. To properly understand the statements found in Acts 16:30-31, the context must be studied carefully (vs.9-34).
 - C. 1 Corinthians 1:17 is sometimes used to diminish the importance of baptism (see vs.10-18; Acts 18:8).
- III. THE GRAMMAR OF A PASSAGE MUST BE STUDIED
 - A. (1 Corinthians 11:27) "*Unworthily*" is an adverb that relates to the manner in which the Lord's Supper is eaten.
 - B. Jesus answered the Sadducees by referring to the tense of "*am*" (Matthew 22:29-32; Exodus 3:6).
- IV. MEDITATION IS VERY HELPFUL
 - A. A righteous person meditates upon God's law "*day and night*" (Psalm 1:1-2).
 - B. The proper disposition to have when meditating is expressed in Psalm 119:18.