



GEORGE

02nd September 2018

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Voortrekker Hall - 56 Caledon Street, George

Sunday : Main Service 10 - 11 AM

Tuesday Bible Study : 18H30

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2 Tim. 2:15

2 Tim. 3:16-17

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How To Study The Bible, Part 1

by- Jody Apple

The Bible continues to outsell every book published. Though "best sellers" will always come along every now and then and sell a few million copies, they do not continue to sell so briskly every year. The Bible, however, sells at consistent levels year after year. But how much does the average person know about the Bible? As evidenced by the confusion that exists in the religious world (e.g., so many different man-made religions) and the number of people who are anti-religious or simply irreligious, I doubt that enough people know as much as they need to about the Bible. Why don't people know more about the bible? While I don't pretend to know every possible reason why so much ignorance of God's word exists, I do know of one major cause that contributes to the problem: Most people simply do not read the Bible.

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Jesus, in the course of his teaching often questioned his listeners by saying "have you not read," and would then proceed to ask about the subject under consideration at the moment (cf. Matthew 12:3; 19:4; 21:16, 42; 22:31; Mark 2:25; 12:10, 26; Luke 6:3; 10:26). By questioning in this manner Jesus focused attention on his audience's responsibility to have some degree of familiarity with what the scriptures said.

In order to know what the scriptures say, we must read the scriptures. God knows this. It is for this reason that we see so many prescriptions in the Old Testament to read the word of God (cf. Exodus 24:7; Deuteronomy 17:19; 31:11; Joshua 8:34-35; 2 Kings 22:8, 10, 16; 23:2; 2 Chronicles 34:18, 24, 30; Nehemiah 8:3, 8, 18; 9:3; Isaiah 34:16). Of these verses, consider especially Nehemiah 8:3, 8 and 18.

As Ezra and Nehemiah were restoring the ancient order of worship among the Jews returning from captivity, note the emphasis on reading the law of God.

Jesus, knowing God's mandate to read the Old Testament scriptures, held his audiences responsible for having done so.

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Reading is important. But reading is not an end unto itself. It is a means to an end. The goal is knowledge. We do not read anything written simply to read. We read to learn. We read to gain knowledge. So it is with the scriptures.

Reading the scriptures is important. John says that there is a blessing inherent in reading God's truth (cf. Revela-

tion 1:3). But this verse also teaches that those who keep God's words would be blessed. It is not possible to obey them if we can not understand them. The Old Testament Jews read the scriptures. As part of the synagogue system of worship the scriptures were read every Sabbath day (cf. Acts 13:15, 27; 15:21). Jesus himself read the scriptures on the Sabbath in the synagogue (Luke 4:16ff).

But some of the Jews did not know what they should have known (cf. Acts 13:27). In addition to asking "have you not read," Jesus sometimes told the Jews that they were in error because they did not know the scriptures Matthew 22:29; cf. 21:42; Mark 12:10, 24; John 7:42). His question about their reading, therefore, implied that they should not only have read, but learned. There must be a reading of God's word with the intent to know God's word.

The Ethiopian eunuch read Isaiah (Acts 8:28, 30, 32), but he did not know the meaning of what he was reading. Philip helped him to understand what he read (vs. 30-31).

Reading, unless it leads to knowledge (understanding), is only part of the job of studying God's word.

As we strive to follow God, let us determine to read God's word more diligently every day. As followers of God, let us determine to read God's word with the view in mind of knowing God's will, and then let us do it (cf. Ezra 7:10). God has revealed his will to us so that we should know his will: "it is written . . . God has revealed them to us . . . that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God" (1 Corinthians 2:9-13). When we read God's will, we can know God's will: "by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I wrote before in a few words, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets" (Ephesians 3:1-5). Read. Know and understand. Do.

What's the secret to understanding the Bible? What's the key to knowing its true meaning? I'll give you a clue - it's not the latest book, or some new theological or interpretive scheme. What's the secret? The answer is - there is no secret!

The Importance of Desire

Why don't you know the latest philosophy of science insights into induction, theories of proof and heuristics? You don't care, right? Exactly! Because there is no interest, there is no desire. And without desire, you really don't learn anything very well.

Have you ever heard someone tell you to do something at work, but because you had no interest in what was being said, or perhaps because you had an interest in something else, you didn't pick up on all of the instructions being given to you? Have you ever explained to your son or daughter how to complete some task only to realize after you finished talking that they had not understood at all what you were saying? Perhaps it's because they were not interested in what you had to say. Perhaps it's because they wanted to do something else. Without desire, understanding can be difficult.

THIS WEEK 02 September 2018	DUTY ROSTER	NEXT WEEK 09 September 2018
AM		AM
Leroy	SONG LEADER	Leroy
Walter	ANNOUNCEMENTS	Leroy
Walter	SCRIPTURE & PRAYER	Leroy
Walter & Reinhold	AM SERVERS	Leroy & Robert
Hugh	LORD'S SUPPER	Walter
Danny	PREACHING	Danny
Reinhold	CLOSING PRAYER	Robert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robin and Shirley will be away until sometime in September; Lynn will be away for a few weeks; Sheree having problems with her back, Meghan & Stephnie's uncle passed away

Title & Opening Scripture

"IS MY COMMITMENT TO GOD SINCERE" Mat 13:44-50

Other Scriptures

•Rev 3:14-16 •1 Cor 5:6&7 •2 Cor 5:17 •Gal 3:27 •2 Cor 13:5 •1 Sam 16:7 •••••

Today's Songs

Song 1 (97)	Faith Is The Victory
Song 2 (380)	O How I Love Jesus
Song 3 (674)	Have You Been To Jesus?
Song 4 (708)	When We All Get To Heaven

Rain

Estelle & Her Son Ryan

Sheree

Meghan & Stephnie

SA Bible College

George Congregation



Prayer Requests



Van Der Walt	07 September
Kaber	13 September
Wilson	24 September

Sunday School Teachers

02 nd Sep	Tannie Stef
09 th Sep	Antoinette

"Eats" Roster September 2018

02 nd September	Tea
09 th September	Tea
16 th September	Tea



Robert	12 September
Erika	15 September
Gus (jnr)	29 September

Please send any relevant information for this Bulletin to somebody.else@anywhere.com