

## **Faithful Men Receive Scripture God's Way**

### *Introduction*

Give a man a fish, and he eats for a day. Teach a man how to fish, and he eats for a lifetime.

## ***What reasons have people given for not becoming conversant with their Bibles?***

## **You Can Study Scripture With Life-Changing Results.**

### ***I have no formal education.***

Psalm 119:99 *I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. 100 I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts. 101 I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word. 102 I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me.*

**Don't worship formal education.**

**Don't reject it either.**

### ***The resources for study***

#### **The sufficient Scripture**

***The Bible is "perspicuous," clear, understandable.***

Deuteronomy 30:11-14, <sup>11</sup> Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. <sup>12</sup> It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" <sup>13</sup> Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

***You have easy, inexpensive access to the Word of God***

In some times and places, owning a copy of the Bible was illegal.

It used to be very costly.

***Numerous helpful versions and study Bibles.***

Some better than others, but the problem is an "embarrassment of wealth."

NEVER since the dawn of creation has God's Word been so accessible and inexpensive, especially true of people of North America.

***What is easily obtained is often lightly valued.***

**His illuminating presence, 1 John 2:20,26,27**

<sup>27</sup> *As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.*

***The Roman Catholic Church taught only priests and theologians could understand the Scriptures. The Bible was dangerous in the hands of laymen.***

***Divine illumination given in response to obedience.***

**Humbly seek God's help, Psalm 119:18, 27, 36, 144.**

**Diligently study God's Word, Psalm 119:45, 58, 94,95; Ezra 7:9c,10.**

***Divine illumination sovereignly granted in spite of sinful rebellion, Luke 24:32,45; John 20:21,22.***

**Other gifted men's ideas and tools, Eph 4, 1 Tim 3:15**

***Don't worship other men's research, John 7:15; Luke 2:46-47; Acts 4:13...***

Luther

***Was conversant with others...***

***Ultimate authority was Scripture.***

***Don't ignore it either, Acts 7:22, 22:3.***

**You ignore other gifted men's works to your peril.**

**Incredible tools today.**

***Beyond the wildest dreams of past generations.***

**Concordances a-many.**

**Word study books for English speaking people.**

**Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias**

**Commentaries**

**Computerized tools beyond belief.**

***Scholarly research that would have taken months for seminary trained person can now be done on computer in minutes by the person in the pew!***

## You Must Study Scripture for Life-Changing Results.

**Because God has spoken, you must listen.**

*And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it... 2 Peter 1:19.*

*We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard... Hebrews 2:1.*

*Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts... Hebrews 3:15.*

*Therefore consider carefully how you listen... Luke 8:18.*

**There are rewards.**

*Keeps you from sin, Psalm 119:9-11.*

*Gives guidance for your life, 119:105, 130.*

*Brings delight in the midst of trouble, 119:143*

*God's word energizes (Psalm 19:7) makes one wise (19:8), gives great joy (19:9).*

*God's word warns (Psalm 19:11) and brings rewards.*

**It is hard work, 2 Tim 2:15; Proverbs 2:1-5; 2 Tim 2:2**

It will take time.

It will call for a change of how you spend your time.

It will require mental discipline.

It will require perseverance.

It will require a humbling of yourself.

## How You Can Study Scripture With Life-Changing Results.

1. **Preparation (Am I ready to listen?)**
2. **Observation (What does the text say?)**
3. **Interpretation (What does the text mean to the author and his audience?)**

**4. Application (What does the passage mean to me?)**

## **Homework<sup>1</sup>**

- 1. Pray daily that God would grow you to be a better student of Scripture. Humbly ask God to illumine your mind.**
- 2. Next meeting is September 30th. The week of September 11, read two biblical books from the list below, each at a separate setting. The week of September 18, read two biblical books from the list below, each at a separate setting. The week of September 25, read two biblical books from the list below, each at a separate setting.**
- 3. Read the Introduction and chapter one in What to Do on Thursday. Be ready for a quiz on the materials.**
- 4. Read "The Student, the Fish, and Agassiz." Be ready for a quiz on this. Seriously.**
- 5. Do homework on "How to Read a Love Letter."**
- 6. Meet someone tomorrow in church you don't know well or don't know at all. Greet this person weekly between now and September 30, and pray for them regularly. Get their and bring it with you next time.**

<i>Philemon</i>	<i>Jude</i>	<i>2 John</i>	<i>3 John</i>	<i>Obadiah</i>	<i>Psalm 41 &amp; 42</i>
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<sup>1</sup> Certificates will be awarded to all who complete the homework on time.