

Basic Instruction
How to Read and Understand Your Bible
11/19/2023

1 Peter 2:2 (GW) Desire God's pure word as newborn babies desire milk. Then you will grow in your salvation.

A New Testament Overview:

GOSPELS - Matthew, Mark, Luke & John

ACTS - Historical Record of the first church

EPISTLES - Romans through Jude

REVELATION - Prophecy of the last days and eternity

The Bible is **ALIVE**.

Heb. 4:12 (NIV) For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

How to use the Bible:

1st) **AUTHORITY**

- I make a decision to accept the bible's authority

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV) "We also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men, but actually as it is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe."

Four Unreliable Sources:

A. CULTURE

- Social media morality

Exodus 23:2 (NIV) "Don't follow the crowd in doing wrong."

B. TRADITION

Mark 7:8 (ESV) You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.

C. INTELLECT

Proverbs 16:25 (NLV) There is a way that looks right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

D. EMOTIONS

Judges 21:25b (NIV) "Every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (TLB) "The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and helps us to do what is right. It's God's way of making us well-prepared at every point."

2nd) RELIABILITY

How can we know the Bible is reliable?

MANUSCRIPTS

The Bible has stronger bibliographic support than any classical literature — including Homer, Tacitus, Pliny, and Aristotle.

ARCHEOLOGY

PROPHECY

STATISTICS

3rd) PRIORITY

- I prioritize the truths in the bible

A. I start my day by READING IT

Psalm 119:147 (NLT) I rise early, before the sun is up; I cry out for help and put my hope in your words.

Revelation 1:3(GNT) "Happy is the one who reads this book."

- The main reason people don't understand the Bible is they just don't read it.

B. I RECEIVE what comes to me from reading

Joshua 1:8 (NLT) Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

Luke 8:13,18 (NIV) Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away... Therefore consider carefully how you listen.

Hebrews 2:1 (NIV) "We must pay more careful attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away."

I get a **VERSION** I like

FORMAL equivalency
Word for word

FUNCTIONAL equivalency
Thought for thought

PARAPHRASE

1 Corinthians 13:4 (KJV) Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.

1 Corinthians 13:4 (NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

1 Corinthians 13:4 (MSG) Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head.

- Get a study bible!
- Study with others in a small group!

4th) **ACTIVITY**

- I apply the principles of the bible

D. L. Moody "The Bible wasn't given to increase our knowledge. The Bible was given to change our lives."

John 13:17 (NIV) "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

James 1:22 (NIV) "Be doers of the word not hearers only."