



God's Answers to Good Questions

Lesson 9 - How Can I Understand the Bible?

PREPARE

- Please read the following passages:
 - Psalm 119:105
 - Proverbs 6:23
 - John 8:31-32
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - John 5:39
 - Luke 24:44-45
 - Psalm 1:1-3
 - Acts 8:29-35
 - James 1:22-25
- Watch the video lesson and complete the Study Guide while watching

STUDY GUIDE

I. The Value of Studying God's Word

A. Psalm 119:105 - *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And a light unto my path."*

1. God's Word is a _____, a lamp that shines on our _____ so that we can walk through this world in _____, so that we can have _____ as we walk along
2. Without the light of God's Word, we _____ and grope in the darkness

B. Proverbs 6:23 - *"For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; And reproofs of instruction are the way of life ..."*

1. We generally don't like reproofs because reproofs tell us we've done something _____, that we need to _____ how we're living, or they step on our toes and make us feel _____ because they bring up the fact that we are in error
2. We need a _____ for correction, to keep us from _____ in dangerous directions and to help us _____ when we're in error

C. John 8:31-32 - *"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

1. Christians continue in God's Word, they continue _____ and _____ it ... belief and obedience _____, "Yes, I am a true disciple of the Lord"
2. God's Word brings the _____ to us, and as we come to know the truth, the truth has a liberating effect to it

D. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."*

1. Because God _____ the words of Scripture, they are profitable for us in four different ways:
 - a. _____ - giving us a knowledge of the truth
 - b. _____ - stepping on our toes, telling us where we're off base or out of line
 - c. _____ - a guide back into the proper path so we are once more on course
 - d. _____ - showing us how to live a faithful life in this world
2. The Scripture has a powerful impact upon us - it leads us from _____ of sin towards full _____ in Christ ... apart from the Scriptures, we really can't gain _____

II. Principles for Studying God's Word

A. We should _____ God's Word as divinely _____ literature

1. If you treat the Bible as just a _____ book, a collection of man-made _____ and perspectives, you're going to have a very different and far worse _____ with it

2. If you come to the Bible as divinely inspired literature, doing so is going to _____ how you read it and the _____ you derive from it
- B. Pay _____ to the actual language, grammar, usage, syntax, etc.
1. Look at the _____, which structures and controls the words
 2. Look at how words are _____
 3. Look at what the meaning of words in their _____, just the way you would read and study any book at all
- C. _____ the author, time period, original audience, and original situation
1. If you don't look at the author, the time period, the original audience, the original situation, you're going to be _____ in your understanding
 2. The good news is that there are so many _____ that can tell you this information
- D. Be aware of the _____ - historical, geographical, cultural, literary, theological, Scriptural
1. Context is _____
 2. If you don't pay attention to the context, it's more likely than not that you're going to _____ and _____ the Scriptures
- E. Be aware of the _____ - where does this passage fall in the unfolding revelation of God's plan of redemption?
1. Two things that are going on throughout history, both running on parallel tracks:
 - a. God's unfolding _____, where He is saving a people for Himself
 - b. God's unfolding _____, where He is making truth known to His people

2. As the unfolding plan of redemption is being tracked by this unfolding process of revelation, you have to _____ where that event or passage is in _____ to these unfolding plans and revelations

F. See _____ and His work revealed through all of Scripture - the Christological context

1. John 5:39 - *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."*

2. Luke 24:44-45 - *"And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures ..."*

G. If you're paying attention to all of those various contexts, especially the _____ context and the _____ context, you're going to come to better interpretations and _____

III. The Method of Studying God's Word

A. By careful _____, _____, and _____ of the actual Bible

1. Psalm 1:1-3 - *"Blessed is the man That walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; And in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That bringeth forth his fruit in his season; His leaf also shall not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."*

2. Open your Bible and let God _____ to you through His Word, and He will _____ you

B. Acts 8:29-35 - *"Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation*

his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus."

1. There is a _____ and a _____ to have a spiritual teacher who can help you understand what the Bible actually says
2. It's not wrong to look to your _____ for teaching, for instruction, for _____ understanding the Bible

C. It's very important to _____ God's Word

1. James 1:22-25 – *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."*
2. This is where a good study of the Bible should _____ come - to the _____ of God's Word to your everyday life