

Suggestions about Reading and Studying the Bible

I. Suggestions concerning equipment.

- A. Buy a serviceable Bible with clear, readable type and a good center reference. Check various Bibles on the same verse and choose the one which has the largest number and most helpful references.

The American Standard Version of 1901 is a good exact translation.
The New Testament in Modern English by J.B. Phillips is refreshingly clear.

- B. Buy a good concordance. Cruden's Complete Concordance is a good one

- C. Buy a good Bible Dictionary or encyclopedia.

Unger's Bible Dictionary (Moody Press)
New Bible Dictionary (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company)
The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, 5 Volumes (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company)

- D. Buy a book which surveys the entire Bible.

Halley's Bible Handbook, Henry H. Halley

- E. Buy a book which will outline the basic doctrines.

The Great Doctrines of the Bible, William Evens

- F. Buy the books which will give you the help you need.

To make one stop and think about God: Your God is too Small, J.B. Phillips

To introduce one to Biblical Christianity: Basic Christianity, J.R.W. Stott

To enable one to witness: How to Give Away Your Faith, Paul E. Little

To help one know the evidence from our faith: Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis
Know Why You Believe, Paul E. Little
Protestant Christian Evidences, Bernard Ramm

To explain what is meant by "Inspiration of the Bible"

The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible, B.B. Warfield

To instruct one in basic doctrines: Studies in Theology, Loraine Boettner

To inform one concerning the meaning of "Fundamentalism":
Fundamentalism and the Word of God, J.I. Packer

To Encourage one to pray: Power Through Prayer. E.M. Bounds

II. Suggestions Concerning Reading the Bible.

- A. Read the Bible consecutively each day but in two or three different sections. For example, start in Genesis 1, Psalms 1 and Matthew 1. Tomorrow, read Genesis 2, Psalms 2 and Matthew 2, etc. This will keep one close to all the Bible at all times.
- B. Read the Bible looking for topics. Watch for verses which explain "faith," or "fear," or "prayer," or "sin," etc. Keep a paper in your Bible on which you can make lists of such verses and appropriate comments. It is preferable to watch for only one topic at a time.
- C. Read the Bible asking the question, "What does this mean and what does it mean to me today?" Does the passage teach something, does it warn, does it encourage?
- D. Most important of all, read the Bible to fellowship with Jesus Christ, the \ Living Word.

III. Suggestions Concerning Studying the Bible.

One of the easiest ways to study the Bible, and one of the most profitable, is to look up words which form topics, listing those which are relevant, and \ making an explanatory comment.

Such words as "grace," "sin," "faith," "love," "rewards," "church," "prayer," "forgiveness," etc., are particularly helpful in this type of study. Do not fail to write out the explanatory statement for each passage.

The list given below is presented as an illustration. It is simply some of the verses where the word "able" is found. Read the verse in the Bible, think about its meaning, and then read the explanatory comment. Such a list as this can encourage, teach and warn the Christian.

Matthew 3:9	-- God is ABLE to use people in his plan.
Acts 20:32	-- God is ABLE to build up and give an inheritance.
Romans 4:21	-- God is ABLE to keep his Word.
Romans 11:23	-- God is ABLE to use the Jewish people.
Romans 14:4	-- God is ABLE to preserve His people.
II Corinthians 9:8	-- God is ABLE to make all grace abound.
Ephesians 3:20	-- God is ABLE to answer prayer.
Philippians 3:21	-- God is ABLE to subdue all things to Himself.
II Timothy 1:12	-- God is ABLE to keep his people.
Hebrews 2:18	-- God is ABLE to give sympathetic help.
Hebrews 7:25	-- God is ABLE to save to the uttermost.
Jude 24	-- God is ABLE to keep His people from falling.

And now it is your turn. Take your concordance, look up the work "grace." Write the list on the left hand side of a piece of paper choosing those verses which seem clear and relevant, and then make the explanatory comment. What do you have now? You have a list which defines, illustrates, and explains the grace of God so you can explain it to others: it will also encourage you to live so this grace can be a characteristic in your own life.

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