Why Should I Study the Bible?

I Should Study the Bible because God said that I “Ought” to

The author of Hebrews stated, “For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need again that some one teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God...” (Hebrews 5:12). The word “ought” is defined as “to be obliged (constrained or indebted) to do a thing” (Liddell and Scott's Greek English Lexicon page 580). The Hebrews Christians did not recognize the urgency for Bible study. They let time pass, apparently through a lack of interest, and thereby did not grow spiritually. The Bible ought to be studied because God gave His Son Jesus as a sacrifice for sins (Hebrews 2:13-15). Jesus represents truth and so we “ought” to be interested and thereby motivated to know something about it (John 14:6).

I Should Study the Bible because it Contains Vital Instructions

Where I spend eternity is determined by my knowledge of the scriptures. Jesus said, “if ye abide in my word, then are ye truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). The Bible contains ‘vital’ information without which one will spiritually die. Jesus tells us that the truth shall set us free from the bondage and doom of sin (eternal spiritual death). Heaven is at stake in the lives of people and so I should desire to look into God’s word. Paul told Timothy, “Give diligence (study) to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).
I Should Study the Bible because it will Train my Mind to “discern good and evil” (Hebrews 5:14)

The word “discern” means to make a distinction or judgment. If I view the Bible as a useless mass of unrecognizable words then how can I ever make a distinction or judgment regarding things that are good and things that are evil? Bible study will help me form God’s word into recognizable instructions and a way of life that will mold my character. I will be able to distinguish between unlawful acts and lawful acts (Romans 7:7). If I have no knowledge of lawful acts then I will be sinning in ignorance of God’s word because sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4). To be uninformed is a dangerous state of mind in any field of study.

I Should Study the Bible to Avoid the Ping-Pong Ball Approach to Life

Like a ball on a ping-pong table that is slapped in every direction so is the mind of one who has little knowledge of God’s word. Such a one hears differing doctrines of men and makes no real informed decision when a course it taken. Such a one does whatever he thinks ‘sounds like a winner.’ The apostle Paul described such in Ephesians 4 saying that such are “tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error” (Ephesians 4:14). Uninformed decisions lead to heartaches and eternal ruin.

Why Should I Study the Bible?

I should study the Bible because God said that I ought to. The Lord knows that an uninformed man, in relation to sin, is doomed to eternal failure (Jeremiah 10:23). God has so loved mankind that He has given us His words that will guide us to the paths of righteousness and on to our eternal heavenly home. When one chooses a life without the guidance of God’s word, one suffers problems in the church, home, and work place. All problems that one can create in the church, home, and work are directly associated with a lack of Bible knowledge. Why not make the Bible a recognizable and understandable book of instructions by picking it up and simply reading and studying it? John C. Robertson

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I. Persecuted

A. (Greek dioko) means, “to pursue a person, to chase, hunt… seek after… bring an action against a man” (LS 207).
B. Moulton defines the word as, “to pursue with malignity, persecute” (Moulton 104).
C. The American Heritage Dictionary defines the word as “To oppress or harass with ill-treatment” (AHD 925).
D. The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia adds, “Persecution is the suffering or pressure, mental, moral, or physical, which authorities, individuals, or crowds inflict on others, especially for opinions or beliefs, with a view to their subjection by recantation, silencing, or, as a last resort, execution” (ISBE volume 3, page 771).

II. A History of God’s People being Persecuted

B. Antiochus Epiphanes (Daniel 8:9-12).
C. Roman Empire (Acts 18:2).
D. Domitian (Revelation).

III. NT People Persecuted

A. Jesus (John 15:18-21; 19 all; 1 Peter 2:23).
B. Paul (2 Corinthians 11:26ff).
C. Stephen stoned to death (Acts 7:54-60).
E. Christians in the NT church (Acts 8:1; 9:1-5; 22:4-9; 1 Corinthians 15:7-10; Hebrews 10:34 etc.).

IV. Why did Christians in Bible times suffer Persecution?

A. Did not tolerate the religious error of their day (John 15:14-18).
B. Exposed religious error and sin in the lives of the world (John 7:7; 16:7-10; Galatians 4:16; Ephesians 5:11; Philippians 3:10).
C. Because their lives of sanctification and righteousness exposed the wrong in others (2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:4).
D. Because the Lord has granted and appointed them to such (John 16:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-4; Philippians 1:29).

When we are persecuted we will learn to place greater faith in God. The church of Jesus Christ will grow and souls will be saved. True peace and unity now and forever more will be experienced. Now is not the time to give up our faith because of persecution (Hebrews 12:28-29). Now is not the time to avoid the persecution with tolerance (Galatians 6:12). Now is the time to expose sin, with a spirit of love, because the day of the Lord grows closer and souls are at stake. The author of Hebrews, writing about the affects of persecution, said “But we are not of them that shrink back unto perdition; but of them that have faith unto the saving of the soul” (Hebrews 10:39). Remember that vengeance belongs to the Lord (2 Thessalonians 1:5-6).