

Why Should I Study the Bible?

Those who are ignorant of God's Word and His promise of salvation may never see the need to study the Bible. The pages of God's word have never taken any shape within their minds and thus it is like a mass of unformed and unrecognizable plastic to them. With a mold, real plastic may take identifiable and useful shapes such as utensils to eat with. However, as long as the Word of God is viewed as a mass of unidentifiable and unrecognizable words it will remain useless. This article shall answer the question, "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...*" (Heb. 5:12). The word "ought" is defined as "to be obliged (constrained or indebted) to do a thing" (LS 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 (Heb. 2:13-15). Jesus represents truth and so we "ought" to be interested and thereby motivated to know something about it (Jn. 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*" (Jn. 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). How can one abide and know truth when the Bible is viewed as a mass of unformed and unrecognizable words? Heaven is at stake in the lives of people and so I should desire to look into God's word and let it take a recognizable shape in my life. 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*" (II Tim. 2:15).

I Should Study the Bible because it will Train my Mind to "discern good and evil" (Heb. 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 in that way it will mold my character. I will be able to distinguish between unlawful acts and lawful acts (cf. Rom. 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 (I Jn. 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 no or little knowledge of God's word. Such a one hears differing doctrines of men and makes no real informed decision when a course is 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*" (Eph. 4:14). Uninformed decisions lead to heart aches and eternal ruin.

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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 (cf Jer. 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?

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