The Bible: How to Study It

Introduction:

One of the most detrimental and negligent act a man may perform while living out his days is to not study the Bible. History reveals the fact that a lack of Bible knowledge leads to the greatest troubles in an individual's life. The prophet Jeremiah records, "*Yea, the stork in the heavens knoweth her appointed times; and the turtledove and the swallow and the crane observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the law of Jehovah*" (Jer. 8:7). The prophet Hosea speaks for God saying, "*My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge*" (Hos. 4:6). During the days of Isaiah, the priests and shepherds who should have had knowledge of God's Laws and thereby watched and warned were termed "*blind, they are all without knowledge; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber*" (Isa. 56:10). All the Corinthian brethren's problems could be traced back to their lack of Bible knowledge (cf. I Cor. 3:1-3). To the Ephesians Paul exclaimed, "*Be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is*" (Eph. 5:17). To the Hebrews, the author exposes the brethren's laziness when it comes to spending time in study referring to them as "*dull of hearing*" (Heb. 5:11) and "*sluggish*" (Heb. 6:11). This lesson shall therefore examine God's command to study and examine ways to go about doing so.

I. God Commands that Man Study His Word:

- **A.** When one sins he violates God's laws whether he has knowledge or not (I Jn. 2:4; 3:4; Ezek. 3:18) else man could bury his head in the sand and claim ignorance on the Day of Judgment (cf. Jn. 12:48; Rev. 20:12).
- **B.** Knowledge of God's Laws will help one keep himself and others from sin (Rom. 7:7).
- **C.** The Lord thereby demands that man not be slothful in study but rather "*diligent*" (Jn. 8:32; II Tim. 2:15; Heb. 4:11; 6:11; II Pet. 1:5-11).

II. Attitude when it comes to Bible Study:

- **A.** God is confident that we can know truth (cf. Heb. I Jn. 2:20-21). He too is relying upon man to learn truth that one may be saved from the consequences of his sins (cf. Heb. 6:3)
- **B.** Some are telling us today that we cannot all understand the Bible alike and therefore Bible unity is impossible to obtain.
- **C.** Note that the very command of God to know and abide in truth infers that truth can and must be known (Jn. 14:23; I Jn. 1:6).
- **D.** Approach God's word with the attitude that you can understand it (cf. I Cor. 14:33).

III. Methods of Bible Study:

- **A.** Open book and read ☺
- **B.** Finding reliable Bible helps such as outlines, study workbooks, etc. can be helpful in putting together things in your mind.
- **C.** Cross reference study ranks # 1 in my opinion.
- **D.** Learn to use a lexicon.

Conclusion:

Solomon said, "*The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge*;..." (Prov. 1:7). Develop a love of truth. Recognize the truth as sweet tasty meals that are healthy to the soul (Ezek. 3:3; Rev. 10:10; I Tim.1:10). The greatest treasures in this life that you will unearth are the treasures of the gospel (cf. II Cor. 4:7 etc.).