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A man with a beard, wearing a blue hooded robe, is shown in profile, looking down at a scroll he is holding. The background is dark, and the lighting highlights the man and the scroll.

BIBLE STUDENT

Grow In Grace & Knowledge
Shelf 4 — Volume 34

Roger E. Dickson

A common misunderstanding that is believed among those who know little or nothing about the Bible is that the Bible is too difficult to understand, if not impossible. One of the principal reasons why this claim is so prevalent is because **most people simply do not study the Bible**. Add to this the religious division that exists today and we can understand why so many have unfortunately given up on Bible study. Many people have just assumed that it is impossible to understand the Bible in a manner that will bring people of faith together in unity in order to stand against the unbelieving world.

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with a bright, glowing light emanating from the pages. The background is dark, making the light from the book stand out.

**Let God Speak To You
Through His Word!**

But we would affirm that the Bible is not difficult to understand. Though it was not written like a Sunday morning newspaper that is to be casually read, we must not give up hope of understanding the Bible. We must not because the Bible is our source for spiritual growth.

The More We Study
The Bible The More
Understand It.

One must make his or her study of the Bible a lifetime project. When one falls in love with the Bible,



study becomes a pleasurable experience to which one goes for daily spiritual nourishment and reassurance. When we understand that the Bible is God speaking to us, then it is not difficult to be motivated to a behavior of Bible study.

As with all literary books, **the more the Bible is studied the easier it is to understand.** Almost without exception, those who complain most about not being able to understand the Bible are those who put little time into a study of its precious jewels of knowledge. We understand that the Holy Spirit inspired the Bible to be written in a way that would challenge us to study. Because of this, there is little room for pride in our knowledge of the Scriptures. We must remember that fundamental truths that are necessary for our salvation and deliverance from this world **are easy to understand.** God did not make that which is necessary for salvation too difficult to discover. One simply needs to open the Bible and read.

The content of this book contains some very important points that must be learned concerning our personal understanding of the Bible. The purpose in presenting these points is to identify some misunderstandings concerning our general Bible study habits. And then we can spur each reader on to once again opening our Bibles in order to discover God's road map to the gospel.

We live in a world that is basically ignorant of the

Bible. Because of this there are many misconceptions floating around concerning how the Bible is to be studied. Therefore, we must seriously reconsider some of the misinformation that is circulated concerning Bible study. By sorting through the misinformation, we can begin to understand why people do not interpret the Bible in a manner that creates unity among believers.

**Bible Study
Produces Spiritually
Sturdy Bible Students.**

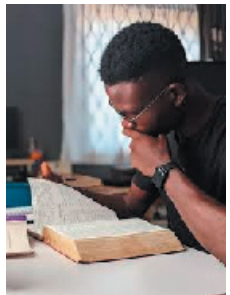
The major points of this book reveal some reasons why the Bible is often not understood, but in particular, why some people often do not understand the Bible in a manner that produces unity among believers. The objective of these points is to help us guard ourselves against stumbling over any of these problems in our personal relationship with God's word.

- 1. T or F:** The more the Bible is studied, the easier it is understood.
- 2. T or F:** Since we believe that the Bible has come to us through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, then we must assume that we can go to God only through the Bible.

A. The Lack Of Bible Study

This is probably the greatest reason why people are challenged in their Bible studies. After all, how can one understand that which he or she does not know? **It is a fact that the better one knows the Bible the better he or she will understand it.** This is why Peter wrote, *“Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Pt 3:18).

The Bereans could understand Bible prophecies because they searched the Scriptures on a daily basis. At least they could understand what Paul preached in reference to Old Testament



prophecies. Luke testified of them, *“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so”* (At 17:11).

The first and most basic reason why people do not understand the Scriptures is simply because they do not study. If we would follow the example of the Bereans, study the Scriptures **daily**. If people would be more like the Bereans who daily studied the Scriptures, then there would be less confusion in the religious world concerning what the Bible says. The point is that one must not become frustrated with not understanding the Bible if he or she is not studying the Bible on a regular basis. One may not be able to study on a daily schedule, but at least we should give it a good try.

God Consider People Noble When They Study The Bible Daily.

- 3. T or F:** The Bereans were considered noble by the Holy Spirit when they searched the Scriptures daily.

B. Study With Unreceptive Minds.

This point could be entitled Bible study with an open heart. Having a closed mind means that one is not receptive to new or better ideas. Or, it may be the case that one's faith is based on the traditions of the fathers, and not the word of God. Having an open mind means that one will always be seeking for truth. Human religious traditions will not stop an open-minded person from searching the Scriptures for truth.

Open Hearts Always Seek For Truth From God.

Open-minded people always want to learn more. They seek answers for every question. They are willing to let others and the Bible feed them new information in order to quench their thirst for knowledge. But if one studies the Bible with an unreceptive or closed mind, then he or she cannot understand the message of the Bible, particularly those matters that surround the gospel. If one is not willing to take the risk of discovering truth that may contradict with his or her present life and/or beliefs, then he or she will not objectively study the Bible. This is especially true in those cases where one is defensive about his or her traditions or behavior.

Jehoiakim, the apostate king of Judah, is a good example of the this principle. Jeremiah had written condemning words about the king's wicked life and



reign. However, when these words were read before the King, Jehoiakim cut in pieces the scroll on which the words of Jeremiah were written. He then burned the pieces (See Jr 36:20-26). His mind was

closed and hardened against God's word.

On the other hand, open minded people humbly seek to learn truth that will better their lives. They seek truth that will give them a better understanding of the nature and existence of God. Such an attitude was portrayed by the Ethiopian eunuch when asked by Philip if he understood what he read. The eunuch replied, *"How can I, unless someone guides me?"* (At 8:31). Such an attitude should be portrayed by all Bible students. We can always learn from others. If we are not arrogant in our religious beliefs, we will search around for those who also are open-minded.

4. **T or F:** Those with closed minds will always be open minded to what the Bible teaches.
5. Who was the king of Judah who tore Jeremiah's writings in pieces and burned them?
(A) Jehoiakim, (B) Ahab, (C) David, (D) Zachariah

C. Defensive Bible Study

Some people study the Bible in order to defend their religious prejudices. This is one of the major reasons why people do not understand the Bible. They read the Bible, but twist its meaning to fit their own preconceived ideas or traditional beliefs.

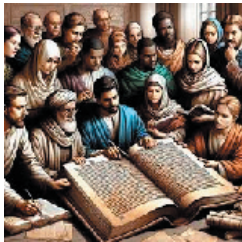
We must assume that we will learn from our study of the Bible something that we have been erroneously practicing or believing for many years. We must question ourselves that if such a discovery happens in our studies, then we must ask if we would be willing to change our religious practices

Open-Minded People Are Identified By Those Who Are Willing To Change When They Learn Something Knew.

or beliefs? Or, would we seek to interpret the Bible in a way that would make the Bible agree with what we have traditionally believing for many years?

This point is very important concerning our correct understanding of the Bible.

Every Bible student must be willing to submit his or her traditional interpretations and religious behavior to the will of God every time the Bible is opened. God's word must be respected over any traditional thought or practice.



2 Peter 3:15,16 and **Mark 7:9** are important scriptures to study concerning the point of traditional religious thought and behavior (See also Mt 15:1-9). These passages remind us of the tremendous influence that religious traditions have on the minds of all religious people. In the 2 Peter 3:15,16 passage, Peter warned concerning those who sought to maintain their own religious beliefs, and in doing so, they twisted the inspired Scriptures of Paul. Peter wrote of them,

*... and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, **in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.***

After the same manner, the Jews sought to keep their own religious traditions instead of searching for the truth of the One who stood in their midst. Jesus subsequently said of them, ***“All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition”*** (Mk 7:9).

Bible students must never underestimate the power that both traditional behavior and traditional interpretations have on one's mind. Some religious people usually assume that all they

do and believe is straight from the Bible. This is not always the case. And because this is not always the case, it is important to always go to the Bible in order to continue the refreshing of our minds and lives with diligent Bible study.

There are many people who are not willing to make a personal commitment during their Bible studies to submit traditional interpretations or behavior to the word of God. As a result, they have little desire to understand the Bible. They read into their Bibles subtle traditional beliefs that reveal they are not objective.

Objective Study Means That One Submits To What He Or She Learns.

The student who is not objective interprets the Bible from the viewpoint of his or her traditional beliefs. This is the reason why the Jews could not understand that Jesus was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. Jesus subsequently said to them, *“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life”* (Jn 5:39,40). These may seem like harsh words. But if we are not willing to allow the word of God to change our beliefs and behavior, then we have adopted a religious culture similar to those who eventually crucified the Lord Jesus. If our study of the Bible does not lead us closer to Jesus, then our conclusions are wrong.

The Jewish religious leaders could not see Jesus as the fulfillment of prophecy because they had rejected the commandments of God in order to keep their own traditions (See Mk 7:1-9). For this reason, many people today cannot understand the Bible simply because they are more zealous to keep their traditions than to discover what God has revealed concerning what we should believe and do in reference to responding to Jesus.

We must not be afraid to reexamine any truth we may believe. In fact, **familiar scriptures must always be reexamined.** If this is not one’s policy as a Christian in his or her Bible study, then one day one

will wake up and discover that he or she has been depending on the preacher for truth and not on an independent conviction of what the Bible says. More tragically, it might be discovered that as a disciple we have wandered so far away from the truth of the gospel that we have simply become just another religion. Before we question this as being impossible, we must remember that in church history, the present religiously divided world evolved from those who sought to lead in a reformation movement against heresy.

The first leaders of these denominating groups that came forth in the Restoration Movement had honorable intentions of restoring or reforming religion in order to return to the word of God. However, as the years passed, their followers developed sectarian attitudes. They formed their own unique groups that were centered around the teachings of the initial

When People Do Not Study The Bible, They Are Moving Away From God.

founders who had sought to restore or reform. Therefore, **we must always assume that there is a general departure from the truth when people do not study their Bibles.** People simply seek to create religion after their own desires. For this reason, there must always be a reinvestigation of the word of God by every generation of Bible students.

Familiar passages must always be reexamined, because as Bible students, **we continually gain a broader view of the whole text of the Bible.** Our familiar passages, therefore, must be reexamined in light of our greater knowledge of the Scriptures as a whole. One is often surprised as the meaning of particular scriptures is enhanced as he or she gains a greater understanding of the context and whole text of familiar passages.

- 6. T or F:** Open-minded people are not willing to change their thinking when they learn something new.
- 7. T or F:** When one twists the Scriptures to please themselves, then their end will be destruction.
- 8. T or F:** It is Jesus who brings life to Bible students.
- 9. T or F:** If one will simply trust in his or her emotions, then he or she

will not move away from God, regardless of one's knowledge of the Bible.

- 10. T or F:** Our understanding of favorite passages takes on a deeper meaning as we learn more about the whole text of the Bible.

E. Reading Into The Bible

One of the greatest problems that blocks objective Bible study is that **people often read preconceived ideas into the Bible**. We also must never lead ourselves to believe that our religious environment and friends do not affect our objective interpretation of the Bible. Preconceived ideas constantly lead us to either misunderstand, or fail to discover great spiritual lessons that are in the Bible for our learning. Failing to recognize this in our own thinking will certainly lead us to make some false interpretations.

Friends Must Never Stand Between The Bible Student And God.

There are many examples of this point in the religious world today. For example, suppose one has been taught that baptism is by sprinkling. One may even have had water sprinkled on him as a baby and it was called "baptism." As a result, every time he or she reads about baptism in the book of Acts or the epistles, he or she will be thinking about his or her sprinkling as a baby. If one believes that the word "tongues" refers to an emotional outburst of gibberish speaking, then every time the word "tongues" is read



in the Bible, this understanding is read into the interpretation of Bible passages. This is true of one's understanding of miracles, demon possession, the Holy Spirit, and a host of other Bible subjects. Our religious environment in which we live greatly affects our

interpretation of the Scriptures, especially if there is a strong emotional attachment to a particular behavior.

This tendency to read into the Bible preconceived ideas and behavior is difficult for those who do not regularly study the Bible. This is true concerning all those who would study the Bible from an erroneous

religious world view. By this we mean those who maintain an erroneous religious belief that affects the totality of their life. They will often twist scriptures around preconceived beliefs, and then stand on the erroneous belief that one's forefathers could not have been wrong on a particular belief or religious practice.

**Preconceptions
That Are Erroneous
Lead Us To
Twist The Bible.**

But we must not deceive ourselves. Religious world views have been developed in the mind of every person. In other words, everyone has some view of where they originated, why they are here, and where they are going. It is important that the Bible student be aware of this in order not to allow wrong world views to twist one's understanding of the Scriptures. The Bible must be allowed to develop our world views. The more one studies the Bible, therefore, the more adjusted his or her world view will be developed by God, and not by the religion or secular environment in which one lives.

But do not think that this is a Bible study problem in these days, there are numerous occasions when this transpired in the first century. And for this reason, the Holy Spirit inspired the early writers to warn the early disciples about being led astray by erroneous teachings. One of the more direct statements concerning this problem was written by the apostle Paul to the preacher, Timothy:

**Bible Study
Changes Our
World View.**

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound teaching. But to suit their itching ears, they will surround themselves with teachers who will agree with their own desires. **And they will turn away their ears from the truth [of the gospel] and will be turned to fables** (2 Tm 4:3,4).*

This was an apostasy of those who turned away from the teaching of the truth of the gospel, which apostasy occurred among the disciples in Galatia. Paul instructed the Galatians on that occasion with the following words:

*I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away from Him who called you into the grace of Christ to another gospel, which is not another, **but there are some who are disturbing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.** But even if we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed (Gl 1:6,7).*

A Perverted Gospel Is Another Gospel.

- 11. T or F:** It is not important to assume that everyone has preconceived beliefs and behavior by which they read and interpret the Bible.
- 12. T or F:** Every belief and behavior we maintain must be tested by the word of God.
- 13. T or F:** Paul warned Timothy concerning those who would turn away from the gospel.
- 14. T or F:** If the gospel is changed in any way, then it become another gospel.

F. Text Out Of Context

People often use a text of the Bible out of context. Some study the Bible in order to find “proof texts” that will enable them to win a religious argument they may be having with a friend or neighbor. In order to justify, or prove a teaching, they take passages of scripture from the context in which they were originally written. If we study the Bible in order to seek out proof texts, or justify something we are doing or something we believe, we will surely misunderstand the text.

The term “proof text” refers to the using of specific passages of scripture to prove a specific teaching that we maintain to be true. And certainly, there are many texts in the Bible that prove a specific point to be true. For example, **John 1:1,14** teachings the incarnation of the Son of God. **Acts 2:38** teaches that one must be baptized for the forgiveness of sins. **John 3:16** teaches that God gave His only begotten Son for the salvation of the world. Throughout the Bible there are statements of divine truth that are stated in only one passage. **There is nothing wrong with using a single passage of scripture in order to affirm a fundamental truth.** However, we must be cautious to define what a particular “proof texts” means in its original context.

The problem often arises when our knowledge of

A Text Taken Out Of Context Becomes A Pretext.

the Bible is limited to only a few favorite passages. It is not wrong to have proof texts to prove doctrinal positions. **One clearly understood text is enough to correct an erroneous teaching.**

However, **one must realize the danger of building one's beliefs on a simple foundation of favorite passages.** The problem with such a foundation is that scriptures can easily be taken out of their original context. Another problem is that one usually does not discover a possible deeper meaning of any particular passage by focusing only on the truth of a single passage. Therefore, one must progress in his or her knowledge of the Scriptures to a study of the whole context of all scriptures. **Sometimes after many years of Bible study familiar passages often taken on a different, if not deeper, meaning.**

Many Years
Of Bible Study
Encourage
A Better
Understanding
Of The Bible.

The context refers to the grammatical structure, syntax, and general message of the chapter or book in which the proof text rests. In other words, one must understand the general message of the author of the book before he or she can fully understand the meaning of any particular text. Before one can fully understand the context, therefore, **the whole text must be understood.** In other words, we must understand the broad scope of major Bible subjects in order to fully understand any one book (context) or any one passage (proof text). **Our knowledge of the Bible must go from proof text to context, and then, to the whole text.** After we understand the whole text, interpretation of any particular scripture can be relatively easy.

Our old understanding of favorite proof texts will often take on a much deeper meaning when we understand the whole text of the Bible on any particular subject. The deeper meaning will be acquired when the proof text is enhanced by its context. Our understanding of individual passages, therefore, will be greatly enhanced when we study the Bible as a whole, and not in parts and pieces.

- 15. T or F:** A proof text that is used to support a teaching that is used to support an erroneous teaching, is a false text.
- 16. T or F:** A proof text can stand alone to be true regardless of the teaching of other texts in the Bible.

G. Loving The Truth

One of the greatest problems that hinders our understand of the Bible is that we may not love the truth as we should. Those who do not love the Bible and truth will generally misunderstand the Bible. This is only natural, for if one does not believe that the Bible speaks the truth of God, then certainly he or she will have difficulty understanding it simply because the Bible in their minds has been regulated to just another religious book.

David said, *“Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day”* (Ps 119:97). This is the attitude that must permeate the very soul of the Bible student. On the other hand, Paul spoke of those who had no desire to know the truth. He wrote that they could not find the truth *“because they did not receive the love of the truth”* (2 Th 2:10). *“And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness”* (2 Th 2:11,12).

If one does not love the truth as David, then he or she will obviously not be searching for it in the Bible. One will thus allow himself or herself to believe any delusion that originates from the religious world. **God will allow Satan to deceive anyone who does not have a love for the truth.** If one is satisfied with where he or she is in their knowledge of the Bible, then there will be no searching. In order for one to search for truth, he or she should first realize that we must seek for that which is above our own selves. We must never consider ourselves as the final authority of truth in all things.

If One Is Not
Searching For Truth,
Then He Will
Not Find
It In The Bible.

- 17. T or F:** If the Bible is truth from God, then those who do not love the truth will not study the Bible.

H. Blinded By Carnal Living

People are hindered in their Bible studies because they are often blinded to the truth by worldly living. Some misunderstand the Bible because they do not want to understand it in a way that conflicts with their unrighteous living. **Evil men do not like the light because they love the darkness.** And when people love the darkness, they will not accept the light.

Paul wrote concerning this matter to some Corinthian disciples: *“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them”* (2 Co 4:3,4). The light of the gospel was veiled to some in Corinth simply because they were not willing to accept its truth.

Some in Achaia were not able to “receive” (understand) the meat of the word of God that Paul could have written to them. They could not understand because some of the disciples in Achaia were carnal in mind and life. Paul wrote to them, *“I fed you with milk and not with solid food: for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able”* (See 1 Co 3:1-4). Because of their carnal thinking they were not able to understand the message he could have written to them.

In order for one to better understand the Bible, therefore, he or she must continue to grow spiritually. The more our lives conform to the word of God, the better we will understand it. For example, the more we learn to love others as ourselves the better we will be able to understand how God loves (See 1 Jn 4:7,8). Our understanding of the Bible is enhanced as the application of the principles of the Bible are incorporated into our lives.

**Carnal Living
Conflicts With
Bible Concepts.**

- 18. T or F:** If one lives a worldly life, then he or she will better understand the Bible.
- 19. T or F:** A carnal life distorts one's understanding of the Bible.

I. Problem Of Disorderly Study

Some people simply do not understand the Bible because they study the Bible in a disorganized manner. This fact emphasizes the problem that many people simply read various passages in the Bible at random without any real organization in their study. Some have read the Bible for years, and yet, they have never come to an understanding of the gospel. It takes more than Bible reading to understand much of the Bible. It takes serious Bible study.

The true nature of this problem is that many never really get involved in a serious and organized study of the Bible. This fact may cause many Bible-believing people to misinterpret the Bible. The reason for this problem may be that people place the security of their salvation in the hands of some religious leader or the accepted teaching of an admired teacher. Or, they may be relying on the tradition of their forefathers or parents. But relying on anyone other than one's personal knowledge of the truth for one's salvation is both unwise and contrary to what the Bible teaches.

God Expects
Our Personal
Understanding
Of The Gospel.

God expects us to personally study His word (See 2 Tm 2:15). He expects us to prove all things and hold on to that which is true (See 2 Co 13:5; 1 Th 5:21). And He expects us to personally *“grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Pt 3:18).

Paul told Timothy to *“charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies”* (1 Tm 1:3,4). We live in a world of endless distortions of the Bible. Sincere Bible students, therefore, must be diligent to *“shun profane and vain babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness”* (2 Tm 2:16). Paul previously stated a warning that must be repeated:

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned

aside to fables (2 Tm 4:3,4).

We are certainly in those times again when people scurry after every sort of teaching, especially after teachers who are sure that we are in the “end of days.” We must, therefore, make every effort to approach the Bible in the most objective manner possible in order to be able to separate truth from error.

20. T or F: If one does not search for correct teaching on any matter, then certainly he or she will not find it.

J. Religiously Satisfied

One of the greatest hindrances to people studying the Bible is that many are simply satisfied with their existing knowledge of the Bible. There are those who are satisfied with what truth they know. They believe that what they know is sufficient, and thus, they feel no need to learn more. Their Bible study ceases as they depend on their past studies or teachings of past generations. This unfortunate attitude has led some to be arrogant about their knowledge of the Bible. Their Bible study has ceased because they have concluded that no more truth needs to be learned from God’s word.

True Bible Students
Are Never
Satisfied With What
They Know.

Sincere disciples of Jesus will continually search the Scriptures. They will seek to be continually reminded of those things they have been taught. Peter wrote, **“Therefore I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know them, and are established in the present truth”** (2 Pt 1:12). Peter was not negligent to continue to remind his readers of things they already knew. Therefore, we ourselves must guard against becoming **“dull of hearing”** as the Hebrew readers lest we cease being reminded (See Hb 5:11). We must continually prove all things and hold to that which is true (See 2 Co 13:5). If we do not follow this objective in biblical studies, then we will stray from the truth. We must never forget Romans 10:17: **“So then**

faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ.”

21. T or F: If one is satisfied with what he or she knows about the Bible, then there is no more desire to study the Bible.

K. Exalting Emotions Over Bible

Many people do not understand the Bible because they have created a religious behavior that is based primarily on their feelings and emotions. Their religious hysteria in some assembly has convinced them that if something feels right, then it must be right. Their emotional outbursts are often assigned to the Holy Spirit, and thus, they affirm that the Holy Spirit is directly leading them in their religious behavior regardless of what the Bible says. In such religious groups, the Bible plays a minor role part in directing one's behavior. In fact, the Bible is often completely ignored as adherents submit to the "authority" of their emotions and feelings. In being deceived, they believe that the Holy Spirit would not lead them contrary to what He has revealed through the Bible.

Those who would trust in their emotions as the foundation upon which to establish authority in their faith should be reminded of **Proverbs 14:12**. *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”* One may feel that the direction to which his or her emotions are taking them is the right way. However, **God pronounces that what may seem right in our own minds apart from His word will actually lead us to death.** Since God made this statement in reference to the nature of ourselves, then every person should take heed not to trust in his or her feelings or emotions in reference to faith. The only sure way to determine the way of righteousness is to follow the Bible, since the Bible is from God. And if one would seek God, then he or she must seek Him through His word.

The Holy Spirit
Inspired The Bible
To Be Our
Final Authority
In All Matters
Of Faith.

22. T or F: Those who trust their feelings and emotions more than the

Bible, need to take heed to remember that God's word will always stand true, whereas our feelings and emotions will always be questionable.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

1. Why is it that the more we study the Bible the better we understand it?
2. What do you think is the greatest hindrance to understanding the Bible?
3. Why does an unreceptive mind or closed heart affect one's understanding of the Bible?
4. Why did Jehoiakim tear up and burn what Jeremiah wrote?
5. Why is it important to be willing to forsake any religious tradition when one comes to a study of the Bible?
6. Why did the Jewish religious leaders reject the word of God because of their religious traditions?
7. Why must our favorite passages of Scripture always be reexamined?
8. What does it mean to "read into the Bible"?
9. How can one "pervert the gospel"?
10. Why is it important to understand the whole text of a truth in order to understand the context, and then the text itself?
11. Why is it important that one accept the Bible as the word of God before he or she can correctly understand the Bible?
12. Why does carnal living corrupt objective Bible study?
13. Why must we assume that there are many religious people in the world today who believe in Jesus, but have turned to religious fables?
14. Why must our emotions always be brought under the control of the word of God?



ABBREVIATIONS

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis - **Gn**, Exodus - **Ex**, Leviticus - **Lv**, Numbers - **Nm**, Deuteronomy - **Dt**, Joshua - **Ja**, Judges - **Jg**, Ruth - **Rt**, 1 Samuel - **1 Sm**, 2 Samuel - **2 Sm**, 1 Kings - **1 Kg**, 2 Kings - **2 Kg**, 1 Chronicles - **1 Ch**, 2 Chronicles - **2 Ch**, Ezra - **Er**, Nehemiah - **Ne**, Esther - **Et**, Job - **Jb**, Psalms - **Ps**, Proverbs - **Pv**, Ecclesiastes - **Ec**, Song of Solomon - **Ss**, Isaiah - **Is**, Jeremiah - **Jr**, Lamentations - **Lm**, Ezekiel - **Ez**, Daniel - **Dn**, Hosea - **Hs**, Joel - **Jl**, Amos - **Am**, Obadiah - **Ob**, Jonah - **Jh**, Micah - **Mc**, Nahum - **Nh**, Habakkuk - **Hk**, Zephaniah - **Zp**, Haggai - **Hg**, Zechariah - **Zc**, Malachi - **Ml**

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew - **Mt**, Mark - **Mk**, Luke - **Lk**, John - **Jn**, Acts - **At**, Romans - **Rm**, 1 Corinthians - **1 Co**, 2 Corinthians - **2 Co**, Galatians - **Gl**, Ephesians - **Ep**, Philippians - **Ph**, Colossians - **Cl**, 1 Thessalonians - **1 Th**, 2 Thessalonians - **2 Th**, 1 Timothy - **1 Tm**, 2 Timothy - **2 Tm**, Titus - **Ti**, Philemon - **Pl**, Hebrews - **Hb**, James - **Js**, 1 Peter - **1 Pt**, 2 Peter - **2 Pt**, 1 John - **1 Jn**, 2 John - **2 Jn**, 3 John - **3 Jn**, Jude - **Jd**, Revelation - **Rv**

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