

# Why Study The Bible?



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

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Learn four powerful reasons why you should be diligent to study the Bible

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## Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW66

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**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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# Why Study The Bible?

Why study the Bible? That's an important question that you may have considered before. Perhaps you have considered the notion of studying the book called the "Bible" as being an absurd idea. Or, perhaps you have seriously contemplated pursuing a working knowledge of the Bible. Let me take a few moments to address some of the thoughts that may be running through your mind right now about Bible study.

*"I cannot understand the Bible."* Maybe you have thought about studying the Bible, but you simply don't believe that it would be worth your effort – because you believe that you cannot understand the Bible. However, you need to realize that the Bible was written so that it could be understood. For instance, Ephesians 3:3-5 says that "when you read, you may understand" the things Paul wrote in the book of Ephesians. Ephesians 5:17 also says, "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." Therefore, the Bible claims that it can be understood. God assures you: You can understand the Bible – if you will devote yourself to studying it!

*"The Bible has no relevance to my life."* Maybe you have concluded that Bible study would not be a worthwhile endeavor because you believe that the Bible is old, outdated, and irrelevant to your life today. However, you need to know that the Bible is a timeless book. It contains the words of the Almighty God and a law that you live under today (one that you will be judged by). It contains wisdom and instructions that are time-tested and will be helpful to you if you will follow it. The word of God never goes "out of style." Rather, it "endures

forever" (1 Peter 1:25). In fact, it gives you everything you need to know if you are interested in pleasing God (2 Timothy 3:16-17) – and you will be judged by it one Day (Revelation 20:11-15)!

*"Everyone has a different interpretation of the Bible."* Maybe you have decided not to study the Bible because you have become discouraged by the religious division that exists in the world today and have concluded that the Bible is open to many different interpretations. While your impressions concerning the sad condition of the religious world may be correct (as there is a great amount of religious division present in the world), please understand that God did not create that division (nor did His book – the Bible)! This division came about as the result of mankind's improper handling of God's book. The Bible can be understood and it can be understood by all people alike. Not only can it be understood alike; but, it should be understood alike! There is only one message from God and, therefore, there is only one faith (or, system of religious belief, teaching, and practice) that is acceptable to Him (Ephesians 4:5)! Therefore, He expects those who attempt to follow Him to be united in following what He has said (1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1-6; Philippians 1:27). If you carefully study the Bible and search for the truth, you can come to an accurate understanding of what it says.

*"I already know what the Bible says."* Maybe you were once a diligent student of the Bible. However, perhaps you have stopped your diligent study of the Scriptures because you believe that you have arrived at a complete understanding. Still, I would simply encourage you to continue your diligence in Bible study. There is always something more to learn from the Scriptures or to be reminded of. Furthermore, you should realize that there is much religious error and false Bible teaching present in this world. So, I encourage you to carefully examine your previous conclusions and make sure that they are in harmony with the teachings of the Scriptures. Bible study is a lifelong commitment to learning God's word!

*"I have other things to do with my time."* Maybe you have wanted to study the Bible, thought about studying the Bible, and even have resolved to study your Bible. However, every day something just

seems to come up that prevents you from studying the Scriptures and gaining a working knowledge of God's word. I am sure that you have many things to do with your time. Unfortunately, the issue of time comes between many people and diligent Bible study. However, it is an issue of priority. It is my belief that serving God is the most important thing in life. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 says that fearing God and keeping His commandments is the entire duty of mankind (man's whole purpose in life). That said, if you are going to keep God's commandments, you need to know what those commandments are! The bottom line is: While Bible study involves a time commitment, it will be well worth the time that you devote to it! In fact, you will spend an eternity of regret if you do *not* devote your time to studying God's word!

You need to study the Bible! I am sure that there are other obstacles to studying the Bible. However, no matter what the obstacle is that stands between you and diligent Bible study, please consider the things we will discuss throughout this lesson – as these four reasons are applicable to why you should study the Bible (and overcome anything preventing you from studying God's word)! You need to study the Bible: (1) Because it contains the words of God, (2) Because your life will be judged by it, (3) Because it tells you how to be saved, and (4) Because it teaches you the truth. If you allow yourself to fully understand the implications of these four truths about Bible study, I believe you will make the commitment to study the Bible every day!

## ***Because It Contains The Words Of God***

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The Bible contains 66 individual books. Together, these 66 books contain God's message to mankind throughout the ages. It contains 39 individual books that form an Old Testament (books that were written prior to the time of Jesus Christ, largely during the time when the Law of Moses was in effect – a law which we are no longer under today). Then, the Bible also contains 27 individual books/letters that form a New Testament

(books/letters that describe the life of Christ and His new law – a law which we are under today). The words contained within these 66 books are the words of God – they are given by God. For instance, 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (that is, they are literally God-breathed). Therefore, you should study the Bible because it contains God's words.

### **It is the revelation of God's will to mankind**

God has communicated with man in various ways throughout time. Sometimes, He has communicated with mankind by directly speaking to him, through visions/dream, through direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit, etc. However, God does not communicate with man through these ways today. Today, mankind has the complete revelation of God's will – the message that is contained within the Bible!

It is through reading the message contained within the pages of the Bible that we can understand what the will of the Lord is (Ephesians 3:3-5; Ephesians 5:17). Through it, God has given us all things that are needed to live a life that is pleasing to Him. 2 Peter 1:3 says that according to God's "divine power," He has "given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness." Furthermore, the Holy Scriptures revealed by God are able to make us wise for salvation and completely equip us to accomplish every good work. 2 Timothy 3:15-17 says, "and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Please appreciate that when you are studying the Bible, you are studying the very words God has revealed so that you will live your life accordingly! You simply cannot know what is in the mind of the Almighty and All-Wise God unless He reveals it to you. Therefore, since God has chosen to reveal the things that are in His mind through His written word, you should appreciate that you have the "mind of Christ" whenever you read the Bible (1 Corinthians 2:6-16)! Everything that is in the mind of God

concerning how He wants you to live your life is revealed within the pages of the Bible (it entirely equips you to do all the good things God wants from you)!

### **It is complete**

Mankind has no need to wait for a new, modern-day revelation from God. The revelation of God's will is complete. Mankind has, at various times, claimed that there is new revelation from God (i.e. the book of Mormon, direct revelation from the Holy Spirit, etc.). However, Jude wrote, "Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3). The things that were being revealed in the first century A.D. by Jesus Christ (while He lived on earth) and by the Holy Spirit (who revealed God's message to the apostles and prophets after Christ ascended to Heaven) compose "the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."

Therefore, you can study the Bible with the understanding that what you are reading is the word of God and will never be changed! Don't be misled by those who claim to have a new revelation from God. Rather, hold fast to the pattern of sound words (2 Timothy 1:13) which is recorded in the pages of the Bible! Again, the Bible tells you everything that you need to know concerning life on this earth and the life that is to come. You need no other message to live your life in a way that is approved of God!

### **It is perfect**

The word of God is perfect. Psalm 19:7 says, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." James says that God's word is the "perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25). There is no flaw or error contained within God's word. While mankind has made many errors throughout the years in translating and understanding God's word, His word remains perfect! It is important, therefore, for you to select a reliable translation of the Bible to study from (one that adheres closely to the original meaning). A few examples of good Bible translations are: The *King James Version*, the *New King James Version*, the

*American Standard Version*, the *New American Standard Bible*, and the *English Standard Version*. Though this is not a complete list (and though translations are not perfect), these versions of the Bible will prove to be very helpful to you in understanding the perfect will of God – in the English language.

Since God's word is perfect, it does not need any alterations! Mankind has often attempted to change what God's word says in order to "keep up with the times" or to accommodate his own whims or desires. However, God's word must not be altered in any way. Mankind must never be guilty of adding to or taking away from God's word. Revelation 22:18-19 warns, "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

You should study the Bible, then, because it is entirely reliable and contains the only perfect instructions concerning how to live your life! There have been countless books written throughout the history of the world. The wise man, Solomon, wrote, "Of making many books there is no end" (Ecclesiastes 12:12). Of all the self-help books that have been written and educational books that have been written, the Bible is the only book that contains God's message and perfectly informs you about the way to go to Heaven!

### **It is truth**

God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Hebrews 6:18 says that it is "impossible for God to lie." He is entirely pure and holy (separated from everything that is evil). 1 John 1:5 says that "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." Therefore, since God is incapable of anything that is evil, it is only fitting that His word contains complete truth – without a shadow of error in it! Jesus even acknowledged that God's word is truth in John 17:17. In His prayer (recorded in this passage), He said, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."

In a world that is full of lies and distortions (even lies about the Bible and what God has said), it should encourage you to know that there is still a source of complete truth – the Bible. While there can be great benefit in considering the thoughts of other men, you must recognize that man is fallible – and is often wrong. Certainly, even as I write this lesson, I recognize that I can be mistaken. However, I know that God is never wrong. Therefore, you should study the Bible in order to know the perfect truth God has revealed and so that you can expose the lies (even the religious lies) of man (more about this later in the lesson).

Please recognize that whatever God’s word says about anything is truth! There is no man who is as wise or knowledgeable as God. Therefore, man’s opinions are *never* equal to what God has said! If man says one thing and God says the opposite, you can know that God is *always* right. Study His word, then, with the understanding that everything God’s word teaches you is absolute truth!

## ***Because Your Life Will Be Judged By It***

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Your life on this earth will come to an end one day. When you die, your soul will continue to exist and you will be judged. Hebrews 9:27 simply says, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” After the Judgment, your soul will either be sentenced to an eternity in Hell fire or invited to spend an eternity in Heaven with God. With this in mind, let’s observe the connection between the Bible and your Judgment.

### **It will judge you when your life is over**

You will stand before Jesus Christ (the One who died so that you could be saved) on the Day of Judgment. Jesus describes this Judgment Day scene in Matthew 25:31-46. Romans 14:10-12 says that “we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: ‘As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.’ So then each of us shall give account of

himself to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” Ecclesiastes 12:14 says, “For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”

Along with all the mass of humanity who have lived at various points throughout history, you will stand before the Almighty God and give an account of how you have lived your life! This is certainly a sobering thought! Everything that you have ever said, done, or thought will be subject to this great Judgment – including those things which you thought were done in secret! For instance, Jesus said that “for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment” (Matthew 12:36)!

Certainly, this future Judgment is something you must consider with great seriousness – as you realize that your eternity depends upon whether you will be judged to have been faithful to God or unfaithful to Him during your earthly life! Galatians 6:7-8 promises that you will reap what you have sown. Therefore, if you have lived your life seeking to fulfill your own desires and have not listened to the Lord, you will reap eternal punishment in Hell. However, if you have lived your life to serve and glorify God through your faithful obedience, you will be rewarded with everlasting life in Heaven!

Romans 2:5-11 puts it this way: “But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who ‘will render to each one according to his deeds’: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness — indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.”

Now, as you consider what is at stake on the Day of Judgment, consider the picture that Revelation 20:11-15 paints, “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Notice what is identified as being the standard that will be used in your Judgment. It is God’s word. Again, verse 12 says, “the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.” By implication, these are the words that are written in the books that contain the law of God (the Bible). Similarly, Jesus said, “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). However, you will not just be judged by the words Jesus Himself spoke while He was on earth. Instead, you will be judged by all the things written by the apostles and prophets (who wrote under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who revealed God’s will to them, see Ephesians 3:3-5). This is why Paul could write that the things He had written were the “commandments of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 14:37). Then, in Romans 2:16, Paul said, “in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.”

Therefore, you must realize that the words God has revealed in the pages of the Bible will be the standard by which your life will be evaluated and judged on the Judgment Day! Specifically, since you live under the law of Christ (which is revealed in the New Testament), you will be judged by the things God has revealed in the New Testament. Your life will be evaluated as to whether or not you have lived according to the commandments/instructions

contained within the Bible! Study the Bible, therefore, with the understanding that your eternity depends on whether or not you live according to its teachings!

## **It will help you prepare for Judgment Day**

Since your life will be evaluated in this way – and since the outcome of your judgment is so important, it behooves you to make preparations for the Day of Judgment. But, how can you do this? You can prepare by studying and applying the teachings of the Bible!

Think about it. When you were a student in school (perhaps you are currently), in order to do well on a test you would be required to study the material that would be covered on that test. If you didn’t study, you didn’t know the information that was covered and could not do well as a result. Apply this same principle to the “test of life.” Judgment Day (like a test) will evaluate how you lived while you were on earth in comparison to the things revealed within the pages of the Bible. Again, Revelation 20:12 taught that you will be judged according to your works “by the things which were written in the books.”

If you study the Bible and rightly apply its instructions to your life, you will “pass the test” and be rewarded. However, if you do not study the Bible, you will not know how to live your life in a way that is pleasing to God. Consequently, you will “fail” the test and be punished for eternity.

While this illustration is not a perfect one, perhaps it helps you to consider the connection between Bible study and the Day of Judgment. It is extremely important for you to be obedient to God’s word. If you are, you will be saved. If you are not, you will be punished. Therefore, study God’s word diligently so that you can stand before Christ on Judgment Day having prepared for that Day throughout your life on earth! After all, Jesus tells you to “be ready” for the Day He returns and will judge the world (see Matthew 24:44)!



# ***Because It Tells You How To Be Saved***

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Having now understood the seriousness of the Day of Judgment and making preparations for that day, let's spend a little time specifically discussing how the Bible teaches you to prepare yourself for the Day of Judgment. Once again, Bible study plays a vital role in developing the proper understanding of what you must do in order to be saved from your sins.

## **It teaches you about the problem of sin**

The Bible sheds light on the problem of sin – its consequences and its source. Thus, the Bible teaches us what sin is and how it can be avoided. Most significantly, the Bible teaches us how sin can be overcome through the blood of Jesus Christ! Therefore, you need to study the Bible to discover its teachings and warnings about sin!

The most serious problem mankind has ever faced or will ever face is the problem of sin. Sin is deadly to the soul, resulting in spiritual death – an eternity in Hell fire. Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Revelation 21:8 says, “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

The Bible simply identifies that sin is “lawlessness” (1 John 3:4). That is, sin is acting in a way that is without or contrary to the law of God. So, sin can occur whenever you do something that God tells you not to do – or when you fail to do what God tells you to do. James 1:14-15 explains that sin results whenever you choose to fulfill your own desires rather than live according to the instructions of God!

Therefore, without studying the Bible, you are choosing to live in willful ignorance of the laws of God – the very laws you will be judged by one day! Rather than being ignorant of God's will, you

need to spend your time studying the Bible to learn how God wants you to live and the things you need to change in your life – so that you can make the necessary corrections to your life while you have the opportunity to do so!

## **It teaches you the way of salvation**

Not only does the Bible warn you about the problem of sin, but the Bible also gives you the answer to the problem of sin – Jesus Christ. Since we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory (Romans 3:23), we could not save ourselves – by ourselves. We all needed a Savior. Fortunately, God loved us enough to send His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Bible describes the great sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for you – how He lived a sinless life (though He was tempted in all the same ways you are tempted, Hebrews 4:15) and how He gave His life as a ransom sacrifice to give you the opportunity to be saved from your sins (John 3:16; Matthew 20:28). Thus, God has told you about the way of salvation He has made available to you through His Son. Look again at Romans 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” But, this great message of hope and the opportunity of salvation can only be learned if you will take the time and put forth the effort to study the Bible!

Then, not only do you need to study the Bible in order to learn about sin and the way of salvation through Jesus Christ; but, you need to study God's word in order to know what God requires you to do in order to be saved. God has *not* done everything for you. He *has* placed certain responsibilities on you for your own salvation. He requires you to do something in order to be saved (not so that you can earn your salvation; but, to demonstrate your faith by obedience to His commandments). For instance, Hebrews 5:9 says that Jesus Christ became the author of eternal salvation “to all who obey Him.” 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 says that those who do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ will be punished with everlasting destruction. And, Matthew 7:21-23 demonstrates that it is not enough for salvation just to believe in Jesus and profess Him as Lord; but, you must be obedient to the will of God.



Therefore, briefly consider the plan of salvation along with the following Bible references as proof to see what God has required of you for salvation: (1) Hear God's Word (Matthew 17:5; Romans 10:17), (2) Believe (John 8:24; Romans 10:9-10), (3) Repent of your sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30-31), (4) Confess Christ (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:9-10), (5) Be baptized (immersed) in water (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3-4), and (6) Remain faithful to Jesus throughout your life (Revelation 2:10). This is what God's word says that you must do in order to be saved from your sins and live eternally with God in Heaven.

God has given you the opportunity to be saved from your sins and be a follower of Jesus Christ. However, you must study His word to develop the proper understanding of what He has required of you – so that you can be obedient to His instructions.

### **It teaches you how to live as a Christian and keep yourself from sin**

There are many things that are included in the instruction to remain faithful to God. This is what God expects of you after you become a Christian. In Revelation 2:10, Jesus instructed some who had become Christians previously to be “faithful until death” in order to receive the “crown of life.” Therefore, please recognize that it is not enough to simply become a Christian at some point in your life. Instead, continued faithfulness to God is required for salvation. Therefore, you need to learn how God expects you to live as a Christian so that you can please Him – because God says that it is possible to sin so as to fall from the grace of God and lose your salvation (see Galatians 5:4).

God's word has revealed many instructions that you need to learn and apply to your life in order to live in a way that is pleasing to Him. He gives you instructions concerning your desires, your thoughts, your words, and your actions. He has told you things you must put on in your new life as a Christian – as well as things you must put off (that should have no part in your Christian life). He has told you things He wants you to be doing in His service – like teaching the gospel to others, doing good to those you have opportunity to help, being fervent in prayer, etc. You

need to be diligently studying these commandments/instructions so that you can live your life in a way that is pleasing to God!

Studying the Bible and learning these instructions will help you keep yourself from sin. The psalmist said, “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11). Studying God's word will give you everything you need to know in order to be victorious against your enemy – the devil (1 Peter 5:8-9), including an understanding of the armor God has given you to put on and defeat your enemy (Ephesians 6:10-18)! But, if you are not studying God's word, you will not learn how God wants you to live your life as a Christian – and you will not be able to protect yourself against the schemes of the devil!

## ***Because It Teaches The Truth***

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The Bible teaches absolute truth (John 17:17). It is the absolute standard of right and wrong. It contains no error. Therefore, you should spend time studying the Bible to learn this absolute truth.

### **It will teach you the truth**

As we have already discussed, the Bible is right and completely true. It contains absolutely no errors (although man's translations can err). It teaches right doctrine – doctrine about God, Heaven, Hell, the nature of man, sin, etc. It teaches the truth about the plan of salvation (as we previously discussed in this lesson). It teaches the truth about God's expectations after an individual becomes a Christian. It teaches the truth about the church. The complete truth is taught on every subject it covers!

Then, also appreciate that the Bible only teaches one truth concerning each of the subjects it covers. The religious world teaches many different things about all of these various subjects (i.e. Heaven, Hell, sin, salvation, the church, etc.). However, the Bible only teaches one unified truth about each! It does not teach conflicting doctrines! Remember, God's word is perfect.

Therefore, if you want to know the complete truth, you need to spend time carefully studying the things revealed in the Bible. But, not only should you *desire* to know the truth; but, you need to recognize that it is absolutely essential for you to know the truth! John 8:32 says, “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” Knowing and being obedient to the truth God has revealed is the only way for you to be set free from your past sins! In order for you to be right with God, you need to learn, believe, and obey the right things!

### **It will help you avoid error**

There are many different beliefs in the religious world (even in “Christianity”). Many people accept these different doctrines (i.e. about salvation, the church, etc.) as being acceptable to God. However, they cannot all be right if they all teach different things! Remember, the Bible only teaches one perfectly unified truth!

So, any doctrine or practice of man that is contrary to the teachings of the Bible is false! Sadly, there are many false doctrines and religious practices in the “Christian” world that are leading many sincere individuals into religious error rather than to the way of salvation! For instance, many religious organizations and churches teach “plans of salvation” that differ from Bible teaching (as identified previously – Hear, believe, repent, confess, be immersed in water, and remain faithful). Instead, many teach “faith only,” the “Sinner’s Prayer,” “infant baptism,” and other false doctrines concerning salvation. Many also teach false doctrine about the nature of the church (too lengthy to list here). Many even teach error about the nature of God, the reality of Hell, what God expects of those who are Christians, etc. In reality, there are far too many false doctrines that are prevalent today than can be discussed within this study. Yet, you need to be aware of their existence in the world and their deceptive nature!

However, if you are not studying the Bible, you will not be able to know whether you are following a false, man-made doctrine that fails to save you – or whether you are following the truth that will set you free from sin! If you study the Bible, you will see that the Bible frequently warns about those

who want to pervert and change its teachings – and how these false teachers lead others into destruction! Carefully read passages like: Matthew 7:13-27, Acts 20:28-31, Romans 16:17-18, 2 Corinthians 11:12-15, Galatians 1:6-12, 1 Timothy 4:1-5, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, 2 Peter 3:15-16, and 2 John 1:9-11.

For now, just consider 2 Peter 2:1-3: “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.”

Consider the following observations from this passage. (1) There are false teachers among us. God said there would be – just as there have often been people who were falsely claiming to speak the words of God in the past. (2) The doctrines of these false teachers are spiritually destructive – to themselves and to those who follow them. (3) Many people are deceived by their false teachings. (4) These individuals will not approach you by claiming to be false teachers. Instead, they will appear as if they teach the truth and “exploit you with deceptive words.” (5) These false teachers deceive so many people that the way of truth is blasphemed (evil spoken of).

You must beware of false teachers! First, you need to know that there are many (so-called) “Christian” churches, preachers, pastors, and people who will (either intentionally or unintentionally) tell you lies that are harmful to your soul! Second, as you understand that God warns you about such people, you need to realize that studying the Bible for yourself is the only way that you will be able to know whether you are being taught and are following the way of truth or whether you are following the way of error – because God’s word is truth! However, if you are not being diligent to study God’s word, you are blindly following other men. And, Jesus warned, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are

blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch” (Matthew 15:13-14)

What does 2 Timothy 3:16 teach about the words written in the Bible?

## Conclusion

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Let me conclude this study with some thoughts surrounding a verse in Acts about some noble individuals. “Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 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” (Acts 17:10-11). These individuals searched the Scriptures every day because they wanted to know the truth and did not want to be misled by anyone! This attitude is one that is well worth imitating.

I hope that you have been impressed by the importance of Bible study. I hope that you will make it a daily practice. I hope that you will learn the truth so that you can believe and obey it! Don’t take anyone’s word for what the Scriptures teach (not even mine). Look at the Scriptures yourself, study them, and come to the knowledge of the truth – rightly handling God’s word (2 Timothy 2:15)!

Are you studying the Bible *seriously*? Each one of these four points we have considered demonstrate that studying the Bible will have a tremendous impact on where you will spend your eternity. Therefore, recognize that if you choose not to be diligent in studying your Bible, you are demonstrating that your eternal salvation is not very important to you!

## Study Questions

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Do you study your Bible every day? If not, why not? Is this good reasoning?

### 1. Because It Contains The Words Of God

How does God reveal His will to mankind *today*?

Will the Bible ever change or will we ever need a new revelation from God?

Are there any errors in the Bible?

Can God lie? What does this help you understand about the Bible?

### 2. Because Your Life Will Be Judged By It

Will your life be judged some day?

What will be the standard/criteria for this Judgment?

How will the Bible help you to prepare for the Judgment?

### 3. Because It Tells You How To Be Saved

Does the Bible help you to understand how you can be saved?

How does the Bible help you to understand the problem of sin?

What does the Bible tell you about your opportunity to be saved – and your responsibility in salvation?

How does the Bible help you to live the life of a Christian?

#### **4. Because It Teaches The Truth**

Does the Bible teach absolute truth?

Identify some subjects that the Bible teaches the truth about.

How will the Bible help you avoid error?

**\*Will you be diligent in studying your Bible every day? Why or why not?**