

Do you Know the Bible?

You can't live what you don't know.



TRANSFORMATION
for Adult LifeGroups

Psalms 119:15-16

APRIL 18, 2018/APRIL 22, 2018

TODAY'S TEXT

Text: Psalm 119:15-16; "I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. 16 I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word."

What's inside:

1. Introduction – the Bible, the first textbook
2. Quiz – In or Out
3. Why you need to know the Bible
4. How we can know the Bible
5. Let the Bible Read you
6. God's Purpose for the Bible

FIRST THOUGHTS

The Bible – the First Textbook

- Have you ever been in a class where the Bible was the textbook? What was it like?
- Was the Bible taught in your school growing up?

It may surprise many to know that the Bible was truly the first textbook. The New Haven Code of 1655 required that children be made "able duly to read the Scriptures... and in some competent measure to understand the main grounds and principles of Christian Religion necessary to salvation."

- **Hornbooks** - Hornbooks were brought to America, from Europe, by the colonists and were common from the 1500's - 1700's. A hornbook was a flat piece of wood with a handle, upon which a sheet of printed paper was attached and covered with transparent animal horn to protect it. A typical hornbook had the alphabet, the vowels, a list of syllables, the invocation of the Trinity, and the Lord's Prayer.
- **Catechisms** - There were over 500 different catechisms used in early education. Later, the Westminster Catechism became the most prominent one.
- **The New England Primer** - For more than 150 years the New England Primer, often called "The Little Bible of New England," served as the principal textbook for millions of colonists and early American citizens. The alphabet is taught using Scripture references: A – in Adam's Fall we sinned all . . . B- Heaven to find; the Bible mind . . . C- Christ crucified for sinners died . . .
- **Webster's Blue-Backed Speller** - First published in 1783 it sold over 100 million copies. It was one of the most influential textbooks and was based on "God's Word."

EXPLORE THE TEXT

Why should we know the Bible?

- > Read 2 Timothy 2:14-17
- > Read John 8:31-32
- > Read Romans 16:25-26
- > Read Acts 17:10-11
- > Read Psalm 119:11
- > Read Psalm 119:98-100

How can we know the Bible?

- Read it
 - *If in my Bible reading I lose touch with the aliveness of Christ, if I fail to listen to the living Jesus, submit to His sovereignty, and respond to His love, I become arrogant in my knowing and impersonal in my behavior. An enormous amount of damage is done in the name of Christian living by bad Bible reading.* Eugene Peterson
- Study it
 - The Bible . . . Let it READ YOU The Bible is the place where God bares His soul. It will make you wince, cringe, blush and marvel. The Spirit of God is always broadcasting – but we have to tune in to His frequency.
- Apply it
 - Too often we try to understand Scripture without any desire or direction toward obedience. It doesn't work that way. If you want to understand it – obey it. Most of us are educated way beyond the level of our obedience. We learn more and do less, thinking all the while that we're growing spiritually. You don't get credit for auditing Scripture.
- Memorize it
 - A Bible verse that's relevant to what you're going through is easier to memorize than one that speaks to a topic that's abstract to you. Write it down, say it out loud, pray it, sing it, and keep repeating it until it becomes an old friend you can turn to whenever you need.
- Meditate on it
 - Rediscovering the wonders of Scripture requires more than reading – not if you want to get it into your soul – you have to meditate on it. Reading without meditating is like eating without digesting. If you want to absorb the nutrients, you've got to chew on them. Reading gives breadth to our understanding, but meditation gives depth.

◦ In what ways have you gained insight into the Bible?

◦ What parts of the Bible do you feel like you know the least about?

Why did God give us the Bible?

> Read 1 Timothy 1:5-6 and Colossians 1:28 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17

◦ What do these verses tell us are the purposes of the Bible?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

Remember that Bible Knowledge is not the goal, life transformation (Bible application) is. But we can't apply what we don't know. That's why it's so important to invest our time into God's Word. Not just on Sunday, but throughout the week.

How will you let the Bible change your week?

THE CHALLENGE: To declare eternal truths that never change AND apply them in a culture that is always changing.

UPCOMING LESSONS

- Next week we answer the question, "How do I Apply the Bible?"
- Read James 1:19-27
- When you listen to God's word without doing it, what does it say about your relationship with Him?

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

22nd - 1 Samuel 25-26; Psalm 63; Matthew 9 | 23rd - 1 Samuel 27; Psalm 141; 1 Chronicles 9; Matthew 10 | 24th - 1 Samuel 28-29; Psalm 109; Matthew 11 | 25th - 1 Samuel 30-31; 1 Chronicles 10; Matthew 12 | 26th - 2 Samuel 1; Psalm 140; Matthew 13 | 27th - 2 Samuel 2; 1 Chronicles 11; Psalm 142; Matthew 14 | 28th - 2 Samuel 3; 1 Chronicles 12; Matthew 15