

LAYMAN'S SCHOOL OF TRAINING
HOLE 2 - ADVANCED BIBLE STUDY

LECTURE 2 - WHAT TO DO IN YOUR PRIVATE HOUR WITH GOD EACH DAY

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1. GO THROUGH THE *PRINCIPLES FOR HAVING AN EFFECTIVE SPIRITUAL TIME AT THE END OF THE 'THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR' READING PROGRAM.*

2. WHAT OTHER STUDY AIDS SHOULD I USE?

i) A good **accurate modern English Bible** like the New American Standard Bible (NAS) or the New King James Version (NKJ) which are **literal translations**. The New International Version (NIV) is also a good bible, but it is a **transliteration** (i.e. it represents words in the **more or less** meaning of a different language - Oxford).

Try and get a Bible with a **good cross reference** system in the margin.

Along with your Bible it is good to have a few **additional modern translations** like **Moffat's, Worrell's** (which also has good foot-notes), **J.B. Phillips** and the **Amplified Version**.

The single most valuable Bible to me has been the **Holy Bible from 26 Translations**.

ii) Every Bible student should have a good **Concordance** with a **Hebrew and Greek dictionary**. For the KJV use the Strong's or Young's concordance. For the NAS use the New American Standard exhaustive concordance.

iii) Besides an ordinary **dictionary**, you also need a good **Bible dictionary** like the **New Bible Dictionary**. This is to enable you to look up Bible names, places and things, giving you a detailed explanation plus all the scriptural references for each item.

NB: However, don't get weighed down with so many books that you neglect the most important book of all - your precious Bible.

In this advanced **computer** age we live in today, you are able to get Bible programs with several good Bibles plus all the Hebrew and Greek dictionaries, Bible dictionaries, etc. All this information is available at the push of a button in a split second. It's a totally awesome experience to study the Bible on computer.

"PC Study Bible" is a world leading software program for serious Bible students, and very competitively priced at ±\$170 for their "Reference Library Plus" flagship study edition, available from Deeper Life Books in California - Tel 1 800 321-7713.

3. WHO WILL HELP ME IN MY PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY?

In addition to the anointed **5 fold ministries** in the church (**Eph 4:11,12**), we have the **Holy Spirit** Himself who will illuminate the Bible to us.

John 14:26 (NAS) *"But the Helper, the **Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things**, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."*

1 Cor 2:12 (NAS) *"Now **we have received not the spirit of the world**, but **the Spirit who is from God**, that **we might know the things freely given to us by God.**"*

1 John 2:27 (NAS) *"And as for you, the **anointing** (of the Holy Spirit) **which you received from Him abides in you**, and you have **no need for anyone to teach you**; but as **His anointing teaches you about all things**, and **is true and is not a lie**, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him."*

The reason you need to first pray and worship God before studying the Bible is because the **anointing teaches you**. The anointing is daily increased by disciplined prayer and worship. Then under the anointing

the Holy Spirit teaches you the hidden secrets, mysteries and truths of God's Word. This makes daily Bible study fulfilling, edifying and enjoyable.

The reason some people don't experience the Holy Spirit teaching them is because they don't ask Him to. **James 4:2b (NAS)** *"You do not have because you do not ask."*

4. WHAT IS THE BEST TIME FOR THE STUDY OF SCRIPTURE?

It should be at a time that you can have every day, when your faculties are keenest and when you have the greatest privacy and quiet.

5. WHAT SHOULD BE DONE AFTER BIBLE STUDY?

Follow your Bible study with **MEDITATION** - that is, **think** about what you have read. In **Hebrew** it means to utter, speak, muse (ponder or reflect) on the things of God.

Andrew Murray said, "The intellect gathers and prepares the food upon which we are to feed. In meditation the heart takes it in and feeds on it."

Psa 1:1-3 (NAS) *"How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!*

2 *But his delight is in the law of the Lord (i.e. the Bible), And in His law he meditates day and night.*

3 *And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers."*

Psa 119:15,23,48,97,148 (NAS) *"I will meditate on Thy precepts, And regard Thy ways.*

23 *Even though princes sit and talk against me, Thy servant meditates on Thy statutes.*

48 *And I shall lift up my hands to Thy commandments, Which I love; And I will meditate on Thy statutes.*

97 *O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.*

148 *(Jerusalem) I lie awake throughout the night, (NAS) that I may meditate on Thy word."*

Joshua 1:8 (NAS) *"This Book of the law (or the Bible) shall **not depart from your mouth**, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be **careful to DO** according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success."*

6. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO MAKE NOTES?

By using a small notebook or the margin of your Bible, thoughts are clarified into a permanent form. This gives a record of how God has spoken to you day by day, and it also refreshes your memory of things that God has revealed to you. Nothing will encourage careful reading and meditation more than the recording of what we have found from day to day, in our S.T. notebook, or in the margin of your Bible.

NB. A blunt pencil is better than a sharp mind.

7. IS BIBLE STUDY EASY?

No, it is not easy, but it is **enjoyable work to study the Bible**. Bible study is the **STUDY** of the Bible, not dreaming over it, or skimming through it.

The Bereans **SEARCHED** the Scriptures.

Acts 17:11 (NAS) *"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for **they received the Word with great eagerness, examining the scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.**"*

Paul says that in dividing the Word of Truth, we are to be **WORKMEN**.

2 Tim 2:15 (NAS) *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a **workman** who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."*

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan said, "The Bible yields it's treasures to honest toil more readily than does any other serious literature. The Bible never yields to indolence" (i.e. to the slothful and the lazy).

8. WHEN GOD SHOWS US SOMETHING IN THE BIBLE, HOW CAN WE MAKE IT A PART OF OUR LIVES?

Whatever is revealed to you in Scripture will become very real in your life if you will **prayerfully talk it over with the Father**. Then if action is required, **do it**, trusting God to help you accomplish it.

9. WHAT SHALL I DO IF I MISS A DAY OR TWO IN MY DAILY BIBLE STUDY?

The same as you do when you miss a meal. You simply start again or make sure you don't miss the next meal. Even if you've started and failed a dozen times, you can begin again NOW, with a greater longing than ever. Don't allow yourself to become discouraged in your Bible study.

Defeat at this point will mean defeat for the rest of your life.

10. WHAT IS THE "CROWNING MARK" OF THE BIBLE STUDENT?

There are many positive results from Bible study, but crowning them all is the JOY OF THE LORD.

Psa 119:14,111,162 (NIV) *"I **rejoice** in following your statutes (Word) as one rejoices in great riches.*

111 (NIV) *Your statutes are my heritage forever; **they are the joy of my heart.***

162 (NAS) *I **rejoice at Thy Word, as one who finds great spoil.**"*

John 15:11 (NAS) *"These things (or words) I have spoken to you, that **My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.**"*

HOMEWORK FOR LECTURE 2

1. Memorize **1 Cor 2:12** from point 3 of this lecture.
2. This will count for 10% towards your test results.
3. Follow your **Through the Bible in a Year** reading program for the next 7 days, daily entering your favorite scripture for each day's reading and spiritual notes into your S.T. notebook.
4. You must bring your S.T. notebook and show 7 days entries in it to the secretaries as you register next week.
5. This will count for 10% towards your test results.
6. Spend 10 minutes a day meditating on your notes so that these truths can register on your spirit man and as preparation for a true or false test next week.
7. A pass mark of 80% is required to graduate.
8. You are defeating the whole object if you cram all the homework in on the last day. Be consistent in studying your Bible and lecture notes everyday.