

# Why We Need the Practice of Bible Study



The Triune God of Christianity is a relational God who pursues and befriends us uniquely as our Savior, Lord, and King.

To be in a relationship involves communication. God communicates with us through the written word of Scripture, the guidance of his Holy Spirit and the church gathered in community for worship and preaching while seeking to live lives that extend love and goodness to one another and the world.

The Bible is central to following Jesus. Misuse of the Bible has wounded people, societies, and churches for centuries which is why the practice of humble and thoughtful Bible Study is crucial to our journey of faith.

Warning: We do not study the Bible merely for information. All good study leads to transformation of lives, systems, and cultures. The study of history comes alive when it is applied to the present. The study of math transforms society when it's used for the good of humanity. We study the Bible to know God and be transformed by him as he renews our true identity, purpose, and way of life.

## GENERAL RESOURCES FOR STUDYING THE BIBLE

### BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

- ▶ *New American Standard Bible*
- ▶ *New International Version*

### HOW WE READ THE BIBLE MATTERS

- ▶ *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible*, by Richards and O'Brien
- ▶ *The Blue Parakeet: Rethinking How You Read the Bible*, by Scot McKnight

### VALUING, READING AND STUDYING THE BIBLE

- ▶ *Why is the Bible Reliable? (5:30 minute Video)*
- ▶ *Scripture and the Authority of God*, by NT Wright
- ▶ *Words of Life: Scripture as the Living and Active Word of God*, by Timothy Ward
- ▶ *The Navigator Bible Studies Handbook*
  
- ▶ *Introduction to the Bible (4 short videos)*
- ▶ *Overview of the Old Testament (12min Video)*
- ▶ *Overview of the New Testament (8min Video)*
  
- ▶ *How to Read the New Testament Letters (Podcast): Colossians is a New Testament Letter. This is a great place to start as you study this book.*
- ▶ *How to Read the Bible (A Collection of Short Videos)*

## PSALM 19

1 The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
2 Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.  
3 They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.  
4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.  
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.  
5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.  
6 It rises at one end of the heavens  
and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is deprived of its warmth.  
7 The law of the Lord is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.  
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.  
8 The precepts of the Lord are right,  
giving joy to the heart.  
The commands of the Lord are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.  
9 The fear of the Lord is pure,  
enduring forever.  
The decrees of the Lord are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.  
10 They are more precious than gold,  
than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb.  
11 By them your servant is warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.  
12 But who can discern their own errors?  
Forgive my hidden faults.  
13 Keep your servant also from willful sins;  
may they not rule over me.  
Then I will be blameless,  
innocent of great transgression.  
14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight.  
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

## 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

10 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, 11 persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. 12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**Christian spirituality involves a transformation of the self that occurs only when God and self are both deeply known. Both, therefore, have an important place in Christian spirituality. There is no deep knowing of God without a deep knowing of self, and no deep knowing of self without a deep knowing of God. John Calvin wrote, “Nearly the whole of sacred doctrine consists in these two parts: knowledge of God and of ourselves.”**

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