

BIBLE EXTENSION COURSE PROGRAM

Why Study the Bible

Lesson No.1

Required Reading:
2 Timothy 3:1-17

Bible Introduction – BI Series
by Clifton H Carpenter

[Audio Bible](#)

The Scriptures are Profitable

- For Doctrine
- For Reproof
- For Correction
- For Instruction in Righteousness

Key Verses: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man/woman of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

BIBLE INTRODUCTION – From God To Us. One of the most remarkable features of the Bible is that it contains a long series of messages from God to man. It would seem strange if the Author of our being, who has enabled us to communicate with one another in so many ways, should never have communicated with us at all.

However, we have our wonderful Bible. There is no practice available to mankind that is more rewarding, more beneficial and more enlightening than the study of the Bible.

- It claims to be the revelation from God
- It is substantiated by its miracles and its fulfilled prophecy
- It is the result of Christianity being propagated
- It brings satisfaction to human hearts the world over

A Revelation is Necessary. Although sinful man might to a certain extent realize from intuition or from reason something about sin and its penalty, yet man could know nothing of God's "love" "provision for pardon" "reconciliation" "salvation" and the blessings of the new life in Christ.

Man's Moral and Spiritual Hunger.

Man's moral and spiritual nature longs for God and true holiness. It is the Bible alone as the revelation from God to man that saves us from the ignorance, superstition, cruelty and impurities of life.

Why Study The Bible. The purpose of Bible Introduction is to encourage you to devote yourself more thoroughly to Bible study, and to help you set some basic principles by which you can put to better use the time that you spend on Bible study.

Methods of Bible Study. Various methods of Bible study will be introduced later so that you can select a structured study method that will make use of study practices that have been developed, tested, and found valuable by other Christians.

When properly done Bible study is an enjoyable and rewarding task. The rewards of your study will be "knowledge of God" "knowledge of self" and "discernment of truth" It is my hope that the Bible Introduction study will bless your heart and result in you developing a systematic approach to Bible study, that will cause you to think the thoughts of God.

Why Study the Bible – Lesson No.1

Hypocritical Christianity. In a world gone insane with hate, amidst nations that are destroying themselves with moral filth and shameful self-indulgences, in churches which maintains “*a form of godliness*” but denies the power thereof. 2 Timothy 3:5

Four Divisions of Humanity. The Bible divides life into four divisions of humanity.

1. Those who are not saved and know they are not saved. They are the people who do not profess any form of religion, the atheists, the agnostics, those who have no interest in the things of God, and say so openly.

2. Those who are saved, but they are not sure of it. They are the ones who have really come to Christ; they really do love the Lord; they know they have been born again; but, because they have not been taught properly, they do not understand the promises of God.

For one reason or another they think that they will lose their salvation if they slip or fall in any way. When they do, they succumb to despair for weeks and months in a painful condition of uncertainty. This group is not sure of anything about their faith.

3. Those who are saved and they know it. These are the ones we call the strong. They are maturing Christians who are growing and demonstrating a new, changed life.

Though they have the normal struggles of everyone else, they show from year to year evidence of progress and growth in these areas. They know they belong to God; they have no doubts about it.

4. Those who are not saved but think they are. But they deny the Gospel, “*the power of God unto salvation*” Romans 1:16-17

True Christianity. The New Testament everywhere seeks to convince us, that the church is the most important body of people in the world.

The church is in control of history. God builds society around “*what happens in the church*” Christians impact the lives of others

Two Elements of Truth. Matthew 5:13-14

- **Salt.** Jesus says “*You are the salt of the earth*” If the salt loses its savor “*it becomes saltless and without flavor*” the world is effected and it will become worse and worse.
- **Light.** Jesus says “*You are the light of the world*” If the light dims, the whole world will sink into darkness.

Two Important Questions Answered.

- How can a Christian survive during stressful and pressure filled times?
- How can you and I maintain integrity against the current of the day?

The Pattern of Paul. First, he says “*do what I have done*” 2 Timothy 3:14

- Continue teaching the truth
- Live righteously by the power of God
- Trust the Lord Jesus. The battle is the Lord’s, not ours

The Second part to Paul’s answer is that we “*saturate our mind with the Scriptures*” 2 Timothy 3:15

A Changed Mind. When you start “*reading and applying*” your Bible it will affect the way you think about important matters.

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Evidence of Change. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- You will think differently about yourself and others.
- You will regard the pursuit of wealth and pleasure in a different light.
- You will make decisions on a totally different basis.

The Scriptures are Useful. Four things the Scriptures will do for every believer. This is a selective list rather than an exhaustive list.

1. They are Profitable for Doctrine. *“to inform you of what is right”*

The Bible will instruct your mind about things that no one, except God, knows anything about.

A Reliable Source. The Bible is a reliable guide in areas we know nothing about.

- Tells you things about yourself
- Tells you what can happen to you
- Tells you what will happen to you

Everybody wants to know these things.

One Book. The Bible provides answers to these and other probing questions.

One Person. The Bible tells us about Jesus, who came back from the grave and showed us what is beyond the grave.

He demonstrated in ways that can never be denied, or explained away. Therefore, Jesus says, I am *“the way” “the truth” “the life”* no man comes unto the Father, but by me. John 14:6

Personal Salvation. The Scriptures bring salvation to individuals who place their *“faith in Jesus Christ”* Romans 10:17

The Salvation of Timothy. His relationship to the Bible began when he was a child and learned the Old Testament. 2 Timothy 1:5 Search [Bible Dictionary](#) to read about

- The Grandmother of Timothy
- The Mother of Timothy

Family Devotions. The method used by these noble ladies from Deuteronomy 6:7-9

- When they *“rise up”* (when they get up in the morning)
- When they *“sit down”* (at mealtime)
- When they *“go to bed at night”*

2. They are Profitable for Reproof. *“to convict you of what is wrong”*

The Bible will make you aware of the wrong in your life.

Reproof can be better translated *“convict”*

Conviction is produced by the Holy Spirit using the Bible to make you aware of your wrong *“attitude and actions”* You did not think that what you have been doing was wrong at all. Acts 17:22-34

The Experience of Bible Reading.

Suddenly you are made aware that your thoughts and behavior are contrary to the will of God.

In order to be free from guilt, you must **repent** *“change your mind”* and commit yourself to a different direction. That is called Conviction.

3. They are Profitable for Correction. *“to show you how to get right”*

The Bible has tremendous power to point out to people the areas of wrongdoing in their lives.

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The Testimony of Scriptures. The Bible never convicts us of our wrong without also setting us on the right path. Romans 1:18-32

- When taken seriously, it leads people to freedom and to life
- Failure to accept its warnings will always lead to degradation and enslavement

That is a marvelous record that is universally true.

4. They are Profitable for Instruction in Righteousness.

“to teach you how to stay right”

The Bible has the power to finely tune you. Like a skillful coach, the Bible will enable you to walk day by day in *“a more righteous way”*

So the Bible is able *“to train us” “to lead us”* into ever-expanding experiences of righteous living.

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This book is sufficient. The Bible is sufficient *“to equip you for every good work”*

- It does not need the help of psychology or philosophy.
- It does not need special higher education.

Although these things are proper in themselves; and can supplement in many ways some of the things the Bible teaches.

They can never replace the Bible.

The world is constantly looking for the secret to life. That is exactly what this Book is provided for.

- It is the Book that goes with man.
- It is the instruction book that will work out all our kinks and quirks

If you saturate your mind and heart with the wisdom of this Book, it will keep you steady and bring you through any time of crisis. It will bring you into daily contact with the **Lord of the Book.**

BIBLE INTRODUCTION