



Part 2: The Bible and You

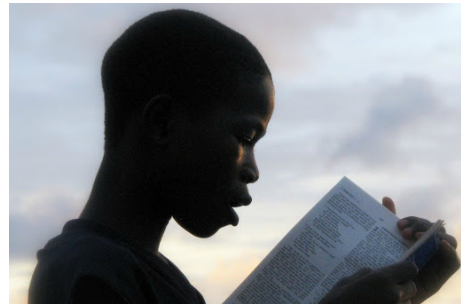
Class 7: Reading and Listening to the Bible

Objective: To identify methods of Bible reading and understand the importance of listening to Bible teaching with wisdom.

“... and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:15)

Question 1: Why should we read the Bible regularly?

- God’s word is described as a _____ (Psalm 119:105) and our necessary _____ (Matthew 4:4).
- God gives a _____ for his word to all who believe in him (1 Peter 2:2).
- Bible reading is meant to _____ our personal relationship with Christ.
- The Word of God:
 - _____ the soul. (Psalm 19:7a)
 - Makes us _____. (Psalm 19:7b)
 - Increases our _____. (Romans 10:17)
- Knowing the scriptures helps us discern between solid doctrine and _____ teaching (Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:6)
- With access to the whole _____ of scripture, in multiple _____ and versions, produced in multiple _____, modern-day believers are without _____! (Luke 12:48b)
- ◆ **Key takeaway:** *To get the most out of interpreting the Bible, we must be disciplined in reading the Bible regularly!*



Question 2: What are different methods and approaches to reading the Bible?

- For generations, many Christians have benefitted from Bible _____ that take the reader through the whole Bible in a given amount of time.

Advantages:

- Helps you read the _____ Bible.
- No need to _____ what to read.
- Can go through it with _____.

Potential dangers:

- Mere _____
- _____
- Careless _____
- A _____ too heavy

Check out a list of various types of reading plans and try one that is best for you at www.ligonier.org/blog/bible-reading-plans/ or www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/reading-the-bible-in-2013/

- Believers may also decide to focus on *specific approaches* to Bible reading:
- To read the Bible _____ is to focus on God's being, character, power, and promises.
 - To read the Bible as _____ is to appreciate its various genres and understand the styles, art, and unity that tell its story.
 - To read the Bible in _____ and _____ with God is to respond appropriately and personally to revelation.
 - To read the Bible for personal _____ is to read with a posture of readiness to obey, having rightly handled the word of truth.
 - To read the Bible for _____ is to get to know the major themes, characters, and topics presented in the Bible, for recall.

<i>Customizable</i>	<i>Non-negotiable</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Type of reading plan• Duration of reading• Length of reading• Approach/focus• Repetition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proper interpretation/application• Regular reading• Prayer• Obedience• Accountability• Church community

- ◆ **Key takeaway:** *There are various ways to read through the Bible; the student should take the most effective approach for himself or herself!*

Question 3: How can we get the most out of personal Bible reading?

- _____ over scripture carefully and prayerfully. (Psalm 1:2)
- _____ sins and failures as the Bible reveals them. (Psalm 139:23-24)
- _____ for God to grant understanding. (Psalm 119:18)
- _____ God as he reveals his attributes. (Psalm 150)
- Ask questions as you read:
 - What do these _____ and _____ mean?
 - How does these _____ relate?
 - What is the _____ of this passage?
 - How does this passage _____ to the rest of scripture?
 - How does this passage _____ to me today?
 - What should the response of my _____ be?
 - How does this point me to _____?

◆ **Key takeaway:** *Handle the Bible as the very words of God!*

Question 4: How should we listen to the Bible as it is taught and preached?

- 1. Expect God to _____. (*preparation*)
- 2. _____ God knows better than you. (*humility*)
- 3. Check the preacher says what the _____ says. (*discernment*)
- 4. Hear the sermon in _____. (*participation*)
- 5. Be there _____ by _____. (*familiarity*)
- 6. Do what the _____ says. (*obedience*)
- 7. Do what the _____ says today - and _____! (*worship*)

LISTEN UP!
A practical guide to listening to sermons



CHRISTOPHER ASH

◆ **Key takeaway:** *Listening to the Bible preached and taught requires full participation from the listener!*

Bibliography

“Why We Read the Bible” by Tony Reinke
“Reading the Bible” in *The ESV Study Bible*
“Discipline of Devotion” in *Disciplines of a Godly Man* by R. Kent Hughes
“How To Read the Bible For Yourself” by John Piper
“Two-year Bible Reading Plan” by Stephen Witmer
Listen Up! A Practical Guide to Listening to Sermons by Christopher Ash