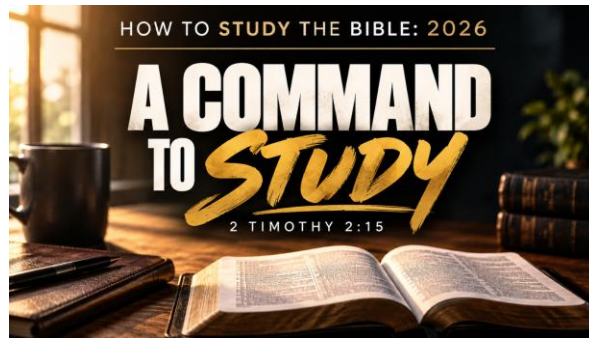




Series: How to Study the Bible in 2026

INTRODUCTION

2 Timothy 2:15 – *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

All modern versions have removed the word “study” from their bibles.

It is one thing to call ourselves people of the Bible... it is another to actually know the Bible.

Tonight, we begin with 2 questions:

“What happens if we do not study the Bible?”

“What happens if we do not teach the next generation how to study the Bible?”

... what happens to our homes? Our churches? Our children? Our grandchildren?

According to **Judges 2:10**, a generation can lose what another generation took for granted.

- ✓ Think about Israel – there were generations that had seen God work miracles
- ✓ They had the law, the prophets, the testimony of God’s faithfulness, stories of deliverance
- ✓ They had the word of God... and yet another generation knew NOT the LORD!

What if parents stop opening the Bible? **What if** believers stop teaching the Bible? **What if** Christians stop studying the Bible for themselves? **What if** we become dependent upon someone else to tell us what the Bible says? **What if** our children grow up knowing how to find information but do not know how to find truth? **What if** they know how to use technology but do not know how to use the Bible? **What if** they can search the internet for an answer to almost anything, but they have never learned how to search the Scriptures? **What if** they can listen to hundreds of sermons but cannot sit down with an open Bible and discover what God says? **What if** the next generation inherits our Bibles but not our biblical convictions and knowledge of truth?

We live in 2026. Our generation has something previous generations could hardly imagine – unlimited access to information. The Bible is everywhere. You can carry the entire Bible in your pocket. You can listen to it, search it, compare passages, find sermons, read commentaries, watch Bible teaching, ask questions, and find somebody’s opinion about almost any passage of Scripture in seconds. And now we have artificial intelligence that can produce an explanation of a Bible passage almost instantaneously. We have unprecedented access to biblical information.

But here is the danger – we can have more access to the Bible than any generation before us and still know less of the Bible! We can become consumers of Bible content instead of students of the Bible. We can hear more and study less. We can search more and think less. Having a Bible App does not make us students of the Bible. Listening to preaching does not make us students of the Bible. This must be what The Holy Spirit taught Paul in **2 Timothy 3:7** – “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” The context was OUR TIME!

1. THE WORD OF GOD GIVES LIFE – the Bible can transform your life.

The Bible is not just a book – it is the word of God! It has life-changing, life-giving power.

Key Truths

- ✓ The word of God created everything out of **nothing!** *Psalm 33:6-9*
- ✓ The word of God brought a **dead** man out of the grave! *John 11:43*
- ✓ The word of God can deliver the salvation of a **soul!** *1 Peter 1:23-25*
- ✓ The word of God will endure **forever** and never pass away! *Matthew 24:35*

Therefore, we ought to read it... believe it... study it... memorize it... obey it...and LOVE it!

2. WE NEED THE WORD OF GOD – we are living in the last days.

Consider the world in which we live.

Key Truths

- ✓ Amos describes a famine of hearing God's words. *Amos 8:11-12*
 - That does not mean there are no Bibles – it is a lack of hearing the words of God!
- ✓ Paul describes the spiritual condition of the last days. *2 Timothy 3:1-7*
 - Our generation summed up – ever learning – information and content everywhere but never able to arrive at the truth. That is exactly what we see all around us today!
- ✓ Daniel describes an explosion of knowledge. *Daniel 12:4*
 - Our world! We need more than Bible content – we need Bible UNDERSTANDING.

3. LEARN HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE – Christians must learn the Bible.

Foundational Principles of Bible Study

#1 The Bible is not difficult to understand.

We make it difficult by not believing every word we read.

2 Peter 3:16 “some things hard to be understood”

2 Corinth 11:1-3 “as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty”

Genesis 2:16-17 “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying...”

Genesis 3:1-3 “...the serpent was more subtil... Yea, hath God said...?”

Genesis 3:4 “And the serpent said... Ye shall not surely die”

Genesis 3:5 “For God doth know that in the day ye eat”

**Questions
Contradicts
Changes**

Satan understands something very important...

1 Thess 2:13 “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because,
when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God,
which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”

#2 Anyone can develop a working knowledge of the Bible.

There is **NO** special secret and **NO** magic formula. An education may be helpful, but it is **NOT** necessary. Knowledge of other languages can be helpful but **NOT** necessary.

The disciples were common men, not scholars.

Mark 12:37 “And the common people heard him gladly”

Revelation 2:6, 15 “thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate”

God wrote the Bible to reveal truth, not hide it.

Psalms 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”

Psalms 119:130 “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding”

Proverbs 6:23 “For the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light”

#3 The Holy Spirit is your teacher.

How much you learn depends **SOLELY** on your responsiveness to Him.

John 14:16, 26 “... the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost... he shall teach you all things”

John 16:7-13 “... when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth”

1 Corinthians 2:9-16 “... the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual”

Only the Holy Ghost can reveal truth. Before you open your Bible ask, “Lord teach me.”

#4 Bible study has rules.

There are rules to just about everything else – driving, medicine, mechanics, sports...

1 Corinthians 14:40 “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

2 Timothy 2:15 “... rightly dividing the word of truth.”

There are principles for properly understanding the Bible – we will focus on 15 basics.

Our goal is not just to read the Bible – it is to understand it correctly! Amen. The study of scriptural interpretation is called **hermeneutics**. It is the science of interpreting the Bible (a man-made term). It is important to know if for future reference.

THE DANGER IS DIFFERENT IN 2026

There is something we need to recognize about our generation.

- ✓ 10-15 years ago, we were dealing with information overload.
- ✓ Now in 2026, that problem has multiplied.

With the advancement of AI (artificial intelligence), you can find someone’s interpretation of virtually any passage in seconds. However, no technological advancement of our day can replace your responsibility to study the Bible.

- Technology can give you information, but it cannot give you a heart that loves God’s truth.
- Listening to somebody else study the Bible does not mean that you have studied the Bible.
- A Bible app can put Scripture in your hand, but it cannot make you obey it.
- A search engine can find a verse quickly, but it cannot rightly divide it for you.
- AI can produce an explanation, but it cannot replace the Holy Spirit.

15 Factors to Focus your Bible Study

1. The Context Factor
2. The People Factor
3. The Time Factor
4. The Application Factor
5. The Individual Word Factor
6. The Comparison Factor
7. The Creation Factor
8. The Apparent Contradiction Factor
9. The Consistency Factor
10. The Literal Factor
11. The Attitude Factor
12. The Clarity Factor
13. The Question Factor
14. The Confirmation Factor
15. The Maturity Factor

How to Study the Bible *

Week 1

Philadelphia
Church Period
Preacher
Quote:

"Here then I am, far from the busy
ways of men. I sit down alone;
Only God is here. In His presence I
open, I read His Book ..."

(For dramatic results)
try...the

"Silver
Bullet"

1. Read it!

2. Write it!

Genesis 2:16

And the LORD God commanded the man,
saying,
Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,
thou shalt not eat of it:

Genesis 2:17

for in the day that thou eatest thereof
thou shalt surely die.