



“Enjoying the Abundant Life of Jesus: Biblical Life”

Introduction: Mission Statement: “Enjoying and Sharing the Abundant Life of Jesus.”

The Biblical Life has its source in Jesus: The One who is the Incarnate Word of God and sent His Holy Spirit to make it possible for us to enjoy the written and living Word of God.

Ecclesiastes 12:11 “The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails, they are given by one Shepherd.”

2 Timothy 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth”

Reason #1: Because it’s good for all of us!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable (Greek: *ophelimos* = extremely helpful) for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

Reason #2: Because it’s good for our children and our children’s children!

2 Timothy 3:15 – “... from childhood (The Greek word *brephos* means *infancy*) you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

Psalms 78:5-8 – “For He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers that they should teach them to their children, that the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.”

- Abraham Lincoln: *“I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to men. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book.”*
- Theodore Roosevelt: *“A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.”*
- Herbert Hoover: *“The study of this Book in your Bible classes is a post-graduate course in the richest library of human experience.”*

I. The Goal of Effective Bible Study

1 John 2:14 – “I have written to you...because the word of God ABIDES in you.”

The goal of effective Bible study is getting the mind of God into the attitudes and actions of people.

Isaiah 55:8-9 – “‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the Lord. ‘for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’”

Romans 11:33-34 – “Oh, the depths of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor?”

Deuteronomy 29:29 – “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and our sons forever . . .”

How do we get the mind of God into the attitudes and actions of men?

II. The Method of Effective Bible Study

Regarding historical, grammatical exegesis.

1. We believe in the importance of understanding the historical background.
2. We believe in the importance of understanding the grammar of a text.
3. We believe in the importance inductive Bible Study (exegesis).

Inductive Study (exegesis) vs. Deductive Study (eisegesis)

III. The Process of Effective Bible Study

Regarding hermeneutics

"Hermeneutics teaches us how to know what the Bible means by what it says." (Dr. Earl Radmacher)

Nehemiah 8:8 "And they read from the book, from the law of God, translating (lit. explaining, using hermeneutics) to give the sense so that they understood the reading"

Luke 24:27, 45 – "And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the ScripturesThen He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures."

IV. Basic Rules of Effective Bible Study

Rule #1: The Bible is to be read thoroughly.

Rule #2: The Bible is to be interpreted literally.

Plain Literal Interpretation vs. Figurative Literal Interpretation (e.g., Matthew 23:14)

Rule #3: The Bible is to be studied diligently.

"Be diligent (Greek: *spoudazo* = exert yourself, work hard) to present yourself approved to God as a workman (Greek: *ergates* = laborer) who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately (Greek: *orthotomeo* = *cut it straight, do it right, rightly divide*) the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15; cf. 2 Peter 3:16). (cf. Psalm 1:2-3) .

Peter spoke of some of the Paul's epistles being "...hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of Scriptures, to their own destruction" (2 Peter 2:16).

Rule #4: The Bible is to be applied generously. "So What?" (cf. James 1:22)

2 Timothy 3:16 – "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable . . . for teaching...for reproof...for correction...for training in righteousness"

• Commands to obey • Promises to keep • Truths to know • Actions to take • Sins to forsake • Examples to follow • Things to avoid • New thoughts about God (cf. 1 Cor. 10:1-14.)

Hebrews 4:12 – "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart"

Psalms 139:23-24 – "Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way."

Conclusion:

God is calling us to: Be disciples. Make disciples. Be abiding disciples. Make abiding disciples.
Be biblical disciples. Make biblical disciples.

For Further Study: "Mastering the Scriptures: A Self-Study Course in Effective Bible Study" by Dr. James M. Cecy.
Available through www.amazon.com or www.jaron.org

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If the history books of the future were to record our present commitment to the Word of God, what might they say?
2. Review the goal of effective Bible Study and explain the importance? "The goal of effective Bible study is getting the mind of God into the attitudes and actions of people."
3. Review the meaning of historical, grammatical exegesis as a means for effective Bible Study.
4. Review the Four Basic Rules of Effective Bible Study.
5. What did you get most out of this message?