

The Bible Ark Bible Study Program

Introduction

What is the purpose of this Bible study program?

First and foremost, the purpose of this Bible study program is to fulfill my promises. It is to fulfill my promise to my dear friend Bee, and as I promised to God, I will be reading the Bible for all who are willing to hear this one crying from the wilderness.

But why read the Bible?

When you and I read the Bible, we are reading the words of God. We are reading His message to His creation, His message that He has given specifically to all of man on this Earth, all the human population that God created for His own eternal glory.

When you and I read the Bible, we learn about eternity. We learn about God's plan for our lives in this present life and beyond this life. We learn about what God has in store for each of us and what the purpose is for this life that each of us is living right now on this little blue planet.

We learn that God is the source of all life and light. We learn that God is truth, and He is love. We, also, learn that God is pure and righteous, and that there is a coming judgement. And hence, the Word of God shows us that each of us can have a relationship with God. We learn about God's love for us, and how He has a plan and a way for you and I to live after the righteousness of God. Likewise, we learn about the judgements in store for those who choose not to live after the righteousness of God.

When you and I read the Bible, we learn who Jesus truly is, by the words of God Himself ... not according to the misinformation of the world, insincere teachers, and sinful men. The Bible teaches us about the redemption of our souls that Jesus wrought by his sacrifice on the cross, and what His redemption really means to us and to God. We learn about Jesus's relationship with you and I, and we learn about His position in the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Most importantly, we learn about the awesome and inconceivably infinite love that Jesus has for every last living soul on Earth, the overwhelming love that He has for you and for me.

A lot of people do not understand the fact that Jesus is the one great all-encompassing subject of the Bible. Jesus is not merely the subject of the New Testament but of the Old Testament, as well. Therefore, when we read the Bible we learn about Jesus as a person. We learn that He was, still is, and always will be a human being, just as you and I are. Jesus is not a religion; He is the very Word of God, just as the Bible makes to us in a very clear and understandable way. The Bible itself is a picture of Jesus Christ.

Men of the world say a lot of things about Jesus that are not true. Actually, it is fairly unusual to hear someone speak of Jesus in a way that is without some kind of subtility. Therefore, the only way that we can truly understand the man Jesus is to read the Bible for ourselves.

When you and I read the Bible, we learn that the Bible is a spiritual book in the truest sense imaginable. It cannot be understood with pure human intellect. It can only be understood through the Spirit of God.

Therefore, when we read the Bible you and I need to petition God to help us understand what we are reading. We must show to God that we are genuinely interested in learning and understanding the truths in the Bible. When we approach the Bible with authentic respect and reverence, God will pour out the truths in His holy Word unto you and I unabatingly. Thus, as I read the Bible to you, I will do my best, according to the power and leading of the Spirit of God, to help guide you to a true understanding of the Word of God.

Ultimately, the reason why I am reading this book to you, is that it is my most earnest desire and prayer that Bee and all who will hear me may come to know and understand the truth of God's Word, and to know and understand God's free give of salvation in Jesus Christ ... that you might come to know Christ as your savior.

The Importance of Prayer

What is prayer and why do we do it? Is it our means to petition God for those things that we believe that we need or want? This is what a great many people believe prayer is, but that is not it at all! Prayer is how we come to apprehend what God's will is, and it is how He shows us that our minds are not in harmony with the mind of God. When we pray, we learn to recognize those things in our lives and in our minds that are preventing us from following His will. It is in prayer where we are convicted of what is wrong in our lives, and where God leads us to turn and follow after that which is true and righteous.

When we read God's word, we learn of the truth of God, the truth of God's word, and the truth of all of God's creation around us (individual people, society, human knowledge, human relationships, emotions, life, death, nature, time, matter, space, etc.). As we read, God's speaks to us through His Spirit, if our hearts are open to hear Him. However, those things that we learn as we read will not necessarily take root in our lives simply by reading. Yet when we pray, the Spirit of God will show us how those things that we learned, as we read the Word, applying them specifically to our own lives. It is how these truths that we learned of are made living and real to our own hearts and souls. It is through the immense power of prayer that God's word is made manifest in our lives and into the lives of those that we pray for. Through prayer, God provides shelter to our souls, to our minds, to our bodies, and to our spirits. He leads us to follow the best path for our own lives. His path!

Although, it is important to understand that God will not listen to everyone's prayers. He will not hear the prayers of the wicked. Well! That rules me out! I am a sinner for sure! Why then would He listen to my prayers? He hears my prayers; because, I have been redeemed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. God does not listen to my prayers because of who I am. He listens to my prayers; because, I am in Christ and Christ is in me. When I pray in Jesus's name, God will hear and honor my prayers. Not just some of my prayers! He will hear all of my prayers.

Does this mean that God will not hear the prayers of anyone else? Not at all! If you go to God in humility and sincerity and ask Him to teach you the truth of His Holy Word, He will honor that request every time. God wants everyone to come to know the truth. He wants everyone to come to know the truth of His Son Jesus Christ and to know of the saving grace of Jesus. Therefore, since the Bible is a book all about Jesus, God will teach you the truth of the Bible, so that you will come to know Jesus. But! God will only honor that petition if your heart is true and sincere, and you genuinely want to know the truth.

“He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.” – Proverbs 28:9 KJV

“He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.” – Psalms 102:17 KJV

“For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.” – Psalms 22:24 KJV

“But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.” – Deuteronomy 4:29 KJV

Keep in mind that all four of these verses are from the Old Testament. They are not statements that only apply to Spirit filled Christians. These are promises that God makes to anyone who is genuine in their cries unto God.

The Bible Ark Bible Study Approach

The Bible Ark Bible Study program (the nickname that I have adapted to refer to this Bible study) follows Dr. J. Vernon McGee’s Thru the Bible Bible Study program as closely as possible. The big difference between this Bible study and the TTB broadcast (Thru the Bible) is that the Bible Ark Bible Study is first and foremost a Bible reading, and this presents a problem. There are many passages of scripture that Dr. McGee covers with a cadence that is not in step with his average cadence of one chapter per day. Moreover, he does not cover every word of the Bible. Sometimes, Dr. McGee will slow down to a pace that is as little as one verse in a single lesson. At other times, he will cover as many as eight chapters in a single lesson, reading only a key verse or two in each chapter.

Obviously, eight chapters is too much for me to cover in a single day, and, likewise, one verse is far too little for me to consider for a single lesson. Moreover, Dr. McGee tends to move through the New Testament at a slower pace than he does in the Old Testament. Hence, this will be the challenge. How will we be able to tune the cadence of the Bible Ark Bible Study program to match the cadence of the Thru the Bible Bible Study program? We will do the best we can, and with the leading of the Lord we will figure it out. At times, we will need to jump ahead in order to prepare for a coming passage of scripture that Dr. McGee passes through at a rapid pace. When the pace is very slow, we will need to take the time to cover items that we were not able to cover before.

The Scofield Study Bible that Dr. McGee uses in his study contains many lengthy explanations of certain topics. At times, we may take up some of those explanations when Dr. McGee’s pace slows down too much. Therefore, instead of covering those explanations at the time that we encounter them during the normal reading of the Scofield Study Bible notes, we will move them forward or backward to fill in these awkward gaps.

When we are approaching a lengthy passage that Dr. McGee moves rapidly through, we may read two sections of scripture in the same lesson for a few days as we prepare for the rapid pace. Regardless, of the method and the way that we apply it, there will certainly be a significant degree of variability in the length of each lesson. Moreover, I expect that I will be broadcasting on the weekend, in addition to the normal Monday through Friday broadcast schedule of the Thru the Bible Bible Study program, and I expect the average length of the Bible Ark Bible Study programs to be significantly longer than the Thru the Bible broadcasts.

Following all the introduction material, I will begin reading the Bible itself. I will always read through each section of scripture and address each comment (including my own comments) as we come to it, so that the first reading of any passage will be full of commentary. Prior to the reading of each passage, I will cover any vocabulary that needs to be addressed. The King James Bible contains many words that we are generally unfamiliar with in this day and age. Moreover, there are many words that carry a much different meaning or usage now than when they did when the King James Bible was written.

Whenever we are in a passage of scripture that contains a degree of dramatization, action, or narrative story telling I will read that section a second time through with dramatic voice and without any comments. The second time through, I will simply read the Bible text and nothing else. If there is no dramatization, action, or narrative story telling in a given section of scripture, I will not read it through a second time.

I will not be reading through any of the indexes or any of the other supplemental material in the back of the Scofield Study Bible; however, we will cover a great deal of that information as we progress through the normal reading of the Bible.

My intention with this approach is to emulate Dr. McGee's approach in the Thru the Bible program, and that is to present the Bible itself in a way that makes it more understandable and easier to grasp for everyone. Just as is Thru the Bible's motto, "The whole Word for the whole world."

Closing Remarks

I think that it is important for everyone to understand that this Bible Study program, the Bible Ark, is meant to be a complement to the Thru the Bible Bible Study program. It is in no way meant to be a replacement. It is true that if you listen to this Bible study, you will hear every word of the Bible, after five years. That is something that even the Thru the Bible program cannot claim. However, this program is not a substitute for reading the Bible on your own. I would rather have you read the Bible for yourself than anything else. If you then find it to be beneficial to listen to the Thru the Bible program, that is even better.

My hope and my prayer is that you will sit down with me with your Bible open and that you will read the Bible with me as I speak. Then go listen to the Thru the Bible broadcast. If you follow that method, you will grow tremendously in your understanding of the Word of God. It will bring you many and great blessings that you never imagined possible.

You can find out everything that you need to know about the Thru the Bible program by visiting the ttb.org Website. You can also download the Thru the Bible app to your smartphone. All of the TTB broadcasts are available free of charge from many different sources. You can access the broadcasts from the TTB Website, from the TTB app, from Podcast, from YouTube, from Whatsapp, from the YouVersion Bible app, or from old fashion radio broadcasts. If you speak Arabic, Persian, or Turkish you can also watch the broadcasts from satellite television. The TTB audio broadcast is available in over 120 languages, so the chances are, if you speak a different language as your heart language, they probably have a broadcast of TTB in your mother tongue. Just go to ttb.org for more info.

Dale Trussell, March 30, 2021