

How to Approach Bible Study

Lee Moses

As children of the heavenly Father, we desire to become well acquainted with our Father's word. We realize the obligation we have to become knowledgeable in His word (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:18) and the privilege that is ours to know His will (Eph. 3:3-5; 1 Pet. 1:10-12). Questions may be raised concerning how is best to do this, including: Is simply reading the Bible sufficient? Do I need anything other than a Bible to study the Bible? Do I need to have a particular mental approach when studying the Bible? Although this article is by no means exhaustive on the subject, we will endeavor to answer these three questions.

Is simply reading the Bible sufficient? If by this is meant a casual reading, or skimming, the answer is no; although regular Bible reading is important. Reading is where one begins his Bible study, not where he ends it. God is a "rewarder of them that **diligently seek him**" (Heb. 11:6, emph. LM). If one wanted to be a doctor, he would not skim through one or two medical books. Reading the Bible is good, but rightly dividing God's word requires more than a casual reading. One must spend time thinking about what he has read in God's word. Many passages speak about "meditating" upon God's word (Josh. 1:8; Psm. 1:1-3; 119:148; 1 Tim. 4:13-16; et al.). At times, we must dig to find the meanings of various Bible passages that may not be clear upon first reading. Also, an effort should be made to commit portions of Scripture to memory (Psm. 119:11; Heb. 2:1; 1 John 2:1; Matt. 4). If our Lord was able to use Scripture embedded in His mind as a defense against temptation, we can certainly be aided in this respect as well.

Do I need anything other than a Bible to study the Bible? No, one does not need anything other than a reliable English translation of the Bible (e.g. King James Version, American Standard Version, New King James Version) to understand everything one needs for his soul's salvation. However, there are many tools available that can help the Christian to avoid confusion, and to make better use of his study time. A good English dictionary, New Testament word dictionary (e.g. Vine's), concordance, and Bible dictionary or encyclopedia are indispensable tools in Bible study. There are many commentaries available which provide research which will assist in understanding the Bible. One should always use a discriminate mind when using commentaries—brethren such as J.W. McGarvey, Guy N. Woods, and H. Leo Boles have written commentaries that are quite reliable, without the denominational bias found in many of the prevalent commentary sets. But even when consulting sound commentators such as these, one must always let the Bible be the final word on itself.

Do I need to have a particular mental approach? "Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments" (Ezra 7:10). Once anyone realizes that the Bible is the word of God, he will approach its study with deserved respect. The attitude must be: (1) Seek—I will seek what God has to say. I truly want to know what His will is, and I do not care what any man says differently. I will not go to the Scriptures to try to justify my conduct or to prove my personal views. (2) Do—I will do whatever the Lord asks of me. Knowledge without application is useless. (3) Teach—Ezra had prepared himself to teach God's word, and so must we. The apostles were given the Great Commission to teach (Matt. 28:19-20); and since we are to observe those things commanded them, we have that command as well. But we must prepare ourselves through regular, reverent Bible study if we are to be able to teach, or serve God in any other capacity. We are very privileged to have readier access to the Bible today than any time in previous history. If we approach our Bible study diligently, wisely, and respectfully, we can know our house is built upon the Rock (Matt. 7:24-25).

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

Terry Joe Kee

*"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."
(Exodus 20:12)*

Some have suggested that this commandment takes the decalogue outside the possibility of being a human document because it say to honor father *and* mother. Woman was not given any such position among any of the religions of the world during this time.

Is it necessary to define honor? Wherever there is the heart to fulfill this command there is no need for definition and where there is no heart, no definition would matter. The promise if of a prolonged national stability and when mentioned in the New Testament (Eph. 6:1-4), it is of an individual stability.

This command was important during the period of the Old Testament. Someone might ask, "What if a father or mother is not worthy of honor? What then?" That one is still one's parent. In the Old Testament parents were absolute magistrates over the home. Even the power of putting a stubborn and rebellious child to death was within the hands of one's parents. They could serve as witnesses against a son and as drastic as it may seem, that child could be stoned to death. This emphasizes the demand for respecting one's parents. Cursing or smiting a parent was punishable by death (Exo. 21:15,17). A curse was placed upon one who should show contempt for his father or mother (Deut. 27:16). Immorality with one's stepmother or his mother-in-law also brought a curse (Deut. 27:20,23). The penalty for these was death by stoning. There is a promise also associated with honoring father and mother, which was national stability. When these are violated the very foundations of society are gone and so goes the nation.

Saul had a good son, Jonathan, who was true to his father even when trying to dissuade him toward David. As much as he loved David, he still stood on the battlefield with his father and died with him on that battlefield (1 Sam. 10ff; 2 Sam. 1:19-27). On the other hand, David had an evil son, Absalom, who murdered his own brother Amnon. He also rebelled against his father and died on the battlefield while fighting against his father, David. We have recorded David's grief (2 Sam. 18:33).

We have recorded sons who thought nothing of dishonoring their father like the sons of Jacob who sold Joseph into slavery and lied to their father. We should be reminded, and remind our children, of the wise man's admonition from parents to their son (Prov. 1:8ff). It is wise to take the advice of fathers and mothers and allow it to guide us (Prov. 6:20-23).

This same principle is found in the New Testament (Luke 2:51). Jesus interpretation of the command to care for one's parents (Mark 7:6-13) is seen carried out even when He is on the cross (John 19:26,27). This personal responsibility is a fundamental requirement for individual stability (Eph. 6:1-3). Disobedience to parents is placed in the company of the vilest of sin (cf. Rom. 1:18-32; 2 Tim. 3:2ff). This sin brings the wrath of God upon anyone who dares to disrespect his parents (Rom. 1:18,19; Eph. 5:6; Col. 3:5).

Godly parents give to their children three things: (1) they brought them into being and gave them life; (2) they provided for them nourishment and support; (3) they have afforded them instruction. Remember to that Matthew 15:5,6 is being addressed to adults and not to small children. If you honor your parents, you show them genuine love and honest appreciation, and by text, letter, card, call, etc. you keep in communication. Most importantly, if you love your parents live a godly, decent life before men and that alone will build a better monument than anything written in stone. The result of honoring and obeying your parents is grace for this present life and glory in the life to come, while enjoying a long life here on earth.

This commandment is basic to society and its existence. Without obeying this commandment, one cannot possibly have the right relationship with God. This commandment must have its rightful place in our lives for us to understand the relationship between God and man, for the parent is to the child what God is to the parent. This commandment needs its proper place in our lives today.

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Wanda Cashion is in Belle Meade in Paragould continuing her rehab
Lanafae Stephens had surgery last Friday and will be having additional surgery January 21st.

Please continue to pray for all of these and others who are at home recovering from recent surgeries, confinement, or bereavement.

IN OTHER NEWS:

“Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” (Hebrews 10:24)

We rejoice with the angels of heaven as *Addison Garland* was baptized into Christ Wednesday night before services began. It was such a joy to see Jason baptize his daughter into Christ. Rejoice and welcome her into the family of God at Greensboro Road. It is such a blessing to see this entire family walking together in Christ.

Ukraine Missions Buckets: January items are baby powder.

Ladies' Night Out will be Tuesday, January 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the basement.

Congregational Meeting with the elders for everyone after evening services tonight.

Those Privileged To Serve January 9, 2022

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten
 Opening Prayer: J. L. May
 Closing Prayer: Jimmie Powell
 Bible Reading: David Dye
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Mitch Mosley
 Jerry Dodson Dan Nichols
 Scottie Blanchard Jeff Presley
 Donnie Gilliland Hayden Roush

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
 Opening Prayer: Hal Baugh
 Closing Prayer: Craig Nelson
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

January 12, 2022
 Song Leader: Ben Johns
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Dodson
 Closing Prayer: Robert Stephens

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

January 12, 2022
 Scottie Blanchard

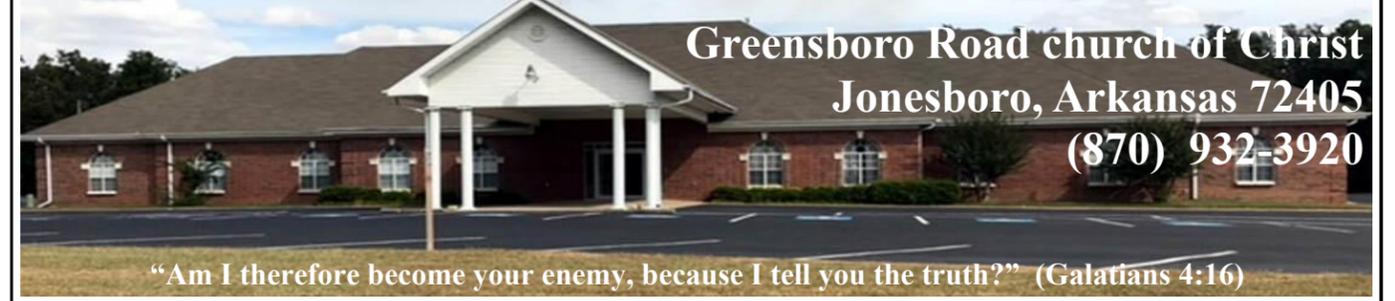
NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK Week Of January 2, 2022

Sunday Bible Study	82
Sunday AM Worship	101
Sunday PM Worship	74
Wednesday Bible Study	83
Contribution	\$6314

“Open rebuke is better than secret love.”

Proverbs 27:5

The Friend of Truth



Vol. XXX, No. 2

January 9, 2022

KeeNotes

We had a good first week of the year. It was good to have Ivie Powell with us to preach and exhort us to greater service in this new year. We are thankful to God for the good Ivie and Linda have been able to do in the kingdom over more than fifty years of preaching. Thanks to Ivie for the good preaching and thanks to every member who was able to come and be with us for these three good sermons. Ivie and Linda sent their thanksgiving for the kindnesses shown to them while they were with us and we are glad they returned home safely to West Plains, Missouri.

We rejoice this week as Addison Garland confessed her faith in Jesus as the Christ Wednesday night and was baptized into Christ by her dad, Jason. It is always touching to me to see a father baptize his children into Christ. Jason and Lori now have a complete family in Christ as Jason, Lori, Kadie and Addison are all now one in Christ. Keep this sweet family in your prayers and especially say a prayer for Addison as she begins to walk in the light.

Please remember that tonight after the evening service the shepherds are asking everyone who can and will to remain for a short meeting to discuss the *state of the church* and her future as we begin this new year God has given us. Dan and Randy have been working on several things they want to present to us concerning the past, the present, and the future of the church here. Please stay if you can at all and if you have any questions please feel free to ask. If there is something you would like for the shepherds to explain or something you would like more information on, please give them the question beforehand or feel free to ask tonight. Our shepherds are here for us and desiring to be as open as they can be concerning the work at Greensboro Road.

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
 Randy Oden

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
 Jerry Dodson
 Stacy Eddleman
 Mike Felts

Jason Garland
 Scott Pratt

Kevin Roush
 Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Samrit Kammanee,
 Southeast Asia
 Micah Robertson,
 Montana
 Warren, PA

SERVICES SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
 Worship 10:00 a.m.
 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
 Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God
 John 8:24

Repent of your sins
 Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus
 as the Son of God
 Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the
 remission of your sins
 Acts 2:38

Live faithfully
 Revelation 2:10

“Therefore if any man be in
 Christ, he is a new creature:
 old things are passed away;
 behold, all things are become
 new.” (2 Cor. 5:17)

Living Anew In 2022