

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE BIBLE

Select Passages • February 21, 2010 • Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

iBook

January 24, 2010 "Bible Basics"
January 31, 2010 "Can You Believe and Trust The Bible?"
February 14, 2010 "The Power of The Bible"
February 21, 2010 "Getting the Most Out of the Bible"
February 28, 2010 "Bible Overview - Part 1"
March 7, 2010 "Bible Overview - Part 2"

2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT) ¹⁵Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NLT) ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²In those days when you pray, I will listen. ¹³If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

Matthew 7:7-8 (NLT) ⁷Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

1 Corinthians 2:10-14 (NLT) ¹⁰But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. ¹¹No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. ¹²And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. ¹³When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. ¹⁴But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

James 1:22-25 (NLT) ²²But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. ²³For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. ²⁴You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. ²⁵But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

Matthew 7:24-27 (NLT) ²⁴"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

Three Keys To Getting The Most Out Of The Bible:

1) We need to have an _____
to know the truth.

- See Jeremiah 29:11-13 and Matthew 7:7-8

2) A _____ with Jesus Christ
and a sensitivity to God's Spirit is necessary if you want to fully
understand the Bible.

- See 1 Corinthians 2:10-14

*Only followers of Jesus Christ have
the Spirit of God living within them.*

3) We need to _____
_____ what the Bible says if we want to receive the full
benefit of God's Word in our lives.

- See James 1:22-25 and Matthew 7:24-27

*Reading the Bible five minutes each day is better
than reading it for one hour on one day.*

Questions to consider when meditating:

- ✓ What sin should I avoid and/or confess?
- ✓ What promise did I learn that I need to claim for my life?
- ✓ What command do I need to obey?
- ✓ What blessing can I enjoy?
- ✓ What lesson can I learn from this passage for my life?
- ✓ What did I learn about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit?
- ✓ What attitude do I need to change?
- ✓ Do I need to talk to anyone as a result of what I have read?

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the pastors or elders following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office at 717-762-7147 to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website:

www.otterbeinchurch.org

1 Corinthians 15:29 (NLT) ²⁹If the dead will not be raised, what point is there in people being baptized for those who are dead? Why do it unless the dead will someday rise again?

Luke 12:19 (NLT) ¹⁹And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"

Luke 12:13-21 (NLT) ¹³Then someone called from the crowd, "Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me." ¹⁴Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?" ¹⁵Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own." ¹⁶Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. ¹⁷He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. ¹⁹And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?' ²¹Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

Deuteronomy 17:17 (NLT) ¹⁷The king must not take many wives for himself, because they will turn his heart away from the LORD. And he must not accumulate large amounts of wealth in silver and gold for himself.

Mark 1:35 (NLT) ³⁵Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.

Romans 13:8 (NLT) ⁸Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law.

Seven Suggestions:

- 1) Use a _____ of the Bible that you can understand.
 - The New International Version and New Living Translation (2nd Edition) are those we use most often at Otterbein.
 - When studying the Bible, you should use a "translation" and not a "paraphrase."
 - 2) Allow the Bible to _____.
 - Suggestion: Use a "Study Bible" or "The Life Application Study Bible" which provides helpful resources along with the scriptural text.
 - Suggestion: www.youversion.com is a great web based Bible program that is free and includes many helpful tools.
 - 3) Understand the _____ in light of the New Testament.
 - In Matthew 5-7, Jesus helped clarify many of the Old Testament teachings in His sermon on the mount.
 - 4) Understand the _____ of Scripture by focusing on those Scriptures that are clearly understood.
 - See 1 Corinthians 15:29 as an example.
 - 5) Understand words and verses in the _____ they were written.
 - See Luke 12:19 vs. Luke 12:13-21
 - Remember, the Bible did not originally include chapter and verse headings. They were added later to help us find things in the Bible.
 - 6) Understand historical passages in light of _____ passages.
 - See Deuteronomy 17:17 and Mark 1:35 for examples.
- All Scripture is equally inspired by God but not all Scripture is equally applicable to our lives.***
- 7) Understand _____ through the lens of biblical teaching.
 - See Romans 13:8 for an example.