

Reasons people don't read the Bible:

- 1). I go to church and my pastor/priest reads the Bible and tells me what it says and what it means.
- 2). The God of the Old Testament told the Israelites to kill entire groups*of people including women and children and that seems wrong to me. (Marcionism)
- 3). I've tried to read it, but I just don't understand it.
- 4). The Bible was written by humans** so it's unreliable. Besides I believe in science*** not God.
- 5). The Bible was written centuries ago** so it is irrelevant**** for our times.
- 5). The Bible has been corrupted and is therefore not trustworthy*****

What the Bible says about God's Word:

Psalms 119:11 "I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

Psalms 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword"

2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved unto God"

2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God"

Other things to remember about the Bible

- 1). The Bible is God's revelation to us of who He is.
- 2). The Bible (God's word) is perfect. Translations are not.
- 3). God wants you to engage His Word!

*In fact, He told them to wipe out 7 groups, but where they human?

**The Bible had 40 authors and was written over a span of 1500 years and has 63,779 cross references proving 1 author...God/Yahweh.

***Who wrote science books?

****Jesus said in Hebrews 13:8 "I am the same yesterday and today and forever."

*****This is what the enemy wants us to believe.

Tips for Studying the Bible

A). **The Plan**

- 1). Put together a reading plan. Commit and stick to it every day. There is an infinite amount of knowledge in the Bible.
- 2). Have a Bible verse app.
- 3). Have a notebook.
- 4). Have a block of verses/topics you want to study.
- 5). Listen to regular content. Listen to content while you are doing other things. Listen to a variety of Content Creators, not just one or two. Consume content that is edifying. Listen to content double time if it seems long. Because we are living in the end times, we have supernatural tools at our disposal that enables us to learn quickly.
- 6). Engage the information, review with other people and debate with other people. Remember “iron sharpens iron.” Finally, share the information you have learned in Bible study groups for example.
- 7). Defend what you believe.
- 8). Be engaged. Don’t be passive.

B). **Tools**

- 1). Use several versions of the Bible. i.e. KJV, NKJV, NIV, ESV, Tyndale
- 2). Concordance. i.e. Strongs Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible
- 3). Internet tools:
 - E-Sword
 - Bible Ref.com
 - Blue Letter Bible at blueletterbible.org
 - An online interlinear Bible to help you understand the Bible’s original languages and how it was translated into English.
 - The works of biblical historians i.e. Josephus
 - Internet search engines
- 4). Prayer: pray that God give you discernment to understand and apply His word to your life.

C). **Study Techniques**

- 1). Ask yourself:
 - Who is the author or speaker?
 - What else has the author/speaker written?
 - Who is the author/speakers audience?
 - What kind of writing is it:
 - Prophecy- literal or symbolic?
 - Poetry?
 - Chronological?
- 2). Consider the context of the verse in terms of its relationship to the chapter and book of the Bible.
- 3). Original Language: because translations always have issues consider using interlinear texts.

D). **Why you should become a Bible Scholar/Berean**

- 1). Have a passion for the truth and let Christ be your guide.
- 2). Always question everything. Gather evidence and build a case.
- 3). Have the patience to treat your mind like a court room.
- 4). Be bold with critical truths (don't compromise), but be gentle with things you are not certain about.
- 5). Be okay with mystery. There are going to be things we can't understand in this life.
- 6). Choose the truth over comfort!
- 7). Understand that translation bias is real and requires a deeper understanding.
- 8). The end goal is to marvel at God's word!
- 9). We are coming to the end of the Genesis curse, and Jesus warned us that in the end times there would be a deception so great that if it were possible even the very elect would be deceived. That is why we have to know His word so that we do not fall into the trap being set for us by the enemy (or the "evil one" as Christ referred to him in the Lord's Prayer).