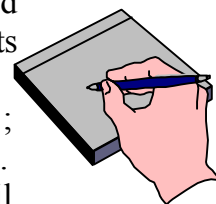


STUDY INTRODUCTION

I. How to Use This Study Guide

- A. **Along side your Bible.** Never put anything above the authority of the word of God. Use *tools* to help your Bible study, but never let them take its place!
- B. **Pray for guidance as you study.** God gave you His word ([Psalm 68:11](#); [Matthew 24:35](#)), and if you ask, He will guide you through it ([John 16:13](#)).
- C. **Look up the verses listed.** Keep reading through each verse listed until you are satisfied that you understand the Bible's instruction on each topic.
- D. **Fill in every blank** with the words of Scripture as you look them up! You may not see the answer right away, but the answer is in every verse listed!



II. Memorize the four main Memory Verses listed. These will help establish your faith in the promises of the Bible! They are located at the beginning of each of the four Sections of this Study. They are [Matthew 4:4](#), [Hebrews 10:25](#), [1 Corinthians 12:27](#), and [Romans 12:11](#).

III. Recommended Materials for Further Studies

- A Bible Dictionary
- Writing pens and highlighters for marking your Bible
- A separate notebook/journal to record your notes as you study your Bible
- Some small cards to write down Scriptures for memorizing and meditation

IV. Suggestions For Reading Your Bible. Realize that the Bible is a book. It is not a magical good-luck charm. It was written to be read with human eyes, and tested by the human mind, and believed by the human heart. The method of reading the Bible is very simple. Here are just a few suggestions to get you going.

- A. **Listen.** Start with a determination to “listen” to what is written. When you approach the Bible, seek to hear what the words are saying. Let God talk freely as if He were right beside you.
- B. **Pray.** Praying is asking. So, ask God to grant unto you the true understanding of His word. There is no interpreter of the word of God except the Author of the word, God Himself ([1 Corinthians 2:9-13](#)).
- C. **Read from Beginning to End.** You will never get the meaning of ANY book unless you read it from cover to cover. For the first time, you should start in Matthew, and read through to Revelation. After that, then go to Genesis, and start all over, and read all the way through to the end!
- D. **Read with the Heart, and not just the Mind.** The Bible is perfect and quite capable of being examined by the mind, but was written for the heart.
- E. **Read it Daily.** Set aside a regular time every day to spend in God’s word.
- F. **Read it Obediently.** Read the Bible with the goal of doing what you find commanded to be done. God says in [James 1:22](#) that we are to “*be ye _____ of the word and not hearers only deceiving your own selves.*”
- G. **Read the Scriptures Contextually.** Allow the Scriptures to explain themselves. A sentence is always understood within the meaning of the surrounding sentences. Find out **who is speaking, who are they speaking to, and, what are they talking about.**

V. What Is Truth?

A. Let's Compare John 18:36-38 with John 17:17

1. In **John 18**, the Lord Jesus is standing before Pilate, accused of being a King. Jesus tells Pilate that He IS a King, but not of this world, and that His design is not to set up a physical kingdom, but *to declare the _____*.
2. Pilate responds, "*What is _____?*" But notice what Pilate does next. He does not wait around for the answer. He does not believe there is any such thing as "truth." It is the same with most people. They have been lied to so many times about Santa, the tooth fairy, and Easter bunnies they think that God and truth are only lies as well.
3. Yet, in **John 17:17**, Jesus Himself says God's _____ is truth! Now, either Jesus was a liar, or crazy, or telling the truth. Which is it?



B. Let's first agree on three things:

1. There must be something, somewhere, that is *true*. Because, without *truth*, there is no way of knowing what is really true or false, good or bad, right or wrong; and anyone's guess becomes as good as another's.
2. **God** is the Author of truth. He cannot "____" or He is not God (**Titus 1:2**).
3. God has revealed truth through the Bible alone (**John 17:17**).

The Bible says, "*Yea, let God be _____, but every man a liar.*" **Romans 3:4**

VI. The Purpose of the Bible

- A. It was written that we may "_____" that Jesus was who He said He was - the Messiah, the Son of God, who came to pay our sin-debt (**John 20:31**).
- B. It was also written, so that we may "_____" that we have eternal life, not just "hope" for it (**1John 5:13**)!

VII. The Purpose and Design of This Study Guide

- A. This Study will teach you the wonderful truths of God's word, so you can _____ to "perfection" or full maturity in Christ (**1Peter 2:2,3**; **2Peter 3:18**).
- B. To do this, you need to develop in yourself the following life principles by reading, and learning from God's word daily (see **2Peter 1:4-8**)

Faith (*you start off with this at salvation*) **Patience** (*waiting on God & through trials*)
Virtue (*the inner strength to do right*) **Godliness** (*becoming more like Christ*)
Knowledge (*knowledge of Jesus Christ*) **Brotherly kindness** (*towards people*)
Temperance (*keeping a right balance*) **Charity** (*having unconditional love*)

The Bible finishes in verse 8 by saying, "*For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor _____.*" That is what God wants - spiritual fruitfulness and success as a real Christian!

Have fun!