

Week 1 Bible Study: Why Study the Bible, Part 1

Before knowing the “**how**” of study, we must understand the “**why**”!

Correct **action**, _____ correct **thinking**.

Many Christians today are _____ with their lack of follow through and success in personal Bible Study. As a result, many Christians are always looking for a new _____ for studying...However, what is really needed is a new _____ towards the Word of God!

Any **method** will likely work well if the **mentality** is _____. And even the best **methods** will likely fail if the **mentality** is _____.

The main reason ‘why’ many Christians aren’t _____ **studying** the Word of God... is because they aren’t **thinking** _____ about the Word of God.

God cares about motives. Correct motives can make a particular action “right”... And incorrect motives can make the same action “wrong”. (See Matthew 15:7-9)

What are the correct motives for; Obeying God?

Serving God? Giving to others? Loving your spouse? Studying your Bible?

Incorrect reasons for obeying, serving, studying... To be a **better** Christian, To be **pleasing** to God, Because we are **told** to, Because we **ought** to, Because **God wants** me to, In order to **not feel guilty**, To **feel better** about myself, To **impress** others.

We have all experienced **how futile these motives can be** in creating lasting obedience to God...

The correct reason for obeying, serving, studying...The true and lasting motive for *obeying* God, *serving* God, *studying* the Word of God...**is because those actions are in your and my best interest. They are for our ultimate good and eternal joy.**

God has created us with an **insatiable longing for** joy, happiness, pleasure, satisfaction, meaning and significance. God has also created us such a way that true joy, happiness, pleasure, satisfaction, meaning and significance **can only be found in Him & His will & His glory**. God has also created us such a way that when we find our true joy, happiness, pleasure, satisfaction, meaning and significance in Him...**He is glorified by us.** (*Even more glorified than if we did just obeyed out of pure duty.*)

God therefore is not asking us **to** _____ **our desire for** joy, happiness, pleasure, satisfaction, meaning and significance...God is actually imploring us **to** _____ **our desire for** joy, happiness, pleasure, satisfaction, meaning and significance...in going hard after Him, His will & glory!

God is also warning us **not to _____ our desire for joy, happiness, pleasure, satisfaction, meaning and significance...in lesser, created things or self.** Because when we **gratify our desire for joy in lesser, created things or self...**God is not only not glorified...we do not obtain true happiness & satisfaction.

This concept is found all over scripture, next week we will look further at those...**but here is one for today...**

When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! (John 15:8-11)

On what basis did Jesus make his appeal for the disciples to obey?

I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

When we are trusting God, walking with God, obeying God...we will be most satisfied and have true and lasting joy. When we are trusting God, walking with God, obeying God...he will be most glorified, honored and praised.

God in His infinite wisdom and love did not put his desire for glory at odds with our desire for joy...

God in His infinite wisdom and love designed it so that the deepest, highest, truest possible joy & satisfaction would be found in glorifying him.

God made his appeal to Adam on the basis that Adam should do what is ultimately good for himself, the creature. God made his appeal that Adam should trust that God knows how to provide for & instruct in what is ultimately good for the man.

In the end, Adam & Eve did not believe that God was for, or could or knew how to provide their ultimate good, their superior pleasure, their increased satisfaction.

What does this have to do with Bible Study?

If your motives for studying the Bible are simply because; **"I should."** **"God wants me to."** **"God has told us to."** **"I'll feel guilty if I don't."**

You will find that you will lack the desire, passion and interest needed to follow through on a consistent and meaningful basis.

If your motives for studying the Bible are because; **"His Word will show me the path to ultimate joy."** **"His Word is where I can learn about how to have true satisfaction."** **"His Word will show me how to live a life of eternal significance."** **"His Word will navigate me away from the lesser joys that are trying to rob me of true joy."**

You will not only find the desire, passion and interest needed to follow through on a consistent and meaningful basis...But you will also be glorifying your Father in Heaven like never before...Because you will be showing that you believe that your ultimate good, your eternal joy is found in Him, and in His will and in His design...because God is most glorified in us, when we are most satisfied in Him.