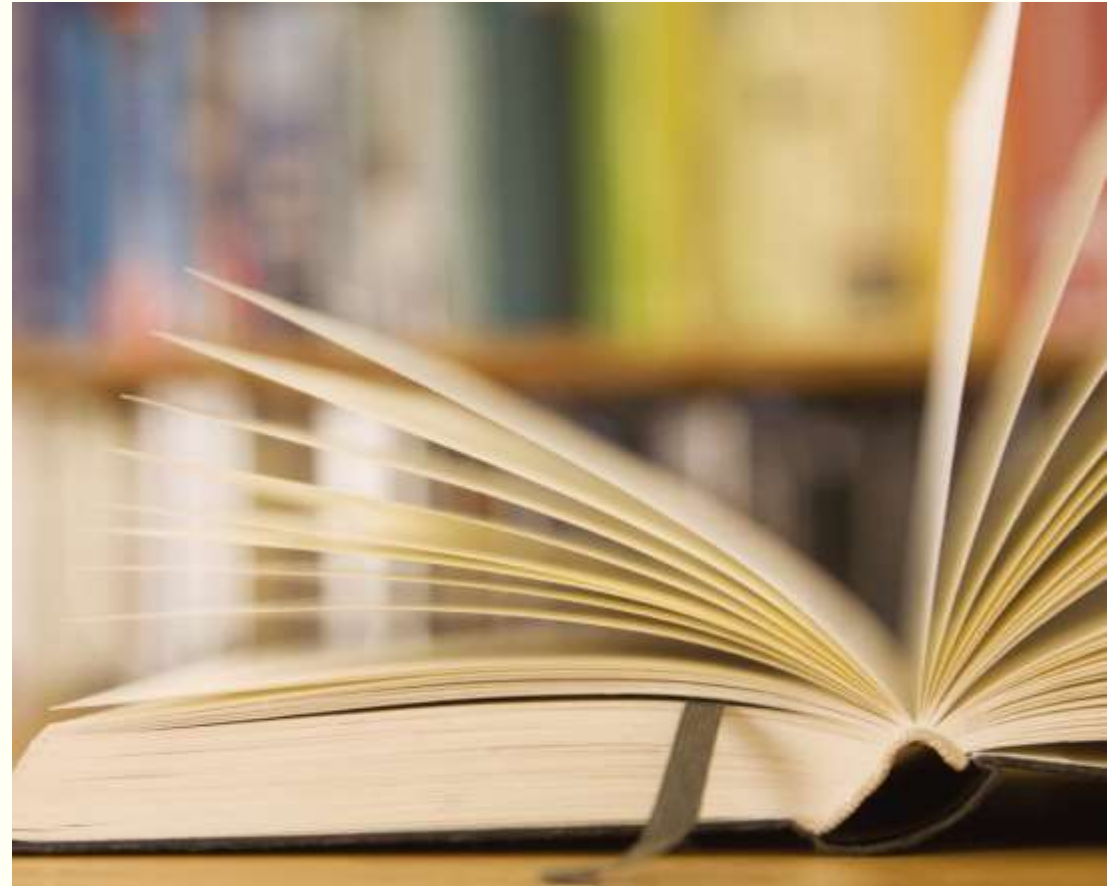





Q & A

Biblical – Christ-centered – Trusting – Teachable





QUESTION




It seems that for the average Christian ... there is misunderstanding about what constitutes studying the Scriptures. One misunderstanding is that if I am simply reading the Bible and listening to sermons – even daily – I am studying the Bible. Another is that if I am not following a formal fill-in-the-blank study prepared by someone else I cannot study, or am not studying, the Bible. I think many of us assume we are studying the Bible, but we are not; and if left to ourselves with just our Bibles we would be adrift.

Studying the Scriptures

- Not every believer is equally gifted and skilled to understand what is written.
- There are no private interpretations. Yet, the objective meaning is not up to popular vote. The Scriptures were entrusted to the church.
- Understanding what is written is more than an intellectual endeavor.
- Understanding what is written begins with receiving it by humble faith.
- Even through the best of studying, no one will know all things.
- Studying the Scripture is not an end to itself.



QUESTION



How would you recommend a young person high school and older begin to personally, systematically study the Bible? Can you recommend books or resources?

Studying the Scriptures

- Presuppositions (1 Thessalonians 2:13)
- Preparation (Psalm 119:36, 18; 86:11; 119:162)
- **READ**
 - Large segments
 - Big picture
 - Context
- **MEDITATE**
 - Ponder
 - Pray
- **STUDY**
 - Ask questions
 - Search
 - Understanding

Studying the Scriptures

FORMAL PRINCIPLES

- Observation
- Interpretation
- Application

Observation: What does this passage say?

- Basic investigation: Who? What? Where? When?
- Terms (vs. words)
- Structure
- Emphasis
- Repetition
- Dynamics (cause-effect, if-then, question-answer, etc.)
- Comparisons / Contrasts
- Literary Form

- Telescoping

ASK:

- Declarations?
- Doctrines?
- Commands?
- Promises?
- Prescription / Description?

Interpretation: What does this passage mean?

- Language
 - Logic
 - Hermeneutics
 - Grammar (syntax, lexicography)
 - Literature
 - Context (not word studies) (authorial intent)
 - History, Culture, Geography
 - Tools: Bible Dictionary, Interlinears, Atlas, Manners and Customs, Commentaries
 - *Analogia Scriptura* (“Analogy of Scripture”)
- Tools: Concordance, Topical Bible
- ASK:**

 - Words?
 - Phrases?
 - Prepositions?
 - Context?
 - Connections?

Application: How does this passage apply to me?

- What principles are present?
- How does the truth revealed here affect my view of God?
- How does the truth revealed here affect my relationship with God? Others?
- How does the truth revealed here affect my thoughts / desires / affections?
- How should this change my life?
- What specific things can I do to apply this truth to my life?
- What is the most excellent response to this truth?
- How can I make much of Christ by this truth?
- Be specific. **PRAY!**

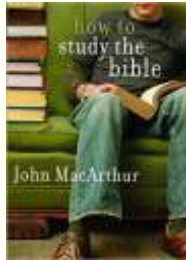
Resources

- “How to Study the Bible” (Capitol Hill Baptist Church)

- <https://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/resources/core-seminars/series/how-to-study-the-bible/>

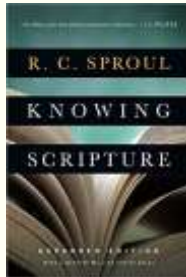
- *How to Study the Bible*

- By John MacArthur
 - ([View on Amazon](#))



- *Knowing Scripture*

- By R. C. Sproul
 - ([View on Amazon](#))




Sola Scriptura

TBC website hosting Bible resources and helps

bible.trinitybiblechurch.org



QUESTION



I'm doing our church's Bible reading plan, and often reading even more. I have so many questions about the Bible when I'm reading it and really want to understand it more and especially grow in trusting God through His Word, but I really don't know how to study more in depth and I'm always questioning myself in my understanding of the Bible. How do I do this?