

CHIEF MINISTRIES

December 2021

Wow, here it is the last month of 2021!

So many things have happened and as I look back it has passed so fast. For those of you that have been with us for a period of time, you know that in December we send out a “Reading your Bible in a year guide”. Well, this year will be no different. You will find on the last page with the mailer on the back a schedule for reading the bible in a year. Hopefully this will inspire you and also help guide you into a deeper relationship with the Lord. Last month we spoke about the Lord being our “first Love” and how to cultivate that type of relationship, the reading and studying of His word is one of the ways to do that. In this month’s newsletter I want to talk about some of the benefits of studying the Word.

Importance of study

An old preacher once said in a class I was taking about “Knowing God” he said, the BIBLE was an acronym for “Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth.” You know, the Bible was written for us believers, it is our instruction book. Which is why it is so important to read daily and know what and how we are to live, additionally it gives us ways to solve our everyday problems and ways to keep us from getting into trouble, or what is needed to get back where we need to when we stray. Can we dissect it to the point it makes no sense? Yes, but it also has a way of building precept upon precept and the more you study the more revelation/insight you glean. The trick is once you get that insight, what do you do with it? How do you incorporate it into your daily living. Oh, and I have to say this too, If you think you know it all and have all the insight and revelation there is to know, “you have arrived”.....Well, my friends, you probably need to do your first works over. Repent, because that is PRIDE at its highest. No matter how much we learn about God and His ways, we will NEVER be able to have TOTAL understanding. That is not a put down, we do not have the capacity to KNOW ALL there is about God, at least not on this side! With that being said, there are many scholars of the word and if you ask them, they too will say, there is still so much more to learn of God to learn! So, let’s look at some of the benefits of studying the word.

The word says we are to study to show ourselves approved. 2 Timothy 2:14-16 says: *Put them in memory of these things, charging them before the Lord not to dispute about words to no profit, to the subverting of the hearers. ^{v15} Study earnestly to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.*

^{v16} But shun profane, vain babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. (ESV).

The study of the Bible is both practical and foundational. It is practical because we learn real reasons why studying the Bible is important, but it is also foundational because it will prepare us for future discussions on the importance of Bible study. Here are some results from studying the Word:

- Receiving Direction (Psalm 119:105)

- It's important to study the Bible because God's Word guides you in the right direction in life. It lights the way ahead of you so you can see clearly which way to go. Through every season of your life, you can be confident that God is always leading you through His Word.
- Answered Prayer (John 15:7)
 - When God's Words abide in you, you'll be able to pray according to His will and have confidence that He hears you (1 John 5:14). This isn't just wishful thinking. Studying the Bible gives you God's heart and mind for your life and for people around you. God delights to answer when you pray from this place of abiding in Christ and His word.
- Strengthened by Faith (Romans 10:17)
 - Being exposed to God's Word will spark faith in you. You'll know what to believe, what to base your faith on. There will be a deep knowing in your heart that only God's Word can bring.
- Nourishment unto maturity (Matthew 4:4)
 - Life is much more than food and pleasures in the world. The Scriptures become your life-line to a relationship with God. Just as your body needs food to survive, God's Word nourishes you so you can become spiritually mature as you respond to life's challenges and temptations (1 Pet. 2:2).
- Resistance to temptation (Psalm 119:11)
 - Studying God's word strengthens you to say "no" to lesser things and sin in your life. As more of the Scriptures is stored up in your heart, you'll be strengthened in the core of your being, your heart.

The purpose of Bible Study is to bring instruction, conviction, correction, and training in God's ways so you can be equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Let's look at each one of these benefits.

- Instruction (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - You can be instructed with teaching from God for wisdom, truth, and everything you need for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). The Bible not only gives us truths to believe but also instruction for how to live life. No matter what your background and experience in life is, you can receive God's instructions directly from Him as you study the Bible.
- Conviction (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - Studying the Bible gives you a strong conviction about what is true and what is God's will for your life (2 Tim. 3:16-17). God's Word will build you up in your faith so you can stand up against any storm you encounter in life.
- Correction (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - God's Word corrects you when you're going the wrong way (2 Tim. 3:16-17). God loves us enough to correct us and discipline us. Correction can be painful at times, but God does it so that we can walk in His blessing and not reap the consequences of our actions.
 - A great prayer to pray is Psalm 139:23-24. "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"
- Training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:17)

- Another reason to read the Bible is because it trains you so you can fulfill God's plan for your life (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Regular Bible Study trains us in God's ways. We can understand and live the way God leads us.
- Equipping for every good work
 - The Bible will equip you so that you can fulfill every assignment that God has for you in life, whether it's family, ministry, or career (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Studying the Bible will equip you to move in God's wisdom, love, and power. There will always be needs in the world around us. God's Word equips you to make an impact.
- Clarity of thoughts (Hebrews 4:12)
 - God's Word cuts through the distractions and cloudiness in your thinking and emotions so you can know God and understand yourself better. Sometimes we don't know what's motivating us in the deepest parts of us. The word of God isn't just ideas and thoughts in a book. It is God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16-17). It's living and active and will be activated in your life when you study the Scriptures.
- Freedom (John 8:31-32)
 - The Accuser will come against you with lies and half-truths to immobilize you. When you abide in God's Word by reading, studying, and living it out, you'll be free. You'll receive the truth that liberates you from the distractions and pull of this world. You will be free to follow Jesus in God's plan for your life.
- Wisdom beyond your years (Psalm 119:99)
 - You will receive wisdom from heaven beyond the limitations of your training and life-experience. In reading the Bible, you get to think God's thoughts after Him. You'll receive insight and wisdom to know God and apply His wisdom in the world around you.
- Revived soul (Psalm 19:7)
 - Being exposed to God's Word refreshes and revives your mind, your will, and your emotions. The world brings seemingly endless pressures with greed, jealousy, and anger all around. Studying God's Word brings His wisdom into situations that would otherwise bring devastation to your soul.
- Delight (Psalm 119:103)
 - God's Word will bring delight to your heart. The Bible will become your source of life and joy as you live in God's design. There's a reality of real delight and inner joy that cannot be taken away from you. Through every season of your life, through every up and down, you can know the sweetness of God's Word as you draw near to Him and experience His goodness.
- Cleansing (Ephesians 5:26)
 - God uses His Word to detox you from the things that bring bitterness and hopelessness into your life. God's Word washes your mind, will, and emotions so that you can think clearly, and love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.
- Others are impacted (Colossians 3:16)
 - When you study the Bible, God's wisdom gets stored up in your mind and heart. It will infuse your life with God's truth and encouragement. It will spill-over into the people

around you as you live for God. The more you get God's Word in you, the more His love and power will flow through you to people living in brokenness and pain around you.

- Blessings and prosperity (Psalm 1:1-3)
 - As you think and meditate on God's Word, your mind will be renewed (Rom. 12:2). When you draw on God's truth and wisdom for every decision you need to make and every challenge you face, you'll see the powerful results of God's blessing in every season of your life. You'll see fruitfulness in your labors and experience God's abundance in your life.
- Courage to be successful (Joshua 1:8-9)
 - Regular Bible Study will strengthen you and give you courage. You'll grow in confidence of God's truth. You'll feel more of His emotions towards you as you understand all that God has done for you through Jesus Christ. God's Word also sets you free from fears and inhibitions so you can be successful in His assignments for you in life. No matter what is holding you back, you can move forward with confidence as you follow God's Word.
- Victory in spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:17)
 - The Word of God becomes your weapon as you stand in the face of life's challenges and struggles. God has provided everything you need for your life as you pursue Him. As you stay connected to Him through His Word, you'll be able to stand and persevere until the day that you stand before Him. All Scripture becomes available to you to overcome any discouragement, doubts, and fear that might come against you. God has made you more than a conqueror (Rom. 8:31-39). Study about "putting on the armor of God."
- Endurance, encouragement (Romans 15:4)
 - The Bible is God, the Creator's instruction book for your life. The Bible records examples of how God works in the lives of people throughout history. Through both the positive and negative ways that people responded, you can learn valuable lessons. You'll see how God can bring redemption to brokenness in people's lives. You'll develop endurance, courage, and hope. God is faithful to finish the work that He began in you (Phil. 1:6).

I encourage you to read these, study them and incorporate them into your lives this coming year. We are all in this together.

Blessings to each of you in the new year and may God's favor be upon you in every area of your life as you study to show yourself approved and serve Him.

Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)

If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to www.chiefministries.com

Christ's Heart In Every Felon