

READ TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

Thursday Bible Study
ACA Avadi Church
07 March 2024

Psalm 119:18 -

Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.

- God wants us to understand the Scriptures
 - God does not want us to become blind, deaf, mute and lose all our senses in our journey of faith
- Whether we sing, pray, read or follow - God wants us to understand and do it.

1 Corinthians 14:15

What is *the conclusion* then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also **pray with the understanding**. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also **sing with the understanding**.

READ TO UNDERSTAND**Nehemiah 8:2-3**

2 So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who *could* hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. **3 Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday**, before the men and women and those who could understand; and **the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law**.

Ephesians 3:4 (T-5)

2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, **3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)**

WITHOUT READING THE SCRIPTURES WELL THE SADDUCEES WERE MISTAKEN IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SCRIPTURES AND THE POWER OF GOD**Matthew 22:23-32**

23 The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, 24 saying: "Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. 25 Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. 26 Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. 27 Last of all the woman died also. 28 Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her."

29 Jesus answered and said to them, **"You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God**. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. 31 But concerning the resurrection of the

dead, **have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying,** 32 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

WITHOUT READING THE SCRIPTURES WELL THE PHARISEES WERE FINDING FAULT WITH THE DISCIPLES

Matthew 12:1-5

1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!" 3 But He said to them, "**Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:** 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? 5 Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?"

WITHOUT READING THE SCRIPTURES WELL THE PHARISEES WERE TRYING TO TEST JESUS HIMSELF

Matthew 19:3-5

3 The Pharisees also came to Him, **testing Him**, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just any reason*?" 4 And He answered and said to them, "**Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning 'made them male and female,'** 5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"

1 Timothy 4:13

Till I come, **give attention to reading**, to exhortation, to doctrine.

THE CONTEXT OF ASKING TIMOTHY TO GIVE ATTENTION TO READING:

1. Written in the Context to **ELEVATE** his standing among believers

Vs. 6 - If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

Vs.15 - Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

vs.12 Let no one despise your youth, but **be an example to the believers** in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

2. Written in the Context to **EXCLUDE** certain habits

vs.7 But **reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.** 8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

3. Written in the Context to **EXPAND** his Influence (**Reading > Exhortation > Doctrine**)

Vs. 13 - Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

4. Written in the Context to **EXCEL**

Vs.16 - Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

1. READING WITH A FOUNDATION

Jude 1:10

But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

2. READING FOR FORMATION

- If we're always reading the Bible to be *informed*, we might be missing out on opportunities to be *formed*.
- Sometimes we read the Bible expecting to "get" something out of it—like a catchy one-liner, or the answer to a question we have.
- And this can lead us to skip some of the parts we already know, or jump to conclusions about what a particular verse might mean.
- This is why it can be helpful to *slow down* when we read the Bible, to let God speak to us in new ways we could not have expected.
- When we slow down as we read the Scriptures, we can create a space to hear what we would've otherwise rushed past.

Step 1: Read Slowly with Pauses

Step 2: Reflect Deeply trying to hear God's still voice

Step 3: Respond to God's Direction

Step 4: Rest in Stillness as the Lord works in us

3. READING TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH GOD

Hosea 8:14

"For Israel has forgotten his Maker, And has built temples; Judah also has multiplied fortified cities; But I will send fire upon his cities, And it shall devour his palaces."

Hosea 8:12 -

I have written for him the great things of My law, *But* they were considered a strange thing.