

Over the course of five previous lessons, we've attempted to provide some keys on **“How to Understand the Bible.”**

In this sixth and final lesson on this topic, let's see if we can add just a couple more basic “helps” and wrap up the series.



How to Understand the Bible

Part 6, *The Conclusion*

Keys to Understanding the Bible



Let's quickly review the keys previously covered:

1. Get the "Big Picture"
2. It's written "4 us not 2 us"
3. Remember that "Context is Critical"
4. It "Contains, but is not all Figures & Symbols"
5. It has "*Many Writers, One Author*"
6. We have to "Cut Straight" and
7. "*Plot the Plot*"

All of which brings us to our final key....

Keys to Understanding the Bible



#8- *“Read the Book!”*

- Books are not written to be *talked about* by those who don't read them. What kind of a “book club” would that be?
- Neither are books written just so someone else can cut them up into *uninspired* (and *uninspiring*) screen plays or movie scripts. When “The Passion of the Christ” came out several years ago, which I understand was very good, several asked me if I was going to watch it? My answer?
- **“No thanks, I read the book so I already know how it ends.”**

Keys to Understanding the Bible



#8- *“Read the Book!”*

- **Serious** books are written to be read, understood, and benefit those who read them by education.
- So, read the Book intending to:
 1. Understand it, [Eph.3:4](#); and
 2. Be educated and benefitted by it to eternal salvation, [John 20:31](#).

Keys to Understanding the Bible



#8- “Read the Book!” How?

- **Noble-mindedly** (Greek word indicates either *well born* or *open-minded*), by reading it:
 1. With the *right attitude* of eager reception, Acts 17:11a;
 2. With the *right practice* of regularity, Acts 17:11b;
and
 3. With the *right purpose* of learning ‘truth’ in order to practice ‘truth,’ Acts 17:11c.

Let’s consider these individually a bit further....

Keys to Understanding the Bible



#8- “*Read the Book!*” How? **Noble-mindedly**, by reading it:

1. With the ***right attitude*** of eager reception, **Acts 17:11a**;

- Approach your reading as one enthusiastically willing to learn- not as an operation of obligation of drudgery.
- Be skeptical and critical all you want- for “Truth never suffers from honest investigation,” but also be **fair** and **unbiased** in your reading- **don’t prejudge** the Bible.
- Then, when the “truth” shines forth from the harmony, consistency, and obvious inspiration of the text, be willing to accept it as such, **cf. John 1:4-5; 3:19; 2Thess.2:10-15.**

Keys to Understanding the Bible



#8- “*Read the Book!*” How? **Noble-mindedly**, by reading it:

1. With the ***right attitude*** of eager reception, [Acts 17:11a](#);

2. With the ***right practice*** of regularity, [Acts 17:11b](#);

- The Bereans “***examined the Scriptures daily***”- they didn’t use them as a sleeping pill to put themselves to bed at night! *Examination* indicates more than a casual reading so that one can say, “I read the Bible from cover to cover.” The right practices leads to, and stems from, the right purpose.
- The Bereans “***examined the Scriptures daily***”- they didn’t pull out the Scriptures and three science textbooks and four periodicals. Don’t sidetrack your examination of the Scriptures by “chasing rabbits” in other uninspired works.
- The Bereans “***examined the Scriptures daily***”- consistency is vital. Examine the Text with *regularity* rather than inconsistency or haphazardness. Start the day with the Bible!

Keys to Understanding the Bible



- #8- “*Read the Book!*” How? **Noble-mindedly**, by reading it:
1. With the ***right attitude*** of eager reception, Acts 17:11a;
 2. With the ***right practice*** of regularity, Acts 17:11b;
 3. With the ***right purpose*** of learning Truth (in order to practice it), Acts 17:11c.
 - The Bereans didn’t have the purely *academic* or *philosophical* purposes of the Athenians, cp. vv.16-21,32.
 - The Bereans weren’t looking for ***a truth*** about which to philosophize and argue, they were looking for ***the Truth*** to believe in and to be saved by, v.12!
 - *The Truth* has a *noble* purpose, Rom.1:16-17; 1Tim.1:3-7; 2:4-5; for *noble-minded* people, cf. 1Pet.2:2.

Keys to Understanding the Bible



Conclusions:

- Don't judge "*The Book*" by its cover- **read it!**
- God went to the trouble of inspiring men to write it so that we could understand His will and be saved.
- Don't thwart that purpose by leaving it *unread* and *misunderstood*- **Read the Book!**
- Let's review our "**Keys**" on last time...

Keys to Understanding the Bible:



1. **Get the “Big Picture”**
2. **It is written “4 Us, not 2 Us”**
3. **Remember that “Context is Critical”**
4. **It “Contains, but not all Figures & Symbols”**
5. **It has “Many Writers, but only One Author”**
6. **We have to “Cut Straight” (*rightly divide*)**
7. **“Plot the Plot” and,**
8. **“Read the Book!”**

**May God bless our efforts to understand and
obey His Word with salvation!**

