

Begin Anew

Becoming Mature through Bible Reading and Study

February 3, 2019

1. Why read the bible?

- It's a great way to know God and to be taught by God.
- It's a great way to spend time with God.
- It's a great way to receive direction.

2. *When* and *where* are the best times to read the bible?

3. *Happy is the one who reads this book* – says the writer of Revelation – *and happy are those who listen... and obey what is written in this book* (Rev. 1:3, GNT).

4. How do we read the bible?

- The "flat bible" approach
- The "dispensational" approach
- The "Christological" approach
- The "Christ-centered" approach

5. *Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, who he appointed heir of all things...* (Heb. 1:1-2).

6. *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me"* (Mt. 28:18).

7. *"You have heard that it was said... but I say to you..."* (Mt. 5:21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43).

8. In general...

- When reading a difficult passage in the OT – it can help to ask, "What would Jesus teach and how would He act in this situation?"
- Don't allow a Scripture to contradict the spirit or nature or teaching of Jesus. As someone once put it: "If two Scriptures disagree, let Jesus be the referee!"

9. *Lectio Divina*

- Pray
- Read
- Think
- Do
- PRAY

10. *How much should I read?*

- Read the Scripture passage suggested in a devotional that you might use as part of bible reading habit.

- Read key passages repeatedly
- Read until you have a sense of God speaking to you.

11. Inductive Bible Study Method:

- Observation: What does it say?
- Interpretation: What did it mean to the first readers?
- Application: What does it mean for us today?

12. *O Lord, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! Many are saying of me, "God will not deliver him." But you are my shield around me, O Lord; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head. To the Lord I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me. I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side. Arise, O Lord! Deliver me, O my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked. From the Lord comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people* (Psalm 3, NIV).

13. Observation: What does it say?

Who?

What?

Where?

When?

How?

14. Key words...

Shield –

Holy hill –

Strike... Break...

15. Interpretation: What did it mean there and then?

1. *David sees* his troubles.
2. *David affirms* his trust in God.
3. *David prays*.

16. Application: What does this mean here and now? What action will we take?

1. See and name our troubles in prayer.
2. Affirm our trust in God.
3. Pray.