



GULF SHORES
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bible Study 101

Sunday Evening Sermon by Ray Reynolds

January 7, 2018

Introduction: I'm not a huge fan of the Huffington Post, but they ran an article at the end of 2017 that gave some statistics concerning Christians and their dependence on daily Bible study (https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/14/american-bible-reading_n_4949993.html). I was amazed to see the number of people in America who still see the Bible as an authority! Truly it is THE authority, but we have a place to start. There are many reasons to study the Bible. **II Timothy 2:15** says, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of Truth." Paul told Timothy, "Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching" (**I Timothy 4:13**). Let's consider four reasons why we should study the Bible...

Discussion:

I. WE STUDY THE BIBLE TO LEARN

- The Plight of Sinful Man (**Genesis**)
- The Penalty for Sin (**Exodus-Lamentations**)
- The Persecution of the Seed (**Ezekiel-Malachi**)
- The Payment for Salvation (**Matthew-John**)
- The Power of the Holy Spirit (**Acts**)
- The Perseverance of the Saints (**Romans, Hebrews**)
- The Progress of the Sanctified Church (**I Corinthians-Jude**)
- The Prize for the Saved (**Revelation**)

II. WE STUDY THE BIBLE TO TEACH

- Matthew 28:20, Ephesians 4:11-16, II Timothy 2:2, Hebrews 5:11-6:8, James 5:19-20

III. WE STUDY THE BIBLE TO DEFEND

- I Peter 3:15, 4:11, I Timothy 4:1-5, 6:20-21, II Timothy 3:16-17

IV. WE STUDY THE BIBLE FOR PERSPECTIVE

- Matthew 6:33, 7:7, 7:24-27, Luke 12:31, James 1:23-25

Conclusion: One passage to remind us of the importance of Bible study is **Romans 10:14-17**. How can we accomplish God's will without studying God's Holy Word? We cannot rely on the faith and Bible knowledge of someone else to save us. We cannot expect that we will know exactly how to follow God if we don't follow His instructions. I urge you to put a plan in place to immediately study your Bible every day this week! It's not too late to start in 2018. God has promised to save us from our sins. Are you a Christian? Have you obeyed the gospel? God has promised to deliver us. Are you trusting in Him? Have you laid down your burdens at the cross? Come to Jesus!