



Today, I would like to address a very distinct question, and that is HOW BEST TO STUDY OUR BIBLE?

I have been asked this question quite a few times by quite a few people over the years. You hear about, “how to study your Bible in a year.” Different people have Bible Study plans on how to read your Bible. There is a question many Christians may have, but few will really ask, so they turn to all of these self-help Christian books on how to study the Bible.

To me, all the 30 plus years of walking with the Lord, there has only been one answer to this question for me, but the Lord put on my heart this week to address this question, How Best to Study

Our Bible? To best answer this question let's listen to the testimony of John the Baptist,

John 3:30-36

He must increase, but I must decrease. 31 He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. 32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. 33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. 34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. 35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

So, John tells us in **verse 30**, “*He, meaning Jesus, but not just Jesus, but Jesus teachings, must become greater; as he, John and his teaching must become less.*” Let’s take a look at why John made this statement, **verses 26-27**:

They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him.” 27 To this John replied, “A person can receive only what is given them from heaven.

Notice how John’s disciples came to him saying, “Rabbi”, meaning teacher, and said, “*He is baptizing, and everyone is going to Him*”. They were speaking to Jesus gaining popularity and feared John’s decrease in popularity, and they as his followers

would diminish in numbers and influence. Then, as today, is the source of conflict, those who are more concerned about their sect, their party, than they are Christ, and do rejoice more that a man became a Baptist, a Lutheran, a Pentecostal, a Presbyterian, a Methodist, and so on, than becoming a sincere and humble Christian. It was to this John replied, “*A person can receive only what is given them from heaven*”; so, don’t concern yourself about party or sect, **verse 30**, He referring to Jesus, as well as, Jesus teachings and doctrine, “*must*” or the Greek word *δεῖ δεῖ (die)*, which means, not only must, but necessary and inevitably, He, Jesus *αὐξάνω auxanó (owx-an'-o)* increase, not only increase but the meaning of more superior. While John himself, and his teachings must decrease (*ἐλαττώω elattoó. (el-a'to'-o)*) which means less and inferior.

John goes on in **verse 31** and says,

Ὁ ἕρχομαι erchomai (air-ka-my) ἄνωθεν (anōthen) (ann o thin) ἐπάνω (epanō) (e pawn no) πάντων (pantōn) (pa sis) ἐστίν (estin) (estee), which translates: *Ὁ ἕ* which is a definitive article, stating “He is the One”, (**ann o thin**) from the beginning, from the original source; (*air-ka-my*) arrived or entered; (*epanō*); which is above and superior to; (**pa sis**); the whole, each and every kind of; (**estee**) existences.

What John the Baptist testified to was, I am inferior to, my teachings are inferior to, everything is inferior to Jesus, The One, who has arrived, entered into this world, who is from the original source of each and every kind of existences, but that he, John was earthly, meaning from the physical arena, the land, trapped in time and space, having no higher nature than human nature, as was the case with all previous prophets and apostles. They were

mere men born in the same way, of man, made from dust, and dust they would return. Therefore, compared with the teaching of Christ, their teachings are inferior to Him who comes from the original source.

John goes on to testify, *“He that cometh from heaven is above all. 32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. 33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. 34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.*

Jesus’ doctrine, His teachings were of truth, not by revelation, which others in the past received from God, but of "witness" as having "*seen*" and "*heard*" the religion, doctrine and the history of man’s interaction with God and God with man; and Jesus is witness to, testifies to, bears witness of, the rights and the wrongs of man’s interaction with God.

Many persons have "appeared" for a time and were inspired on particular occasions to deliver special messages from God, but none in the end are seen to have complete knowledge of God, but The One who came out of, down from the source, and speaks God’s own words, but Jesus.

The Old Testament is a typology, a collection of testimonies of God’s interaction with man and man’s interaction with God through chosen intermediaries. The O.T., is historical events, factual evidence and proofs of God’s devine will played out amongst man. Studying these events and history is wonderful and

awesome; but, the Gospels are God's Direct, I say direct Testimony and Witness to Us. **Heb. 1:1-4**says,

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

The words and teachings of Jesus contain all we need for a relationship with God, for salvation, for forgiveness, grace, wisdom of life, and to receive power which is needed to overcome and endure while living in this world.

Though Jesus was God as well as man, as Mediator between God and man, He was endowed with Spirit of God without measure. He was continually filled with the Spirit of God, being God the Spirit dwelt in Him, not as a vessel, but as in a fountain, as it tells us in **Col. 2:9**

For in Him dwellth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

So, it's good to know the history of the O.T., learn of God's interaction through intermediaries and learn of the foundation of the Doctrines of God given to men. But, the Gospels, O' the Gospels are far superior to any and all we could learn of the O.T., historical events, because the Gospels is God speaking, communicating directly, I say, directly to and with us. As John

Baptist stated in **verse 34**: *For He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God:*

I don't know about you, but I am one of those who want to hear it directly from the horse's mouth.

A couple years ago I witnessed to and prayed with this young lady to accept Jesus as her personal Lord and savior. A few days later She had asked me about Abraham, I told her what I know from the scriptures, and she asked me if I would do a study with her about Abraham. I told her, no. You need to learn of Jesus first. Read the Gospels, learn of Him, who is the only name we are to call upon for this grant salvation. Hear Jesus words and His teachings first. I explained to her, It's good to learn about the testimonies of how God interacted with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, the prophets and the people of Israel, but none of them, came down from heaven, and directly spoke with us, and granted us to partake of the Spirit God.

John 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

It doesn't say of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Moses, David, Samuel and the other prophets or the people of Israel. No,

scripture says, the Holy Spirit would testify of Jesus, what Jesus said, the words Jesus spoke, the things Jesus taught. Just Jesus!

My brother Paul, who was a Pharisee, a historian of the O.T., a scholar, a renowned keeper of the law; said, **Phil. 3:3, 5-9:**

For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus,

Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Again, I told her, it's good to learn and know the history of God's interaction with man, be introduced to the ways of God, but to personally know God, one must interact with God, and Jesus told us, true worshippers, "*worship in spirit and truth*", and the Words He spoke are spirit, they are life", none come unto the father but by Me, He says. Jesus made it a point to tell us, that He came to fulfill the law and the prophets, so whatever you get from The law and The prophets, Jesus fulfilled those. Jesus is the author, the beginning, and the ending of our faith in God.

But, if you don't know the Gospels, you don't know Jesus, and if you don't know Jesus, you don't know the Father.

The Gospels are the most unique of all recorded history of mankind, themselves bear witness of God speaking to us and telling us all what is needed for life and salvation.

Jesus is the testimony of God himself is God's own witness; *"hath set his seal to this, that God is true."* For He whom God hath sent utters the whole divine message of the Doctrine of God. Jesus being from heaven, testifies of heavenly things, as a personal eye – and – ear – witness. *"What He hath seen and heard, of that he beareth witness."*

As Jesus stated in **Matthew 11:27**

*"All things are delivered unto me of my Father; and no man knows the Son but the Father, neither knows any man the Father save the Son, and He to whomsoever the Son may determine **boulētai** to reveal Him."*

John 1:1-3; 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made....14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

So, to answer the question, how does one go about studying their Bible? It should begin with Jesus and end with Jesus, with the middle being about Jesus. Study the Words, teachings and

doctrines of Jesus, The Gospels, then go through and learn the history of man's interaction with God and God's interaction with man, and you will still find it all points to Jesus.

Amen!