A close-up photograph of a woman with long, dark, wavy hair and green eye makeup. She is looking down at an open Bible she is holding in her hands. Her left hand is on the left page, and her right hand is on the right page. She has red nail polish on her fingers. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

How To **STUDY** The Bible

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Ephesians 3:1–7 (NKJV)

¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—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, ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: ⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, ⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

How To STUDY The Bible

Mark 12:24–27 (NKJV)

²⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵ For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ²⁶ But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the *burning bush passage*, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘*I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob*’? ²⁷ He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly mistaken.”

How To **STUDY** The Bible

2 Timothy 2:14–18 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Remind *them* of these things, charging *them* before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. ¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. ¹⁶ But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. ¹⁷ And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, ¹⁸ who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

How To **STUDY** The Bible

THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD

³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), — Ephesians 3:3–4 (NKJV)



- Error is broad, the ways to be wrong are innumerable, but truth is narrow (Mat 7:13-14).
- Just because someone sincerely believes he is right does not mean he is (Prov. 14:12; Mat 7:22-23; 15:13-14).

How To **STUDY** The Bible

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- Truth does not contradict itself - therefore if we understand the truth we will understand it alike (Jn 17:20; 1 Co 1:10-13; Ph 2:2)
- When there are contradicting doctrines - someone is in error. — Both may be wrong, but only one can be right. (Gal. 1:6-9)

How To **STUDY** The Bible

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- God wants us to understand His will - (1 Tim 2:3-4).
- God tells us to understand His will - (Eph 3:1-7).
- Average people are capable of understanding it - (Jn 6:44-45; Eph 5:17).

How To **STUDY** The Bible

HOW TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD

¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. — 2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)



■ Why the Bible is so often **MISUNDERSTOOD:**

- ▶ Read it for wrong reasons - 2 Tim 3:7
- ▶ Make little or no effort - 2 Tim 2:15
- ▶ Many do NOT have a love for the truth!! - 2 Thes. 2:10-12
- ▶ Many fail to follow the common laws of human communication! - Eph 3:3-5

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■ Why the Bible is so often
MISUNDERSTOOD:

The problem is not with God's Word; but due to indifference, slothfulness, worldliness, deceit, & the sloppy handling of God's word - cf. 2 Ti 2:15 ; See Luke 8:11-15

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- ▶ APPROACH THE BIBLE WITH
 - HONESTY.
 - FAIRNESS.
 - A DESIRE FOR TRUTH.
 - WILLINGNESS.
 - CAREFULNESS.
 - APPROPRIATE METHOD.
 - PRAYER.

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- Honesty & Humility Are MORE important than intelligence! - Luke 8:15; Acts 17:11,12; Isa. 66:2; Prov. 1:7.
- ★ Realize TRUTH matters (John 8:32)
- ★ Humility / meekness (Mt 5:3-5; Ja 1:21)
- ★ Develop a love & hunger for God & His word (Mt 5:6)
- ★ Desire to please Him (Col. 1:10)
- ★ Zeal - Be diligent in your search for truth - being honest w/ the Bible (2 Tim 2:15)

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- God has revealed His will to us through words.
- Words are vehicles of thought and convey concepts.
- We can understand God's will through accepting the words of Scripture.

How To **STUDY** The Bible

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The
word of truth **CAN BE**
MISUNDERSTOOD
2 Pet 3:16-18;
2 Thes 2:10-12

The word of truth
CAN BE
Mishandled
Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Pet 3:16

The word of truth
can be
UNDERSTOOD
Eph 3:3-5

The word
of truth must be
“handled correctly”
2 Tim 2:15; Heb
5:12-14

How To **STUDY** The Bible

HOW TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD

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- ▶ **Examine context** – (Psalm 119:160; Prov. 30:5; 2 Tim. 3:16; John 3:16; 6:44,45; 1 Cor. 1:17; Rom. 9)
- Recognizing the type of language used – (Literal / figurative? Apocalyptic?) – Gen. 1,2; Rev 1:1
- Recognizing the different ways terms are used – (spirit; soul; one; baptism) – Gen. 1:20,30; Num. 31:28; 1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 8:16

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- ▶ **Examine context** – (Psalm 119:160; Prov. 30:5; 2 Tim. 3:16; John 3:16; 6:44,45; 1 Cor. 1:17; Rom. 9)
 - Who is speaking? - Gen 3:4,5
 - Who is being spoken to? - Jn 14-16
 - What is the main point? - Rom. 9
 - Understanding terms? - Ep 2:8,9
 - How terms are used in a particular passage? - Rom. 4:2 / James 2:21

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- ▶ Knowledge of historical circumstances and customs – (John 13:14; 1 Thes 5:26)
- ▶ Recognizing that the Bible doesn't deal with everything specifically –
- ▶ However, the scriptures provide the principles where every important question can be answered – (1 Tim. 3:16,17; Heb. 5:12-14; 2 Pet 3:16)

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- ▶ Truth harmonizes with truth.
- ▶ Each & every statement in scripture is true, but is not the whole truth.
- ▶ Must consider everything that the scripture says about a subject .

How To **STUDY** The Bible

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► HERMENEUTICAL FALLACIES

- ❁ Expect direct divine influence ...
- ❁ Creeds / church / clergy necessary ...
- ❁ Old Testament = New Testament in authority ...
- ❁ Proof texting / ignoring context / disregarding differences in word meaning ...

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- ▶ What must I do to be saved?
- ▶ What things are sinful?
- ▶ How do I worship God?
- ▶ How should the church be organized?
- ▶ Eschatology - (doctrine of the end times)?
- ▶ Ect. ...

How To **STUDY** The Bible


Establishing Our Faith

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**God has used
the basic laws
of
communication
to reveal His
will to us.**

- ▶ The importance of establishing Divine authority for ALL we do.
- ▶ We must use accept everything the Bible teaches as truth and follow the teaching of Jesus accurately.
- ▶ What is your attitude towards the need to study & follow the Bible?
- ▶ Are you studying the Word of God and striving to follow it?

A close-up photograph of a woman with long dark hair and green eye makeup, looking down at an open Bible she is holding. Her hands are visible, with pink nail polish. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

How To **STUDY** The Bible

**HEAR / BELIVE / REPENT / CONFESS ?
BE BAPTIZED / LIVE ACCORDING TO
JESUS'S TEACHING ...**



How To **STUDY** The Bible

Charts by Don McClain / Preached July 26, 2020 AM

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2 Peter 3:14–18 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ¹⁵ and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures. ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.