

# Book of Books

*Lesson Eleven: Joy of Discovery in Bible Study*  
**Complete and Keep**

**A General Introduction to the Bible**



THIS BOOK [the Bible] contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibilities, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

~Author Unknown

## **Course: The Book of Books**

- Lesson 1: The Bible: Its Uniqueness
- Lesson 2: Can I Understand the Bible?
- Lesson 3: How to Read the Bible
- Lesson 4: Bible Translations
- Lesson 5: Bible Geography
- Lesson 6: Bible Customs
- Lesson 7: The Old Testament Books
- Lesson 8: The New Testament Books
- Lesson 9: Bible Measurements
- Lesson 10: Books That Help in Studying the Bible
- Lesson 11: The Joy of Discovery in Bible Study**
- Lesson 12: Bible Criticism
- Lesson 13: How We Got Our Bible

These lessons come from the kindness and diligence of those at Middletown Bible Church in Connecticut. The lessons are designed to be used with a King James Version of the Bible.

# LESSON 11

## JOY OF DISCOVERY IN BIBLE STUDY

by Robert F. Ramey, used by permission

Many read the Bible only on rare occasions, perhaps in a crisis or in church. They are content to get their Bible knowledge secondhand. Others read the Bible on a regular basis but do not know the method whereby they can discover the riches of Scripture for themselves. The method of study described here will open up God's truth for any purposeful goal. Try it and see!

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

<b>STEP 1 – OBSERVE</b>		
Key verse: John 5:39, “Search...”		
Key Question: <b>What does the Bible say?</b>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Purpose</u></b></p> <p>To discover all the words and details and ideas that are easily overlooked: often we fail to see what is right before our eyes. We are poor detectives. We read too hastily. We can easily miss what the verse clearly says.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Meaning</u></b></p> <p>To look, inspect, hunt, pay close attention to, notice, watch, consider every word and phrase.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Method</u></b></p> <p>Read and reread. Take notes. Ask questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Paraphrase (restate in your own words).</p>

<b>STEP 2 – INTERPRET</b>		
Key verse: Matthew 24:15, “Let him understand...”		
Key Question: <b>What does the Bible mean?</b>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Purpose</u></b></p> <p>To explain, give the meaning that the Bible writer intended and that his readers would have understood.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Meaning</u></b></p> <p>To explain, elucidate, tell the meaning, give the sense.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Method</u></b></p> <p>To bridge the cultural, language, and time gap. In order to do this, we often need help: translations, dictionaries, atlases, etc.</p>

God means what He says and says what He means. The problem is that we often come to God's Word with our own preconceived ideas and notions about what we think the Bible says. This is why people can prove anything they want by using the Bible. Instead of using the Bible, they are actually abusing and misusing the Bible by forcing their own interpretations upon God's Holy Word.

Instead of letting God say what He says, we try to make the Bible say what we want it to say or what we think it should say. This subjective approach is very detrimental to true Bible study and God will not honor it. We need to come to God with a humble heart, casting aside all of our preconceived notions and opinions, and say, "Lord, teach me Thy way. Help me to learn, unlearn, and relearn. Correct my thinking. Help me to amend my thinking in favor of what You have said."

May God the Holy Spirit open the eyes of our understanding so that we might know God's truth, and so that we might walk in God's truth (see 2 John 4; 3 John 3–4).

<b>STEP 3 – APPLY</b>		
Key verse: James 1:22, "Be doers..."		
Key Question: <b>What does the Bible mean to me?</b>		
<p><b><u>Purpose</u></b></p> <p>To learn spiritual lessons and to grow in grace, resulting in a changed life; to amend one's life because of what God has said in His Word.</p>	<p><b><u>Meaning</u></b></p> <p>To utilize, employ, do, believe, obey, exercise, etc.</p>	<p><b><u>Method</u></b></p> <p>Answer these questions: Is there a promise to believe? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A duty to perform? A prayer to echo? etc.</p>

There is scarcely anything so dull and meaningless as Bible doctrine taught for its own sake. Truth divorced from life is not truth in its Biblical sense, but something else and something less. The Bible is more than a volume of hitherto unknown facts about God, man, and the universe. It is a book of exhortation based upon those facts. By far, the greater portion of the book is devoted to an urgent effort to persuade people to alter their ways and bring their lives into harmony with the will of God as set forth in its pages. Theological truth is useless until it is obeyed. The purpose behind all doctrine is to secure moral action. Bible exposition without moral application raises no opposition. It is only when the hearer is made to understand that truth is in conflict with his heart that resistance sets in. As long as people can hear orthodox truth divorced from life they will attend and support churches without objection. Much that passes for NT Christianity is little more than objective truth sweetened with song and made palatable by religious entertainment.

~A.W. Tozer

<b>STEP 4 – COMPARE</b>		
Key verse: 1 Corinthians 2:13, “Comparing...”		
Key Question: <b>What does the Bible say elsewhere?</b>		
<p><b><u>Purpose</u></b></p> <p>To relate the portion of Scripture that I am studying with the rest of the Bible: every part of the Bible must be seen in relationship to the whole. When we see a tree clearly, then we must see its relationship to the whole forest. The Bible is a unified whole and we must see how all the pieces fit together.</p>	<p><b><u>Meaning</u></b></p> <p>To correlate, integrate Scripture.</p>	<p><b><u>Method</u></b></p> <p>Ask yourself: What other verses and paragraphs and chapters in the Bible can I tie together with what I have just studied? Can I find parallel passages that would shed light on and help confirm what I have just studied? You may find help using the cross references found in your Bible, as well as a concordance.</p>

### **Assignment**

Use the method described in this lesson to study John 3:1–21. Make your notes in the review booklet.

#### **Observe**

Look carefully for details in each verse that might be overlooked with a superficial or surface reading of the text.

#### **Interpret**

Try to understand the true interpretation of the text. What did Jesus mean by being “born again?” Is it something that we do, or is it something that God must do? How is one saved—by believing or by doing?

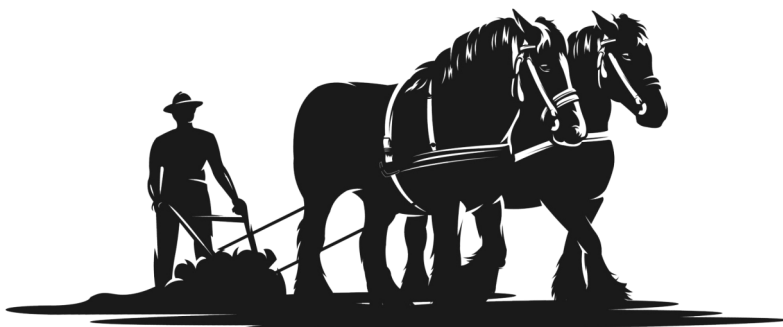
#### **Apply**

Try to understand how this passage can be personally applied to you, especially with regard to its teaching relating to salvation and being born again.

#### **Compare**

How does John 3:3 compare with verses such as 1 John 3:9 and Galatians 6:15? What is the true Gospel message? Are we saved by our works or by believing? Compare John 3:14 with Numbers 21:8–9. Did the Israelites have to work to be saved, or only look at the brass serpent? What other things did you learn from your study?





# **PLOWMAN'S ACADEMY**

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