How to Study the Bible

Lesson 5, 2nd Quarter April 25 – May 1, 2026.

Sabbath Afternoon, April 25

Memory Text:

"So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." KJV — Isaiah 55:11

"As an educating power the Bible is of more value than the writings of all the philosophers of all ages. In its wide range of style and subjects there is something to interest and instruct every mind, to ennoble every interest. The light of revelation shines undimmed into the distant past, where human annals cast no ray of light. There is poetry which has called forth the wonder and admiration of the world, in glowing beauty, in sublime and solemn majesty, in touching pathos, it is unequaled by the most brilliant productions of human genius. There is sound logic and impassioned eloquence. There are portrayed the noble deeds of noble men, examples of private virtue and public honor, lessons of piety and purity." CT 428.3

"There is nothing more calculated to energize the mind and strengthen the intellect than the study of the word of God. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose that are rarely seen in these times. The search for truth will reward the seeker a hundred-fold, and each discovery will open up richer fields for his investigation." CT 460.1

Sunday, April 26

Time

Read again John 15:1–8. What is Jesus telling us about abiding in Him, and why is this so crucial to our faith?

"Thousands of men who minister in the pulpit are lacking in essential qualities of mind and character because they have not kept themselves in the study of the Scriptures. They are content with a superficial knowledge of the truths that are full of rich depths of meaning and they prefer to go on, losing much in every way, rather than to search diligently for the hidden treasure. CT 460.2

"Men are changed in accordance with their contemplation. If commonplace thoughts and affairs take up the attention, the man will be commonplace. If he is too negligent to obtain anything but a superficial understanding of truth, he will not receive the rich blessings that God would be pleased to bestow upon him. It is the law of the mind that it will narrow or expand to the dimensions of the things with which it becomes familiar. The Scriptures should be our constant contemplation. We should study the Bible and dwell on the meanings of the word of God unless they are put vigorously and persistently to the task of searching for truth. The mind will enlarge if it is employed in tracing out the relation of the subjects of the Bible to one another, comparing scripture with scripture, and spiritual things with spiritual. The richest treasures of thought are waiting for the diligent student. CT 460.3

"The knowledge of God is not gained without mental effort and prayer for wisdom. Many are convinced that the precious treasures of the kingdom of God and of Christ are contained in the world. They know also that no earthly treasure is gained without painstaking effort. Why should they expect to understand the meaning of the Scriptures without diligent study? CT 460.

"All the true followers of Christ bear fruit to His glory. Their lives testify that a good work has been wrought in them by the Spirit of God, and their fruit is unto holiness. Their lives are elevated and pure. Right actions are the unmistakable fruit of true godliness, and those who bear no fruit of this kind reveal that they have no experience in the things of God. They are not in the Vine. Said Jesus, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. I am the Vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:4, 5. CT 329.1

"Those who would be worshipers of the true God must sacrifice every idol...We cannot advance in Christian experience until we put away everything that separates us from God." CT 329.2

Monday, April 27

A Place

Jesus is our perfect example in all things, and when it comes to personal devotions, it is no different. What does Mark 1:35 tell us about Jesus' time with His Father?

What does 1 Chronicles 16:11 say about how we should seek His face?

Tuesday, April 28

Deep Bible Study

"The Bible should never be studied without prayer. The Holy Spirit alone can cause us to see the importance of those things easy to be understood, or prevent us from wresting truths difficult of comprehension. It is the office of heavenly angels to prepare the heart so to comprehend God's word that we shall be charmed with its beauty, admonished by its warnings, or animated and strengthened by its promises. We should make the psalmist's petition our own: "Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law." Psalm 119:18. Temptations often appear irresistible because, through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God's promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons. But angels are round about those who are willing to be taught in divine things; and in the time of great necessity they will bring to their remembrance the very truths which are needed. Thus "when the enemy shall come like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." Isaiah 59:19." GC 599.3

"The truths most plainly revealed in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by learned men, who, with a show of superior wisdom, teach that the Scriptures have a mystical, a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed. These men are false teachers. It was such a class that Jesus declared, "Ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God." Mark 12:24. The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise: "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine." John 7:17. If men would but do the will of God, they would know whether or not false teachers misleading and confuse their minds. A work would be accomplished that would make angels glad and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error. GC 598.3

"We should exert all the powers of the mind in the study of the Scriptures and should task the understanding to comprehend, as far as mortals can, the deep things of God; yet we must not forget that the docility and submission of a child is the true spirit of the learner. Scriptural difficulties can never be mastered by the same methods that are employed in grappling with philosophical problems. We should not engage in the study of the Bible with that self-reliance with which so many enter the domains of science, but with a prayerful dependence upon God and a sincere desire to learn His will. We must come with a humble and teachable spirit to obtain knowledge from the great I AM. Otherwise, evil angels will so blind our minds and harden our hearts that we shall not be impressed by the truth." GC 599.1

Wednesday, April 29

A Double Blessing

"Miller publicly professed his faith in the religion which he had despised...He determined to study the Scriptures for himself, and ascertain if every apparent contradiction could not be harmonized." GC 319.3

"Endeavoring to lay aside all preconceived opinions, and dispensing with commentaries, he compared scripture with scripture by the aid of the marginal references and the concordance. He pursued his study in a regular and methodical manner, beginning with Genesis, and reading verse by verse, he proceeded no faster than the meaning of the several passages would permit us to leave him free from all embarrassment. When he found anything obscure, it was his custom to compare it with every other text which seemed to have any bearing on the matter under consideration. Every word was permitted to have its proper bearing upon the subject of the text, and if this view of it harmonized with the context and with other portions of the Bible, he was satisfied that he met with a passage hard to be understood to find an explanation in some other portion of the Scriptures. As he studied with earnest prayer for divine enlightenment, that which had before appeared dark to his understanding was made clear. He experienced the truth of the psalmist's words: "The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalm 119:130. GC 320.1

"With intense interest he studied the books of Daniel and the Revelation, employing the same principles of interpretation as in the other scriptures, and found, to his great joy, that the prophecies symbolic could be understood. He saw that the prophecies, so far as they had been fulfilled, had been fulfilled literally; that all the various figures, metaphors, parables, similitudes, etc., were either explained in their immediate connection, or the terms in which they were expressed were defined in other scriptures, and when thus explained, were to be literally understood. "I was thus satisfied," he says, "that the Bible is a system of revealed truths, so clearly and simply given that the wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein." –Bliss, page 70. Link after link of the chain of truth revealed to his efforts, as step by step he traced down the great lines of prophecy. Angels of heaven were guiding his mind and opening the Scriptures to his understanding." GC 320.2

Read Isaiah 50:4. In this verse telling us about having a relationship with God and how it can impact our relationships with others?

"Ministers who are truly Christ's representatives will be men of prayer. With an earnestness and faith that will not be denied, they will plead with God that they may be strengthened and fortified for duty and for trial, and that their lips may be sanctified by a touch of the living coal from off the altar, to speak the words of God to the people. The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: He waketh morning by morning, He waketh mine ear to hear as the learned." 4T 529.2

Thursday, April 30

Tis So Sweet

What does it mean that "through your precepts I get understanding"? (Ps. 119:104). Why is this also important in grasping what Bible study does for us?

"It is a law of the mind that it gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is trained to dwell. If occupied with commonplace matters only, it will become dwarfed and enfeebled. If ever required to grapple with difficult problems, it will rather a time almost lose the power of growth. As an educating power, the Bible is without a rival. In the word of God the mind finds subject for the deepest thought, the loftiest aspiration. The Bible is the most instructive history that men possess. It came fresh from the fountain of eternal truth, and it reveals the character of the Eternal as no other book. It lifts the veil from the distant past, where human research seeks vainly to penetrate. In God's word we behold the power that laid the foundation of the earth and that stretched out the heavens. Here only can we find a history of our race, unsullied by human prejudice or human pride. Here are recorded the struggles, the defeats, and the victories of the greatest men this world has ever known. Here the great problems of duty and destiny are unfolded. The curtain that separates the visible from the invisible world is lifted, and we behold the conflict of the opposing forces of good and evil, from the first entrance of sin, to the final triumph of righteousness and truth; and all is but a revelation of the character of God. In the reverent contemplation of the great, concerned in his work, the mind of the student is brought into communion with the infinite mind. Such a study will not only refine and ennoble the character, but it cannot fail to expand and invigorate the mental powers. CE 65.1

"The teaching of the Bible has a vital bearing upon man's prosperity in this life as well as in the eternal ages. The principles that are the corner-stone of a nation's prosperity—principles with which is bound up the well-being of society, and which are the safeguard of the family—principles without which no man can attain usefulness, happiness, and honor in this life, or can hope to secure the future, immortal life. There is no position in life, no phase of human experience, for which the teaching of the Bible is not an essential preparation. Studied and obeyed, the word of God would give to the world men of stronger and more active intellect than will the closest application to all the subjects that human philosophy embraces. It would give men of strength and solidity of character, of keen perception and sound judgment,—men who would be an honor to God and a blessing to the world." CE 66.1

Friday, April 31

Further Thought

"In studying the Scriptures we become acquainted with God and are led to understand our relation to Christ, the Six Sixteen, the surety for the fallen race. No one is left in darkness as to that which God approves or disapproves. CT 429.1

"The Bible instructions concerning the character of God's children must possess "Blessed are the pure in heart," it declares, "for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." 1 John 3:2, 3. CT 429.2

"This all-important knowledge should be kept before our children and youth, not in an arbitrary, dictatorial manner, but as a divine disclosure, as instruction of the highest value, essential for their present peace in this world of turmoil and strife, and as a preparation for the future eternal life in the kingdom of God. Then place the Holy Word in their hands. Encourage them to search its pages. They will find there treasures of inestimable value. And in receiving Christ as the bread of life they have the pledge of eternal life." CT 429.3

For further studies, feel free to contact:
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