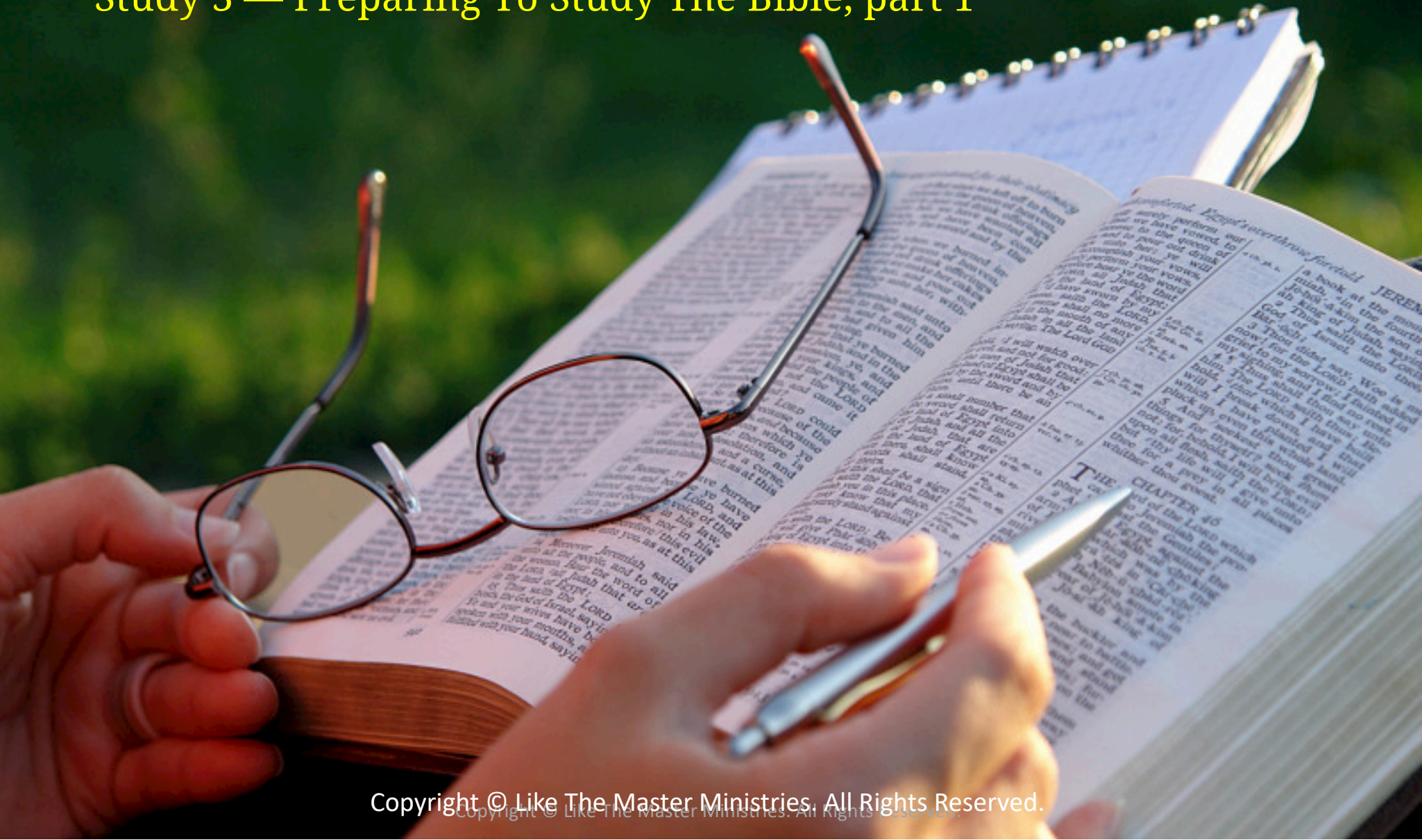


How To Study The Bible

Study 3 — Preparing To Study The Bible, part 1



The Plan

- Session 1** Why Study The Bible?
- Session 2** Why We Can Trust the Bible
- Session 3** How to Prepare to Study the Bible, part 1
- Session 4** How to Prepare to Study the Bible, part 2
- Session 5** **Preparing** To Know What The Bible Says
- Session 6** What Does The Bible Say
- Session 7** Tools For Determining the Meaning
- Session 8** Discovering The Meaning
- Session 9** How To Apply The Meaning



“Why Are There So Many Interpretations?”

Problem Existed In Christ's Day

- **In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus revealed the Pharisees repeatedly had the wrong interpretation when He said, “You have heard.”**
- **In Matthew 22:23-29, Jesus revealed the Sadducees did not know the truth.**
- **Acts 23:6-8 reveals the Pharisees and Sadducees had different doctrinal beliefs.**

Problem Existed In The Early Church

- **Galatians and Colossians refuted wrong views of salvation and Christ.**
- **2 Thessalonians refutes wrong views of eschatology.**
- **1 Timothy 1:3-4 is a rebuke about false doctrine and trivial ideas of Scripture.**
- **2 Timothy 2:16-17 and 2 Peter 3:16 reveal a major problem that existed in the church?**
- **2 Peter, 1 John 1, 2 John, Jude, and Revelation 2-3 reveal false doctrine was a major issue.**

Problem Existed During Reformation

- **Martin Luther**
- **John Calvin**
- **John Knox**
- **William Tyndale**
- **Others . . .**

Problem Exists Today

- **Problem has resulted in different denominations.**
 - **Methodists**
 - **Lutherans**
 - **Presbyterians**
 - **Baptists**
 - **Brethren**
 - **Independents**
- **Problem makes it difficult to find biblically accurate commentaries and study Bibles.**

Modern Example of The Problem From 1 John 1:9

- 1. Protestants — Verse is a call for Gnostics to have their sins forgiven. Because all of a Christian's sins were forgiven when they believed.**
- 2. Protestants — Verse teaches Christians are to confess their daily sins. It is a clean up of the relationship.**
- 3. Roman Catholic Church — Verse is about Christians confessing their sins to one another.**

Example of Bad Application

Genesis 37 tells us that Joseph's brothers threw him into a pit and later sold him to some Midianite traders who sold him in Egypt. This is a great story that teaches us that our enemies can attack us and throw us into a pit, but we should not fear because God is the God of comeback and favor. God will never allow us to remain in a dirty pit of depression, despair, and depravity because his purpose is one of blessing, purpose, and breakthrough. It's time to overcome our pits! What is the pit that is facing your life today? Maybe it's a financial pit. Maybe it's an emotional pit. Maybe it's a pit of sickness? Maybe it's a relational pit. Well, prepare yourself while you are in that pit because God is about ready to bring you from the pit to the palace!

*How Can This
Problem Be Avoided
In Bible Study?*

Principle 1:
Be A Believer

Scripture Establishes The Principle

Who is able to understand Scripture?

- **Malachi 2:7-9; 3:16-18**
- **2 Corinthians 4:4-6**
- **1 Corinthians 2:14**
- **1 John 2:20-21; 5:20**

Principle 2:

***Have An Intense Desire
To Know **The Truth*****

Consider

***Man once asked,
“Why do seminary graduates
disagree if they have the same
Holy Spirit?”***

Common Response To Difficult Passages

- **Seminary students are taught systematic theology.**
- **They do **not** learn all 66 books of the Bible in seminary.**
- **Pastors learn the Bible as they study and teach it.**
- **If they encounter a passage that seems to disagree what they were taught, they often check their systematic theology.**
- **Laymen do the same thing. They look for a systematic theology or someone to explain the disagreement.**

Remember #1

***We desperately cling
to what we were first taught.***

Remember #2

We are teachable if we are more interested in the truth than having our beliefs reinforced.

Remember #3

***We must have an intense desire
to know the Truth
to find The Truth.***

How Should We Respond?

- **We must passionately want to know the truth as Peter described in 1 Peter 2:2.**
- **We must be teachable as the Bereans were in Acts 17:11.**

On The 50 Yard Line

“Things To Do”

Assignment

- 1. Memorize the books of the Bible in order.**
- 2. Read 1 Corinthians 2:6 – 3:3 at least five times during the week. Ask yourself, “What is the message of the passage?”**