

THE FIRST PRINCIPLES

Hebrews 5:12

“the first principles of the oracles of God”

A Practical Bible Study and Discipleship Course For New Christians

***“As newborn babes,
desire the sincere milk of the word,
that ye may grow thereby:
if so be that ye have tasted
that the Lord is gracious.”***

1Peter 2:2,3



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Hebrews 5:12

“the first principles of the oracles of God”

Record your name, and the name and telephone number of your discipler here...

Your Name: _____
Date Study Began: _____
Date Completed: _____
Your Discipler's Name is: _____
His/Her Telephone: _____
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All Scripture references, unless otherwise noted are from
the Word of God – the King James Bible

STUDY INTRODUCTION

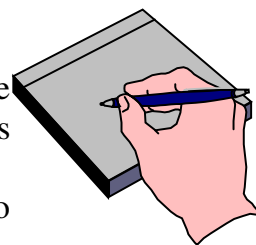
I. How to Use This Study Guide

- A. **Along-side your Bible.** Never put anything above the authority of the word of God. Use *tools* to help your Bible study, but never let them take its place!
- B. **Look up all the Scriptures listed in this Study.** Each Scripture for you to look up appears in parenthesis and coloured like this: (**John 3:16**). The answers to every question of this Study will come from those marked Scriptures. Keep reading through all of the verses listed until you are satisfied that you understand the Bible's instruction on each topic.
- C. **Pray for guidance as you study.** God gave you His word (**Psalms 68:11**), and if you ask Him, He will guide you through it, and help you understand it (**John 16:13**).
- D. **Fill in every blank** with the words of Scripture as you look them up! You may not see the answer right away, but the answer is in every verse listed!

II. Memorize four Memory Verses. These will help establish your faith in the promises of the Bible! They are located at the beginning of each of the four Sections of this Study. They are **Matthew 4:4**, **Hebrews 10:25**, **1 Corinthians 12:27**, and **Romans 12:11**.

III. Recommended Materials for Your Study

- A "Bible Dictionary" to explain Bible words better
- Get some good writing pens and highlighters for marking your Bible
- Purchase a separate notebook/journal to record your own notes as you study your Bible
- You should purchase some small (3" x 5") record/index cards to write down Scriptures for memorizing and meditation



IV. Suggestions For Reading Your Bible. Realize that the Bible is a book. It is not a magical good-luck charm. It was written to be read with human eyes, and tested by the human mind, and believed by the human heart. The method of reading the Bible is very simple. Here are just a few suggestions to get you going.

- A. **Listen to it.** Start with a determination to "listen" to what is written. When you approach the Bible, seek to hear what the words are saying. Let God talk freely as if He were right beside you.
- B. **Pray through it.** Praying is asking. So, ask God to grant unto you the true understanding of His word. There is no perfect interpreter of the word of God except the Author of the word, God Himself (**1 Corinthians 2:9-13**).
- C. **Read the Bible from Beginning to End.** You will never get the meaning of ANY book unless you read it from cover to cover. For the first time, you should start in Matthew, and read through to Revelation. After that, then go to Genesis, and start all over, and read all the way through to the end!
- D. **Read with the Heart, and not just the Mind.** The Bible is perfect and quite capable of being examined by the mind, but was written for the heart.
- E. **Read the Bible Daily.** Set aside a regular time every day to spend in God's word.
- F. **Read it Obediently.** Here is the big deal. Read the Bible with the goal of doing what you find commanded to be done. God says in **James 1:22** that we are to "*be ye _____ of the word and not hearers only deceiving your own selves.*"
- G. **Read the Scriptures Contextually.** That means, allow the Scriptures to explain themselves. A sentence is always understood within the meaning of the surrounding sentences. So, always find out **who is speaking, who are they speaking to, and, what are they talking about.** Sounds simple and yet few actually take the time to do this!

V. Let's begin with a question. What Is Truth?

A. First, Compare what is said in **John 18:36-38** and with **John 17:17**

1. In **John 18**, the Lord Jesus is standing before Pilate, accused of being a King. Jesus tells Pilate that He IS a King, but not of this world, and that His design is not to set up a physical kingdom, but *to declare the _____*.
2. Pilate responds, "*What is _____?*" But notice what Pilate does next. He does not wait around for the answer. He does not believe there is any such thing as "truth." It is the same with most people. They have been lied to so many times about Santa, the tooth fairy, and Easter bunnies they think God and truth are only lies as well.
3. Yet, in **John 17:17**, Jesus Himself says God's _____ is truth! Now, either Jesus was a liar, or crazy, or telling the truth. Which is it?



B. Let's agree on three things:

1. First, there must be something, somewhere, that is *true*. Because, without *truth*, there is NO WAY of knowing what is really true or false, good or bad, or right or wrong; and anyone's guess becomes as good as another's.
2. Secondly, **God** is the Author of truth. He cannot "___" or He is not God (**Titus 1:2**).
3. Lastly, God has revealed truth through the **Bible** alone (**John 17:17**).
4. Do you agree with these three statements? Yes or No? (circle one).

The Bible says, "*Yea, let God be _____, but every man a liar.*" **Romans 3:4**

VI. The Purpose of the Bible. Why was the Bible even written?

- A. There are many reasons why God took the time to put down His words on paper, but here are TWO big reasons...
- B. It was written that we may "_____ " that Jesus was who He said He was - the Messiah, the Son of God, who came to pay our sin-debt (**John 20:31**).
- C. It was also written, so that we may "_____ " that we have eternal life, not just "hope" for it (**1John 5:13**)!

VII. Things to know when you start reading a King James Bible

A. There are some older words that have important meanings to know:

1. "**Thou**" and "**Thee**" – these simply are words for 'you' but are spoken in a serious tone towards a single individual, see **Genesis 3:9** "*And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art _____?*" (Where are you?)
2. "**Ye**" – This is the plural word for 'YOU' as in "you all". See **Matthew 3:2** "*And saying, Repent _____: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" (repent all of you...)
3. "**Hath**" and other words ending in "**th**" is the older way of having an 's' on the end. Just replace the 'th' with an 's' and it will be the same as today!
 - a. See **Proverbs 28:13** "*He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy*"
 - b. It is the same as saying "He that COVERS his sins shall not prosper: but whoso CONFESSES and FORSAKES them shall have mercy."
 - c. Other words with "th" at the end include: loveth, heareth, doeth, giveth... and they are not hard to understand are they?

B. Other words that you are unfamiliar with, like Propitiation, Salvation, Justification, etc., should be looked up in a Bible Dictionary, so that you don't miss what God is

saying in any Scripture. Maybe you have one at the back of your Bible? If not, like suggested at the beginning of this Study, you should order and purchase one.

C. **Psalm 119:140** says, “*Thy word is very _____: therefore thy servant loveth it.*”

VIII. The Purpose and Design of This Study Guide

- A. This Study will teach you the wonderful truths of God's word, so you can _____ to "perfection" or full maturity in Christ (**1Peter 2:2,3**; **2Peter 3:18**).
- B. To do this, you need to develop in yourself the following life principles by reading, and learning from God's word daily (take the time to now read **2Peter 1:4-8**):
1. **Faith (1:5)** - you start off with this at salvation. It is how you come to God... simply believing Jesus Christ is all you need to live now.
 2. **Virtue** – this is the inner strength that God will constantly give you to do right.
 3. _____ – Add the knowledge about Jesus Christ (by studying the Bible)
 4. **Temperance** – add the ability to keep a right balance about things.
 5. **Patience** – learning how to wait on God, and wait through all your trials.
 6. _____ – this simply means striving to become more like Christ.
 7. **Brotherly kindness** – learn how to be kind towards people as if they are family.
 8. Lastly, add _____ – this means having unconditional love towards people!
- C. The Bible finishes in **verse 8** by saying, "*For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor _____.*" That is what God wants - spiritual fruitfulness and success as a real Christian!

Have fun!