

## Engaging in Active Christianity

### How to Study Your Bible, Lesson 2

Why study the Bible?

- ✓ First and foremost because we need to know God.

#### 1. The New Testament, like the Old, carries some unique microcode's.

- ✓ The Old Testament was written and compiled over a couple thousand years, whereas the New Testament was compiled within one lifetime.
- ✓ The early church used 4 gospels, Luke was in 2 volumes which was split into Luke and Acts.
- ✓ Paul's letters and the Septuagint Old Testament were circulated by the New Testament church.

They used professional stenographers.

- ✓ Much of the New Testament is written by professionals: Silvanus writes 1 Peter as Peter dictates it to him, Tertius writes Romans as Paul dictates, etc.
  - ✓ Matthew would have been a professional because of his job: he had to be fluent in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic.
  - ✓ Interesting that his book has all of Jesus discourses verbatim.
  - ✓ His gospel is longer than the others because of these discourses: remove these and his book is shorter than Marks.
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#### 2. Matthew has illustration of amazing micro-codes.

- ✓ Matthew Chapter 1 Genealogy of Jesus has an amazing heptadic structure

#### 3. Unlike the Old Testament books, we have documents and fragments of documents that are very close to the originals in date.

- ✓ For instance, what is called the P64 Papyri scrap 64 is a fragment of **Matthew 26:23-31** (dated to A.D. 64)—Part of original or an immediate copy thereof.
  - ✓ Our Bibles are reliable. They are historically accurate.
    - The Bible has been banned, burned, reviled.
    - Jesus, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." **Matthew 24:35.**
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#### 4. The predicament we are in.

- Biblical illiteracy, especially and including in the pulpit.
    - ✓ Politically incorrect to be biblical anymore in these United States unlike it has ever been.
    - ✓ "Jack of all trades and master of one" = concept of an educated person is one who knows a little about everything and everything about one thing.
    - ✓ For the believer, this mastering should be of the text of Scripture.
    - ✓ You will not understand it by spending 45 minutes a week on it either... you need some sort of program!
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- Essential prerequisites
    - 1) Are you saved?... far more important than anything else that you do or apply to your study.
    - 2) This is a spiritual exercise and requires the augmentation of God Himself
      - ✓ Should always begin in prayer.
    - 3) Obedience is an essential element – God rewards our obedience with further insights
      - ✓ Why would He tell you more when you don't obey what you already know?
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- 4) Love of the Bible requires knowing your Bible, those who don't really love don't really know it.
    - ✓ Interesting that scientific truth is always changing, 1950's textbooks and even 1980's books are obsolete with many errors that have since been discovered.
    - ✓ Yet the truth of God's word is everlasting, pertinent, and relevant!
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- 5) Free yourself from presuppositions: as if this were possible.
    - ✓ Do not have a high opinion of what is running around between yours or anyone else's ears!!
    - ✓ Recognize that we can be easily deceived. **Jeremiah 17:9**
    - ✓ Recognize that there is malevolent Deceiver!! **I Peter 5:8**
    - ✓ **Hebrews 4:12** It sits in judgment of you and not vice-versa!
    - ✓ Be childlike so the God of universe can tell you things you do not and cannot know with God revealing it to you.
  - 6) Not "Seeing is believing" but "Believing is seeing" **Hebrews 11:6**
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