

If reading the Holy Bible is of utmost importance, then reading it with understanding is also highly important.

The How to Read the Holy Bible with Understanding

Key verse: Acts 8:30 “And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?”

Review: Aralin pang Mathetes – Lessons 1-16 are BASIC DOCTRINAL FOUNDATIONS. Lessons 17-21 (and on going) are BASIC CHRISTIAN LIFE FOUNDATIONS. Going through these lessons will greatly help your understanding of the Holy Bible. Acts 8:31 – “And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.”

There are some important tips that will help you read the Holy Bible with understanding: (Prov. 4:7)

1. Understand the Holy Bible in its Major Components:
 - A. The Old Testament – Israel; The Coming Messiah; The Kingdom of God is coming.
 - B. The New Testament – Church; The Messiah Came; The Kingdom of God is coming.
 - C. The Bible has perfect agreement between the Testaments. (Progressive revelation)
 - D. The Bible has continuities and discontinuities between the Testaments.
 - E. Interpreting the Bible verse or passage in context is key. “Context is king.”

2. Understand the Holy Bible as Literature (“written works”). [Panitikan/mga kasulatan]
 - A. History (Genesis – Esther)
 - B. Poetry (Job – Song of Solomon)
 - C. Prophecy (Isaiah – Malachi; Revelation)
 - D. History – Biography (Matthew – Acts)
 - E. Letters (Romans – Jude)
 - F. Follow the customary usage of language:
 - F.1. Literal
 - F.2. Figurative

3. Understand that Scripture interprets Scripture:
 - A. The Bible often explains itself.
 - B. Some words and phrases are used elsewhere in the Bible and that is helpful.
 - C. Use a reliable tool (The Strong’s Concordance; Believer’s Bible Dictionary).

Additional suggestions:

1. Attend a Bible Believing Baptist church – with notebook and pen/pencil ready to listen and learn.
2. Seek to understand what the Holy Bible is saying/teaching OBJECTIVELY first before any SUBJECTIVE findings.
3. Disregard the chapter and verse divisions and focus on the probing questions: WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, HOW, and WHY of a verse or a passage or a chapter or a book.
4. Remember – helpful Bible study tools can shed light on historical, geographical, cultural, and linguistic information.
5. Ask the Pastor.

Next week...How to Apply the Bible to our Daily Life.