

2-D How To Study The Bible II

Class Notes

1. Many languages have been reduced to writing for the first time in order that the Bible, in whole or in part, might be translated into them in written form.
2. The Bible's central message is the story of salvation, and throughout both Testaments three strands in this unfolding story can be distinguished: the bringer of salvation, the way of salvation and the heirs of salvation.
3. The bringer of salvation, the Mediator of the covenant, is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
4. The way of salvation, the basis of the covenant, is God's grace, calling forth from his people a response of faith and obedience.
5. The heirs of salvation, the covenant people, are the Israel of God, the church of God.
6. **U.S. Public School System Began With Bible** Five years after establishing the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the Puritans started in Boston the first elementary school supported by tax money. In 1647, they passed an ordinance which marked the beginning of the US Public School system.
7. Among other things, the ordinance required at least 1 qualified teacher for every 50 householders, and a grammar school in every town of more than 100 families. It also put the Bible in the center of its curriculum, asserting that it is "one chief project of that old deluder, Satan, to keep men from the knowledge of the Scriptures."
8. **"No Bibles This Year"** The University of North Carolina broke a 130-year tradition on graduation day in 1972 by not handing out Bibles to graduating seniors along with their diplomas. The institution's trustees' executive committee voted to abolish the practice, which had been questioned on constitutional grounds. The Bibles had been handed out with the diplomas at Chapel Hill since 1842 and had been purchased through student fees.
9. **Wishing It Was Not Written** Thomas Paine, an immigrant to America in 1787, had leaped from obscurity to fame after writing some brilliant pamphlets on freedom. But then he made a fatal mistake. He began to write his "masterpiece" called The Age of Reason which scoffed at Christianity. "This will destroy the Bible," he predicted. "Within 100 years, Bibles will be found only in museums or in musty corners of second-hand bookstores." His book was published in London in 1794. But it brought him so much misery and loneliness that he once said: "I would give worlds, if I had them, had The Age of Reason never been written." Paine became a bedridden invalid until his death, friendless and alone, in 1809. The Bible remained a best-seller.
10. **God Told Me About Peanut** Testifying before the Senate Agriculture Committee on the value of the peanut, George Washington Carver, who as an infant was traded for a broken-down racehorse, said that he got his knowledge of peanuts from the Bible. Asked what the Bible said about peanuts he replied, "The Bible does not teach anything regarding the peanut. But it told me about God, and God told me about the peanut."
11. **Shortest Verse In Bible** Our attention is often directed to the two shortest verses in the Bible noting that "Jesus wept" is the shorter of the two. But in the Greek we find this "shortest" verse has three words whereas the verse from I Thessalonians 5:16 ("Rejoice evermore") has only two. However, one surely can see the lovely connection between the two verses. The Christian's joy flows from the sympathy and grace of their Saviour. Jesus wept—we rejoice evermore
12. **\$5,000 In Bible** Some time ago an elderly man living in New Jersey made an unusual discovery as he leafed through an old family Bible. Many years earlier, his aunt had died and left it to him. Part of her will read: "To my beloved Steven Marsh I bequeath my family Bible and all it contains, along with the residue of my estate after my funeral expenses and just and lawful debts are paid." When everything had been settled the nephew got a few

hundred dollars plus the old volume mentioned in the will. After the money was used up, his only support was a small pension, and for more than 30 years he lived in poverty. Then one day he cleaned out his attic in preparation for a move to his son's home where he hoped to spend his old age. There in a trunk was the family Bible he had inherited. Opening it, he was amazed to find banknotes scattered throughout its pages. He counted over \$5000 in cash. Within his reach were riches he could have been enjoying all along

13. **The Bible Was Pawned** When 17-year-old W. P. L. Mackay left his humble Scottish home to attend college, his mother gave him a Bible in which she wrote his name, and a verse of Scripture. College was only the beginning of the lifestyle which saddened his godly mother. At one point he sank so low he pawned the Bible to get money for whiskey. His mother prayed for him until she died

Eventually, Mackay became a doctor in a city hospital. One day a dying patient asked for his "book." After the man died, Mackay was curious to know what book could be so precious, so he searched the hospital room. He was surprised to find the very Bible he had pawned years before. He went to his office and gazed again at the familiar writing, noticing many pages with underscored verses his mother had hoped he would read. After many hours in that office, Mackay knelt and prayed to God for mercy. W. P. Mackay, the physician, later became a minister. The Book he once treated so lightly became his most precious possession.

14. **Middle Verse Of Bible** This text is found in a Psalm which is signalized by the fact that it contains the middle verse of the Bible, namely, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man" (Ps. 118:9).

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