

Context also considers many other things, such as:

- Who is the author?
- Who was he writing to?
- What is his intended purpose?
- And much more.

- Get a Strong's Concordance. You can download them for free (along with free Bible software). You can also purchase the book relatively inexpensively. This book is an invaluable tool. Primarily, it will give you the power of defining the original Hebrew, Chaldean and Greek words used in the Bible.

Aside from context, looking up the definitions of the words used by the original authors is a tremendously powerful tool.

So often, a difficult or seemingly contradictory passage, is easily understood and the conflict resolved by looking up the definition.

- Understand the type of writing that you are reading. For example, if you are reading Proverbs and you are trying to understand the passages as promises, you will be frustrated. If you are reading a poetic book of the Bible and are viewing it as though it were a historic chronology again, you will encounter difficulties.

There are **MANY** other considerations when reading the Bible. However, these are some of the easiest and should resolve **most** frustrations in understanding your Bible.

In Conclusion...
Grab Your Bible!

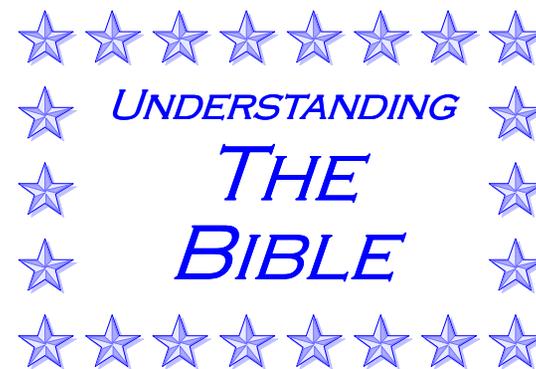
That's right... **get your Bible out!** Read it! Enjoy it! Learn from it! It is a **WONDERFUL** Book!

Come to your Bible in full confidence that **Jesus wants you to understand it** (even more than you do!) Pray and ask God for wisdom... He promises to give it to you (James 1:5). Don't **GIVE UP!** God rewards diligence (Heb. 11:6) and He fills those who are hungry and thirsty (Mat. 5:6).

It is time to embark on an incredible journey into the wonderful **Word of God!**

Write to us and request for more copies to share.

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*"Howbeit when he, the **Spirit of truth**, is come, **he will guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." (John 16:13)*

The Bible is unbelievably powerful! Searching to understand the Scriptures, can lead us to knowing Jesus more fully.

God can use His Word to set us free in Jesus. His Word reveals His love for us and His will for our lives.

Some of the Benefits of the Bible:

- We are **sanctified** via the Word. John 17:17 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."
- We are made **free** through the Bible. John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD

- We keep our **way pure** and clean by heeding God's Word. Psalms 119:9 "BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."
- We are **kept from sin** by hiding the Word in our hearts. Psalms 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
- We are **led** by the Bible. Psalms 119:105 "NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

These are just a **FEW** of the many great blessings that we can have in conjunction with a correct understanding of the Bible.

With so many wonderful promises about knowing God's Word, why is it that many of His people struggle to understand it?

Well, That's Your Interpretation!

Have you ever heard the above statement? Perhaps you have even said it.

The problem with this thought is that it essentially nullifies **ALL of the Bible!**

"But how?" You might ask.

This statement indicates that no one can really know the truth and relegates the **Holy Bible** to a matter of opinion.

You might not be aware of it, but this is in line with a modern theory known as "Postmodernism". This theory basically says that all claims to truth are valid and therefore, if absolute truth exists, no one can really know it.

God Doesn't Believe in Postmodernism!

*"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any **private interpretation.**"*
(2 Peter 1:20)

When it comes to the Bible... **no private interpretation is acceptable!**

Does this mean there won't be different opinions? Of course not! There have been since the Bible days and there will be until we are in the Presence of Jesus.

What it does mean, is that God's Word is **KNOW-ABLE!**

What can we do to help our understanding?

Since we currently remain in a fallen world and in corruptible bodies, we must be careful when studying the Scriptures. I am becom-

ing increasingly convinced that **MOST** (not all) of the Bible is **easy** to understand! Yes, I said "**EASY**".

God **WANTS** us to understand it!

Here are some simple tips, that should help in understanding the Scriptures.

- You **must be born again!** 1 Cor. 2:14, tells us that it is **impossible** for an unsaved person to understand spiritual truth!
- Decide **right now** that no matter what you think, **EVERY TIME** you disagree with the Bible, you are **ALWAYS WRONG!** (See 2 Tim. 3:16)
- If the Bible **CLEARLY** says one thing, **DO NOT** put any effort into making it say something different. This goes right along with the previous tip. So often, we come to the Bible with our own pre-conceived ideas, that when the Bible doesn't conform to our notions, we try and force the Bible to fit our thoughts.
- Read the **CONTEXT!** So many times, if a person would just read the rest of the sentence or paragraph, the confusion would be gone!