

How to Read the Bible

For Maximum Benefit



There Is No Book Like the Bible

- God wrote the Bible – crushing all other books.
- It is pure truth for every aspect of life and conduct.
- Every child of God needs His words to grow (Luke 4:4).
- The spiritual new man is fed by the spiritual words.
- Truth and wisdom for real success are only found in it.



There Are Benefits of Reading It

- The benefits are great and many without question.
- The Bible itself ... testimonies ... experience prove it.
- It makes average men great, and great men greater.
- You cannot survive and will not succeed without it.
- This study is concerned with how to read, not why.



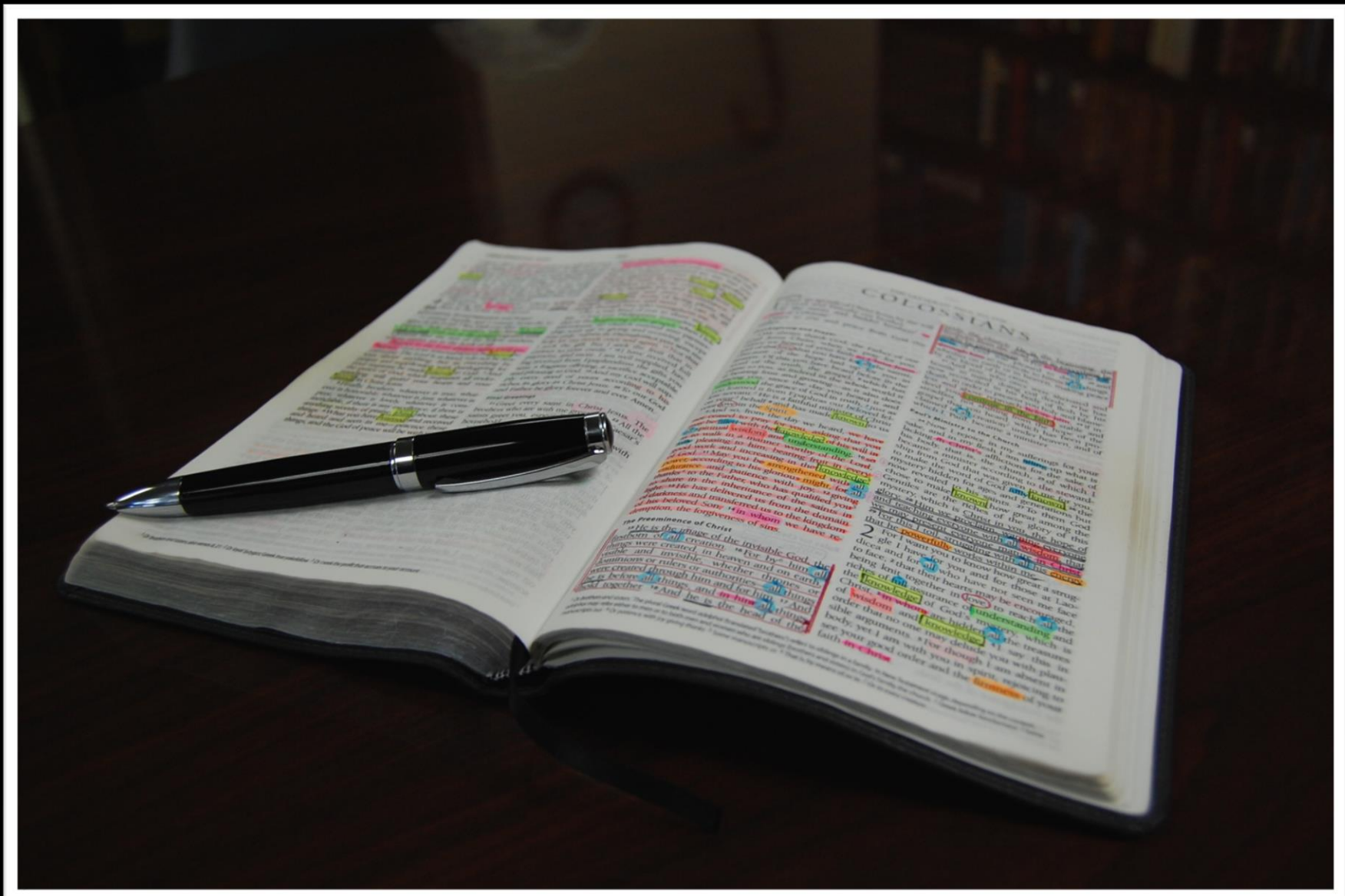
Attitude

- It is the flesh – God's enemy – that does not like it.
- The Bible is God's personal, helpful love letter to you.
- The Bible is a divine library of everything you need.
- Reading must be a habit, but it cannot be a burden.
- God exalted His word, so be excited and passionate.



Humility

- A large part of attitude is humility, which God loves.
- Remember how Solomon got God's great blessings.
- God hides truth from the proud and gives it to babes.
- Admit you are nothing and all your thoughts are vain.
- Beg for wisdom; confess ignorance; pledge obedience.



Prayer

- It is God's book – He can teach you or blind you.
- Wise men beg God for Him to open it (Ps 119:18; Pr 2:3).
- You need the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Ep 1:17).
- God has promised liberal wisdom for asking (Jas 1:5).
- You should pray before, during, and after reading.



Habit

- If you do not establish a habit, it will not happen.
- Morning is likely better – rested and not distracted.
- Alone is likely better – not near others who distract.
- It should be a lifelong habit for you and your family.
- Do not let the habit cancel the fact it is a meeting!



Inputs

- The Bible should be your most important input.
- Playing with other inputs will defeat Bible reading.
- Do not confuse yourself with godly and carnal inputs.
- God will know exactly how little you love His words.
- The world hates God's words along with your flesh.



Program

- The simplest is the one-chapter-a-day program.
- If too easy, read two a day – Bible twice in a year!
- Three a day and five on Sunday is the whole Bible.
- Some include a Psalm and/or Proverb each day.
- The *One-Year Bible* or *Daily Light* can lose context.



Intake

- Exegesis is finding or taking truth from the passage.
- Eisegesis is putting your own ideas into the passage.
- Let God speak to you, rather than you spin His word.
- Do not read our doctrine into a passage unless there.
- Seek God's wisdom, not to discover yourself (Pr 18:1-2).



Focus

- How you read is more important than how much.
- Read prayerfully, and alert, and for comprehension.
- Seek meaning and intent, not just words or sounds.
- Apply the lesson to you and how it affects your life.
- Consider the words and sentences as crucial truth.



Obey

- The Bible is God's word – do not play with Him.
- He wants obedience to what you learn (Jas 1:22-25).
- If you disobey, He will close the Bible to you (Jn 7:17).
- If you disobey, He will chasten you for presumption.
- Reading alone is damning ... just ask the Pharisees.



Helpful Questions (1)

- Who, whom, what, why, when, where for context.
- Two-steps: (1) it cannot mean ... (2) it must mean.
- What doctrine of truth is being taught here?
- Is Jesus Christ revealed in this passage?
- What example has been given for me to follow?



Helpful Questions (2)

- What sin has been identified for me to avoid?
- Is there a prayer in the passage I can pray?
- Is there a promise I can claim?
- What comfort should I derive?
- What duty should I perform?



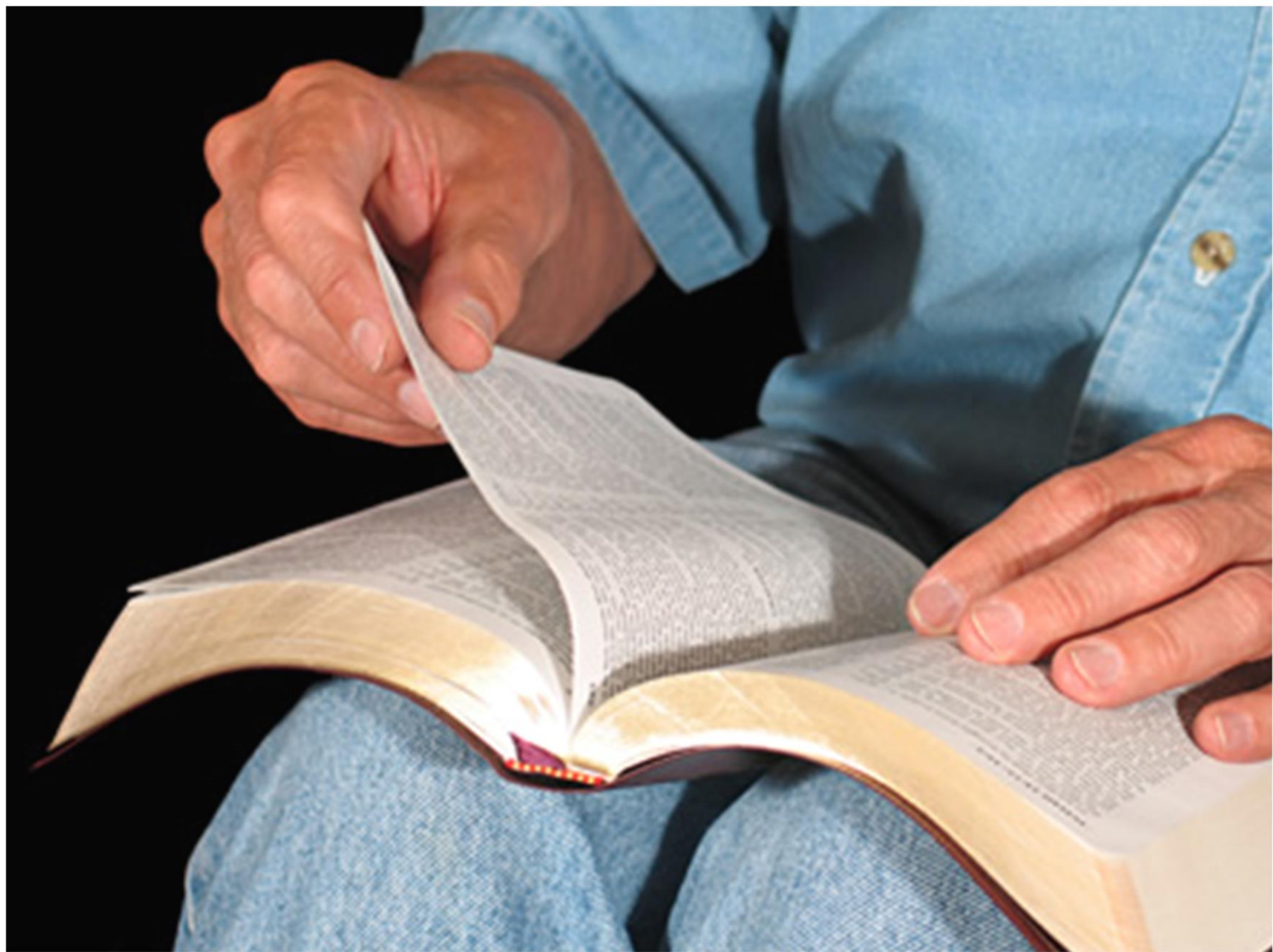
Take Away

- Take away at least one key idea from each reading.
- If you share or talk with others, it will stay longer.
- If you ask yourself later about it, it will stay longer.
- Thank God later in the day for giving you His word.
- Recall later the place and its position in the whole.



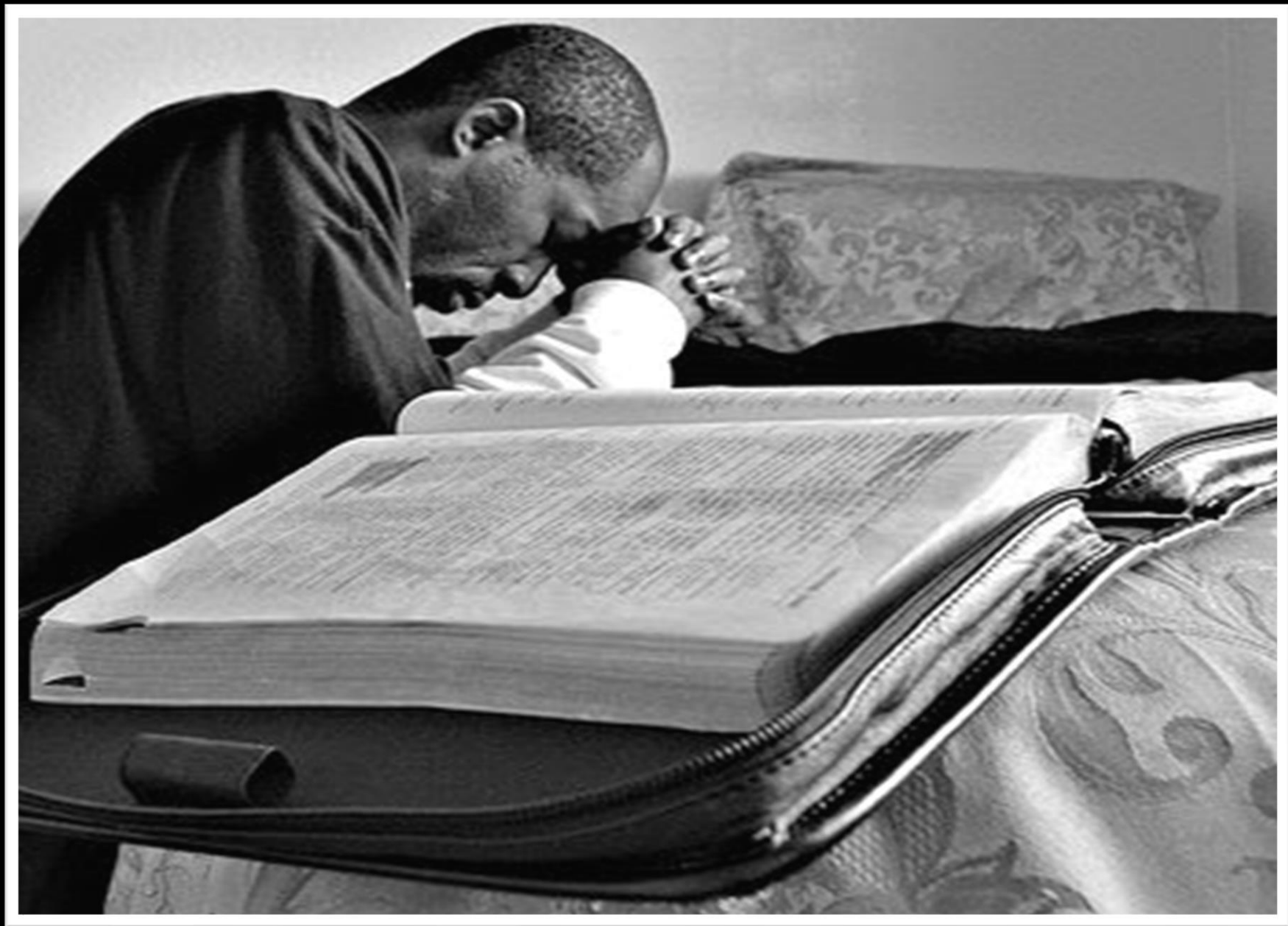
Technology

- Technology is ok, but a printed Bible might be better.
- Cell phones or iPads may not be conducive as Bible.
- Letting Scourby read while you drive may not cut it.
- But these devices can work at times for more Bible.
- Bible software or the Internet allow quick answers.



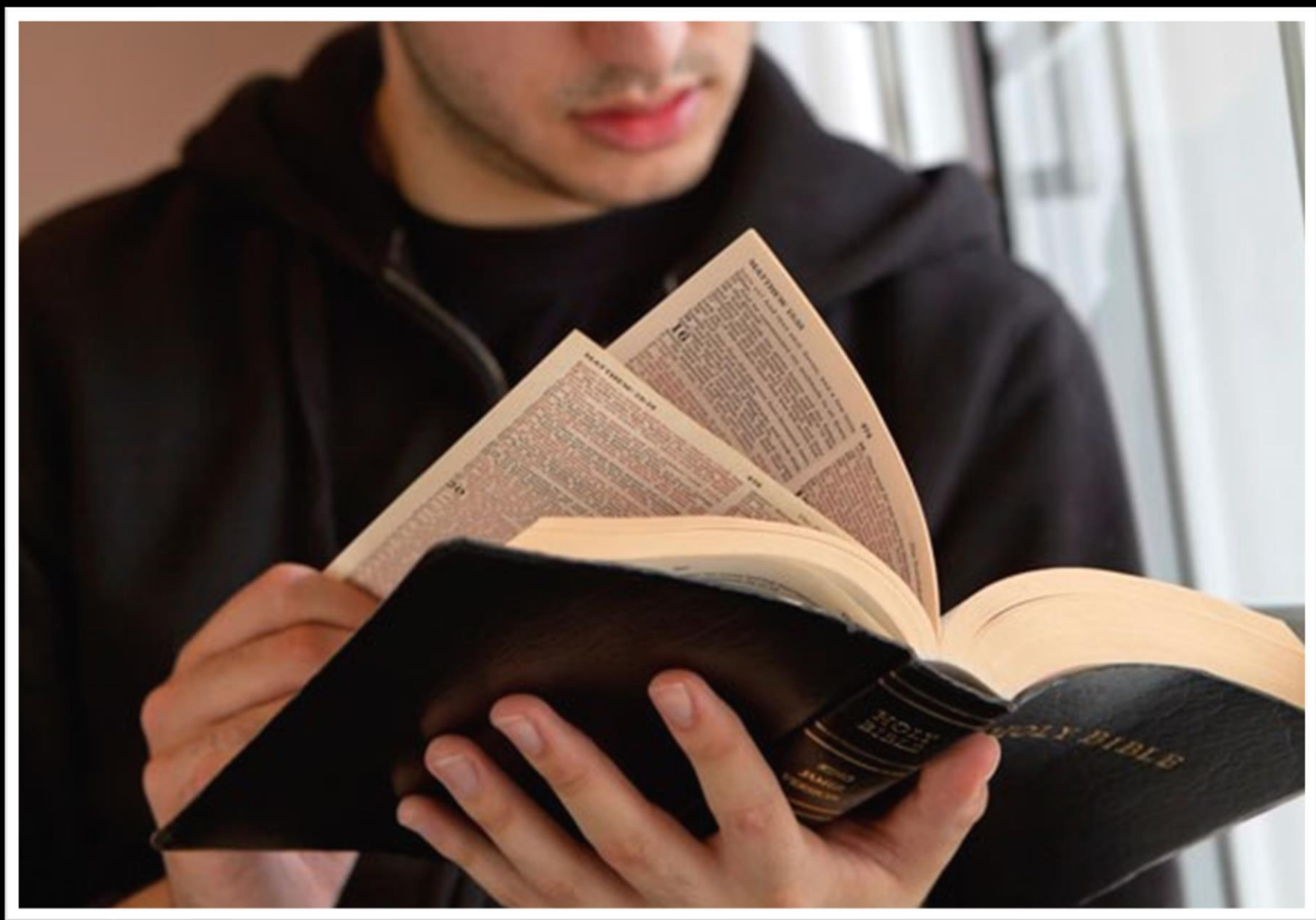
Meditation

- Meditative reading is key (Josh 1:7-8; Ps 1:1-3; 119:97-99).
- It is deep, slow, focused consideration of all angles.
- It is this process that feeds your spirit by the Spirit.
- Pray the passage or about the passage to God.
- If you have to read less to do this, that is fine.



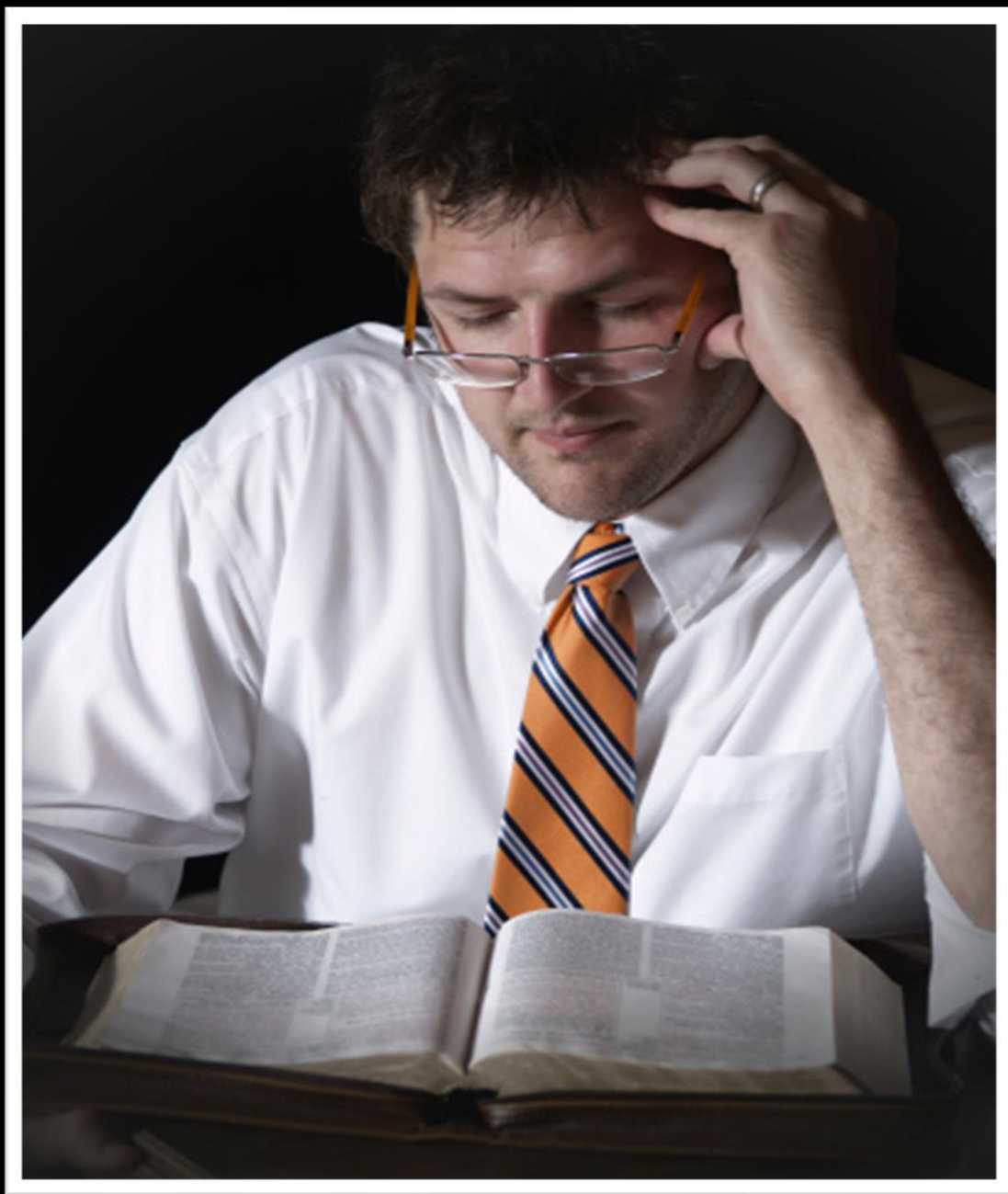
Memorization

- It hides God's words in your heart in a unique way.
- You can think about God's words away from Bible.
- It puts the words of truth in your mouth (Pr 22:17-21).
- It teaches the importance of every individual word.
- It is great material for "daydreaming" or sleeping.



Exhorting

- Encourage each other by texts and other means.
- Share your reading pleasure/profit to provoke others.
- Ask others if they have found anything good lately.
- Refer to a Bible verse in every conversation you can.
- Apply the Bible to every issue you discuss with saints.



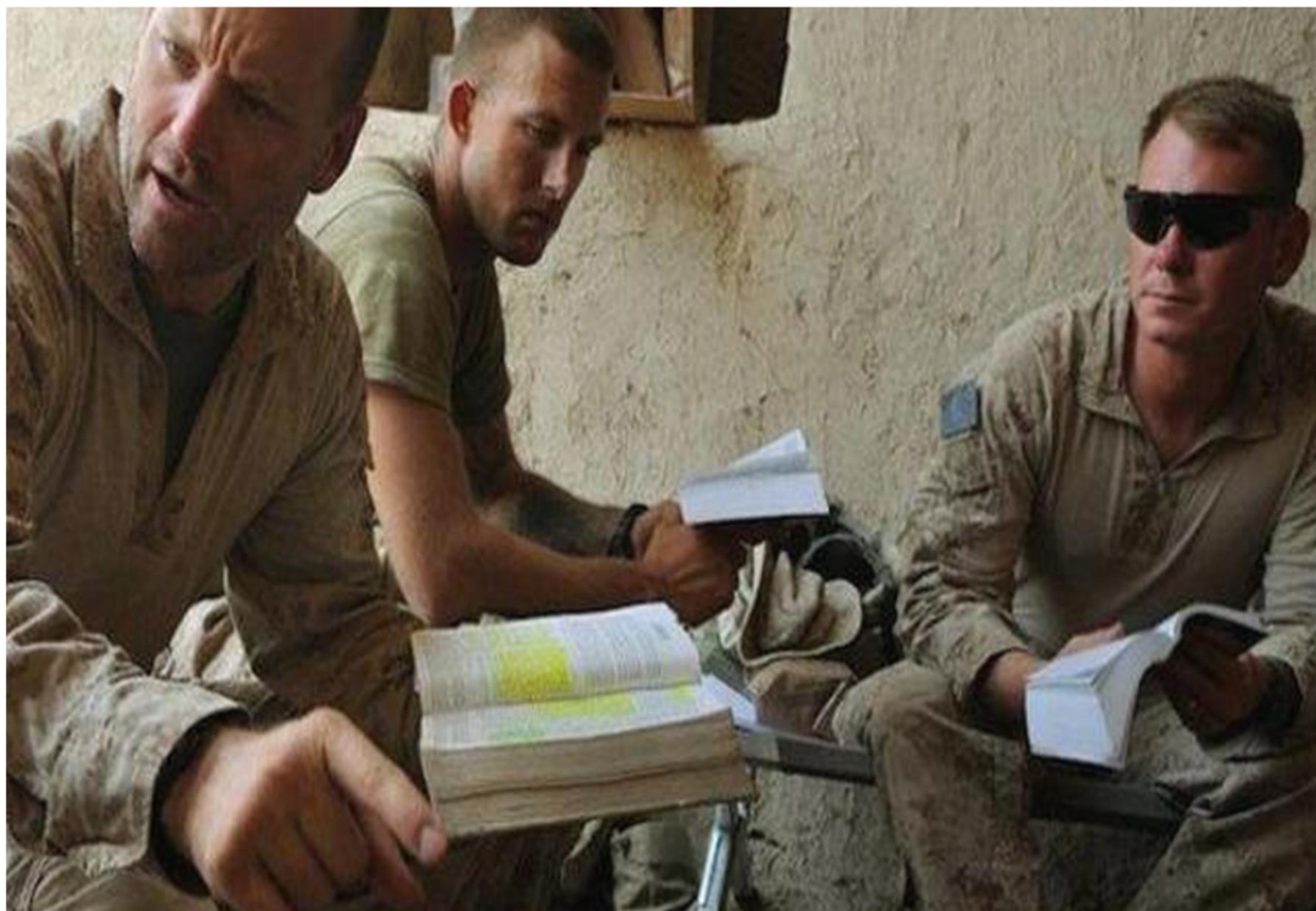
Time

- Do you complain you do not have time to read?
- Then you are too busy and need to adjust your life.
- You always make time for whatever you want to do.
- There are 168 hours a week ... 1440 minutes a day.
- Does God deserve 1% of a day, 15 mins? 2%? 3%?



Tools

- These slides are about reading the Bible, not study.
- Hermeneutics or advanced tools do not fit here.
- Basic tools are helpful and stop discouragement.
- Use Bible dictionary, handbook, concise commentary.
- Other basic tools are concordance, Naves, TSK, etc.



Technical

- Study Bibles confuse, mixing God's and man's words.
- Get answers from good commentaries or pastor.
- It is a spiritual book – prayer is more key than tools.
- Hermeneutics is different ... reading is to meet God.
- Remember spiritual qualifications over study rules.



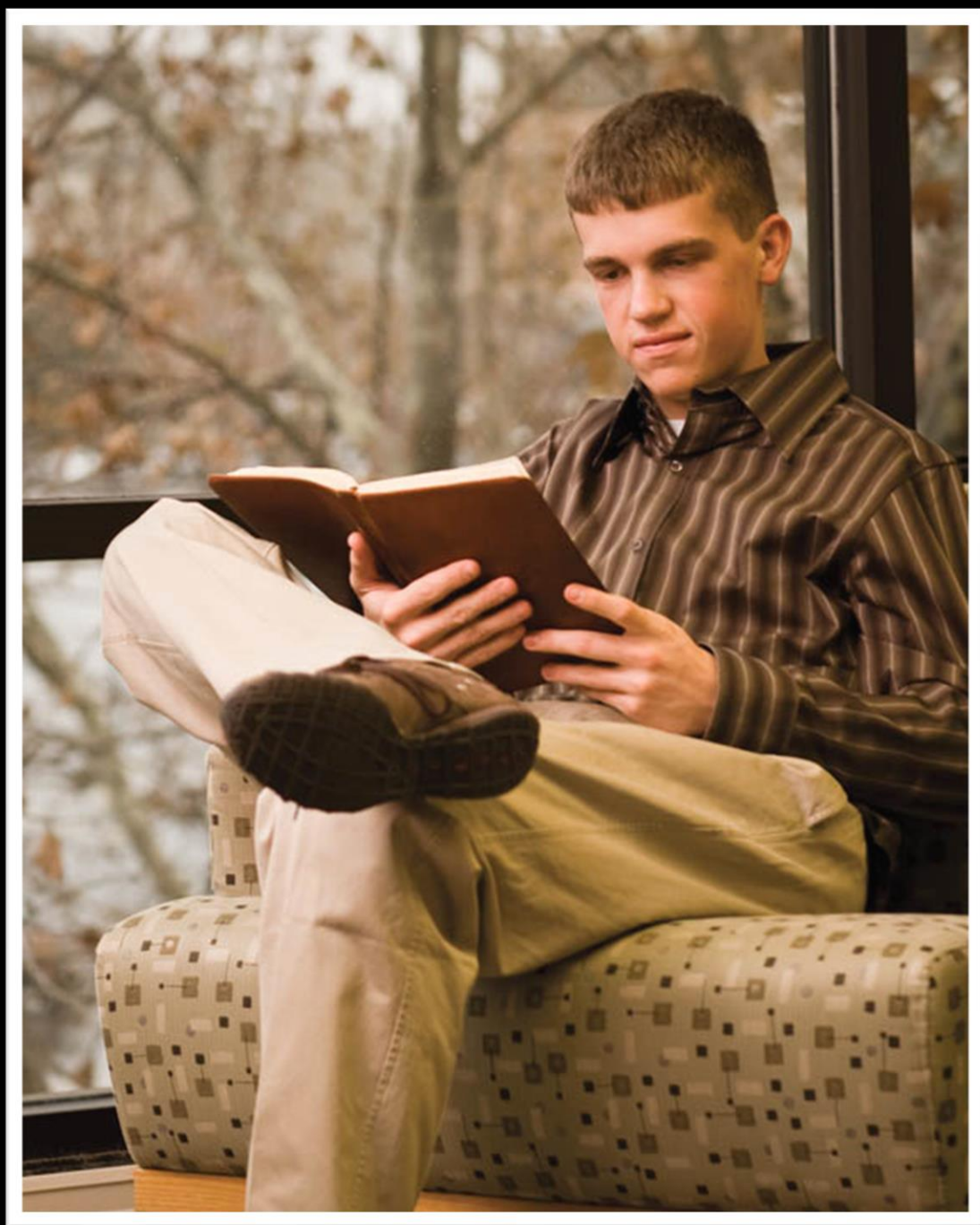
Other Ideas

- Underlining or highlighting can mark words or verses.
- Drawing lines or cross-references get you involved.
- A journal of your daily findings can be excellent.
- Margin notes can make your Bible like a journal.
- E-Bibles allow you to attach your notes to verses.



Conclusion

- Your life is racing away ... Bible reading slows it down.
- Psalm 19 and 119 will encourage you in God's words.
- Few men have had Bible privileges like you have.
- Children must see how you follow the *big black book*.
- Make 2015 your best year ever feeding on His words.



For Further Study

Not by Bread Alone ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/scripture/not-by-bread-alone/sermon.php>.

A Preaching Service ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/exposition/preaching-service/sermon.php>.

Bible Study Tools ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/bible-study-tools-word.pdf>.

Every Word of God ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/every-word-of-god.pdf>.

Why I Believe the Bible ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/why-i-believe-the-bible.pdf>.

Hidden Wisdom ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/mysteries-of-hidden-wisdom.pdf>.

Life Is Like a Maze ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/life-is-like-a-maze.pdf>.

Thus Saith the Lord ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/thus-saith-the-lord.pdf>.

A Bible Contradiction ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/ahaziah-contradiction.pdf>.

Do We Need Teachers ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/do-we-need-teachers.pdf>.

Noble Hearers ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/noble-hearers.pdf>.

Bible Entertainment ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/bible-entertainment.pdf>.

Back to the Bible ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/bring-it-back-to-the-bible.pdf>.

A Bible Christian ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/bible-christians.pdf>.

The Bible Cannot Profit ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/bible-cannot-profit.pdf>.

Knowing the Scriptures ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/scripture/knowning-the-scriptures.pdf>.

Various Reading Programs ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/reference/bible-reading-charts.php>.

www.LetGodBeTrue.com