

Practical Bible Doctrine

(formerly The Practical Bible Training Course)

*This is a self-study course
designed to help you discover
for yourself, from the Bible, some
important basic truths concerning
practical Bible doctrine.*

howto study the lesson

1. Try to find a quiet spot free from distractions and noise.
 2. Read each question carefully.
 3. Look up the Scripture reference given after each question. Make sure you have found the correct Scripture passage. For example, sometimes you will find yourself looking up JOHN 1:1 instead of I JOHN 1:1.
 4. Answer the question from the appropriate Bible passage. Write, in your own words, a phrase or sentence to answer the question. In questions that can be answered with a "yes" or "no" always give the reason for your answer ... "Yes, because.... "
 5. If possible, keep a dictionary handy in order to look up words you don't understand.
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6. Pray for God's help. You *need* God's help in order to understand what you study in the Bible. PSALM 119:18 would be an appropriate verse for you to take to God in prayer.

7. *Class teachers using this course for group study will find some helpful suggestions on page 79.*

how to take the self-check tests

Each lesson is concluded with a test designed to help you evaluate what you have learned.

1. Review the lesson carefully in the light of the self-check test questions.

2. If there are any questions in the self-check test you cannot answer, perhaps you have written into your lesson the wrong answer from your Bible. Go over your work carefully to make sure you have filled in the blanks correctly.

3. When you think you are ready to take the self-check test, do so without looking up the answers.

4. Check your answers to the self-check test carefully with the answer key given on page 80.

5. If you have any questions wrong, your answer key will tell you where to find the correct answers in your lesson. Go back and locate the right answers. Learn by your mistakes!

apply what you have learned to your own life

In this connection, read carefully JAMES 1:22-25. It is only as you apply your lessons to your own life that you will really grow in grace and increase in the knowledge of God.



Requisites of Bible Study

Old Testament

1. The Pentateuch—the fivefold “book of the law” (JOSHUA 1:8)

Name these first five books of the Bible. (1) _____

(2) _____ (3) _____ (4) _____

(5) _____

2. Historical books

From the books of the Old Testament listed on the opening pages of your Bible, write the names of the next twelve, and you will have the historical books.

(6) _____ (7) _____ (8) _____

(9) _____ (10) _____ (11) _____

(12) _____ (13) _____ (14) _____

(15) _____ (16) _____ (17) _____

3. Poetical books

These are the next five. (18) _____ (19) _____

(20) _____ (21) _____ (22) _____

4. Prophetical books

These are the last seventeen of the Old Testament.

(23) _____ (24) _____ (25) _____

(26) _____ (27) _____ (28) _____

(29) _____ (30) _____ (31) _____

(32) _____ (33) _____ (34) _____

(35) _____ (36) _____ (37) _____

(38) _____ (39) _____

5. How many books in the Old Testament? _____

New Testament

Note that, according to the following classification, these books are not always in consecutive order.

6. Historical

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

(4) _____ (5) _____

7. Doctrinal—Christian teaching

(6) _____ (9) _____ (19) _____

8. Church order

(7) _____ (8) _____ (15) _____

(17) _____

9. Church truth

(10) _____ (12) _____

10. Christian life

(11) _____ (13) _____ (18) _____

(20) _____ (21) _____ (23) _____

11. Course of this Church age

(14) _____ (16) _____ (22) _____

(24) _____ (25) _____ (26) _____

12. Prophetic

The last New Testament book foretells the climax of this Church age and the Kingdom age. (27) _____

You will note that there are thirty-nine Old Testament books, twenty-seven in the New Testament, sixty-six in all.

Rightly dividing the Word of Truth

In studying any portion of the Bible it is well to determine the

- Place—where written
- Person—by whom written
- People—to whom principally written
- Purpose—for which written
- Period—at which written

GENESIS 1:1–11:9—Jew and Gentile as a common race. All, as human beings, have a common descent from Adam (ACTS 17:26). GENESIS 11:10–MALACHI 4:6—Israel primarily; the Church veiled (EPHESIANS 3:9, 10); Gentiles mentioned.

The four Gospels—Jews primarily; Church mentioned as about to appear (MATTHEW 28:19, 20).

ACTS 1:1—REVELATION 4:1—Jews temporarily set aside; Gentiles and Jews as individuals, especially Gentiles, become object of God's special favor.

REVELATION 4:1—19:21—Gentiles; Jews regathered; apostate Christendom.

Conditions of fruitful study

The necessity for spiritual sight

13. What class of persons cannot expect to understand Bible truth?

I CORINTHIANS 2:14 _____

One may have the most complete natural faculties of mind, but without the illumination of the Holy Spirit, he cannot perceive spiritual things.

14. How only can we know spiritual things?

I CORINTHIANS 2:9-12 _____

This accounts for foolish statements about Biblical matters from so-called scholarly men who are not regenerated.

15. What should the believer's prayer be as he approaches God's Word?

PSALM 119:18 _____

The Holy Spirit—the true Teacher

16. Who can best teach Bible truth?

PSALM 119:33, 34 _____

The Author knows more about the meaning of His Book than does anyone else. The Bible will never be a dry Book to one who knows its Author.

17. Need any believer depend upon human instruction?

I JOHN 2:27 _____

This does not mean that one can understand everything at once. Leave your difficulties with God until He is pleased to give you better light. “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us” (DEUTERONOMY 29:29).

The Bible—its own interpreter

Spurgeon once said: “The Bible sometimes throws much light upon the commentaries.”

18. The Bible is its own best interpreter. Why is the Bible light on Bible difficulties best?

I CORINTHIANS 2:13 _____

Use the marginal references in your Bible. Use your concordance. Use a topical textbook. These are real Bible tools.

check-up time No. 1

You have just studied some important truths about the requisites of Bible study. Review your study by rereading the questions and your written answers. If you wish, you may use the self-check test as an aid in reviewing your lesson. If you aren't sure of an answer, reread the Scripture portion given to see if you can find the answer. Then take this test to see how well you understand important truths you have studied.

In the right-hand margin write "True" or "False" after each of the following statements.

1. The student of the Bible needs the Holy Spirit to illumine the Word of God. _____
2. There are no prophetic books in the New Testament. _____
3. The book of Job is a historical book. _____
4. The natural man can expect to understand Bible truth. _____
5. There are thirty-nine books in the Old Testament. _____
6. The prophetic books of the Old Testament are found at the end of the Old Testament. _____
7. The Bible is its own best interpreter. _____
8. The book of Acts is a prophetic book. _____
9. The first five books in the Bible are called the "books of the law." _____
10. The total number of historical books in the New Testament is four. _____

Turn to page 80 and check your answers.