

## RCCM 101 Part 6

### HOW TO GET A "GRASP" ON YOUR BIBLE

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone." 2 Tim 3:16-17 (LB)

## TWO WAYS TO GET A "GRASP" ON YOUR BIBLE

### I. HOW TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

"Faith comes from **hearing** the Word of God." Rom. 10:17

#### Ways to Hear God's Word

1. The Bible on tape
2. Church services & studies
3. Sermon tapes
4. Radio/TV teachers

**PROBLEM:** We forget **95%** of what we hear after 72 hours.

#### HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR HEARING

##### 1. Be ready and ....**EAGER**.... to hear God.

(Jesus) "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Luke 8:8

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psalm 119:103

##### 2. Deal with attitudes that prevent hearing God

(Luke 8:4-15)

"Consider carefully how you listen ..." Luke 8:18

- **A Closed Mind:** Is fear, pride or bitterness preventing me from hearing God?
- **A Superficial Mind:** Am I really serious about wanting to hear God speak?
- **A Preoccupied Mind:** Am I too busy and concerned with other things to concentrate on what God has to say?

##### 3. Confess any sin in your life.

"... **Get rid of all moral filth and humbly accept the Word...**"  
James 1:21

##### 4. Take **NOTES** on what you hear.

"We must pay more **careful attention** to what we've heard, so that we do not drift away!" Heb. 2:1

### Keep a Spiritual Notebook

#### 5. ACT on what you hear!

"Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says!**" James 1:22

"Whoever ... does not simply listen and then forget, **but puts it into practice** - that person will be blessed in what he does."  
James 1:25 (GN)

## II. HOW TO READ GOD'S WORD

"Happy is the one who **reads** this book ... and obeys what is written in it!" Rev. 1:3 (GN)

How often should I read God's Word? **DAILY**

"(The Scriptures) shall be his constant companion. **He must read from it everyday of his life** so that he will learn to respect the Lord his God by obeying all of his commands." Deut. 17:19 (LB)

### SUGGESTIONS

Read it .....**systematically**.....

*Good option is to read the chronological Bible...*

Bible without notes. *Allows you to rely on the Holy Spirit first for revelation rather than commentaries. Just is a good way to exercise hearing as we read the scripture.*

Read it in different translations.

For reading: Good News, New American Standard, Living Bible, Phillips

*This helps get a feel for the flavor of the scripture...you will probably find one that fits your preferences*

Read it aloud quietly to yourself. *Sometimes hearing it really helps to get it to sink in...*

Underline or color code key verses.

*It is sometimes a fun thing to color code all the promises of God in His Word, or all the verses about stewardship, All the verses about his LOVE....etc*

Choose a reading plan and **stick with it.**

If I read approximately **15** minutes a day, I can read through the Bible once a year.

### III. Tips to properly interpreting God's Word

Here are a few helpful tips in interpreting God's Word properly, and can help you avoid error.

1. Every Bible passage on a given topic is the doctrine thereof.  
In other words, if you want a clear, Biblical understanding on any given subject, look up EVERY passage on that subject. Many have been led into error or into extremes, because they have failed to observe and practice this simple principle.
2. Use the clearest passage on a given subject to establish the basic pattern.  
If you set out to do a study on a given subject, begin at the clearest passage of scripture and not the obscure passages. Set the outline or pattern based on the clearest passage.  
Example: The end times: Begin with Matthew 24; it's the clearest passage on this subject, not Revelation or Daniel (these are obscure, not clear passages on the subject).
3. We have to consider the time period and culture that a particular passage was written.  
We must distinguish between a thought that was CULTURAL and one that is a TIMELESS PRINCIPLE.

#### EXAMPLES:

- Women must be silent in the churches. (cultural)
- Women must have long hair; men must not. (cultural)
- Children obey your parents; Husbands love your wives. (timeless principle)
- Tithing and giving (timeless principle)
- Praise and Worship (timeless principle)

(you can sort these out by following principle #1, considering ALL scriptures on the subject)

4. We need to distinguish between a commentary and a documentary.  
Commentary: teaches doctrine, etc. We can apply the teachings from this.  
Example: Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Proverbs.

Documentary: a historical account of the events; not necessarily intended for us to form doctrines.  
Examples: Esther, Acts.

5. Be careful making doctrinal declarations consisting only of man-made "coined terms".  
Sticking with Biblical terminology is the safest way to stay clear of extreme doctrines or even heresy. We should never judge someone as a heretic just because they do not embrace our "coined doctrinal terms". For example, the term 'Trinity' is not used in the Bible. If we find someone who says they do not believe in the trinity, we should not be alarmed, but if they say they do not believe in the Godhead, then that's a problem. And if a person says they question the doctrine of the "rapture", there is no need for alarm; but if they say they do not believe in the Second Coming of Christ, then that is a problem.

6. Remember, we do not understand it all now.

It has been said that much heresy has been generated by theologians bringing to a full conclusion, a Bible doctrine before it is fully revealed to us.

It's OK to say, "I don't know everything about that subject".

I Corinthians 13:12 ....*now we see through a glass darkly*.....

EXAMPLES:

-The unpardonable sin.

-The end times

-How old the earth is.

-The election of God

-Certain Kingdom truths