

## MAKING OUR BIBLE READING EFFECTIVE

Marc Gibson

Reading the Bible is a good habit whether it is done daily or on some other consistent schedule. Frankly, there is nothing better to read – the Bible is a book inspired by God with divine knowledge and wisdom for man. Reading the Bible will draw us closer to God and show us how to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

But we should not read just to read, or only to complete some reading schedule. There must be a greater purpose to our reading to learn the truths that will make us better people in the sight of God. What can make our Bible reading more effective to this end?

**KNOW WHAT YOU ARE READING.** I once tried to read an advanced engineering handbook. I could read most of the words, but I had no clue what was being said. Thankfully, the Bible is written on a level most everyone can understand. But we need to know what we are reading:

- ◆ Is it in the Old Testament or New Testament?
- ◆ Is it a story about people or nations?
- ◆ Is it a letter written to people or churches?
- ◆ Is it written as poetry, proverbs, or prophecy?

**ASK QUESTIONS THAT HELP LEARNING.** After reading, ask some questions that will help you get the point of what you just read:

- ◆ Who is speaking or writing?
- ◆ What is being spoken or written about?
- ◆ How does this fit into the Bible's big picture?
- ◆ How can I apply to my life what I just learned?
- ◆ How can it make me better?
- ◆ How would I explain to someone what I've just read?

**PRAY FOR UNDERSTANDING.** Praying for understanding will help prepare our heart and mind to encounter God and His will. Pray that God will open your heart to know His word. Our goal is not to read just for the sake of reading but to learn and grow spiritually. Let's make our Bible reading effective!