

A QUESTION, A VERY LONG ANSWER, AND A WARNING

THE QUESTION

Romans 9:1-7 Romans 10:1-3 Romans 11:1-6, 11-12, 25-30

- ✓ Has God rejected his **CHOSEN PEOPLE**?

THE VERY LONG ANSWER

Romans 9-11 Genesis 3 & Genesis 12:1-3 Genesis 21:12 Genesis 25:23 Hosea & Isaiah

THE WARNING

Romans 11:13-22

SOMETHING TO TAKE HOME HOW TO READ & STUDY THE BIBLE Especially the Confusing Parts

- (1) Start with the **FOREST**, not the **TREES**
Philippians 4:14-19 Philippians 4:11-13 Romans 8:28
Romans 9:13 & Matthew 6:24
- (2) Focus on the **CLEAR**, not the **OBSCURE**
1 Corinthians 8:1 John 14:15 Proverbs 4:18-19
- (3) Get your answers **FROM** the Bible
But don't read your answers **INTO** the Bible
- (4) Our Goal is to **UNDERSTAND** God,
not to **CRITIQUE** God
Isaiah 55:8-9 2 Timothy 3:16 Romans 9:19-21 Romans 11:33-36
- (5) Our unity is in **JESUS**, not our **THEOLOGY**
Ephesians 4:13 1 Corinthians 11:17-19 John 17:21-23

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 7, 2017

This weekend Larry talked about Romans 9-11 and how to read and study the Bible. This week's homework focuses on the benefits of reading and studying the Bible and how we can better understand what it says.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Which of the following ways of accessing the Bible have you tried? (check all that apply to you)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading a daily devotional book (like Daily Bread) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible study course (i.e. Beth Moore, Bible Study Fellowship) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Growth Group homework | <input type="checkbox"/> Inductive Bible study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listening to the Bible | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading a One Year Bible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading passages picked at random | <input type="checkbox"/> Scripture memorization |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What was your experience with those you've tried? Which one has been the most helpful for you?

2. Looking back on the five principles Larry mentioned when it comes to reading and studying the Bible, which of those stood out to you the most?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119 which was written by King David. Almost all of the 176 verses talk about the important role God's word plays in how we grow in our faith. What do you see in the following verses from Psalm 119 that could help motivate you to spend more time interacting with God's word?

Psalm 119:9-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹ How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart;

do not let me stray from your commands.

¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 119:98-100 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹⁸ Your commands are always with me

and make me wiser than my enemies.

⁹⁹ I have more insight than all my teachers,

for I meditate on your statutes.

¹⁰⁰ I have more understanding than the elders,

for I obey your precepts.

Psalm 119:105 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp for my feet,

a light on my path.

Psalm 119:165 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁶⁵ Great peace have those who love your law,
and nothing can make them stumble.

Which of these benefits of interacting with and obeying the Bible is most motivational to you?

Can you think of any challenges people face when it comes to spending time reading or listening to the Bible?

2. One of the biggest mistakes people make when reading the Bible is taking a verse out of context. Reading a verse in context means first of all reading the verses that surround it to see how they impact the meaning of the verse. For the verses below, read each one and jot down what possible misinterpretations could be made. Next read the fuller context and then write down how that impacts your understanding of the verse.

| Promise | Possible Misinterpretation | Fuller Context |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <p>Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.</p> | | <p>Jeremiah 29:10-14 (NIV) ¹⁰This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹²Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."</p> |
| <p>Matthew 18:19-20 (NIV) ¹⁹"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."</p> | | <p>Matthew 18:15-18 (NIV) <i>Dealing With Sin in the Church</i> ¹⁵"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.</p> |
| <p>Romans 13:8 (NIV) <i>Love Fulfills the Law</i> ⁸Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.</p> | | <p>Romans 13:6-7 (NIV) ⁶This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.</p> |

Another way to read a verse in context is to compare it with what other passages say on the same topic. How could Galatians 6:1-5 help us to better understand the teaching of Matthew 18:15-20?

Galatians 6:1-5 *New International Version (NIV)*

Doing Good to All

6 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ⁵ for each one should carry their own load.

Matthew 18:15-20 *New International Version (NIV)*

Dealing With Sin in the Church

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

3. Most of us are never going to become biblical scholars, but with some practice we can become better at understanding what the Bible says. So let's practice. Read Ephesians 4:29-32 and then answer the following five questions.

Ephesians 4:29-32 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

1. What is this passage about?
2. What don't you understand or do you have questions about?
3. What does this passage tell us about people and how to treat them?
4. How could this passage change how we live?
5. What principle or word from this passage would you like to continue to think about?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back on this week's teaching and homework, what's most important for you to remember?

RESOURCES

Here are some websites and tools to help you grow in your desire and ability to study the Bible:

- **Wayne Cordeiro** – SOAP www.soapstudy.com/
Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer

- “**How to Study the Bible like a Seminary Professor**” – four-week free online course from Dallas Seminary courses.dts.edu
- **Seven Minutes with God** -- www.navigators.org
- **Online Bible and Bible study tools:**
Biblegateway.com, Blueletterbible.org, Biblehub.com
- **Phone Apps:**
YouVersion Bible, NIV Bible by Tecarta, Inc., Bible – Daily Reading & Study Bible by Olive Tree, First Five by Proverbs 31 Ministry

WEEKEND OF SERVICE STORIES: Have a story from Weekend of Service or pictures you want to send? Share it with us by emailing photos@northcoastchurch.com or calling the church office and leaving a voicemail at (760) 724-7074 x129.



If you enjoyed Weekend of Service and are looking for the next project, we have you covered. **Make and Serve Dinner for Homeless Men, Women & Children.** There is nothing better than a hot meal for someone less fortunate. Grab your Growth Group or family and sign up to serve. Dinners needed on Wednesday & Thursday nights in Vista and Oceanside. Go to NorthCoastCommunityService.org and search “meals” to sign up.