

Through The Bible in Seven Sundays

**The Four Keys to Bible
Understanding**

Key Number One: *The Student*

- What tools are required for Bible Study?
 - Concordance
 - Greek/English Dictionary
 - Commentaries
 - Clergy/those with a special “calling” of God
- Others might say that no one could really understand the Bible, so why even bother. After all, look at all the denominations and Christians sects who all say they believe the Bible.
- God required only ONE tool to understand His Word: ***His Spirit.***
 - I Corinthians 2:9-14 (1213)—so we need to be confident we have God’s Spirit. How does one receive God’s Spirit? How can I be sure that I have Him as my *personal* teacher?

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- Ephesians 1:13-14
 - First you must **hear** the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.
 - Then you must personally **believe** that truth.
 - That is when you receive the Holy Spirit as the **Seal** of God, and as the **Earnest** of your heavenly inheritance.
- What is the gospel of your salvation that much be heard and believed?
- I Corinthians 15:3-4—Christ **died for our sins** and was **buried** and **rose again**.
- Why did Christ die for our sins?
 - Romans 6:23, 5:8, 4:25

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- So, what is God's first requirement for understanding His Word?
 - Acknowledge that you are a sinner, and cannot save yourself.
 - Realize that payment must be made for your sins and that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for your sins with his blood on the cross.
 - Rely exclusively on the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ as full and total payment for your sins and as your only hope for eternal life.
- Once you have done this, God give you His Spirit to indwell you and to help you to understand His Word.

Key Number One: *The Scripture*

- We need to be confident that we *have in our hands* the Book that the Spirit of God authored for our study.
- **Inspiration**—the words are inspired, not the writers.
 - II Timothy 3:16
 - II Peter 1:21
 - Matthew 4:4
- **Preservation**—it is not enough that God wrote His words in a book, He has also preserved them through history so all ages can have them.
 - Psalm 12:6-7; 119:89, 111, 160
 - Isaiah 30:8

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- **Identification**—II Corinthians 2:17 warns that there are “*many which corrupt the Word of God.*”
- How are we to know which Bible version is the one God has preserved? Examine the evidence.
 - Mark 1:2—who really wrote this?
 - II Samuel 21:19—who really killed Goliath?
 - Matthew 5:22 and Mark 3:5—did Jesus violate His own command?
 - Luke 2:33—who is Jesus’ “father?”
 - Matthew 17:21; Mark 9:44, 46, 48; Acts 8:37—are these verses really there?
 - Ephesians 3:9—were all things created by Jesus Christ?
 - Revelation 1:11—is Jesus “the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last?”

Key Number One: *The Scripture*

- The evidence is clear that when we hold a King James Bible in our hands we have the very word of God in our possession, in our own language!
- Why Does it Matter?
 - Nehemiah 9:5—God’s name is above all
 - Psalm 138:1-2—God has placed His Word above His name
 - I Thessalonians 2:13—the Word works when its is believed.

Key Number One: *The Study*

- **The Three Golden Questions:** When we read the Bible the first three things we should try to identify are:
 - ***Who*** is speaking?
 - Matthew 4:4
 - Genesis 3:4
 - Romans 11:13
 - ***To Whom*** are the words written or spoken—what group or people is being addressed?
 - II Chronicles 7:14
 - Ephesians 1:3
 - I Corinthians 10:31

Key Number One: *The Study*

- ***When*** were the words spoken or written?
 - Luke 9:6, 44-45 (cf. 18:31-34)
 - Matthew 10:5-7; 15:24
 - Romans 6:14
- **The Three Guiding Principles:** there are three common sense principles to remember:
- **The Literal Principle**—when the normal sense makes sense, seek no other sense.
 - Nehemiah 8:8
 - Luke 1:30-33
 - Matthew 16:18
 - John 1:29
 - Revelation 1:20

Key Number One: *The Study*

- **Comparative Principle**—the Scriptures are best interpreted by the Scripture themselves.
 - II Peter 1:20
 - I Corinthians 2:13
- **Dispensational Principle**—a Dispensation is a particular program that God administers or dispenses (administration).
 - II Timothy 2:15—divide truth from truth
 - Compare Genesis 1:29 with Genesis 9:3 with Leviticus 11:4-10 with I Timothy 4:4
 - Compare Acts 3:21 with Romans 16:25
- God himself never changes, but His dealings with man have changed—this is the issue in dispensational study.

Key Number One: *The Secret*

- The final key is the “*preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest. . .*”
- We will studying each of our lessons with this key in mind!