

“How to Enjoy Your Bible,” No. 1

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Source for “How to Enjoy Your Bible,” No. 1

- (1) R. A. **Torrey**, *How to Study the Bible for Greatest Profit: The Methods and Fundamental Conditions of the Bible Study That Yields the Largest Results* (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1896)

Key

- (a) **Green** indicates where a source author first appears, or where he/she reappears.
- (b) **Yellow** highlights most parallelisms.
- (c) **Tan** highlights parallelisms not occurring on the same row, or parallelisms separated by yellowed parallelisms.
- (d) An underlined word or words indicates where the source and the Sadlers pointedly differ from one another.

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HOW TO ENJOY YOUR BIBLE. No. 1.

BY W. S. SADLER.

1.1 SOME people casually read their Bibles, while others really engage in the study of the Scriptures, and there is yet a third who, while they both read and study, actually *enjoy* the Word of God. The enjoyment of Bible study largely depends upon the methods pursued, and upon the mental and spiritual condition of the student. To the highest enjoyment of the study of the Word of God, there are a number of prerequisites.

II, I: FUNDAMENTAL CONDITIONS
OF THE MOST PROFITABLE BIBLE
STUDY. (Torrey 95)

7. The seventh condition of studying
the Bible to the greatest profit is,

that we *study it as the word of God* (T
108).

[(1) We should read and study the Bible *as a personal message from God to ourselves* (James C. Quinn, M.A., D.D., *The Progressive Development of Truth in the Old Testament* (1895), p. 26; *et al.*)

1.2 First,

the Bible must be read and studied as the
will and *Word of the living God,*

the Creator of all things, the Father of our
Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

1.3 Second, the Bible must be
regarded *as a personal message from God*
to your soul.

1.4 Third, the mind of the student
must be fully in harmony with the Holy
Spirit of God, who inspired the Scrip-
tures. One can not enjoy the study of the
Word of God if the will and mind are at
variance with the laws of God, or when
the practises are antagonistic to the
known will of God.

1.5 Fourth, the highest pleasure in the study of the Word comes to the soul having a conscience void of offense toward God and toward man, and therefore always able to peruse the Scriptures with pleasure and joy, and not with sorrow and condemnation because of the constant meeting of precepts and truths which are being trampled underfoot, and divine laws which are knowingly being violated.

1.6 Fifth, if one would really and truly enjoy a study of the Bible, he must walk in the light, day by day, as it shines across his pathway.

1.7 Sixth, the Bible is a missionary Book.¹

The New Testament is the life of the greatest Missionary the world ever saw, and so the acting, growing missionary—the one who works for his fellow-men—is able to delight his soul in the Bible as others can not.

8. The eighth and last condition of the most profitable Bible study is *Prayerfulness* (T 112).

1.8 Seventh, prayer is the companion of helpful and enjoyable Bible study.

The more the soul communes with God, the more will the mind delight in the study of the Word of God.

1.9 Having done our best to place the soul in right relationship with God, and to bring the mind in full harmony with the will and way of God, there yet remains one thing to be done, which may enhance the study of the Word of God.

SOURCE

“HOW TO ENJOY YOUR BIBLE”

That one thing is the method or methods by which Bible study may be carried on. There are a number of ways in which one may approach the Bible, with a view to acquiring knowledge and discovering truth.

1.10 While we eagerly search the Bible with but the one desire to know the will of God, and with perfect willingness to believe, receive, and obey every new truth discovered; to walk in the light of truth, as our Bible-study unfolds it to the mind, there are at the same time many different ways in which we can approach the sacred Book, which afford variety and pleasure to the mind engaged in its study. Some of these different methods will be discussed in the next article.

1. Earlier uses include:

The Bible, A Missionary Book, by Robert F. Horton, M.A, D.D. (1904)

“The Bible is a missionary book from first to last.”—Dr. E. E. Chivers, quoted in *Record of Christian Work*, Volume XXI, 1902, Edited by W. R. Moody, East Northfield, Mass.