DOES IT MATTER?

A study of self-reflection in

Light of God’s Word.

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

And see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:23-24

Does It Matter

This study is aimed towards anyone who wishes to establish, strengthen, or reestablish a relationship with God.

If you don’t already have a relationship with God and you are just starting out, then you are encouraged to read God’s Word, study it and take the steps necessary to have a right relationship with God. As a Christian, we encourage you to find a sound Church of Christ so that you may one day be a worker approved unto God.

If you are already a Christian who seeks to grow spiritually, then I hope this study will encourage you to dig deeper into God’s Word so that you may fully understand His Will for you in life. You are encouraged to truly examine yourself so that you may continue to grow spiritually. Ask yourself, these questions: Do I put forth the effort to share God’s Word with others? What roadblocks exists in my life, that prevents me from doing God’s Will? Do I study God’s Word on a consistent basis? How confident am I when I share God’s Word with others? Do I consider myself to be a workman approved unto God?

If you find yourself as one who once obeyed the Gospel but slid back into your former life, then I hope this study will help to re-focus you and encourage you to take the steps necessary to get into a right relationship with God. As a Christian, we should all desire to be workers approved unto God.

God’s Word is true and reliable regardless of the timeline and of the culture. It will properly guide us unto life if we obey what is written.

My hope is that throughout this study we will come to realize and appreciate the value of the God’s Word in our lives. God, through His servant Amos, spoke of a famine in Amos 8:11-14. This famine wasn’t one of bread or water instead it was a famine of hearing the Word of God. Imagine our lives without the Word of God.

I pray and hope that throughout this study, we can examine ourselves through God’s Word and make corrections as they are needed. It is my hope that one day, with all honesty we will live what it is written in Galatians 2:20:

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

**DOES IT MATTER:**

Lesson 1……….If I interpret the Bible my way?

Lesson 2……….If I know and obey God’s Will?

Lesson 3……….If I examine myself?

 Who do I see in the mirror?

Lesson 4……….If I fall back into sin?

Lesson 5……….If I grow and develop as a Christian?

Lesson 6……….If I spread the Gospel?

“Be diligent to present yourselves approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” 2nd Timothy 2:15

**Lesson 1**

Does it Matter: If I have my interpretation of the Bible?

There are many reasons why people come up with their interpretation of the Bible. Some of the reasons are as followed:

1. We don’t like what the Bible says, so we interpret it our way (we rebel against God’s Word). We should never try to make the Bible say more or less than what it says.
	1. What happens when we do those things that we shouldn’t do? Consider from the very beginning, that God has shown us that it does matter how we approach Him and that it does matter if we keep His Word.
	2. Some people say “The Bible didn’t say we couldn’t do it.”
2. Some don’t study the Word of God.
	1. Sometimes we become complacent and we don’t study the Word as we should.
	2. 2 Timothy 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
	3. **Question for thought**: **How much effort do we expend when studying God’s Word?**
		1. **In contrast, how much effort do we give to watching tv, surfing the internet, working, listening to music, playing games?**
		2. **Where do our priorities lie?**
	4. Sometimes we don’t understand the Word.
3. Some people have perceived thoughts and notions based upon other people viewpoints.
	1. Genetic Fallacy- an argument based on unsound reasoning. A **genetic fallacy** occurs when a claim is accepted as true or false based on the origin of the claim. So, instead of looking at the actual merits of the claim, it is judged based on its origin.
		1. Matthew 15:8-9
		2. **It does matter**, the fact is; the only source of authority we have today is God speaking through our Lord & Savior, Jesus.
			1. Hebrews 1:1-2;
			2. John 5:26-27; Matthew 28:18
			3. John 12:49
		3. We are to obey our Lord & Savior, Jesus and not the whims of man.
			1. Matthew 17: 1-5
			2. Consider the many denominations in the world today, where people have changed, added to and taken away from the Word of God.
	2. John 4:24; the only way to truly worship God is by obeying His Will.
4. Correctly interpreting God’s Word.
	1. What should we be aware of when studying God’s Word?
	2. Search God’s Word for practical application of the verses you are studying.

2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that the Scripture “*is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29870c)]instruction in righteousness,” **does it matter if I interpret the Bible my way? Yes, it does.**

**Questions for self-reflection:**

1. What is the only true source of all authority (1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)?

2. God’s authority is revealed through whom (Hebrews 1:1-2)?

3. Who is to be heard above all (Matthew 17:1-5)?

4. Do you think God’s Word was meant to be understood? Why?

5. What can we do to better understand God’s Word (2 Timothy 2:15; James 1:5)?

6. Is it important to obey God in all things, to include worship?

7. Provide verses that support Scriptural worship (singing, giving, partaking of the Lord’s Supper).

**8. Self-reflection--** Question for thought: How much effort do we expend when studying God’s Word?

**9. Self-reflection**—Referencing question 8, in contrast, how much effort do we give to watching tv, surfing the internet, working, listening to music, playing games? Where do our priorities lie?

**10. Self-reflection--**Do you have confidence in your ability to share God’s Word accurately?

**11. Self-reflection**—Does it matter if you have a different interpretation of God’s Word than others?