

Lighted Way Ministries

# Study Guide

Bible Study Tools & Methods That Really Work!...



*How to* **STUDY**  
*to find the* **TRUTH**

*“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing (correctly understanding) the Word of Truth,”*

*2 Timothy 2:15-16*



Once we come to realize that the Bible is *Yahweh's* trustworthy Word—the Source of ultimate Truth—the next order of business is to learn how to study it in order to successfully mine the rich gems of Truth which it contains. At first, this seems a daunting prospect. After all, there are now over 34,000 Christian denominations, all with their own doctrinal teachings, all of which supposedly came from “studying” the Bible. Recognizing this, one is almost minded to throw in the towel before even trying. If

the denominational leaders and theologians cannot agree, who can be assured of finding the Scriptural Truth on any given subject?

Actually, studying the Bible to find *Yahweh's* Truth isn't as difficult as such statistics make it seem. The “impossibility” of studying the Bible to find *Yahweh's* ultimate Truth is really a demonic smokescreen. It only appears to be impossible for regular people to effectively study the Scriptures, because most people fall into one, or more, of the six pitfalls of improper Bible study, listed in Lesson 1.

#### KEY POINT



*Yahweh* tells every believer to study (2 Timothy 2:15-16). In this command is a Promise. God Himself will help us to obey! And since studying to correctly understand the Word of Truth is God's Will for each Christian, we can seek and expect His Help!

In fact, properly studying the Bible to effectively find God's Truth is key to our spiritual growth in Messiah. It is only when we seek the Knowledge of the Truth in His Word that we are “weaned” from the milk and become mature in our own Christian development. But how do we actually go about

proper and effective Bible study?  
How can we search the Scriptures  
to find *Yahweh's* ultimate Truth, not  
doctrinal confusion? Let's break  
down this vital process into the  
Steps, given to us in Scripture Itself:

## 1<sup>st</sup> Step in Effective Bible Study: Pray

Effective Bible study always begins  
by praying for the Holy Spirit to  
guide us into all Truth. This is  
something *Yahweh* has Promised to  
do, if we ask Him.

*"Howbeit when He, the Spirit of  
Truth, is come, He will guide you  
into all Truth..."*

John 16:13

*"If any of you lack wisdom, let him  
ask of God, that giveth to all men  
liberally, and upbraideth not; and  
it shall be given him,"*

James 1:5

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Step in Effective Bible Study: Use the Best Bible

For Bible study, one must obviously  
have a Bible. But does it matter  
which version you use? Yes! It mat-  
ters a great deal. This is because  
Bibles all have a family tree, some  
of which are corrupted at the root.  
Considering this, one of the best  
ways to measure a Bible version's  
reliability is to carefully consider its  
origin.

**Proper Bible Study is like  
putting a puzzle together.**

**We only have the Truth  
when all the verses, on a  
subject, are collected and  
included in our doctrinal  
beliefs:**

*"...For precept must be  
upon precept... line upon  
line...here a little, and there  
a little,"*

Isaiah 28:9-10

**Effective Bible Study in-  
volves using Scripture to  
interpret Itself:**

*"...No prophecy of the  
Scripture is of any private  
interpretation..."*

2 Peter 1:20-21





There are three main sources in the Bible's "family tree", two of which are rooted in the traditions of men and even the doctrines of devils, as we will see in this study. Only one written source in the Scriptural "family tree" is reliable in that it does not come from human tradition. This source is the *Textus Receptus*.

When considering how reliable the *Textus Receptus* is as a Bible source, it is significant that this is the only Branch of the Bible "family tree" which was the object of persecution. During the time of the Inquisition, Christians were burned at the stake for possessing or preaching from a *Textus-Receptus*-sourced Bible. The Waldensees and Reformers used this Bible source,

The Council of Trent was held between 1545 and 1563 in Trento (Trent) and Bologna, northern Italy



# THE VULGATE

The only version of the Bible sanctioned by the church until the Reformation.

exclusively. This was because only *Textus Receptus* sourced Bibles did not support the papal power. For this reason, destroying it, or undermining its influence, was the only way for the papacy to counteract its empowering effects.

Besides the *Textus Receptus*, there are two additional points of origin for modern Bible versions. These other two sources in the Bible family tree are: the *Latin Vulgate* and the Alexandrian text. But Bibles from either of these two sources cannot be trusted for finding *Yahweh's* ultimate Truth. This is because both of these two other roots in the Bible “family tree” were created and promoted by biased, papal sources working to advance the beliefs of the “Mother Church” of Rome.

Many papal doctrines were without any Scriptural support as late as the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD. Reformers and Scriptural purists challenged the papal power to make doctrines that went against the Word of God. Naturally, this gave cause for concern among the papal leadership. The Pope took the matter in hand and intentionally changed the Bible to support papal teachings. In 382 AD, Pope Damasus I commissioned Jerome to revise the popular Latin translation of the Bible, which had been in use since at least

150 AD. Jerome's completed translation was called the *Latin Vulgate* and became the official Bible version of the Vatican, intentionally giving “Scriptural” foundation to papal dogmas, which previously had been unscriptural.

Once the *Latin Vulgate* was completed, the Papacy declared it to be

### KEY POINT



**Bible translations are not inspired - the original Scriptures were Inspired. Bibles which convey the original message most clearly and with the least amount of changes are from the *Textus Receptus* source.**

the only approved source for Scripture. All Scriptures from the *Textus Receptus* were called “heretical” as they differed on many key issues from the Papal doctrines. During the Inquisition, the papal power even went so far as to hunt down anyone who dared to interpret the Scripture differently than the Catholic Church. These “heretics” were considered criminals, punishable by death. This determination was made and proclaimed at the famous Council of Trent and reads as follows:

*The... holy Synod... ordains and declares, that the... Vulgate edition,*

*which... has been approved of in the Church, be, in public lectures, disputations, sermons and expositions, held as authentic; and that no one is to dare, or presume to reject it under any pretext whatever.*

*Furthermore, in order to restrain petulant spirits, It (The “holy Synod” of the Council of Trent) decrees, that no one, relying on his own skill, shall... presume to interpret the said sacred Scripture contrary to... holy mother Church... Contraveners shall be made known by their Ordinaries (leaders), and be punished with the penalties by law established.*

*The Council of Trent, The Fourth Session, The canons and decrees of the sacred and ecumenical Council of Trent, Trans. J. Waterworth (London: Dolman, 1848), 17-21.*

Patrick Scrivener, in his online article titled, *The Latin Vulgate of Jerome Unmasked at Last*, explains that the papal-bias from the *Latin Vulgate* corrupted Bibles in many languages:

*“The corrupt readings in the Latin Vulgate found their way into the English, French, Spanish, and Italian Versions.”*

[www.reformation.org/latin-vulgate-unmasked.html](http://www.reformation.org/latin-vulgate-unmasked.html)

What does Scrivener mean by

“corrupt readings”? The corruption came in the form of doctrinal changes. The following are some of the doctrinal changes from the original Scriptures made in the *Latin Vulgate*:

**1) The *Latin Vulgate* exalts Simon Peter to a Christ-like level, giving him titles and authority, which only belong to *Yahshua*, according to the original Scriptures.**

*Yahshua* called Simon Peter, “Cephas”, which is interpreted as “a stone.” But, in order to exalt Peter (as the first Pope) to a Christ-like level (and thereby give precedent for all future popes to enjoy such elevation), the *Latin Vulgate* changes Peter from “a stone” to “The Rock” upon which the Church is built. The Rock is a title of Messiah.

*“...[The Children of Israel] did all drink the same spiritual Drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ,”*

1 Corinthians 10:4

**2) The *Latin Vulgate* adds the teaching of the Mass and the Transubstantiation of the communion bread and wine, which weren’t present in the original Scriptures.**

## KEY POINT

**EFFECTIVE BIBLE STUDY REQUIRES USING THE PUREST BIBLES.** The best Bible Source is the *Textus Receptus*. Bible versions from this source include: the Geneva Bible, The King James Bible, The Scriptures, The Word of Yahweh version, etc.

The highlight of the mass is the “transubstantiation” of the communion emblems, where Catholic

Doctrine teaches that the bread and wine become the literal Body and Blood of Christ. The groundwork for this “miracle” is found in the *Latin Vulgate* version. In the “Lord’s Prayer”, *Yahshua* said: “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11). From this statement, the *Latin Vulgate* tells us to pray for our supersubstantial bread.

*“Give us this day our supersubstantial (Lat. supersubstantialem) bread.”*

*(Douay-Rheims Version)*

