

# Sermon Notes

by Pastor Jamie Tonge



## To know God - Reading the Bible and Applying its Truth.

So far: - Knowing God as He intended

**Talking and listening**

**Reading the Bible**

**Regular fellowship**

**Active worship**

**Prayer**

**Talking and listening to God**

### **The Bible**

There are more Bibles printed and sold than any other book in the world, over eight billion in 200 languages. Written over a period of 1,500 years by 40 separate authors.

The complete Bible we have today with the Old and New Testaments was compiled by the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

It has a constant theme -creation and redemption -from Genesis -Revelation.

It is hated, persecuted and feared by religions and political regimes alike the world over.

The Bible openly shares the secrets of life with anyone willing to read it.

### What do we do with it?

- **Keep it on the shelf**
- **Prop up the bed or table!**
- **Use it to justify our own belief**
- **Use it as a legal document**
- **Totally ignore it and treat it as irrelevant to the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

### What God Intended.

**Psalm 19:7-11** *The revelation of God is whole and pulls our lives together. The signposts of God are clear and point out the right road. The life maps of God are right, showing the way to joy. The directions of God are plain and easy on the eyes. God's reputation is twenty-four carat gold, with a life time guarantee. The decisions of God are accurate down to the nth degree. (The Message)*

**Psalm 119:105** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

**Ephesians 6:17** *God's word is an indispensable weapon. (The Message)*

**2Timothy 2:15** *a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handle's the word of truth.*

**Hebrews 4:12** *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

## God reveals who He is.

**His standard of holiness –OT law shows mans inability to live to His standard**

**His plan of salvation – Jesus is Gods standard**

**Guidance and direction**

**Instruction**

**Revelation**

**Conviction / judgment**

**Comfort and encouragement**

## How we can use the Bible?

**Reading book**

**Public reading**

**Preaching / teaching**

**Ministry / counselling**

**Prayer**

**Personal study**

**Group study**

Studying the Bible, there are many ways to study the Bible.

Book study, character study and themed study

We can do word studies and systematic study.

What version should I use?

For study we need a good translation KJV, NIV, RSV, NASV, etc; these also come as study versions.

To just read or get another angle on a passage then any of the contemporary versions are good to read such as The message, Living, Good News, youth Bibles such as ‘The Street Bible’ (*see **Matthew 11:25-30 in The Message***)

## **Some basic guide to study**

- **Put what you read into context for example**  
**Matthew 10:34-37** Jesus seems to be saying that God wants to split up families - this we know is not the case. What Jesus is saying is that when we follow him some of our family may not be too impressed!!!
- **Don't build a theology out of one text. Fundamentalism is fraught with danger!!!**
- **If you don't understand, ask someone who does.**
- **Pray before you read the Bible for the Holy Spirit to help you.**
- **Understanding the Bible is not just a mental exercise.**
- **There's always something new.**
- **Read a mixture of Old and New Testaments.**
- **Be careful of obscure texts.**
- **If you find yourself only ever studying Lamentations go and see your doctor!!!**
- **Learn to apply its truth.**

## What the Bible is not!

It is not a book of spells.

It is not a promise box.

It is a book full of Gods promises to all who put their trust in Him but it is not a lucky dip. There are times when we find God will bring a scripture verse to us to bring some guidance however there are always exceptions to every rule.

It is not a book of rules.

We find if we try to obey everything it says; we become bogged down, **Hebrews 11:6** we must combine it with faith. Remember it is the word of the living God.

## Example of study

### TO KNOW HIM

#### **Ephesians 1**

Knowing God – the greatest and most powerful influence upon our lives

**In Ephesians 1: 3-14** we are given 3 truths (1). what we are, (2). what we have and (3). what we know.

#### **(A).What we are**

- 1 **Blessed** with every spiritual blessing **v.3**
- 2 **Chosen** before the creation of the world **v.4**
- 3 **Adopted** as His sons through Jesus Christ **v.5**
- 4 **Sealed** by the Holy Spirit the deposit guaranteeing our inheritance. **V 13-14**

#### **(B).What we have**

- 1 **Grace** is freely given **v.6**
2. **Redemption** – forgiveness of sins **v 7**
- 3 **Wisdom & understanding** **v8**

#### **(C).What we Know**

He has made known to us the ultimate fulfilment of everything in Heaven and earth under the Lordship of Christ. **v.9 – 11**

We are blessed, chosen, adopted, sealed

We have grace, redemption, wisdom and understanding

We know God's ultimate plan for Heaven and Earth

In **verse 3** we find the word Blessed. This word is different from the word blessed found in **Matthew 5** which is the word “*makarios*” meaning happy, fortunate. The word we find here in Ephesians is the word “*eulogheo*” meaning ‘to speak well of’ we are spoken well of in heavenly places