

Firm In My Belief **2Timothy 1:8-14**

Bible Is Our Foundation

Understanding is necessary to steadfastness

Understanding will increase our faith

We can read and understand the Bible - **Ephesians 3:4–5; John 8:32**

Prepare For Understanding - Hebrews 5:11–14

Passion to know truth - **1Peter 2:2**

Willing to accept truth - **Luke 8:18**

Must believe in verbal, plenary, inspiration of Bible - **2Timothy 3:16**

Understand the origins of the Scriptures

66 books 39 old 27 new

different times different authors different readers different reasons

Each book is an individual document

Format of our bible is not original

The order & chapter/verse divisions came from men

What would you say if I handed you a NT that started with James? (NT Chronology chart)

Remove Preconceived Ideas - Matthew 22:29

Have an open mind - **Acts 17:11**

Be spiritually minded - **Colossians 1:9**

People of prayer - **James 1:5**

Be persistent. Must be people of courage - **Psalms 119:104**

Use Skill And Reason - Acts 24:25

Misapplication more likely if do not first determine who, when, what & why for a particular book.

Not written to us. God intends for us to use them to learn His will, but they were written to others

Noting the people, places & time involved will help our understanding

What style is being used?

Many problems with Revelation are failure to acknowledge is written in figurative language.

It is not written in the same style or for the same purpose as Acts.

We must consider the context

Many verses are used to prove points that their context does not even consider.

A constant danger in "verse by verse" Bible class studies! Especially when we start making comments on one word or phrase without taking into consideration the verses around them.

Noting topics and phrases, outlining books give us important pointers to the overall message in a particular book or passage. This can help us avoid using verses in a misleading way.

The goal of Bible study should always be to understand what the inspired author was saying to his original audience. Martin Pickup

We Need To Understand

We mustn't be found unlearned when comes to Bible - **Hosea 4:6**

One chapter per day, five days each week will get you through the New Testament in one year.

Reading four a day instead will take you through four times in that same year.

What about a 4X4 Study? - Read 4 chapters one day. Note people, places & time on day 2. Note topics, phrases & ideas - instructions, prohibitions, commands on day 3. Followed by outline and further notes - including connections to rest of book on day 4.

Over the course of 1 year you would have increased your knowledge and understanding of the New Testament much more than four-fold!

Bible study is the key to remaining faithful. - **2Timothy 3:14–17**