

MAPS: A Guide for Getting Intimacy with God

Psalm 19, ESV

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PSALM 19:1 – 6

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.”

PSALM 19:7 – 9

“The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.”

PSALM 19:10 – 11

“More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.”

WHY DO WE READ THE BIBLE?

The Word of God is perfect, trustworthy, right, and radiant.

The Word of God gives us life, makes us wise, brings us joy, and helps us see.

The Word of God is more valuable than money and more satisfying than food.

The Word of God guards us from danger and leads us to treasure.

PSALM 119:162

“I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.”

HOW DO WE READ THE BIBLE?

DANGEROUS APPROACHES TO READING THE BIBLE . . .

The emotional approach: What feels right to me?

The spiritual approach: What deep, hidden meaning is there for me?

The pragmatic approach: What works best for me?

The superficial approach: What does this mean to me?



A DEPENDABLE APPROACH TO READING THE BIBLE: MAPS

MEDITATE AND MEMORIZE.

JOSHUA 1:8

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

PSALM 1:1 – 3

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.”

Meditate: Read the Bible prayerfully, humbly, and reflectively.

What is happening in this passage?

What does this passage teach about who God is, who we are, who Jesus is, and how we follow Him?

Memorize: Key verses, passages, and chapters.

APPLY.

Head: How does this passage transform your thoughts?

Heart: How does this passage transform your desires?

Hands: How does this passage transform your actions?

PRAY.

Praise according to God’s Word.

Repent according to God’s Word.

Ask according to God’s Word.

Yield to God’s Word.



SHARE.

DEUTERONOMY 6:6 - 9

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

MATTHEW 28:19 - 20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Seriously consider writing down your reflections.

Intentionally look for opportunities to talk with others about your reflections.

