

# SEARCHING FOR TREASURE

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# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

What does it mean to *search* for something? Is it simply to *look*? Or to *casually investigate*? Or just to *read* something? How do you approach your Bible study? Are you *searching*?

Read Acts 17:11. How did the people of the church at Berea approach Bible Study?

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Read Proverbs 2:1-6 (it's on page 4). What is God's promise to us if we will search His Word for ourselves?

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As you can see, it is very important that we do not treat God's Word lightly – but that we study it and search for treasure in it. The *Search the Scripture* method of study helps become more complete in our study of a passage or book of the Bible.

1. The first thing we must do is to choose a passage to study. This passage needs to be something you are interested in...you will be spending some committed time there throughout this study.
2. Next we move to the *Point of the Passage*. Here we answer the question... *What does this passage say?* Be careful not to try and *interpret* what the passage means... simply *observe* what the passage is saying and write it down. The easiest way to do this is to read the passage a couple of times carefully. Then begin to write a summary of what the passage is saying in your own words. If you prefer, you can do this in outline form.
3. Now let's try something new. Let's begin to look at *Parallel Passages*. With this part we ask the question... *What does it say about this in other parts of the Bible?* Here we begin to compare the Bible with itself to gain more understanding of the passage we are studying. This will broaden our perspective on this passage. The way we do this is to read each verse carefully and meditate on it. Try to remember a passage you have read or a verse you have memorized that talks about this subject. God the Holy Spirit will bring these to your mind. If you cannot think of any, you can use some resources such as: cross reference notes in your study Bible, a concordance (either written or computer driven), or a commentary. If you do not have these resources (they can be purchased inexpensively at your local Christian book store), consider asking your pastor or youth pastor for help, or simply go to a local library. I realize that most

people would never consider doing this much research while studying the Bible...but remember it is worth it! When you find a cross reference, list the reference and the key thought as well as the verse of study to which you are paralleling it.

4. As you complete your study, questions will arise. You will find things that you do not understand. List these questions under the heading *Problems of the Passage*. If possible, try and research the answer to your question.
5. Last we look at the *Profit of the Passage*. When doing this, we ask the question *What does this passage say to me?* This is the part of our study where we will apply the scripture to our lives. **This is the most important part!** Each application that you develop should be drawn from one verse or a group of verses. Make sure that you write out what the verse(s) is saying to you, how it applies directly to your life, and what you will do about it.

I think you will really like the *Search the Scriptures* study! If you want to dig even deeper, you can perform the study on an entire book. To do this you must do a Book Preview and Summary. See Appendix A for information on this.

Now, let's look at an example of *Search the Scriptures* together.

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**PASSAGE TO BE STUDIED:** 2 Peter 3:1-18

## **POINT OF THE PASSAGE:**

We know from reading Scripture that Jesus is coming! We also learn that many people will doubt His return and scoff (vs. 3-7). But we are reminded that God is a God of promises and He keeps every one!

His return will be sudden and without advance warning. It will be a cataclysmic event. Everything will be destroyed by fire. (vs. 12)

Knowing that Jesus could return at any moment should cause us to live in a pure, righteous manner. We must guard against being carried away by those who would teach incorrect doctrine (vs. 17-18).

## **PARALLEL PASSAGES:**

<b>Verse</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Key Thought</b>
3	2 Timothy 3:1	The Last Days will be full of danger and destruction.
4	Isaiah 5:19	Prophecy of Christ's return.
7	2 Peter 2:9	Day of Judgment.
10	1 Thess. 5:2	Come like a thief.
14	Romans 12:18	Live at peace with God and others.

## **PROBLEMS OF THE PASSAGE:**

<b>Verse</b>	<b>Question</b>
3	Are these the Last Days? How do we know? Didn't they think that they were living in the Last Days?
4-5	How can I act as though Christ isn't returning?
10	How can the heavens "disappear"?
14	How could I ever live spotless or blameless?

## **PROFIT OF THE PASSAGE:**

As I read and fully understand that Jesus could come at any moment (like a thief), I must come to grips with the fact that I am not always living on ready. I know people scoff and say that He is not coming now...but He says He could. I must be prepared.

I thank God that I am ready to meet Him because of my salvation, but I must continue to allow Him to make me “blameless and spotless.” This is done through God’s Word (Psalm 119:9, 11). I will make a conscious effort to study God’s Word and allow it to change my heart!

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PASSAGE TO BE STUDIED: James 1:1-27

POINT OF THE PASSAGE:

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PARALLEL PASSAGES:

Verse	Reference	Key Thought
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_____	_____	_____
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PROBLEMS OF THE PASSAGE:

Verse	Question
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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