**What Now?**

What do guitar players, piano players, chess players, football players, math teachers, Greek teachers, professional cooks, all have in common? Before they became who they are in their professions playing their musical instruments and becoming teachers, and cooks they had to spend many hours and years learning their profession. As they each began their learning journey they were given tools along the way to gain more knowledge and continue learning on their selves. The tools helped them learn even more and what’s even greater than that they were able to apply those learning tools by themselves. You see once a person has been given ways to learn and the tools to continue to learn they will grow into areas where even their teachers may have never been before. It gives the student an opportunity to expand using their God given gifts.

If you’ve ever taken a college course on some major subject that requires a book or books for the course, that’s only step one.

You’re going to need “Tools”, …… let’s see what kind of tools a teacher uses. The professor will use a text book and other tools to do what?....... to teach you that subject. During this schooling you’ll be subject to testing. This is a tool the professor uses to gage the students learning. And also the professor is gaging himself on what he’s doing right or what he/she may need to improve on or change; perhaps explaining certain chapter(s) better. So the testing is a tool for both student and teacher.

Long before you ever got into college or any higher learning experience you were given tools along the way in order for you to learn even more. Reading is one of those tools and with it you have a chance to move onto the next level. With each passing year, you were given all the tools to become a contributing citizen in your community. When you look back over those years you can certainly see how the education system works and how you were able to grow and achieve. At least you were given the tools to be successful. Tools, learning to read, spelling, English Grammar, Math, Music, History, Geography, etc.,etc. all are tools used so a human being can be properly equipped to succeed in life.

One thing for me at least I can’t remember any class or teaching on how to study using these tools. Perhaps in today’s school they have a class on how to study but when I went to school there were no classes as such. So it makes no sense to me to have tools but you don’t know how to apply them. When we come to studying the Bible it may be even worse than that when it’s comes to one being equipped with the right tools and educated enough on how to use those tools. This is what I hope to accomplish with this course, to not only give you the tools but teach you how to use them by learning how to study with those tools.

Now with all of that in mind, let us take a look at how the Bible is taught to us. The Bible, the word of God, the most feared, misunderstood, misinterpreted, misquoted, most abused, book known to mankind ……….. that book has been at the center of wars, the bible holds the world record as being the most hated book and loved at the same time. It also holds the record for being burned by just about anyone including the Roman Catholic Church. It has been read by more human beings than any of book on earth, including the Koran. It is a book that has split churches sharper than ……. A razor, after all don’t we call it a two edged sword? **(Heb. 4:12**) This book has been debated by Christians, Christians against each other, and those who claim to be Christians. The Bible is a divisive book. Has caused fights inside and outside the Church. We can all agree it is a very explosive book. So why on earth do we place this mind-field in the hands of a new born Christian, no matter what age? … We do so without giving them the proper tools to learn it and apply it correctly to their lives. Yes it is the word of God but it’s not magical in the sense that many have made it seem that way. How many times have we heard from a Christian; “ the Holy Spirit teaches me”… those words are true but they come with………………………..that person applying themselves to diligent bible study. The last part of that statement is the one they (Christians) seem to have left out. The Holy Spirit has been misused in this way at epidemic proportions. How many people sitting in any local Church today can tell you what the Judgment Seat of Christ is? How many can tell you the names of the 66 books in the bible? I’m simply pointing this out because if you ever did a real test in your Church using those questions the results may be very disappointing. We have Pastors who couldn’t answer those questions so why should we expect the flock to know more than they know? This is a disaster to the point of total collapse of a spirit filled Church… and what are the results? Total moral decline of the world and our Nation. We can blame Congress, presidents, government for a great deal of our problems. But we put them all there…… Whereas a Biblically educated society when going to the voting booth would have never voted for 90% of the liars, and power grabbing demons we have in there now.

Pastors today are frustrated because they don’t understand why their Church members are not learning the Bible better. I wonder how many test these pastors have given to their members to see just how much they do know. I know for myself I have never been given any kind of a test or quiz in any church I’ve been in. You’ll hear Pastors complaining and frustrated but what are they doing about it? They aren’t equipping their members with the tools they need to have in order for them to study and learn the Bible. Let’s remember how we have all been taught in school, so why on earth should we treat the word of God so poorly when educating our members? Remember we give newly saved Christians a Bible,,, we place it in their hands and away they go… but wait that bible is a loaded gun with a hair trigger loaded with 45 caliber shells. We issue that sword of the word with no instructions, no teachings, and no tools on how to use it. And we have the nerve to get frustrated when we find 95% of all new Christians don’t know the bible? Hello….. Yes people come up with hundreds of excuses for not studying but the real reason … they don’t have the tools. What kind of tools has your Pastor given you to study the word of God? Now I ask you Preacher, Pastor, Bible teacher, whose fault is that? You hand them a loaded gun with no training at all, and the results are tearing this Nation apart. Yes, there are some very good Bible teachers and Pastors out there, this is not directed at you Brothers only to those who fit the description and you know who you are. The next question, now that we have identified the problem…… what are we, yes we, what are we going to do about it?

Well I’m glad you asked…. This is what this teaching is all about. How to equip our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ with the tools to read and study the bible for themselves and produce good fruit after their own kind. This is what God has commanded us to do and this is what we must do.

**Gen. 1:27, So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.**

 **28, And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.**

As a real living breathing Church have we subdued the earth?

Have we as a living breathing Church, have dominion over the earth?

As a living and breathing Church, have we been fruitful and multiplied after our kind all over the world?

The state of the world and our Country is all you need for your answer. We live today in the Church Age, under grace not under the law. God has given us all the tools we as a Church and the Body of Christ will ever need, that being the words of God found in the Authorized King James English Bible for God’s English speaking Church today. So with that in mind let’s get started learning the Bible with the right study tools and let’s see just how far we can go……..

Pro. 3:5-6 Amen and Amen J.R.J.