

## READ IT (1)

### A. A Birds-Eye View of Your Bible

- Your Bible is a compilation of 66 books that are divided into two sections
  - The Old Testament (39 books) is the story of God and His people before the coming of the Messiah - Jesus
  - The New Testament (27 books) - picks up the story beginning with the birth of Jesus
- **Your Bible is not compiled in chronological order but rather by the style of the books**
  - Old Testament
    - Books of the Law (5 books; Genesis to Deuteronomy)
    - Books of History (12 books; Joshua to Esther)
    - Books of Poetry (5 books; Job to Song of Solomon)
    - Books of the Prophets (17 books; Isaiah to Malachi)
  - New Testament
    - The Gospels (4 books; Matthew to John)
    - History of the Church (1 book; Acts)
    - Epistles (21 books; Romans to Jude)
    - Prophecy (1 book; Revelation)

### B. What Translation of the Bible Should I Use?

- If we don't understand it, we won't read it
- The Bible was originally written primarily in Hebrew and Greek
- One of the earliest translations to English is the King James Version (KJV) but because it is written in old English, it can be hard to understand
- There are many translations today, some of which focus on being more precise to the original language, while others focus on being more readable while still staying consistent to the original meaning
- My translation of choice is the New American Standard Bible (NASB)

### C. Eight Reasons to Read Your Bible

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 - It is inspired and sufficient**
- **2 Peter 1:16-21 - It is God's Word**
- **Joshua 1:8 - God commands us to know Scripture**
- **Romans 10:13-17 - It saves sinners and sanctifies believers**
- **Matthew 4 - It gives victory over Satan**
- **2 Timothy 4:6-8,13 - We need it for spiritual growth**
- **1 John 5:11-13 - It answers life's most important question**
- **John 20:31 - It is the ultimate proof of our faith**

### D. How to Use Your Bible (Psalm 119:11-16)

- **Memorize it (v11)**
- **Learn what it teaches (v12)**
- **Recite it out loud (v13)**
- **Obey it (v14)**
- **Constantly think about it (v15)**
- **Give it priority in your life (v16)**

### E. The Best Place to Start Reading Your Bible

- Because the Bible is not compiled chronologically, starting at the beginning is not the best recommendation for the beginner
- The Gospel of John is the 4<sup>th</sup> book of the New Testament and is John's eyewitness account of the life of Jesus
- **John's purpose in writing the Gospel of John** is to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have eternal life in His name (John 20:31)