

January 2nd-5th, 2023

7 SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF BIBLE STUDY

CAPITOL
ministries®

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PICTURE: Photo of 1864 2 cent
coin depicting the first use of the
motto "IN GOD WE TRUST".

This Bible study was written and
compiled by Rev. Matt Goodsell.

CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY • JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI



The habit of engaging regularly with a small group of fellow believers to study the Bible is indispensable to spiritual growth and maturity. It is an environment where a Bible teacher can expound Holy Scripture to both the new believer or seasoned follower of Jesus. I recall that Jesus appointed teachers for the body of Christ. *Ephesians 4:11-12* states, "**So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.**"

THE BODY OF CHRIST is the church of which Jesus Christ is the head. *Colossians 1:18a* reads, "**And he is the head of the body, the church.**" (See also *1 Cor. 12:27*). Capitol Ministries as a Christian organization is obviously still under the Headship of Christ even though it is not a church per se by strict definition. However, Capitol Ministries as a Christian faith-based ministry that works outside and across denominations to engage in evangelism, discipleship and pastoral care is uniquely positioned to be a missionary arm for the wider Body of Christ. Capitol Ministries strives to fulfill the Biblical mandate revealed in *1 Timothy 2:1-6* through a proven methodology that began in 1996 in California at the Sacramento State Capitol. That exemplary ministry was duplicated in many other states. In 2010, Ralph Drollinger (co-founder with his wife Danielle) established the first national ministry in Washington, D.C. where he began a weekly Bible study to U.S. Representatives. In 2015, a separate ministry was planted for U.S. Senators, and in 2017, a ministry was created to Members of President Donald Trump's White House Cabinet which, reportedly, is the first of its kind in more than 100 years. CapMin has also created discipleship Bible studies to the political leaders of 24 foreign nations on four continents. Capitol Ministries Local Government is a fairly new endeavor that has an objective of creating ministries to the estimated 500,000 local city and county leaders in the more than 40,000 incorporated communities in the United States. Capitol Ministries' long-term vision is to create 200 ministries in 200 foreign nations; 50 ministries in 50 state capitols; ministries to all three branches of government in Washington, D.C.; and 10,000 ministries in 40,000 neighborhoods across America. CapMin seeks to evangelize elected and appointed political leaders and lead them toward maturity in Christ.

We stay away from politics and concentrate on the hearts of leaders.

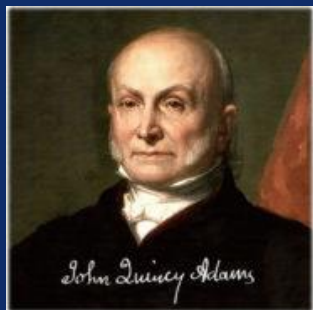
We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **We believe** in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. **We believe** that for the salvation of lost and sinful people regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential through faith in Christ alone.

Sponsors – HOUSE: Rep. Ben Baker, Rep. Richard Brown, Rep. Wendy Hausman, Rep. Cheri Toalson Reisch, Rep. Adam Schnelting. **SENATE:** Sen. Rick Brattin, Sen. Bill Eigel & Sen. Mike Moon (*The views expressed in each Bible study are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the position of any individual Bible Study Sponsor.*)



7 SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF BIBLE STUDY

The sixth President of the United States; Diplomat; Secretary of State; U. S. Senator; U. S. Representative; “Old Man Eloquent”; “Hellhound of Abolition”.



My hopes of a future life are all founded upon the Gospel of Christ and I cannot cavil or quibble away [evade or object to]. . . . the whole tenor of His conduct by which He sometimes positively asserted and at others countenances [permits] His disciples in asserting that He was God. The hope of a Christian is inseparable from his faith. Whoever believes in the Divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures must hope that the religion of Jesus shall prevail throughout the earth. Never since the foundation of the world have the prospects of mankind been more encouraging to that hope than they appear to be at the present time. And may the associated distribution of the Bible proceed and prosper till the Lord shall have made “bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God” [Isaiah 52:10].

David Barton, “The Founding Fathers on Jesus, Christianity and the Bible,” Wallbuilders, May 2008 (<http://www.wallbuilders.com/libissuesarticles.asp?id=8755>, Nov. 24, 2013).

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by who’s indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. **We believe** in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of the life and they that are lost unto resurrection on damnation. **We believe** in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus

1. GOD’S WORD EQUIPS US FOR GOOD WORKS

2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,¹ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

All Scripture – The Greek phrase used here, *pasa graphē*, may refer to the totality of Scripture or to every passage of Scripture.¹ Thus, it is not only the O.T., in which Timothy was taught by his mother Lois when he was a child (2 Tim. 3:15, 1:5), but the N.T. books according as they were recognized in the churches which had men gifted with “discerning of spirits,” and so able to distinguish inspired utterances, persons, and so their writings from spurious writings.²

God-breathed – The Scriptures owe their origin and distinctiveness to God Himself (2 Peter 1:21).

☞ *Did Paul need to remind young Timothy to the inspired nature of Scripture?* No. This was a doctrine commonly admitted by Jews, but he is being reminded that the basis of its profitableness lies in its inspired character.³ The Gk. adjective *ōphelimos* **useful** can also be translated as beneficial, pertaining to value or profitability.⁴ In a sense

the regular study of Scripture promotes/enhances our wellbeing. It does so by teaching Christian doctrine such as creation (*Gen. 1–2*), the fall of man (*Gen. 3*), the nature of the atonement (*Isa. 53*), or our standing in Christ as redeemed and forgiven (*Col. 1:13*).

Rebuking refers to the correction of false teaching that one has absorbed from false teachers.

Correcting helps believers grow in godly behavior (2 Cor. 3:18).

Training in righteousness describes training in doing what is right or what is in accordance with godliness. All of this has a reachable goal where we do fulfil the will of God for our lives (*Eph. 2:10*). God desires His servants (*anthrōpos*) to be thoroughly equipped for every good work He has planned. In *Romans 13:4* those who serve in authority are referred to as “God’s servants” (Gr. *theos diakonos*).

☞ *How well you are equipped for every good work at the Capitol will hinge on what priority you give to the study of Holy Scripture.*

MAY I ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN A SMALL GROUP

2. KNOWING THE TRUTH AVOIDS FALSE TEACHING

1 Timothy 4:1

“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.”

The Gk. phrase “later times” only occurs here in the N.T. but is synonymous with the last days (2 Tim. 3:1). It is the time before Christ returns to establish His kingdom. Christians in the N.T.

¹ John D. Barry et al., *Faithlife Study Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), 2 Tim. 3:16.

² Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*, vol. 2 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 427.

³ Donald Guthrie, *Pastoral Epistles: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 14, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1990), 182.

⁴ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).



period believed they were living in the last days as we do believe today.

Matt. 25:10, “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

Knowing the truth creates a barrier against demons expounding lies and deception that could make a Christian fall into serious error.

➔ Jesus Himself used the written Word of God in response to the Devils temptations in *Matt. 4:1-11*. (A demon is created supernatural being rebellious and hostile to God and anyone allied with him)

As a Senator or Representative, you are accountable to the constituents that voted you into office but as a Christian you are ultimately accountable to God and to Him alone at the Judgement Seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10). It is vital that one in a position of political influence vote according to Biblical truth if it is clearly defined in Scripture. It is foundational to the Christian life that we have adopted a Biblical worldview. *John 8:32, “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

3. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP

1 John 1:3

“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”

Fellowship (Gk. *koinōnia*) is the essence of the Christian life—fellowship with God and fellowship with other believers in Christ.⁵ At the moment of believing and receiving Christ as Lord and Savior one is simultaneously brought into fellowship with God and His people. Yet often the interpretation of fellowship is unbiblical.

⁵ Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, “Fellowship,” *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 789.

Philemon 1:6 states, ***“And I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ’s sake.”***

“Paul is instructing that true fellowship among believers is directly related to knowledge of one’s identity in Christ, which knowledge can only be gained by diligent study of the Word of God. To the extent that we are illuminated by His Word we can achieve genuine fellowship with one another. It follows that the DNA of true “fellowship groups” encompass authoritative Bible studies.”⁶ ***If you desire spiritual muscle then join a small group study for next year!***

4. THE BLESSING OF ACCOUNTABILITY

James 5:16

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

Investment in a weekly Bible study with your trusted peers could be the greatest safeguard against falling into a destructive pattern of sin. Yet, when we do sin we have an ***“Advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One”*** (1 Jn. 2:1). Biblical confession is paramount to staying true to the will of God and growing in sanctification/holiness. ***“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness”*** (1 Jn. 1:9).

Confession of sin opens a person to the work of God within them, relinquishing the power of sin over their life through the power of Jesus.

⁶ Ralph Drollinger, *“Oaks in Office: Biblical Essays For Political Leaders:”* (California, Nordskog Publishing, 2018), 44.

MAKING DISCIPLES



This year various small group Bible Studies will be meeting on days and times that are chosen by the hosts, whether Senators, Representatives or staff. This study would mirror a Sunday School class or Lifegroup. I would teach in these studies from the weekly Bible study notes that I distribute to every office in the building to which I spend many hours in study and preparation. My prayer is that this model will offer more opportunities for those serving in the political arena to be taught a high-protein diet of the Word of God, in addition, to close fellowship and heartfelt encouragement. As God’s ordained institution of Government resumes for another session I pray we fulfil ***Proverbs 27:17, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”***

THE 1ST TWO CENT COIN

The United States Mint produced it for only ten years and each year the mintage continued to decline. Yet, despite its failure as a medium of exchange, the Shield two-cent piece made one singular and enduring contribution to our nation’s coinage history, it was the coin that introduced us to the motto “IN GOD WE TRUST”.



VERSES OF THE WEEK

PROVERBS 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

ISAIAH 26:3-4

“For You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. ⁴Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.”



*Making disciples of
Jesus Christ in the political
arena throughout the world*

Capitol Ministries® provides Bible studies, evangelism, and discipleship to political leaders. Founded in 1996, we have started ministries in over 40 U.S. State Capitols and dozens of foreign federal Capitols.

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7 SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF BIBLE STUDY

Confession to God is primary but it is also true in practice that confession to one another has healing properties in the physical and emotional realms. We confess our sins to one another in order to solicit prayer, exhortation, and strength for the Christian journey.

5. ESSENTIAL ENCOURAGEMENT

¹ Thessalonians 5:11, “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

We encourage the reality of Christian salvation because it is foremost in Paul’s thoughts. The Gk. (*parakaleō*), “ask for earnestly, beg or plead” indicates the effort we are to demonstrate. “Build each other up” describes the way other believers help each other grow and progress in the faith. *Each individual in the body of Christ is responsible for the growth of others through this mutual building process.*

YOU ARE ESSENTIAL AT THE CAPITOL TO YOUR BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST

6. NECESSITOUS PRAYERS

Ephesians 6:18, “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

It is in “all occasions” we are to pray! Prayer should not be an afterthought for believers, but rather their primary source of strength and that strength is better expressed together (*Eccles. 4:12, Acts 2:42 & Acts 4:31*). In “all occasions” or “at all times” (Gk. *kairos*) implies *opportunity* and *exigency*. Therefore, prayer will be offered at every small group Bible study. The placement of the above verse on prayer at the end of the armor of God passage indicates the spiritual war Christians are engaged in, a spiritual war that I believe is very apparent in all levels of Government. Thus, God commands us to “be alert”, that is “to be on guard”. Jesus states in *Mark 13:33, “Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.”* Within that context we must keep praying for all the Lord’s people. And who are the Lord’s people at the Jefferson City Capitol Building?

7. OBEDIENCE IS EQUAL TO LOVING GOD

John 14:15, “If you love me, keep my commands.” (See Also John 15:10, ¹ John 3:24, ² John 6).

There are so many verses that reflect this Biblical teaching that we close the study with this truth. It makes perfect sense that for a follower of Christ to obey Him translates to Bible knowledge and a desire to continue to learn from His Word. How can you obey what you do not know?

Personal Study Notes & Prayer Needs
