# The Home Bible Study

**AN OVERVIEW**

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**"Is It for Everyone?"**

I read about the Home Study Bible Program in ***The Watchman.*** I had seen certificates of completion given out to successful participants at the Feastdays. I heard it spoken about from pulpit. What is it? Can anyone do it? Is it for everyone or just the intellectual type?

These questions and others will be answered in this article overview of the Home Study Bible Program.

The Home Study Bible Program consists of approximately 190 tapes, 13 printed lessons and formats, thirteen books and pamphlets, and hundreds of scripture references. These lessons are for everyone, male, female, adult, teenager, etc. All that is required are prayer and sustained effort.

The lessons involve the ability to think conceptually, i.e., the ability to take an abstract idea, thought, or notion from your mind and put it into concrete terms that you can understand. Sometimes this is called reflective thinking. It can also be referred to as the sum of a person's ideas and beliefs concerning religious beliefs. An example would be taking the word "man" from the Bible and understanding that "man" means Adam man, or the word "Gentile", and understanding that "Gentile" means nations, and for the most part, the ten Northern tribes of Israel in dispersion.

Along with conceptual thinking you will use the systematic approach. In each lesson you will build word upon word, line upon line, and precept upon precept, enabling you to see ideas in their entirety and fullness. You will be building a solid foundation of Christian theology upon rock, rather than upon sand.

Lesson One is entitled "CHRISTIAN EPISTEMOLOGY," which means a valid theory of knowledge. You will examine and establish your presuppositions for undertaking this study. With the solid foundation that Epistemology gives you, you will be able to read the Bible with meaning and true vision. You will know "what is Truth". You will explore and be able to explain the two absolutely basic presuppositions upon which the Christian faith is based. Other issues addressed are: Who is a Christian Theist? What is the difference between Christian and Secular epistemologies? Who first asserted that "Knowledge" was possible apart from GOD? What are the two constants in the Universe? In addition to the tapes, this lesson consists of two short books.

Lesson Two is entitled "BIBLIOLOGY," which means the "Doctrine of the Scripture". It addresses such issues as: How did the Bible come into existence and which Bible should we study? Is one Bible more accurate than the rest? It covers timely subjects, e.g., Is the Bible the ultimate authority for Israelites? Is the Bible the revealed, transcended Word mediated by Jesus Christ? Is all Scripture given by inspiration of God and is it profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness? What is the Canon of the Bible? When did the Canon of the Bible come into existence? Did the early Church councils play a role in formulating the Canon of the Bible? Who or what was the Apocrypha? The pseudipigrapha - do you cook it or read it? What source does the Christian use to establish theological foundational stakes? What is the seamless garment? This lesson contains no additional books to read.

Lesson Three is entitled "COSOMOLOGY" which asserts that there are two different kinds of Being, the UNCREATED and the CREATED. Guess who's who. The areas presented for study include: Is evolution a viable theory? Was creation by "fiat" decree? Does God's creation have finite limits. What do the ingredients of time, space, matter, force, and motion have to do with



creation? Did God create after the "sixth day"? What relationship, if any, is there between the "two great lights" and the feast days of YHWH? Create vs. Perpetuate, is there a difference? An underlying principle, discussed in this lesson that will be of interest to former World Wide Church of God members, is man's potential to become a Son of God or God-Being. There are no additional books to read with this lesson.

Lesson Four, "THE BEING OF GOD," undertakes a study of the "Unity" and "Trinity" of the One, True, and Living God. As you move through your study on the Being of God, you will add to ISA 28:9-10; 6:3 and REV. 4:9, for many, this study into the intrinisic, fundamental Nature of God will be difficult, but absolutely essential to a true understanding of life, the universe, and the Bible. Your understanding of what a Christian Theist is will be added to. The main presuppositions considered here are the Three Subsistences and God's relationship to Himself as Ontological and His relationship to His creation as Transcendent and Provident. You will be able to answer these questions: Is it possible to describe YHWH as One God in essence, substance, power, and eternity, and yet hold the theological stake of Triunity of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost? What does "Adam man" have in common with the Godhead? What is the "musterion" which was kept since the world began? Who is the Elector, Redeemer, and Sanctifier? What is there about water, sun, and the atom that helps to explain the Godhead? How did Christianity threaten Rome? What were the heretical teachings of the Monarchians, the Modalists, the Sabellians, the Arians and Macedonius? How dangerous is the doctrine developed by Faustus Socinus? What do the Jehovah's Witness, Mormans, World Wide Church of God, and most of the newly-formed churches of the past three hundred years have in common? How come the heresies of antiquity continue to live on in the modern Church world? This lesson also requires reading one paperback book which addresses Deut. 6:4, "Hear, O Israel: YHWH our God is One".

Lesson #5 covers the area of "ANGELOLOGY" and includes loyal angels, fallen angels, and demonology. Issues addressed are: Science vs. Old Wives' Tales! Metaphysical vs. Physical! Is there life beyond our five senses? Are angels subject to God's law? Who are the ministers to the Heirs of Salvation? What are the special roles of the archangels Gabriel and Michael? When and How did angels come into being? What is their nature and what do they look like? Are they always designated by their names in Scripture? What is the answer to the riddle - "I beheld Satan as lightening fall from heaven!"? What is the significance of giants in the earth? What does the word angel mean? The books of Enoch and of Jubilees are suggested reading for this lesson.

Lesson #6 deals with the subject of "ANTHROPOLOGY". It generally deals with the question of whether all races derived from Adam. Areas addressed in this study are: Race, Nations, and Israel divided in Scripture; Jew and Judah, Israel and Gentiles divided in Scripture; Adamic Nations and Abrahamic nations divided in Scripture. Questions that you will be able to answer are: Who are the Gentiles? Who are the children of the Stars? What is meant by the dominion mandate of Gen. 1:26-28? Were all races created in the image and likeness of God? You will be able to intelligently address the Biblical case against inter-racial marriage. There is one book of required reading with this lesson.

Once you have climbed through the first six lessons on your way to the top of the mountain in your conceptual study of the Bible, you will be ready for Lesson #7, "HARMARTIOLOGY", which is the study of original sin. In Paul's Epistle to the Romans, he aptly writes: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God..." Rom. 3:23 Regardless of what you believe, every Christian must give serious attention to sin and all its ramifications. Issues addressed in this lesson are: What is the pathology of sin? What do two of God's most basic laws, namely: Law of Kind after His Kind, and the Law of Seed in Itself, have to do with original sin? Can angels sin? How could Adam have been so foolish to sin when everything was so perfect in the Garden of Eden? Did Eve sin? What is the danger of following Pelagius' concept of man? Is there a distinction between the possibility of not sinning and the impossibility of sinning? Who or what is the "serpent" of Genesis 3? What does the "apple" have to do with original sin? Did all of Adam kind sin in the Garden of Eden with Adam? Even those Adamites born today? What is the real