

A close-up photograph of a person wearing glasses, looking down at an open book. The person's face is partially visible, and they appear to be in a quiet, focused setting. The background is blurred, suggesting an indoor environment like a library or study.

CLASS ONE: THE WHAT, WHY AND HOW

MEETING WITH GOD

I. Introduction

- Possible: Meeting with God is actually possible.
- Participation: Meeting with God is something in which we should participate.
- Plan: God has provided a plan for us to meet with Him through the Mediator, Jesus Christ.

Meeting With God: Daily time that we set aside for fellowship with God in His Word, in prayer and through the church so that we would know Him more, know ourselves in light of Him, and know the world according to God's perspective.

A. John 17:17: Sanctify them in the truth, your word is truth.

Sanctification: the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. (*Baptist Faith and Message 2000*)

B. Psalm 119:57-64: The Lord is my portion; I promise to keep your words. I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise. When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies; I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments. Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law. At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules. I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts. The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes!"

Five Observations about God's Word:

1. God's word of promise to us is the foundation of our receiving grace from Him (v. 58).
2. God's word humbles us (v. 59).
3. God's word is more powerful than anyone who would come against us (v. 61)
4. God's word leads us to praise Him (vs. 62).
5. God's word leads us into the fellowship of the church (vs. 63).

II. The Bible

- It contains the message of salvation.
- It will lead us away from sin.
- It will remind us that we are not made for this world.
- It will tell us the truth of God
- It will tell us the truth about ourselves.

Acts 17:11: these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so."

Question: What is one hindrance for you that keeps you from spending time with the Lord in His Word?

III. Bible Intake

- Hearing
- Reading
- Studying
- Memorizing
- Meditating

A. Hearing the Word of God

1. In the Old Testament:

2. In the New Testament:

1 Timothy 4:13: Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

We are to discipline ourselves to go and hear God's word. Hearing the Word of God is not merely passive listening, it is a discipline to be cultivated." -Don Whitney

3. Regularly hearing God's Word is that it often cultivates a hunger for God's Word.
- a) Discuss what you have heard with others
 - b) Spend time listening to sermons or an audio Bible outside of Sunday mornings

Question: How has hearing the Word of God preached or taught helped you meet with God and grow in your relationship with him?

B. Reading the Word of God

1. The Reformation and Reading
 - a) Erasmus, Luther and Tyndale

This was the first time that the Greek New Testament had been printed. It is no exaggeration to say that it set fire to Europe. Luther translated it into his famous German version of 1522. In a few years there appeared translations from the Greek into most European vernaculars. They were the true basis of the popular reformation. -John Piper

The energy which affected every human life in northern Europe, however, was not the result of political imposition. It came from the discovery of the Word of God as originally written in the language of the people. Moreover, it could be read and understood, without censorship by the Church or mediation through the Church. Such reading produced a totally different view of everyday Christianity. -John Piper

Let the man who would hear God speak, read the Holy Scripture. -**Martin Luther**

For a number of years I have now annually read through the Bible twice. If the Bible were a large, mighty tree and all its words were little branches I have tapped at all the branches, eager to know what was there and what it had to offer. -**Martin Luther**

I defy the Pope and all his laws....If God spare my life ere many years, I will cause a boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scripture than he will. -**William Tyndale**

2. Scriptural Basis for Reading
 - a) **Matthew 4:4:** It is written, man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God.

3. Practical Ideas

a) Find the time

- (1) When should I read?
- (2) How long should I read?
- (3) What should I read?

b) Meditate

- (1) Why did God say this?
- (2) What does this tell me about God?
- (3) Is there a way that I can specifically apply this to my life today?

c) Rely on the Holy Spirit

Question: What suggestions do you have for others in class for growing in regularly meeting with God through reading Scripture?

Jesus the Great Philosopher

During this core class, to supplement our time together, we invite you to read Jonathan Pennington's new book, **Jesus the Great Philosopher**. It not a long book and it pairs very well with what we will be talking about in Meeting with God. Consider the reading guide you received when arrived or online.