

HERMENEUTICS by Harold Anderson, is used for training village pastors and chaplain assistants in African prisons through HIGHER GROUND BIBLE MINISTRY

THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY (PART I)

The most wonderful experience in the Christian life is to discover God through His Word. The Bible is the most remarkable book in the world. It has outsold all its competitors, and no other book has so greatly influenced mankind as the Bible. The Bible is actually a divine library that consists of 66 separate books, composed by approximately 40 different authors, over a period of about 1600 years. Every book in the Bible has a message about God which is important for us to understand. Every book in the Bible reveals Jesus Christ in some way. The Bible has a central theme which is the redemption of fallen man through Jesus Christ who came to die for the sins of man. Yet, each book of the Bible has its own theme which is only discovered by a thorough study of the Word of God.

We are encouraged to learn God's Word. "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word. With my whole heart I have sought you...let me not wander from Your commandments (Word)...Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you...I will meditate on your precepts (Word) and contemplate your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your Word" (Psalm 119:9-11, 15-16).

God has basically given us two ways to learn the Bible. One way is through gifted pastors and teachers who give us the Bible message by speaking the Word and writing the Word. When we learn the Bible this way, we rely on others to guide us in our understanding of God's Word. This is good and necessary, but we can also learn through our own personal study. For those who follow their quest to know the Bible through personal study, there are blessings unimaginable. The reason is because truth discovered is more precious than truth imparted.