

Prayer Before Bible Study

Illumine our hearts loving Master, with the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments so that, having conquered sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You Christ our Lord, are the Light of our souls and bodies, and to You we give glory, together with Your Father, who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Amen. †

“How to Read the Bible” by Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia

We believe that the Scriptures constitute a coherent whole. They are at once divinely inspired and humanly expressed. They bear authoritative witness to God’s revelation of Himself - in creation, in the Incarnation of the Word, and the whole history of salvation. And as such they express the word of God in human language. We know, receive, and interpret Scripture through the Church and in the Church. Our reading of Scripture is obedient, ecclesial, Christ-centered, and personal.

Reading Scripture in this way - in obedience, as a member of the Church, finding Christ everywhere, seeing everything as a part of my own personal story - we shall sense something of the power and healing to be found in the Bible. Yet always in our biblical voyage of exploration we are only at the very beginning. We are like someone launching out in a tiny boat across a limitless ocean. But however great the journey, we can embark on it today, at this very hour, in this very moment.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 118 [119]:105).

“If an earthly king, our emperor, wrote you a letter, would you not read it with joy? Certainly, with great rejoicing and careful attention. You have been sent a letter, not by any earthly emperor, but by the King of Heaven. And yet you almost despise such a gift, so priceless a treasure. Whenever you read the Gospel, Christ Himself is speaking to you. And while you read, you are praying and talking to Him.”

- *Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk (1724-83)*