FIRST WORDS

TO

YOUNG CHRISTIANS

by

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CHAPTER FOURTEEN -

HOW TO USE THE BIBLE

- 1. Own a good print, well-bound Bible, a concordance and "Topical Text Book."
- 2. Set a portion of each day sacredly apart for Bible study. Let your body go unfed rather than your immortal soul. "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).
- 3. Choose an hour for study when your mind is clearest.
- 4. Study with a humble, teachable mind, not to see what you can make it teach, but what GOD meant it to teach. "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes" (Matthew 11:25).
- 5. Pray for the guidance of the Author of the book. "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" (Psalm 119:18); "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26); "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him" (I John 2:27).
- 6. Read the whole Bible through consecutively, again and again. "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27).
- 7. <u>Study, not skim. Weigh each word.</u> Look up all references and read them carefully. Search the Scriptures with the Text Book and concordance to see how GOD handles such words and subjects as "Sin," "Salvation," "The Cross," "The Blood," "Repentance," "Faith," etc. Analyze books of the Bible verse-by-verse, writing down all the teachings of each verse. "**This book of**

the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Joshua 1:8).

- 8. Read it as the Word of GOD. "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (I Thessalonians 2:13), submit your judgment unhesitatingly to its teachings, believe all its promises, heed all its warnings and obey all its commands, always and at once. Remember, it is GOD's message to you.
- 9. Study and accept not only what you like, but all GOD has to say. "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself" (John 7:17).
- 10. Commit to memory at least one verse each day. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11.
- 11. Carry a Bible or testament with you for the improvement of spare minutes. "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16); "Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet" (Acts 8:28).

~ end of chapter 14 ~
