

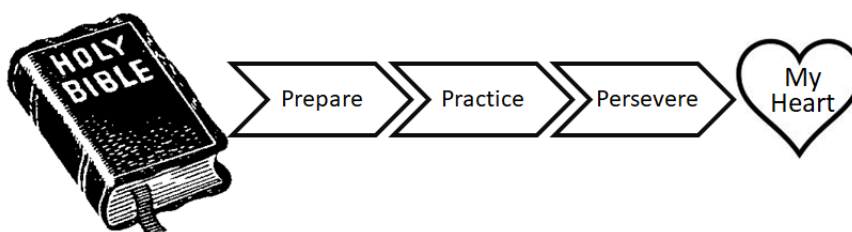
# 2020 Behold Conference

## Session 1 – Preparation for Studying Scripture

### Introduction

The Bible –

Our Plan –



<sup>22</sup>Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, <sup>23</sup>for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup>For, “All flesh is like grass, And all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off, <sup>25</sup>But the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word which was preached to you.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, <sup>2</sup>like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, <sup>3</sup>if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. (1 Peter 1:22-2:3)

### Prepare your soul

“Therefore” – “What is it there for?”

“Tasted” – literally to test the flavor; figuratively to experience; one-time event

“Kindness” – loving affection, patience, gentleness, and goodness

<sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is **kind** to ungrateful and evil *men*. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.  
(Luke 6:35-36)

<sup>4</sup>Or do you think lightly of the riches of His **kindness** and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the **kindness** of God leads you to repentance? (Romans 2:3-5)

### **Prepare your heart**

“Malice” – feeling of hostility and strong dislike towards someone.

“Deceit” – a deliberate attempt to mislead or trick by telling lies; to get the better of another by cunning and deception.

“Hypocrisy” – saying one thing and knowingly/intentionally doing another. Paul in Galatians 2:14 (ESV) calls it “conduct not in step with the truth of the gospel” or conduct that is different than what the gospel produces. Contextually, this is distinctions.

“Envy” – feelings of displeasure and resentful discontentment produced by seeing or hearing of the prosperity of others.

“Slander” – evil speaking of others; making derogatory, defaming, disparaging statements about others

“Put aside” – pictures the stripping off of filthy, soiled garments with the intent to never pick them up again; repentance

<sup>22</sup>that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside** the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, <sup>23</sup>and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup>and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

<sup>21</sup>Therefore, **putting aside** all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21)

Walking in sin → Greives the Holy Spirit

<sup>30</sup>Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. (Ephesians 4:30-31)

Humility

<sup>2</sup>“For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being,” declares the Lord. “But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word. (Isaiah 66:2)

Set your heart for the correct order: study → practice (do) → teach

<sup>9</sup>For on the first of the first month he began to go up from Babylon; and on the first of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, because the good hand of his God *was* upon him. <sup>10</sup>For Ezra had **set his heart to study** the law of the Lord and to **practice it**, and to **teach** His statutes and ordinances in Israel. (Ezra 7:9-10)

**Prepare your appetite**

“Long for” – main verb in 2:1-3 meaning intense yearning or craving for something

“Pure” – without deceit, not mixed with anything, unadulterated (not changed)

Peter's word picture of newborn babies longing for the pure milk of the word:

1. Recognize your need for the Bible
2. Be distracted away from the world by the Bible, not the other way around
3. Natural inclination is to turn to the Bible
4. Intake is ravenous
5. Intake is regular and often

Spiritual growth – process of matching up more and more of your living (or “walk”) with your position in Christ. Becoming more like Jesus in your character.

## **Conclusion**