

Empire Church of the Brethren

Sunday Service Sermons

13 July 2025

The Road Map That Leads to Success

Text: "This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success." *Joshua 1:8*

Today I ask you: How important is the total Bible to you?

Many Christians, Brethren included, think that the New Testament and Jesus make the Old Testament obsolete.

Not so.

All of the Old Testament will be fulfilled just as it is written.

Know that. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament.

He even said that not one punctuation will be replaced until it is all fulfilled.

And of course He is the fulfillment of the plan of God toward mankind.

Do you seek the autograph of celebrities?

How about Christian giants?

Have you ever had a well known Christian preacher or writer autograph his book or God's book?

I have a signed painting by Thomas Kinkaid.

It just happened.

As they were preparing the painting for shipment when he came by and said, hey let me sign that before you ship it.

I think it is nice that he did.

It is special to have the painter sign the painting.

Does God the Almighty sign his work?

You bet he does.

Through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

One Christian author puts the passage for today in his autograph with the words, "This verse of scripture provides the key to success for your life."

In the journey of life, everyone would like to arrive at the destination called "success".

The words of the text for today provide us with the road map that leads to success.

If we either reject or neglect to follow God's road map, the Word of God, there is no way we can arrive at the desired spiritual destination that God has planned for us.

One of the disciplines of discipleship that each believer must choose to impose on himself or herself in order to be a winner in the game of life is not only to read the Word of God but also to heed the Word of God.

The Bible is a God-breathed, authoritative book that contains the truth about God and man, as well as a disclosure of God's will for humankind.

Many people believe in the inspiration and the authority of the Bible yet have not developed the habit of studying the Bible as they should because they find it difficult to understand.

Some practical suggestions for productive Bible study are in order.

Read the Bible regularly.

Every day let God speak to you through the pages of his Holy Book.

Provide time in your schedule for regular daily Bible study.

Read the Bible subjectively.

Attempt to identify with the characters of the Bible.

Put your self in the middle of the verses and paragraphs and stories.

Find your twin brother or sister in the Bible.

Let God speak to you personally.

Read the Bible intelligently.

Beware of the hop, skip, and jump method of dipping into the Bible and expecting some passage to speak to you in isolation from its context.

To interpret the Bible accurately, you should consider four factors when studying it.

Consider the historical situation.

To really understand the Bible, we need to study the historical situation of the biblical world and the people of whom the Bible speaks.

Consider the genre.

We need to know the meanings of words, and we need to recognize that the Bible contains different kinds of literature.

We must not interpret legal language in the same manner in which we interpret poetic language.

The Bible is a library that contains a variety of writing genres.

We must be aware of this if we are to interpret it accurately.

Think logically.

We need to try to find out what the inspired human author was trying to communicate.

We must try to find out what the Bible meant when it was written if we want to accurately interpret it and apply it to life as we experience it today.

Determine the spiritual meaning.

The Bible was inspired by the Holy Spirit, and only the Holy Spirit can cause the teachings of the Bible to grip our hearts and lives and transform us.

While this may be the most important factor to remember as we study the Bible, we must not forget the historical, grammatical, and theological factors.

Read the Bible systematically.

The Old Testament contains a message quite different from that of the New Testament.

Many people have staggered back in helplessness as they have sought too early to understand some of the difficult sections of the Bible.

Thus one should not begin reading the Old Testament, for instance, in the book of *Leviticus* or *Ecclesiastes*.

A good Bible dictionary is helpful, as is a one-volume Bible commentary that contains introductory information concerning each of the books of the Bible.

Read the Bible prayerfully.

We should not only expect to learn something about the ancient past when we read the Bible, but also something helpful for the present.

We should expect to find out something about God when we read the Bible.

We should expect to find nourishment for our souls and correction for our lives when we read the Bible.

Read the Bible with a desire to be obedient.

Our Lord wants to help us, and he will do it through the pages of the Bible if we will let him do so.

Look for promises from God to claim as your read.

Look for commands to obey.

Look for examples to follow.

Look for the failures of others that can serve as warnings to us.

The Bible tells us about our Savior.

It invites us to trust him and receive him.

Furthermore, the Bible shows us God's will for our lives.

If we want to find success in our personal life, our marriages, and our home life, then we need to make much of the Word of God on a day-to-day basis, and we will find in our own experience that we are not only arriving at the destination of success, but we are living in the city of success.

We are a part of the Kingdom of God.

Bringing it into the present and among us as Jesus did.

This is continuing the work of Jesus.