

from the desk of:

Larry E. Ford, Pastor

Greetings and welcome to the "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth" Bible Study Course!

This is a study course designed to lead you to *understand* God's word of truth in a way that you, perhaps, have never experienced before. If you seriously accept the challenge posed by such a goal, then you will spend the next several months going through a series of lessons that will help you to grasp the significance of some of the most fundamental concepts of true biblical understanding. It will challenge you to dust off your Bible and pay attention to some of God's most basic instruction to mankind about who/what "God" is, why mankind exists, and what God plans to do with us. I think that you will be surprised about the difference between what is commonly taught in the nearly **33,000** denominations of mainstream Christianity and what the Bible *actually says!*

You will explore *how to prove* God's existence. How do we *know*? Where do we go to find such information? Can we *really* trust the Bible as *God's* very own INSPIRED word? Many don't – and many others believe that it is a convenient resource for inspiration, but...they also believe that it's only *one* path of "truth" among many possibilities. What do you think? If you don't know right now, you will be far more capable of making a statement about it by the time you complete this course.

What about all of the *doctrinal differences* among almost **33,000** different "Christian" denominations? Are you sufficiently equipped with good, sound knowledge of scripture to navigate your way through their confusing maze and exit with *God's revealed truth*? What has *God* revealed to us about heaven, hell, salvation, law and grace, the great tribulation, the rapture? The virgin birth, the resurrection of the dead, the return of Christ, the 1,000-year Kingdom of God? What about the immortality of the soul? *What does the Bible really teach?* You really need to know (see Matthew 7:21-23 and John 4:23, 24).

All of these questions – and *many, many more* – are some of the most vital, most important questions of your life. You will thoroughly investigate them and will be shown how to find the clear, plain answers from your very own Bible! You will learn *how to study the Bible* – and why so few really understand it.

The only equipment you will need is your own Bible, a three-ring notebook stocked with ruled paper, a pen or pencil, and a good dictionary. If you are able and wish to, you might want to purchase a few other translations of the Bible and a good exhaustive concordance like *Strong's* – but that is not absolutely necessary for you to truly benefit from this course. You can print out the lessons if you desire.

There is a check-up quiz after each four lessons. They will help you to evaluate your progress. A convenient answer section is included so you can get more immediate feedback. When you have completed the course of study to your satisfaction, contact me and I will send you a Certificate of Completion. This is completely an *honor system* offering. The real value to you is the *knowledge and understanding*.

Learn at your own pace and enjoy everything you do in the study course. The main idea is for you to make an honest, sincere effort to learn God's truth and to drink very deeply from this very special spiritual fountain. You need to learn these *fundamentals* in order to move on to more stable, mature understanding.

Do not begin this course if you do not have the heart or interest to complete it (see Luke 14:28-30). It is my assumption that you will select this course because you desire and expect to derive some spiritual ben-

enefit from it. If that is a correct assumption, then it follows that I want you to derive the *maximum benefit* possible. This can be achieved if you will follow the approach I have outlined below:

1. *Read through each lesson once before you begin your point-by-point study.* This will mentally prepare you for the direction in which you will be headed in the lesson.
2. *Write down every scriptural reference.* I know that this might seem to be monotonous and tedious, but your goal is *to learn*, not to just *read*. This approach helps you to thoroughly familiarize you with the actual scriptural content and to learn them more quickly.
3. *Write down all of the answers to all of the questions.* Try to be as complete as possible. It is important for you to think through your answers and to actually verbalize them in writing. It will help you to organize your thinking and review it as needed.
4. *This is not a race. Take as much time as you need on each question in each section.* The goal is to *learn*, not to see how quickly you can get through each lesson. Work on it in small, digestible increments. Do not be afraid of going back over material until you understand it. It could take you a couple of years to complete if you are *thorough*. *Be thorough*.
5. *Understand that the content is somewhat mature.* If there are words used that you do not understand, please take the time to refer to your dictionary to get definitions. In this way, you will also build your own maturity, vocabulary, and competence. This is a total learning experience, so willingly participate and enjoy the experience to the full!
6. *Keep your study materials organized in the place where you will study. Select a well-lighted and comfortable place away from bothersome distractions.*
7. *Maintain a regular, planned study routine.* Do not be scattered or irregular.
8. *Prepare yourself spiritually for each study session by asking the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob for guidance, understanding, and the spirit to **obey** what you learn.*

If you will employ these suggestions, you will find this course of study to be one of the richest learning experiences of your life. You will be amazed at the progress you will make in knowing and understanding God's truth.

This course is sponsored by The Seventh Day Christian Assembly (Doerun, GA) as part of its Christian Education Outreach Program. We are not part of or associated with the Seventh Day Adventist organization. All costs incurred in offering this course of study are paid through the tithes and offerings of the membership of The Seventh Day Christian Assembly (Doerun, GA).

If you have questions or need clarification about any aspect of the Bible Study Course, please contact me at tsdca@hughes.net. I'll reply as soon as possible.

May God bless your understanding as you complete this Bible Study Course.

In Christ's Service

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