

OPEN BOOK EXAMS

Proverbs 10:14 ... "Wise people store up knowledge..."

1 Timothy 4:13 ... "Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

Sometimes in school, you may have the experience of taking an open book exam. Your teacher or professor announces there will be an exam the next day, and that you can use your text book or notes in taking it. Many students react excitedly about such an opportunity and several proclaim "Hurray. I don't have to study for the exam because I can use the text book or my notes."

Wise teachers do not give open-book exams because they pity struggling students, or to ensure everyone passes. Instead, they are identifying students who do not adequately study. If you take an important exam using a text book you have not studied sufficiently (or at all), or using poor lecture notes, you may find it impossible to complete the exam in the allotted time.

The same principle applies to your spiritual life. God has provided you with his text book, the Bible. It provides the answers and solutions you need to enjoy a successful, happy, prosperous, and blessed life. If you read the Bible and become familiar with God's instructions and promises, you will know where to find the answers you need when you face a particular problem. Even if you cannot remember chapter and verse for a specific scripture passage, you will know generally where in the Bible it can be found, and you will be able to zero in on it without too much delay.

Your entire life is an exam and you can use your Bible for the answers to literally every trial or challenge you face. However, you must be familiar with the Bible's contents and able to find those answers when they are needed. Your knowledge of the Bible will also allow you to help other people when they are struggling with problems. You will be able to tell them about God's particular promise or comfort for their situation, and then show it to them in the Bible.

If you wait to read the Bible until you face a serious problem, the problem may devour you before you can find God's solution for it. Read your Bible every day, even a few verses, to familiarize yourself with what it has to say, so you can better find the help you need in your hour of need.

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