

QTC562. How to make the Bible your 'hobby' - Part 8. 13 March 2025

How to make the Bible your 'hobby'. Part 8 - Transformation over Information | Malcolm Cox | Quiet Time Coaching Episode 562

Introduction

Welcome to the final episode in our series on making the Bible your hobby. Over the past several weeks, we've explored the richness of Scripture, encouraged curiosity, made Bible study fun and creative, connected it to personal interests, fostered community, introduced helpful resources, and, last week, emphasised consistency over quantity.

But today, we close with the ultimate purpose: The Bible is not just meant to be understood; it is meant to *transform* us. Our study should not simply fill our minds—it should shape our hearts and lives, making us more like Christ.

Beyond Knowledge—Towards Christlikeness

We live in a time when information is everywhere. We can listen to sermons, read commentaries, and access Bible apps at any moment. But transformation doesn't happen simply by gathering knowledge—it happens when we allow Scripture to penetrate our souls and change us.

Consider Romans 12:2:

'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.'

Paul's words remind us that God's Word renews our minds, not just educates them. When we engage with Scripture, we should always ask: *How is this changing me?*

Engaging the Bible for Transformation

How do we ensure that our time in the Bible is truly transformational? Here are three key ways:

1. Read with the Goal of Obedience

Jesus made it clear: *'If you love me, keep my commands'* (John 14:15). Our Bible reading

should not just be about gaining insight but about discovering how to live more like Jesus. Each time you read, ask: *What is God calling me to do differently?*

2. Pray the Scriptures

Use the Bible as a guide for prayer. When a verse challenges you, turn it into a conversation with God. For example, if you read Philippians 2:3—*‘Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.’*—you could pray: *‘Father, help me to be humble today. Show me ways to put others first.’*

3. Live What You Learn

James 1:22 warns us: *‘Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.’* The best way to make the Bible your hobby—and your life—is to practice what it teaches. Find small ways to apply what you’ve read each day.

Reflecting on the Journey

As we wrap up this series, take a moment to reflect: How has your approach to the Bible changed? What has been most helpful? What’s one thing you will continue doing? The Bible is an endless well of wisdom, comfort, and challenge. The more we approach it as a joy rather than a duty, the more it shapes us into the image of Christ.

Final Thoughts and Next Steps

This may be the last episode in this series, but stay curious, stay engaged, and most importantly, let the Word transform you from the inside out.

If you have enjoyed this series, I’d love to hear from you. Share your thoughts, insights, or questions with me and the other listeners. And if you haven’t yet, grab a free copy of my eBook on spiritual disciplines, *“How God Grows His People,”* at www.malcolmcox.org.

Let’s continue this journey together—one verse, one insight, one transformation at a time.

Your brother, Malcolm

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By the way, this series was inspired by John Miles' video, which can be viewed at https://youtu.be/JcIl0RcUXo0?si=_d5QhLwOqk2k9cwG.

