

“Let Us Grow in the Grace and
Knowledge of Our Lord”

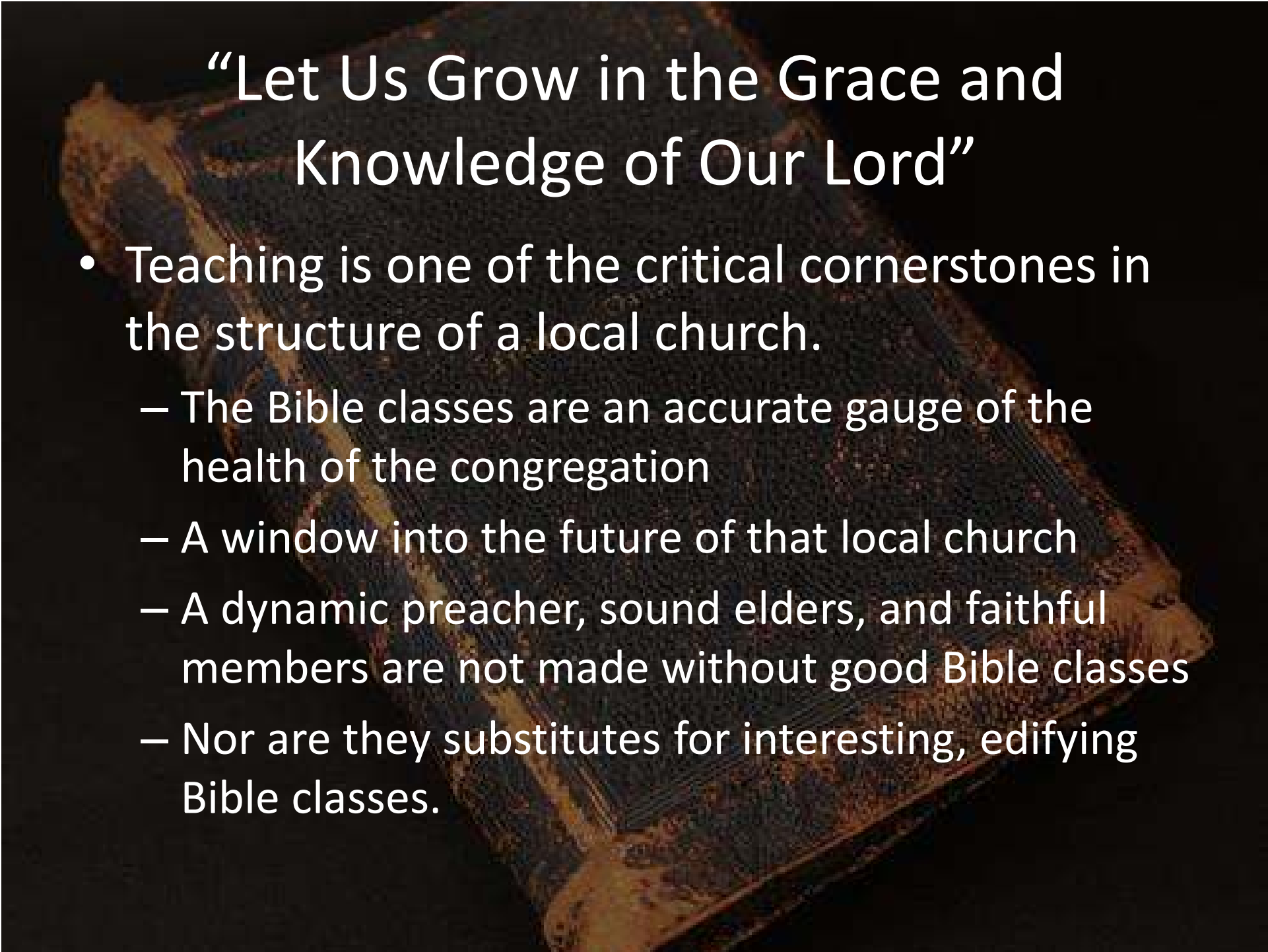
Thursday Indepth Bible Class of the
Trilacoochee church of Christ

1/28/21 - Part One



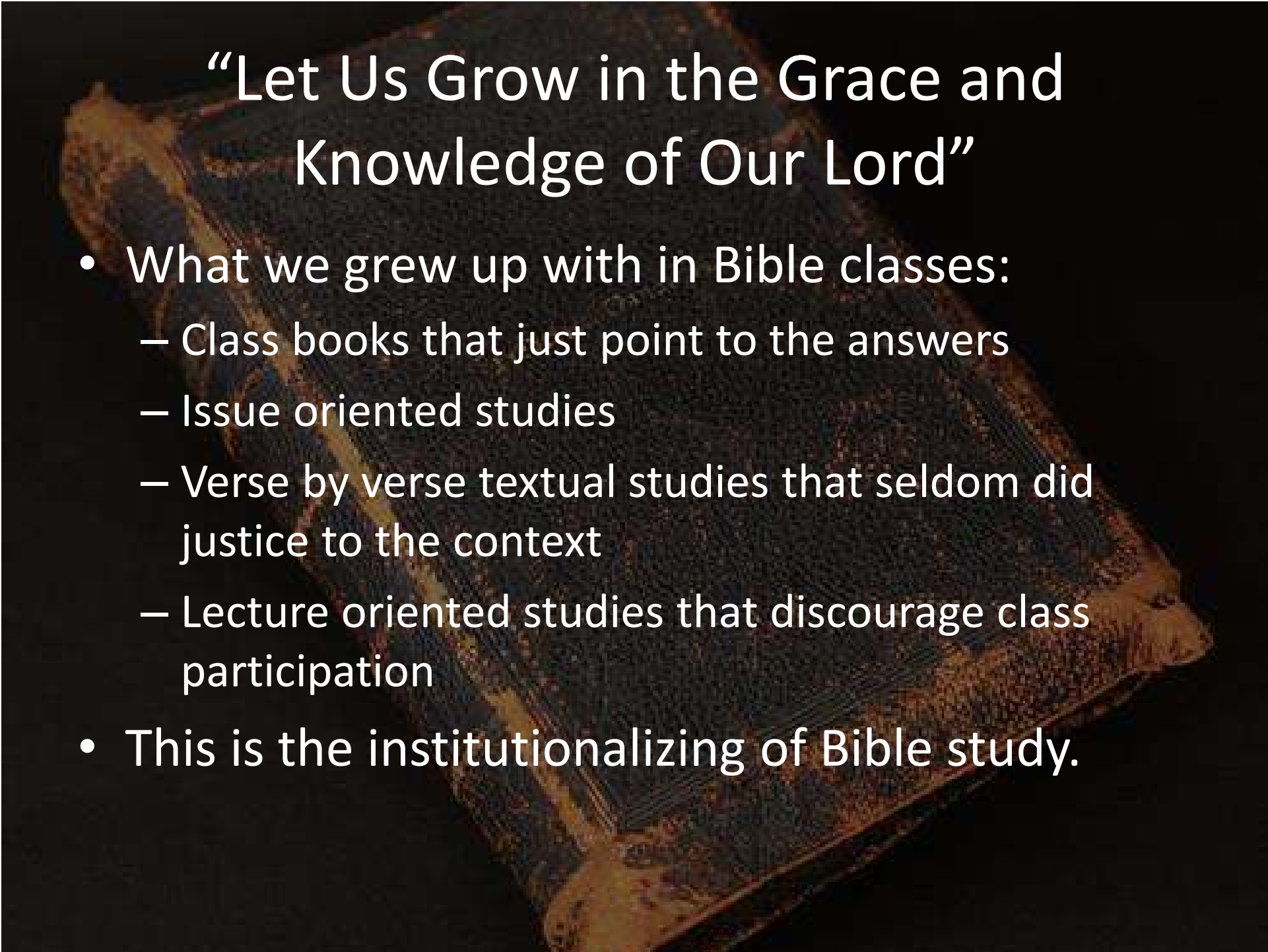
“Let Us Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord”

- 2Peter 3:18 - “...Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”
- 1John 5:20 - “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”



“Let Us Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord”

- Teaching is one of the critical cornerstones in the structure of a local church.
 - The Bible classes are an accurate gauge of the health of the congregation
 - A window into the future of that local church
 - A dynamic preacher, sound elders, and faithful members are not made without good Bible classes
 - Nor are they substitutes for interesting, edifying Bible classes.



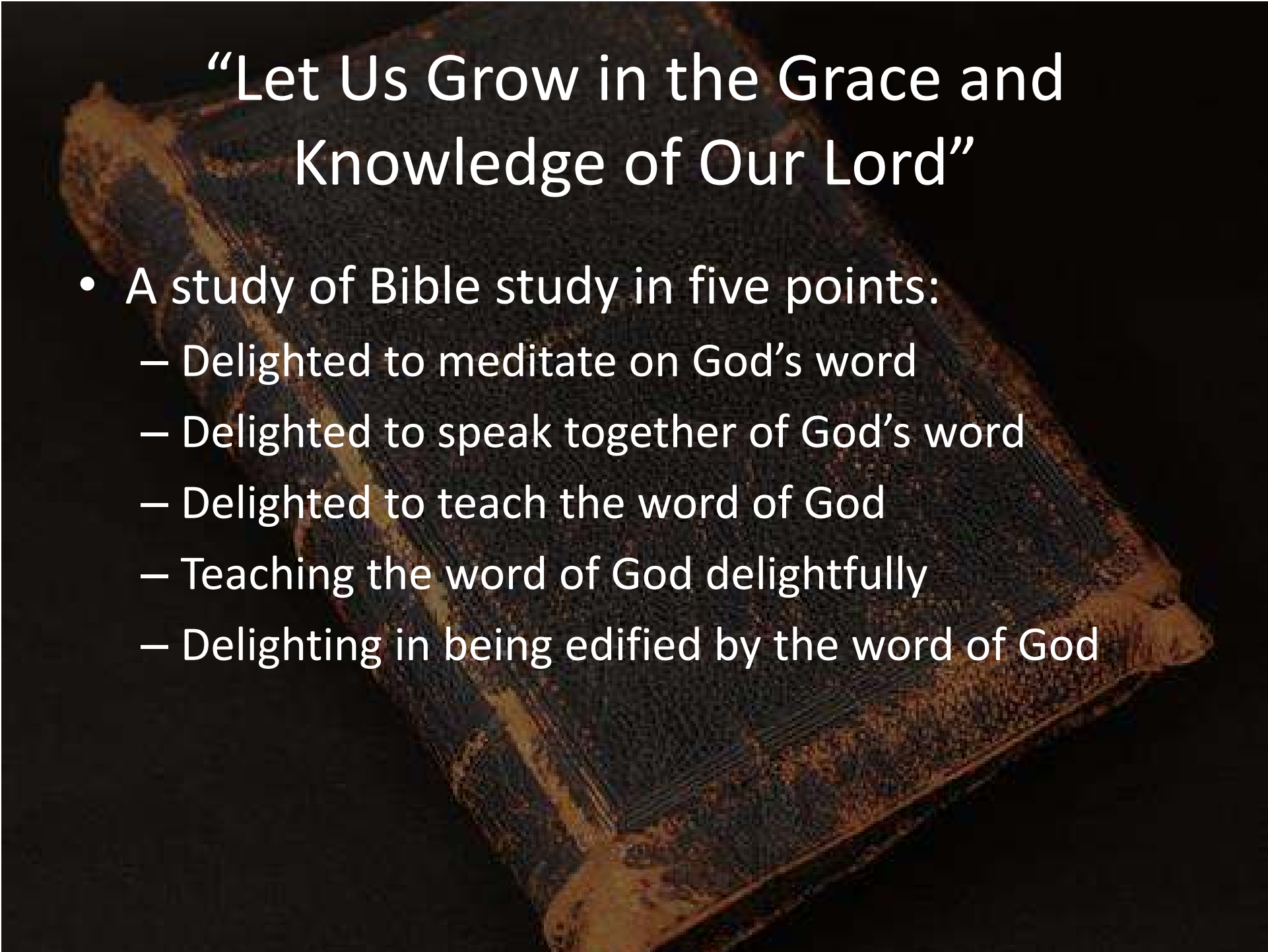
“Let Us Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord”

- What we grew up with in Bible classes:
 - Class books that just point to the answers
 - Issue oriented studies
 - Verse by verse textual studies that seldom did justice to the context
 - Lecture oriented studies that discourage class participation
- This is the institutionalizing of Bible study.



“Let Us Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord”

- What is the purpose of Bible study?
 - Bible study is not about filling the minds of students with facts from the Bible.
 - Bible study is about transforming lives by means of coming to know God in Whose image we were created, and examining His Self-revelation in order to change our thoughts and emotions to become more like Him.



“Let Us Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord”

- A study of Bible study in five points:
 - Delighted to meditate on God’s word
 - Delighted to speak together of God’s word
 - Delighted to teach the word of God
 - Teaching the word of God delightfully
 - Delighting in being edified by the word of God

Delighted To Meditate On God's Word

- Psalm 1:2 - "His delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night."
- People need to go away moved and thoughtful about Bible study.
- The goal of a teacher is to get students to delight in the word of God, which will translate into delighting in God and in the process of becoming more like Him.
- Psalm 119:97, 148 - "Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day... 148 My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word. "



Delighted To Meditate On God's Word

- One can get all of the facts and keep all of the commands and fail to grow and love God.
 - John 5:38-40 - “You do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. 39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”

Delighted To Meditate On God's Word

- The first goal of any Bible student is to know God. We cannot put being correct before knowing God who defined correctness.
 - John 6:44-45 - “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.”
- “Drawn” is similar in meaning to courting or wooing.

Delighted To Meditate On God's Word

- When one feels the need to come to Christ, then it is time to know how come to Him correctly
 - Acts 2:36-37 - “‘Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.’ 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’”
 - Rom. 6:17 - “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”

Delighted To Meditate On God's Word

- We are drawn to Him by knowing His love for us, just as a woman is drawn to a man when his love becomes fully evident in his proposal of marriage.
 - Eph. 5:22-33
 - 1John 4:10 - “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
- “If you love me, keep my commandments” is not true in reverse.

Delighted To Meditate On God's Word

- Don't start a study from a negative viewpoint; studying to know what to do to avoid hell or how to tell others why they are lost.
- Study to know God and to learn to love Him, and then learn what you need to do to have a relationship with Him.
 - Deut. 30:6 - "And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live."

Delighted To Meditate On God's Word

- In what order did God place these? Know the Spirit of God first or do the works of God first?
 - Ez. 36:26-27 - “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”
- Jesus quoted Hosea 6:6 twice: “For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.” Matt. 9:13, 12:7)
 - This is not to suggest that keeping the commandments is less important, but that it comes after knowing God and His love.



Delighted To Meditate On God's Word

- Knowing God first or self-discovery study is the way to love God and His word.
 - Class materials can divert the teacher and students from knowing God first.
- Lead the class to see it for themselves; do not tell them what to see.
 - Keep the class focused on what they can learn from the text.

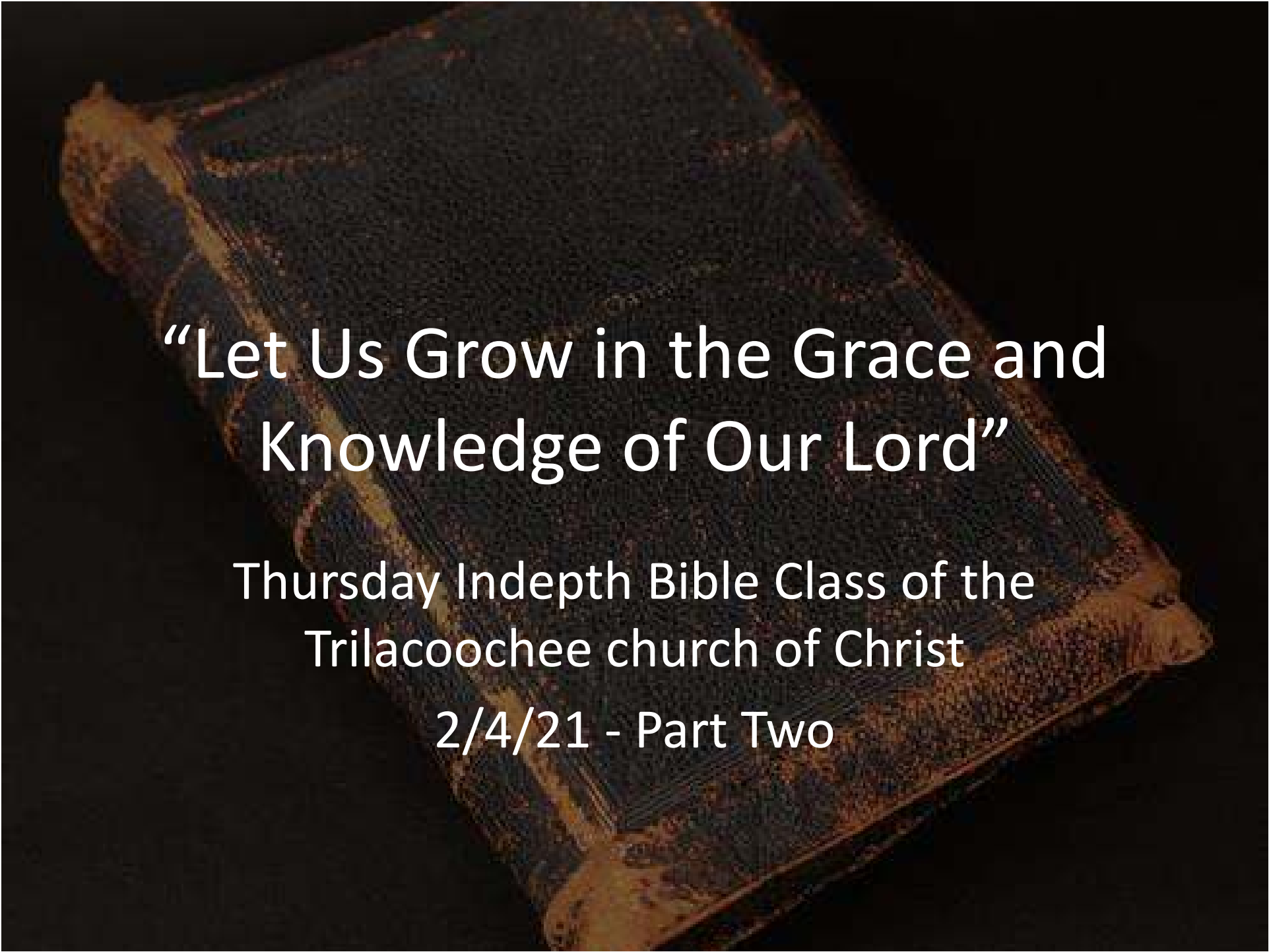


Delighted To Meditate On God's Word

- Ask the students to come prepared to tell the teacher what the context is.
- Ask questions that require full sentence answers.
- Ask the students what they see in the text.

Delighted To Meditate On God's Word


- What is the tone or tenor of the message?
- What is the condition of the brethren being addressed?
- How does this passage reveal and glorify God and Christ?
- What is the problem? How did this problem develop? What dangers are generated by the problem?
- What arguments does the author make to identify the problem, and what arguments does he make for solving it?
- What is the solution? How can I apply this to myself?
- What is the biggest surprise you discovered in the text?
- What is the biggest question you still have about the text?



“Let Us Grow in the Grace and
Knowledge of Our Lord”

Thursday Indepth Bible Class of the
Trilacoochee church of Christ

2/4/21 - Part Two



“Let Us Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord”

- Previously
 - Delighted To Meditate On God’s Word
- Presently
 - Delighted To Speak Together Of God’s Word
 - Delighted To Teach The Word Of God
 - Teaching The Word Of God Delightfully
 - Delighting In Being Edified By The Word Of God



Delighted To Speak Together Of God's Word

- Mal. 3:16 - "Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name."

Delighted To Speak Together Of God's Word

- What is the value of a Bible discussion class?
- There is a time and place where lectures and preaching without audience participation is of great value and effectiveness
 - Matt. 5-7 - The Sermon on the Mount
 - Matt. 10:24-42 - Sending out the Twelve
 - Matt. 23:1-39 - Rebuking the Pharisees
 - Matt. 25:1-46 - Prophesying regarding the fall of Jerusalem and then the end of the world

Delighted To Speak Together Of God's Word

- There is also a time and place where discussion and feedback in a class study setting is of great value and effectiveness
 - Matt. 13:1-30 - The Kingdom Parables
 - John 4:7-42 - The Samaritan woman at the well
 - John 6:41-58 - The lesson on the cost of discipleship by the Sea of Galilee
 - John 7:14-31 - Teaching in the Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles
 - John 8:12-59 - Teaching on the Mount of Olives after stopping the stoning of the adulterous woman



Delighted To Speak Together Of God's Word

- What is a Bible study that consists of a teacher delivering a lecture without audience participation?
- **It Is Called A Sermon!**
- Sitting through a lecture is passive learning.
- Participating in a discussion class is active learning.

Delighted To Speak Together Of God's Word

- “The advantage of discussion is that it can get the class totally involved in active learning. Your challenge is to reduce the amount of lecture time and to devise ways to make them active, not just passive, learners” (*Leo Myer, Teach!, p. 33, 48*).
- “Make students active participants in learning. Students learn by doing, making, writing, designing, creating, solving. Passivity dampens students’ motivation and curiosity. Don’t tell students when you can ask them” (*B. G. Davis, Tools for Teaching, p. 194*)

Delighted To Speak Together Of God's Word

- Three reasons to have discussion Bible classes:
 - It is an effective, interactive means of edification.
 - It is a means to communicate that we can and are teaching each other.
 - It is a means by which the teacher can know if and when his students have an understanding of the word.
- “Discussion methods are superior to lectures in student retention of information after the end of a course; in transfer of knowledge to new situations; in development of problem solving, thinking, or attitude change; and in motivation for further learning.” (*McKeachie & Svinicki, McKeachie's Teaching Tips, p. 36*)



Delighted To Teach The Word Of God

- 1Tim. 4:15-16 - “Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

Delighted To Teach The Word Of God

- Get the discussion started with questions
 - Avoid yes/no, true/false, fill in the blanks, and multiple guess questions.
 - Wait for the students to answer.
- Build a rapport and a relationship with your students
 - Respect the student's personal dignity.
 - “When trust is present, communication is open, self-disclosure is possible, and the discussion of issues transcends small talk and word games. When trust is absent in the institutional situation, communication tends to take place only at superficial level and learners do not become seriously engaged in the quest for knowledge and insight” (McKenzie & Harton, *The Religious Education of Adults*, p. 207)

Delighted To Teach The Word Of God

- Praise the student's efforts to answer a question or make a comment.
 - If they are mistaken, point out that they are mistaken in the same manner in which you would want to be told if the circumstances were reversed.
- Direct rather than dominate the class.
 - The best teacher of a Bible discussion class is more of a moderator than a lecturer.
 - Without a firm moderator, the class can degenerate into a mass sharing of ignorance. A Bible study is not a democracy.



Delighted To Teach The Word Of God

- On occasion, students will make comments that create tangents and divert the attention of the class from the teacher's goal.
 - If it is a question or comment that must be pursued, ask the student to defer it to another class, discuss it after class, or to allow you to complete the current matter.

Delighted To Teach The Word Of God

- Students need to cooperate with the teacher's direction. Students' comments should not:
 - Repeat the teacher's instruction or other students' comments
 - Go back in the material to re-make a point or to embellish it
 - Run the center column references for the class
 - Read long passages to make a point

Delighted To Teach The Word Of God

- The teacher must be completely honest.
 - Do not make up an answer or guess the answer; that is a foolproof recipe for error
 - Do not offer your opinion as if it were the correct answer. It is a Bible class, not a teacher's opinion class
 - If you don't know the answer, say so; and then, tell the class that you will come to the next study prepared to answer that question.
 - Make the class understand that you don't have all of the answers and that you are learning along with them

“Let Us Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord”

- Psalm 119:7-16 - “I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments. 8 I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly! 9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. 10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! 11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You! 12 Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes! 13 With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth. 14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. 16 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word”

Teaching The Word Of God Delightfully

- Deut. 32:1-3 - “Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2 Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass. 3 For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God.”

Teaching The Word Of God Delightfully

- 12 “Don’ts” when teaching a discussion Bible class:
 - 1) Do not begin the class by spending too much time in review.
 - 2) Do not ask questions that have obvious answers.
 - 3) Do not lecture endlessly.
 - 4) Do not put down persons who give wrong answers or offer misguided comments.
 - 5) Do not teach based on what you previously studied without re-studying the material.
 - 6) Never study and teach the scriptures verse by verse.

Teaching The Word Of God Delightfully

- 12 “Don’ts” when teaching a discussion Bible class:
 - 7) Do not show signs of frustration, impatience, or boredom.
 - 8) Do not allow students to hijack the class.
 - 9) Maintain a productive pace through the material, neither too fast or too slow.
 - 10) Do not become adversarial with your class or individual students.
 - 11) Do not answer your own questions.
 - 12) Do not teach the material the same way every time.

Teaching The Word Of God Delightfully

- Believe in the students
 - “Students will rise to your level of expectation.”
(Jaime Escalante, “Stand and Deliver,” teaching AP calculus to LA barrio children at Garfield High who barely had basic math skills)
 - First, communicate your expectations for the class and your conviction that they can do it.
 - Second, adjust your expectations if it becomes necessary.
 - Communicate this to the class and state the new goal and pace.

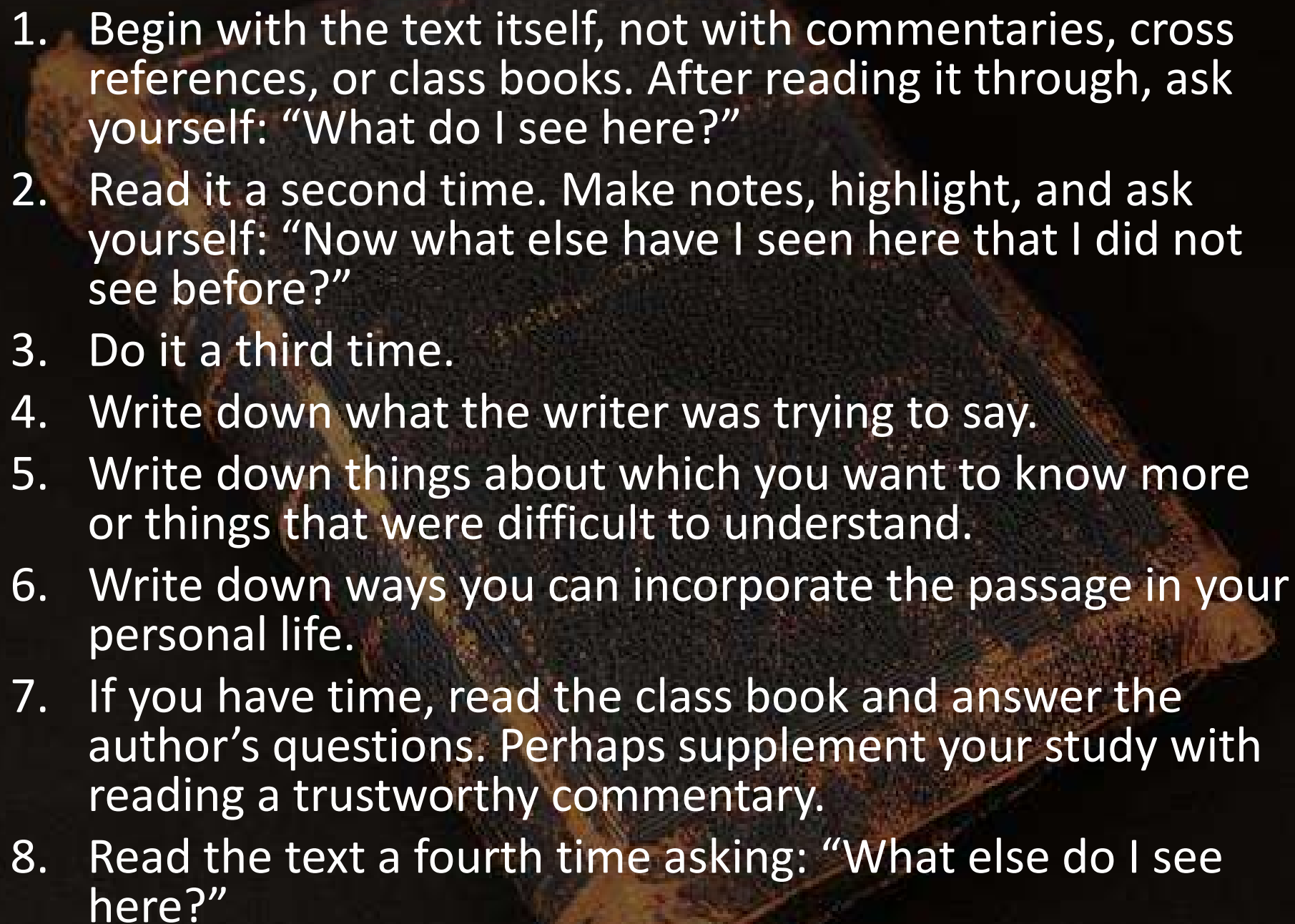
Delighting In Being Edified By The Word Of God

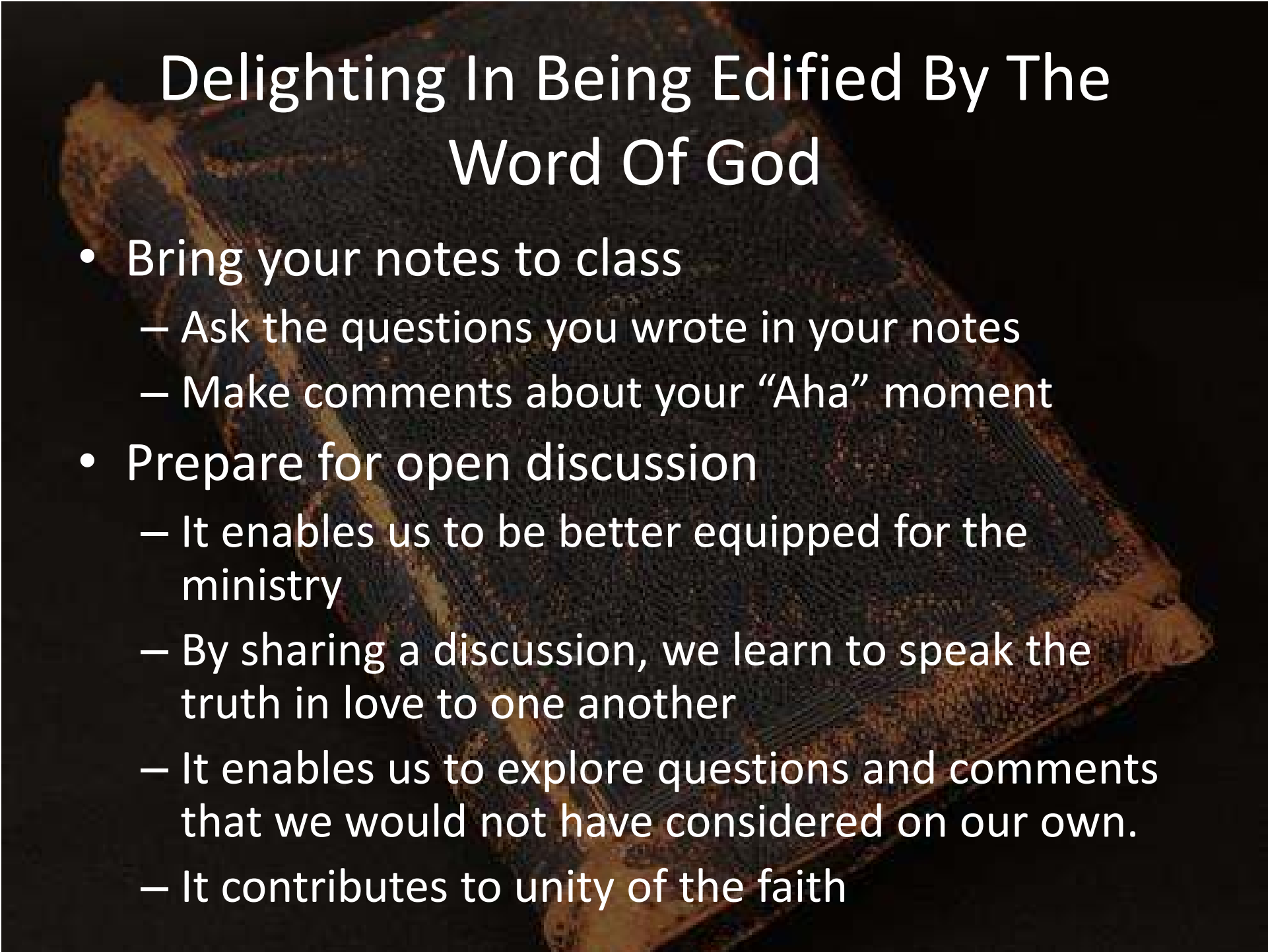
- Eph. 4:11-16 - “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”



Delighting In Being Edified By The Word Of God

- How to have an edifying class, for students:
- Learn to love the word of God and the God Who gave it to us. In every reading of the text, look for an “Aha” breakthrough or a “Wow” moment.

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1. Begin with the text itself, not with commentaries, cross references, or class books. After reading it through, ask yourself: “What do I see here?”
 2. Read it a second time. Make notes, highlight, and ask yourself: “Now what else have I seen here that I did not see before?”
 3. Do it a third time.
 4. Write down what the writer was trying to say.
 5. Write down things about which you want to know more or things that were difficult to understand.
 6. Write down ways you can incorporate the passage in your personal life.
 7. If you have time, read the class book and answer the author’s questions. Perhaps supplement your study with reading a trustworthy commentary.
 8. Read the text a fourth time asking: “What else do I see here?”



Delighting In Being Edified By The Word Of God

- Bring your notes to class
 - Ask the questions you wrote in your notes
 - Make comments about your “Aha” moment
- Prepare for open discussion
 - It enables us to be better equipped for the ministry
 - By sharing a discussion, we learn to speak the truth in love to one another
 - It enables us to explore questions and comments that we would not have considered on our own.
 - It contributes to unity of the faith

Delighting In Being Edified By The Word Of God

- It gives us the opportunity know the Lord and His word at a deeper level. There are three levels to Bible study:
 - 1) Surface - What is the obvious meaning of the text?
 - 2) Structural - How does this passage contribute to the local context and harmonize with the theme of all scripture?
 - 3) Sublime - What does this passage reveal about God and me?

Acts 17:10-12

“The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.”

Resources:

- 40 years of experience teaching adult Bible classes
- Charles Willis, *Effectively Teaching Adult Bible Classes*, 2008
- Leo Myer, *Teach! The Art of Teaching Adults*, 2005
- B.G. Davis, *Tools for Teaching*, 2001
- McKeachie & Svinicki, *McKeachie's Teaching Tips*, 2006
- McKenzie & Harton, *The Religious Education of Adults*, 2002
- Berry Kercheville, *Preparing Young Men to Preach*, 2005
- Berry Kercheville, *How to Teach a Self-Discovery Class*, 2016
Florida College Lectures
- Stanley Leavitt, *Teaching Bible Classes*