

October 23, 2019

Dear student of the Bible,

How open is your Bible?

Much of what we know from Scriptures comes second hand to us through sermons, podcasts, videos and books. And while there may be rich references to the Bible, we can easily miss the depth and richness of what God has for us, simply because *our* Bibles are not open wide enough and we are not feeding directly on this revelation from God.

The SRM (Scripture Roots of Ministry) was birthed out of a need to rediscover the depths of God's love and work among us and to re-imagine how his Kingdom works today regardless of if our cultural roots are secular, Christendom, Islamic or etc.

The passages contained were assembled by a workgroup led by Jim Peterson, a frontier missionary to Brazil and author. They are meant to cover a broad scope of references under several scriptural themes without 'telegraphing' answers to the student. This is a learning tool.

The premise is that answers for life, relationships and service to others come to those who seek truth, trusting in God's Spirit to enlighten, and involving fellow journeyers to sharpen and refine Scripture understanding and application in our various cultural contexts. That is why this resource works best as both a personal study *and* a group study.

You see, the problem we each share is that our interpretation and application of Scripture is heavily affected by the family and context in which we grew up, far more than we realize. For some, doctrinal statements become the authority. For others it is their historical church traditions that can blind one to the depths of Scripture. And for many, it is the sheer lack of awareness of the historical content of the Bible that limits growth in our spiritual lives in so many ways.

This resource may look daunting. But, it is an invitation to feast, a buffet of truth. It is meant to enlarge your understanding of the King and his Kingdom in a broad introductory way, which can be transformational in your walk with God as a disciple of Jesus.

Warmly in Christ,

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