

*Later Geneva Bibles included a flow chart on “how to take profite in reading of the holy Scriptures” prepared by T. Grashop of All Souls’ college Oxford. The following is a transcription of the chart.*

### **How to take profit in reading of the holy Scriptures.**

Whosoever minds to take profit by reading Scriptures must:

1. Earnestly and usually pray unto God that he will vouchsafe to
  - ❖ Teach the way of his statutes.
  - ❖ Give understanding. Psa. 119
  - ❖ Direct in the path of his commandments.
  
2. Diligently keep such order of reading the scriptures and prayer as may stand with his calling and state of life so that
  - ❖ At the least twice every day this exercise be kept. Deut. 11 :19
  - ❖ The time once appointed hereunto after a good entry, be no otherwise employed. Luke 9:62
  - ❖ Superstition be avoided Isa. 29:36
  - ❖ At one other time that be done, which is left undone at any time Eph. 5:16
  
3. Understand to what end and purpose the Scriptures serve, which were written, to:
  - ❖ Teach, that we may learn truth. 2 Tim. 3:16 & 17
  - ❖ Improve, that we may be kept from error.
  - ❖ Correct, that we may be driven from vice.
  - ❖ Instruct, that we may be settled in the way of well doing.
  - ❖ Comfort, that in trouble we may be confirmed in patient hope. Rom. 15:4.
  
4. Remember that Scriptures contain matter concerning
  - ❖ Religion and the right worshipping of God as
    - Faith in one God
      - Father.
      - Son
      - Holy Ghost
    - The state of mankind by
      - Creation.
      - fall and sin.
      - regeneration in Christ.
    - The Church and the government thereof.
      - Before Christ.
      - Since Christ.
    - The word of God written in the Testament.
      - Old.
      - New.
    - Sacraments
      - Before Christ.
      - Since Christ.
    - The end and general judgment of the
      - Good.
      - Wicked.

- ❖ Commonwealths and government of people, by
  - Magistrates
    - Good.
    - Evil.
  - Peace and war, Prosperity and plagues
  - Subjects
    - Quiet.
    - Disordered.
  - Families and things that belong to households, in which are
    - Husbands, Wives, Parents, Children, Masters, Servants.
      - Godly blessed.
      - Ungodly plagued.
  - The private doings of every man in
    - Wisdom and folly.
    - Love and hatred.
    - Soberness and incontinency.
    - Mirth and sorrow.
    - Speech and silence.
    - Pride and humility.
    - Covetousness and liberality.
  - The common life of all men as
    - Riches, poverty.
    - Nobility.
    - Favor.
    - Labor and idleness.
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5. Refuse all sense of Scripture contrary to the

- ❖ Articles of Christian faith, contained in the common Creed.
- ❖ First and second table of God's commandments.

6. Mark and consider the

- ❖ Coherence of the text, how it hangeth together.
- ❖ Course of times and ages, with such thing as belong unto them.
- ❖ Manner of speech proper to the Scriptures.
- ❖ Agreement that one place of Scripture hath with another, whereby that which seemeth dark in one is made easy in another.

7. Take opportunity to

- ❖ Read interpreters, if he be able.
- ❖ Confer with such as can open the Scriptures, Acts 8:30, 31, etc.
- ❖ Hear preaching and to prove by the Scriptures that which is taught, Acts 17:11.