

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.