

# **A Study Guide for The Bible**

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## PREFACE

Before you can study the Bible or understand it's concepts, you must realize that spiritual phenomena can not be comprehended without spiritual birth and spiritual birth can not be obtained apart from salvation.

*Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. (John 3:7)*  
*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Cor. 2:14)*  
*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)*

Salvation is as simple as accepting what Christ has done. The work has been accomplished, Jesus Christ offers eternal life to everyone who will believe in Him.

*..... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, ..... (Acts 16:31)*  
*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (John 1:12)*

No Christian can live an effective life for the Lord without knowledge of God's Word. Many people acknowledge the importance of the Bible but never spend much time studying it. Knowing your Bible is not just for preachers or pastors. It is for everyone. We are commanded, "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.*" (2 Tim. 2:15)

Every believer needs a working knowledge of the Scriptures. We must feed on God's Word if we are to grow spiritually. The Bible is the only reliable source of information with regard to God's Plan for all ages. It points out our state of sinfulness and our need for salvation through Jesus Christ. We learn about the character of God and how He deals with man throughout the ages. God reveals man's destiny and the ultimate destruction of this universe. The Bible is the revealed "*mind of Christ*". (1 Cor. 2:16) The more we know about the Bible, the more we know about Christ.

This study guide will help you know your Bible and teach you methods of study. The Holy Spirit will reveal truths that are within its contents guiding you to spiritual maturity.

## **BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIBLE**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Bible is the BOOK OF BOOKS - God's written revelation of His will to mankind. The Bible not only contains the Word of God, it is the Word of God, specially and supernaturally given by God to man by Divine inspiration (2 Tim 3:16). God caused the writers to write exactly what He wanted. The Bible contains the plan of God for every person in the world. For help in understanding the Bible, the following information is useful;

#### **I. NAME:**

The word Bible was originally derived From "byblos" or "papyrus" (a reed From which parchment scrolls were made). Eventually it came to mean "a book" and is used now for "THE BOOK OF BOOKS" the Bible. The word "Testament" means covenant or agreement.

- A. The Old Testament is the covenant or agreement God made with man about his salvation before Christ came.
- B. The New Testament is the covenant or Agreement God made with man about his salvation after Christ came.

The Old Testament looks forward to the cross and the New Testament looks back to the cross.

#### **II. NUMBER:**

The Bible is one book composed of 66 separate books. These constitute a Divine library, which is nevertheless one book with complete unity.

- A. The Old Testament contains 39 books.
- B. The New Testament contains 27 books.

12. Esther: Sovereignty - God's gracious care of His people through His servants Esther.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT Part 2**

### **I. REVIEW:**

The four major divisions of the Old Testament are as follows:

- A. Law
- B. History.
- C. Poetry
- D. Prophets

### **II. THE LEADING THOUGHT OF EACH BOOK: (continued)**

#### **A. Poetry:**

These books are called poetry, although they do not possess rhythm and rhyme as most of our Western poetry. They are known as Hebrew Wisdom Literature, emphasizing the mind of God in our practical daily life as a believer. They speak of the believer's experience.

- 1. Job: The experience of suffering and the reason for suffering.
- 2. Psalms: The experience of believers in and out of fellowship. Also, great prophetic truths about the Messiah (Psalms 2, 8, 16, 22, 89, etc.).
- 3. Proverbs: Solomon tells his son of the practicality of living the Christian life - "you never lose when you do God's will" (Proverbs 3:13).
- 4. Ecclesiastes: Success with God vs success with men. Solomon, the richest man in the world tells of life apart from fellowship with God and of emptiness regardless of the things you have.
- 5. Song of Solomon: "The Christian's Love Song" which draws an analogy between the Shulamite maid and the Shepard and the Believer toward the Lord with His love for his people. (Eph. 5:25)

#### **B. Prophets:**

- B. History: The development of Abraham's family into the Kingdom of Israel.
- C. Poetry: Israel's experience in obeying and disobeying the law, God's Word.
- D. Prophets: Israel's decline and future discipline due to disregard of the Law. The prophecy of a future day of Glory for the nation.

### **III. THE LEADING THOUGHT OF EACH BOOK:**

#### **A. The Law:**

1. Genesis: Beginnings - world, life, man, sin, salvation, Israel, etc.
2. Exodus: Redemption - God delivers Israel out of Egypt.
3. Leviticus: Worship - rituals which gave Israel pictures of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Tabernacle, Priesthood, Offerings).
4. Numbers: Wanderings - Israel in the desert between Egypt and Canaan.
5. Deuteronomy: Review - Moses repeats many of the events of Exodus and Numbers for benefit of the younger generation.

#### **B. The Books of History:**

1. Joshua: Conquest - God gives the promised Land to Israel.
2. Judges: Apostasy - Israel falls into idolatry several times, God provides "Judges" to deliver them.
3. Ruth: Relationship - Beginning of the family of David (her grandson). Ruth is a story of redemption.
4. I Samuel: Preparation for the Kingdom. Man's choice is Saul.
5. II Samuel: Establishment of the Kingdom. God's choice is David.
6. I Kings: Division of the Kingdom. The Northern Kingdom is Israel and the Southern Kingdom is Judah.
7. II Kings: Loss of the Kingdom. Israel's kings are chiefly apostate.
8. I Chronicles: Solomon and the Temple.
9. II Chronicles: The Kings and the Temple.
10. Ezra: Rebuilding the Temple, revival of the Law.
11. Nehemiah: Rebuilding the walls.

## **VIII APPLICATION:**

The Bible is the most important book ever written. Do you view it as such? Do you treat it as such? Are you studying God's Word daily? What you do with the Word of God speaks for how you feel about it.

### **OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT Part 1**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

The old Testament is composed of 39 books from Genesis to Malachi. "The Promise of a Redeemer to Come" (Gen. 3:15) is the theme of the Old Testament.

#### **I. THE DIVISIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT:**

- A. Law - 5 books:  
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- B. History - 12 books:  
Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
- C. Poetry - 5 books:  
Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
- D. Prophets 17 books;
  - 1. Five Major (long):  
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
  - 2. Twelve Minor (short):  
Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

#### **II. THE PROGRESSION OF THOUGHT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

- A. Law: Man falls, God's law shows him this and the solution. The beginning of Abraham's family.

### **III. AUTHORS:**

God Himself, in a very real sense wrote these books of the Bible. Humanly speaking, 40 men wrote them over a period of 1600 years. This is the Doctrine of Dual-Authorship, " God inspired men to write exactly what He wanted them to, without forcing them into a mold or distorting their own personalities or abilities to write. These men were Kings and Princes, poets and philosophers, prophets and statesmen, farmers and fishermen.

### **IV. LANGUAGES:**

Our English Bibles are translations of the original languages.

- A. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, the language of the Jews (with the exception of a few short passages in Aramaic).
- B. The New Testament was written in Koine (common) Greek, the world-wide language of that day. This was a wonderful language because of its color, clarity and preciseness.

### **V. THEME:**

The central theme of the Bible is salvation through the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **VI. SCOPE:**

- A. God and man.
- B. Heaven and hell.
- C. Angels and Satan.
- D. Things past, present and future.
- E. God's plan for every person.

### **VII. SCRIPTURES FOR STUDY:**

- A. Roman-9 1:1 - "Paul" (human author).
- B. Galatians 6:11 - "written with my own hand."
- C. 2 Timothy 3:16 - "all scripture is God-breathed."
- D. 2 Peter 1:21 "through holy men of God, moved by the Holy Spirit.

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Old Testament points to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ with prophecies concerning His Person and Work. The New Testament is the fulfillment of the prophecies by His personal appearance.

**I. GOD'S PERFECT PLAN:**

- A. Preparation: The Old Testament makes ready for the coming of the Messiah.
- B. Manifestation: Christ is revealed in the four Gospels, died for sins and was raised from the dead.
- C. Appropriation: Personal acceptance and appropriation of the Lord Jesus Christ into individual lives is revealed in Acts and the Epistles.
- D. Consummation: The final outcome of God's perfect plan is revealed in Revelation.

**II. OUTLINE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:**

- A. Gospels: Christ is manifested to the world, lived the perfect life, died, resurrected and ascended into heaven.
- B. Acts: Christ is proclaimed as the church spreads the Gospel from Jerusalem to Rome.
- C. Epistles: The doctrines of salvation, Christian life and church life are explained.
- D. Revelation: The fulfillment of all God's purposes and plans.

**III. MAJOR DIVISIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:**

- A. Historical:
  - 1. The Gospels are portraits of the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - 2. Acts is the history of the birth and early life of the church.
- B. Doctrinal:
  - 1. Paul's epistles give the doctrines of the church between the ascension and the rapture.



There are five major prophecies and twelve minor prophecies. The length is not important. The themes of these prophecies are the captivities of Israel: 1) The Northern Kingdom of Israel to Assyria 2) The Southern Kingdom of Judah to Babylon. These captivities were due to disobedience to God by the Jewish people.

A listing of the books and the period in which they were written is as follows:

1. Before Captivity:

- a. Isaiah to Judah
- b. Jeremiah to Judah
- c. Lamentations to Judah
- d. Hosea to Israel
- e. Joel to Judah
- f. Amos to Israel
- g. Obadiah to Judah.
- h. Jonah to Israel
- i. Micah to Judah
- j. Nahum to Judah
- k. Habakkuk to Judah
- l. Zephaniah to Judah

2. During Captivity:

- a Ezekial in Babylon
- b: Daniel to all Israel

3. After Captivity:

- a. Haggai - "get back to work rebuilding the Temple"
- b. Zechariah - "a coming day of Restoration and Glory"
- c. Malachi - "you've grown cold again"

### III. SUMMARY:

The Old-Testament begins with the first man (Adam) and his fall by sin and ends with the promise of the Coming One (Christ) who will pay for the sins of all the human race.

There are two persons primarily responsible for your growth: God and you. God has already provided everything possible on His part. He has given you His complete written Word, the Bible, and promises to teach you this Book (by the Holy Spirit who takes up residence in your body at the moment of salvation).

The only thing which can possibly stop you from learning the Word is your own lack of desire. We do those things which seem most important to us. We put off things we consider unimportant or undesirable. Study of the Word should rank near the top of your "most important" list.

## **II. REASONS FOR BIBLE STUDY:**

- A. God has commanded it (2 Tim. 2:15).
- B. As "new-born babes", we need to grow (I Pet. 2:2).
- C. As children of God we must know His Word before we can do His will (John 15:14).
- D. Without His Word, we are totally helpless in living our lives (Eph. 4:14).

## **III. BAD ATTITUDES TOWARD BIBLE STUDY:**

- A. Negative: "I won't be able to understand anything, so why bother studying it" (an easy way to "cop out").
- B. Lazy: "Just sounds like a lot of work to me" (so is training for football or cheerleading).
- C. Know-it-all: "Nothing new here, same old stuff I've heard all along" (don't kid yourself).

## **IV. GOOD ATTITUDES TOWARD BIBLE STUDY:**

- A. Positive: "I can learn the plan God has for me in His Word."
- B. Receptive: "I want to know the plan of God, not my way, but His way."
- C. Expectant: God is really going to teach me right from His Word.
- D. Faithful: "I am going to work at this." Discipline yourself to study because you see the benefits it can give you.

## **PREREQUISITES FOR SUCCESSFUL BIBLE STUDY**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The believer is commanded by the Lord to study the Bible, God's Word, in order to become properly equipped to serve Him. The Bible contains the believer's marching orders and instructions as to how to live the Normal Christian Life. During our Christian lives in time we are to learn about our God. Remember: You will never know more about God than you know about Jesus Christ, and you will never know more about Him than you know about God's Word.

The next lessons are designed to give you an elementary knowledge of the subject of Bible study. You will not know how to study the Bible effectively after going through these lessons, but the principles you learn from them must be applied over an extended period of time in order to see real progress. Note: The best way to begin is to begin!

### **I. HOW TO BEGIN BIBLE STUDY:**

Two things which you must possess from the beginning to successfully study God's Word are as follows:

- A. Regeneration - a personal relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ. Unless you know Jesus Christ as your Savior, you will "not welcome the things of the Spirit of God", they will be "foolishness" to you in fact, you "cannot personally know them" (1 Cor. 2:14) because you do not possess the God-given capacity to understand spiritual truth (cf. 1 Cor. 1:18,25, 26-29).

God has promised to teach His children His Word, but you are not a child of God until you trust Christ as your Savior (John 1:2; Gal. 3:26; John 3:16-18,36).

- B. Desire to know the Word, apply the Word and grow as a Christian. From the very beginning of our new life in Christ we are to "earnestly desire or long for the spiritual, pure milk of the Word" (1 Pet. 2:21) in order that we "may be increased, or grow" (by the study and application of the Word).

years before men "discovered" them by natural scientific methods. A few of these are as follows:

A. The earth is not supported:

Many ancient people thought the earth was carried on the back of a giant turtle (Hindus), a mighty man Atlas (Greeks), or a set of Posts (Egyptians). However, 3500 years before Columbus discovered the earth is not supported, Job declared, "He hangeth the earth upon nothing" (Job 26:7).

B. The earth is not flat:

Also, people believed the earth to be flat and sailors feared sailing too far out for fear of falling off the edge. "He (God) who sitteth upon the circle of the earth" (Isa. 40:22) was written to the Jews. 2000 years before Columbus sailed west to discover the western hemisphere. Interestingly, his navigator was a Jew.

C. The heavens are controlled by ordinances:

Thousands of years before Sir Isaac Newton (a Bible believing Christian) wrote his Celestial Mechanics or PRINCIPIA, the Lord informed Job. (38:33) that the entire universe is controlled by set ordinances which cause all stars and planets to move with the most precise clockwork, known.

D. Other scientific facts stated in Scripture:

1. Water cycle (Eccl 1:7) - river, sea, air., rain, river, etc.
2. All matter and energy completed at earth's origin (Gen.2:1,2).  
The first law of thermodynamics is that matter is neither created or destroyed
3. The universe is decaying (Ps. 102:26). The second law of thermodynamics is entropy.
4. Life is in the blood (Lev. 17:11). For instance an unborn baby is sustained by his own blood produced within its own body from nourishment provided by the mother.
5. Ocean currents (Ps. 8:18). The Bible stimulated Matthew Maury to research "the paths of the seas" and produce his works on oceanography. He was also responsible for the founding of Annapolis naval Academy.

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handy work", (Psalm 19:1)

revealed to man and recorded in God's Word which have Already been fulfilled:

A. Concerning Jesus Christ, the Messiah:

1. Must be of the Tribe of Judah. Gen. 49:10; Matt. 1:2; Luke 3:33.
2. Must be of the Family of David. Isa. 11:1; Jer. 33:21; Matt. 1:6; Luke 3:31
3. Must be born of a virgin. Isa. 7:14; Luke 1:26-33
4. Must be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1-7; Matt. 2:6
5. Type and nature of death. Ps. 22; Isa. 53; Matt. 27:33-50, etc.
6. Resurrection from the dead Ps.16:10; Matt.12:40; John 2:18-22; Matt. 28:1-7

B. Concerning the Nation of Israel:

1. The Egyptian bondage and release. Gen. 15:13,14; Ex.: 1:7-14; Ex. 12:31-34
2. Israel's condition in the land after Egyptian bondage Deut. 4:26-30
3. The 70 year Babylonian captivity Jer. 25:8-12; Dan. 1:1,2
4. Return from Babylonian captivity Jer. 29:@10; Ezra 1:1-4

C. Concerning Gentile World Dynasties:

1. Babylonian Empire Dan. 2:37; 7:4; Isa. 47; 13:9-22
2. Medo-Persian Empire Dan 7:5; 11:1,2
3. Grecian Empire Dan. 2:39; 7:6; 11:3
4. Roman Empire Dan. 2:40,41; 7:7
5. Overthrow of these prophesied Dan. 2:44,45; 7:9-14

**IV. SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY TO THE DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION:**

The Bible is not a textbook of Science but it is authoritative when it does make a statement in the realm of natural knowledge (Job 40:1, 2). The modern scientific mind which rejects the Bible because of the supernatural events related therein is only blinded by its prejudice and bias, which is a product of unbelief. Note: Prejudice is never acceptable in the line of scientific investigation. Science which denies at the start the possibility of the supernatural is not true science at all. Besides this, an amazing amount of scientific information is found in the Bible. Many scientific facts are related there hundreds and even thousands of

## **II. HISTORICAL ACCURACY TO THE DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION:**

The Bible is a book filled with historical facts, All of this history is true in every detail. It is recorded exactly as it happened. The unbelieving mind has continuously attacked the Bible on the grounds that it is not historically accurate; that many of the incidents recorded did not occur and that places did not exist as the Bible relates, As believers we are indebted to dedicated archaeologists whose work continues to turn up evidence which supports the Scriptural testimony, not destroy it. As believers we are not dependent upon this evidence in order to believe the Word, but should study it in order to more effectively "give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you (1 Peter 3:15).

For instance: In the Old Testament such things as the flood, the Tower of Babel, Sodom and Gomorrah, and the falling of the walls of Jericho used to be scoffed at by unbelieving liberals. Archaeology has furnished proof that these things did exist and occur exactly as the Bible says.

For instance: In the New Testament such things as the "taxation" of Luke 2, the existence of Pontius Pilate and various other characters and cities of Biblical times used to be regarded by liberals as "fictitious characters, places and events," invented by the Biblical writers. Digging down into the centuries of ruin and rubble in Bible lands, archaeologists have now discovered all of the above to be true.

The Bible has nothing to fear from honest investigation. All of the known facts support our position of faith in the Bible as the inspired, inerrant Word of God.

## **III. PROPHEPIC ACCURACY TO THE DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION:**

Prophecy is simply history recorded before it happens, prewritten history. Only God (who knows everything) knows the future, and only He could reveal this to men who wrote it down (Isaiah 46:9,10). The following are just a few of the hundreds of prophecies supernaturally

calling attention to the necessity "that the scripture be fulfilled."  
(Cf. Matt. 5:17,18; Matt. 4:3-10; Luke 11:28; 2 Pet. 3:15,16)

#### **IV. EXTERNAL WITNESS TO THE DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION:**

This is the testimony of the early church, those who lived closer in time to the events reported in the Scriptures. The following leaders in the early church claimed inspiration for both the Old and New Testament Scriptures:

Clement of Alexandria (c. 155 - c. 215 A.D.)  
Origin of Alexandria (c. 185 - c. 252 A.D.)  
Dionysius of Alexandria (c. 200 - c. 265 A.D.)  
Athanasius of Alexandria (298 - 373 A.D.)

These men lived during the period of time in which the New Testament letters and writings were being collected and organized into our New Testament. This process of "canonization" was fully protected by God as was the original writing. The final outcome of this process delivered to us our Bible of 66 books which compose, the complete written Word of God to man.

THE WORD OF GOD: Learn it; Believe it; Obey it!

#### **INSPIRATION AND INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE: Part 2**

2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is God-breathed."

2 Peter 1:21 "Holy men of God spoke as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

#### **I. REVIEW:**

Five Witnesses to Biblical inspiration

- A. Internal Witness
- B. External Witness
- C. Historical Accuracy
- D. Prophetic Accuracy
- E. Scientific Accuracy

## **II. DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION:**

All of the Bible is God's complete written Word to man, free of any mistakes in its original writing, completely reliable and true in history and doctrine.

A. This doctrine teaches a "plenary verbal" view of inspiration:

1. "Plenary" - full - means that all parts of the Word are equally inspired.
2. "Verbal" - word - means that this inspiration extends to the very words used by the writers. God wrote His Word through men who wrote it down (Doctrine of Dual Authorship).

B. Five witnesses to Biblical inspiration:

1. Internal Witness
2. External Witness
3. Historical Accuracy
4. Prophetic Accuracy
5. Scientific Accuracy

Why should a believer bother to defend this doctrine? See 1 Pet. 3:15 and Col. 4:6.

## **III. INTERNAL WITNESS TO THE DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION:**

A. Old Testament:

1. Pentateuch - over 700 references to "the Lord spoke," "God said" and "the word of the Lord."
2. Historical - no less than 400 such references.
3. Poetry - hundreds of references.
4. Prophecy - over 1300 such claims.

So we can readily see that the Old Testament claims Divine Authorship and authority by its own witness.

B. New Testament:

The New Testament sets its seal upon the Old Testament Scriptures as the Word of God. Jesus quoted from the Old Testament frequently



- h. Jude is "The Acts of the Apostates" written by the half brother of the Lord Jesus Christ telling of the dangers confronting the doctrines of the church. (3, 4)

**A. Prophetic:**

Practically every book in the New Testament sheds light upon the future of Israel, the Church and the plan of God, but the book of Revelation is the one book in the New Testament consisting almost wholly of pre-written history (prophecy).

The key verse of Revelation is 1:19, "Write the things which thou hast seen (1:1-19), the things which are (1:20-3:22), and the things which shall be hereafter (4:1-22:21).

**INSPIRATION AND INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE: Part I**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Is the Bible the Word of God? This can be answered with an emphatic "yes!" It proves itself to be the inspired and inerrant Word of God in many ways. In this lesson we will deal with some of these ways, plus some of the so-called "errors" in the Bible.

**I. DEFINITIONS:**

**A. Inspired (2 Tim. 3:16):**

This word means "God-breathed." God "breathed-out" His Word to men who wrote it down. All of the Scripture has been filled with the mind of God. This was not mechanical; the men's natural writing style and personality were employed. The end result is a written message from God Himself.

**B. Inerrant:**

This word means the Bible (in the original writings) contains no errors. Everything in the Bible is absolutely true in what it represents. God is a perfect God who could not give less than a perfect Word to man. The means by which He did this is called "inspiration" (2 Pet. 1:21).

believer's hope (faith-produced confidence in the future) is in the Lord Jesus Christ coming for His own. (2:19)

- i. 2 Thessalonians is written to comfort those in persecution and to more accurately instruct them as to the arrival of the day of the Lord (Tribulation Period) which they erroneously thought they were in. (2:15)
- j. 1 Timothy contains directions for church order, sound doctrine and church discipline. (3:15)
- k. 2 Timothy gives directions for the individual believer facing doctrinal and spiritual apostasy (a falling away). (4:7,8)
- l. Titus is similar to 1 Timothy but is written to Titus who was responsible for establishing churches on the Island of Crete. (2:13)
- m. Philemon is a personal letter from Paul to an old friend about one of his slaves who had run away but had been led to the Lord and was now returning home. (18)

## 2. General Epistles:

- a. Hebrews presents Jesus Christ as the perfect, complete fulfillment of all Old Testament shadows and is superior to anything before or after. (1:3 & 12:2)
- b. James shows the results of an active faith and of an inactive faith in the believer. Without good works, no one will believe you possess the salvation you profess. "Your life speaks so loudly, I can't hear your lips." (4:17)
- c. 1 Peter is consolation for believers explaining both the suffering of Jesus Christ for us and of our suffering for Him. (1:8 & 4:13)
- d. 2 Peter gives warnings to believers of dangers within the professed church. (3:17, 18)
- e. 1 John is written that the believer might know how to be happy; how not to sin; how to be on guard against error and the assurance of eternal life. (1:9 & 5:13)
- f. 2 John is written to an unknown Christian woman with emphasis on the truth to be found in Jesus Christ - know it, walk in it, don't just admire it. (6, 9)
- g. 3 John is written to a man who recognized and lived the truth that all he has belongs to Christ. "His purse strings are loose and his latchstring is out." (4)

## OVERVIEW OF THE NEW TESTAMENT: PART 2

### I. REVIEW:

The major divisions of the New Testament are as follows:

- A. Historical - Gospels and Acts
- B. Doctrinal - Paul's Letters and General Letters (Romans-Jude)
- C. Prophetic - Revelation

### II. LEADING THOUGHT OF EACH BOOK: Romans through Jude (with key verses)

#### A. Doctrinal:

1. Paul's Epistles: Thirteen letters written by Paul to individuals and to local churches to expound the doctrines of Christ, salvation, the Christian way of life and order and discipline in the church.
  - a. Romans shows that Jesus Christ's death has provided a righteous position before God for every believer. (1:17)
  - b. I Corinthians corrects and instructs believers who do not allow Christ to be Lord of their lives. (14:33,40)
  - c. 2 Corinthians expresses the joy of Paul over the good reception of his first letter and defends his apostolic authority to some who questioned it. (5:14, 15)
  - d. Galatians teaches the believer is no longer under the law, but is saved by faith alone and is free to serve Jesus Christ instead of sin. (2:21)
  - e. Ephesians emphasizes the truth of the believer's union with Christ, or what we are, as believers before God and what we are to be before men. (1:3)
  - f. Philippians reveals the joy available from the Lord Jesus Christ who is our completely sufficient One. (1:21)
  - g. Colossians exalts the Person and Work of Christ to correct the errors of ascetic (extreme self-denial) legalism and unsound mysticism (in this case, the worship of angels). (2:9,10)
  - h. 1 Thessalonians is a portrait of a blueprint church growing in the Word and making application to daily life. The

2. The other epistles contain doctrines of the Church and were written for general circulation.

C. Prophetic:

The Revelation foretells the final victory of the Lord Jesus Christ and his people.

**IV. THE LEADING THOUGHT OF EACH BOOK: Matthew thru Acts.**

A. Matthew is the Portrait of the King:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is revealed as the Son of David, heir to the throne of Israel and identified as the promised king to come of the Old Testament.
2. The key verse is Matt. 1:1.

B. Mark is the Portrait of the Servant.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is presented as the servant of the Lord, sent to accomplish a specific work for God, which was to give His life for the salvation of mankind. The emphasis is on His deeds shown in His miracles which point to His power as the Son of God.
2. The key verse is Mark 10:45 (cf. Zech. 3:8).

C. Luke is the Portrait of the Son of Man.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is shown as the perfect man, the divine-human person. The many parables teach of Christ's love and concern for lost humanity.
2. The key verse is Luke 19:10 (cf. Zech. 6:12).

D. John is the Portrait of the Son of God.

1. The emphasis in John is on the Deity of the Lord Jesus. The doctrines found in this book are necessary for the believer's spiritual growth and maturity.
2. The key verse is John 20:31 (cf. Isaiah 4:2).

E. Acts is the history of the early church.

1. The account of the beginning and early work of the church and of giving out the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. The key verse is Acts 1:8.

- B. Use your concordance to locate each occurrence of his name (he may have more than one name).
- C. Study each passage in its own context.
- D. Reconstruct the life of the person.
  - 1. Watch for time periods (babyhood, adolescence, adulthood).
  - 2. Watch for crisis experiences, highlights of his life, salvation, etc.
- E. Summarize your findings in principle form. (What did you learn?)

### **CONCLUSION:**

Reading and studying the Bible returns great dividends. The more we know about the Bible the more we know about God. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study the Bible, desiring to rightly divide the Word of Truth. (2 Tim 2:15; 3:16-17) Don't be content to get information from others or be satisfied by only reading God's Word. Seek explanations and search for answers about difficult passages and apparent contradictions. The Bible is absolutely dependable and when scriptures are compared the true meaning is displayed.

**B. Another Procedure:**

1. Select a book for doctrinal study.
2. Analyze this book doctrinally using the ten categories of doctrine.

**C. Points to look for in studying any verse or passage in the Bible.**

1. Doctrines to learn and believe.
2. Sins to recognize and confess.
3. Commands to obey.
4. Promises to claim.
5. Examples to follow or to avoid.
6. Attitudes to follow or to avoid.
7. Principles to apply.

Write down these things as you see them in the Bible. Apply the Word of God to your own life, Let God speak to you through Bible study.

**THE APPLICATION OF TOPICAL & CHARACTER METHODS OF BIBLE STUDY**

**I. TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY:**

This is a systematic and logical study of passages related to a specific subject. The steps are as follows:

- A. Select a topic (word, custom, place, thing, problem, etc.).
- B. Using your concordance, locate all passages on the topic.
- C. Study those passages, listing all the points of information in your notebook.
- D. Compile these into a logical order.
- E. Make application of these newly understood truths life.

**II. CHARACTER BIBLE STUDY:**

This is a systematic study of what the Word records about a person or group. The aim is to derive principles from your study for application to your life, The steps are as follows:

- A. Select a person (or group).

Possibly all of this will not be found at the beginning. Consult your Bible dictionary and/or Bible handbook. Also, the Scofield Bible gives much of this information at the beginning of each book.

- D. Note the proper divisions (outlines) of the book: The chapters do not always occur as they should. Consult your dictionary and handbook for this, too.
- E. Starting at Chapter 1, verse 1, begin your verse by verse study: Ask yourself the following questions about each verse:
  - 1. Who is speaking? To whom?
  - 2. What is actually said?
  - 3. Where is he? Are they?
  - 4. When is this taking place? Day, year, season, etc.?
  - 5. Why did he say it?
  - 6. Wherefore? What conclusion does it give if any? What application is for me?
- F. Suggested books: 1 Thessalonians, 1 John, Philippians. These are suggested because they are relatively short books which are easily understood and applied.

## **II. DOCTRINAL STUDY:**

This method involves verse by verse study and analyzes what it teaches doctrinally. This can be done with one doctrine in mind or with all doctrines.

Two suggested procedures are as follows:

- A. One Procedure:
  - 1. Select a doctrine: For example "the Names of God" Recall your 10 categories of doctrine and place this doctrine in the proper category. (which is "Theology").
  - 2. Use your concordance to locate the verses in Which names of God are used. This can be done in one book or throughout the entire Bible.
  - 3. Study these passages, listing the names of God and their meaning.
  - 4. Determine what this new knowledge of God should mean in your life.

**B. Dangers:**

1. The over studying of pet subjects which produces a lack of balance.
2. Taking verses out of context.

**C. Types of Topical Studies:**

1. Words, customs, things.
2. Problems: "How can I know God's will?" etc.
3. Biography:
4. Doctrine:

**IV. BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY:**

This involves studying the statements of the Bible about a person or persons. The primary purpose or goal is to discover principles for your own life by studying the completely accurate historical record of others' lives.

In a biographical study you will always see the following:

- A. The Lord's faithfulness.
- B. Man's faithfulness (good examples).
- C. Man's unfaithfulness (bad examples).

**THE APPLICATION OF BOOK & DOCTRINAL METHODS OF BIBLE STUDY**

**BOOK STUDY:**

The steps in this method are as follows:

- A. Select a book: In the beginning choose a short book, one in which you are interested.
- B. Read the book through several times: Use a good translation.
- C. Prepare a short introduction. Include the following information in your notebook:
  1. Author (who wrote it).
  2. Addressee (to whom did he write) .
  3. Places (where the author was and where the information went).
  4. Date (when book was written).
  5. Occasion (reason for writing the book).
  6. General theme (basic thought in the book).



## **II. DOCTRINAL STUDY:**

This is studying a book in order to learn the doctrines taught.

- A. Categories of Doctrine: Major groupings of Biblical truth.
  - 6. Bibliology: Study of the doctrine of the Bible.
  - 7. Theology: Study of God, His Persons and Character.
  - 8. Christology: Study of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, His Person and Work.
  - 9. Pneumatology: Study of the Holy Spirit, His Person and Ministry.
  - 10. Anthropology: Study of man, his nature, importance and destiny.
  - 11. Hermatology: Study of sin, the origin and nature.
  - 12. Angelology: Study of the highest created beings in the universe, both good and evil.
  - 13. Soteriology: Study of salvation, all three phases.
  - 14. Ecclesiology: Study of the church, universal and local.
  - 15. Eschatology: Study of last things, prophecy yet to be fulfilled.
- B. Benefits: This type of study involves specifically looking for key doctrines as you study through a book verse by verse. The benefits include the following:
  - 1. It is the only means of determining sound doctrine.
  - 2. It produces balance in the student's doctrinal knowledge.
  - 3. It helps perform the marriage between believing and behaving, that is, knowing and doing.
  - 4. It emphasizes the tremendous importance of sound doctrine in the believer's life.

## **III. TOPICAL STUDY:**

This is a systematic and logical study of passages which are related to a particular subject.

- A. Advantages:
  - 1. Orderly and complete (if done thoroughly).
  - 2. Can be used well in group discussions.
  - 3. Gives student an overall view of what the Scriptures say on a subject.
  - 4. Gives balance to the student's view of a subject.

very valuable as you look for passages in which you remember only a key word or two and in studying various doctrinal words such as "faith," "sin," "truth," etc.

- D. A Bible handbook: A handbook devotes one or two pages to each chapter of the Bible and gives helpful information on Biblical subjects.
- E. A loose-leaf notebook: Organize your notebook according to classes being taught or by any other good system you can use, but use this to record your notes. Write down things that you want to remember!

## **II. THE MINIMUM TOOLS:**

Of those listed above, the following are essential:

- A. A good study Bible
- B. A concordance
- C. A Bible dictionary
- D. A notebook

## **METHODS OF BIBLE STUDY**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

In this lesson we shall study four of the best methods you can use in personal Bible study. Remember, the reason for any study of the Word of God is to learn the mind of God in order to do His will. Knowledge itself is not the end you are seeking. "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up" (I Cor. 8:1).

### **I. BOOK STUDY:**

This involves studying an entire book of the Bible on a verse by verse basis. The advantages are as follows:

- A. Studying verses in their natural context
- B. Following the continuity of thought set down originally by Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).
- C. Exposure of the student to the "whole counsel of God" which eventually will keep him from studying only pet subjects.

## **V. FOUR TYPES OF BIBLE STUDENTS:**

All believers fit one or more of these types:

- A. Dropout (the nonparticipant): "I don't want to, and you can't make me,"
- B. Castor oil: "Bitter, but good for what ails me."
- C. Shredded wheat: "Dry, but nourishing."
- D. Peaches and cream: "Just can't get enough."

## **VI. SCRIPTURES FOR STUDY:**

2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 2:2; 1 Pet. 3:15; Col. 4:6; 2 Tim. 3:16; Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Pet. 3:18

## **VII. PRINCIPLE TO REMEMBER:**

The more of the Word I learn and use, the more of the Word I want.  
The less of the Word I learn and use, the less of the Word I want.

## **TOOLS FOR BIBLE STUDY**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Word of God is more to be desired than fine gold (Psalm 19:10). We need tools with which to dig into the "gold mine of the Word." These tools are necessary to do the best possible job in studying and every Bible student should use them regularly. Most of these are available in the church library. Many of them can be purchased inexpensively for your library.

### **I. THE MOST HELPFUL TOOLS:**

- A. A good study Bible with notes and cross references such as a Scofield Reference Bible (old or new edition) is highly recommended.
- B. A Bible dictionary: This book helps you pronounce Biblical names; distinguish persons of the same name; locate and describes places. Maps are also provided.
- C. A good concordance: This book gives you all the places in the Bible where a particular word is used. This saves you much time and is