

Resource Ministries
STM 2 - Communicating God's Word
PERSONAL STUDY AND PREPARATION

I. What is the first principle of studying God's Word?

- A. God's Word is *INSPIRED* by the Holy Spirit. Literally, this means His Word is "God-Breathed".

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, (2 Timothy 3:16)

- B. God "breathed" His thoughts into the minds of men and they expressed exactly those thoughts in written form.

20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21)

- C. God wrote it using 40 to 44 authors over a span of 2,000 to 2,200 years.

II. What is the second principle we must know about studying God's Word?

- A. A person cannot interpret God's Word any way he wants. In order to understand God's Word, we also must be inspired by the Holy Spirit.

But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding. (Job 32:8)

- B. The Bible says there is one interpretation and that is God's.

"We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no-one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams." (Genesis 40:8)

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. (2 Peter 1:20)

III. Some thoughts and cautions concerning personal study.

- A. The difference between:

1. Reading: It is important to read on a consistent basis, have a plan. (Through the Bible in a year, Psalms, Proverbs.) Discipline and commitment is necessary.

2. Studying: Not just to preach and teach, but for your daily communing with God, for personal growth. Not just for a reason, but to begin to understand God's Word to us as individuals.
 3. Meditating: A verse to think about during the day, on the bus, working. This will also involve memorization.
 - What does it say?
 - What does it mean?
 - What must I do?
- B. Basis for reading, studying, and meditating is that we use it in our daily lives.
- C. Cautions:
1. Proof text instead of context.
 2. Don't worship the Bible or a particular translation.
 3. Don't use it to condemn people.
 4. Don't always be looking for new revelation.
 - Always wanting to be first with something new.
 - Look for the fruit (10-20 years)
 - Stay with the basics. (2 Timothy 4:3-4)
 - Is anyone else teaching it?
 - Check with those I trust.
 - What are you hearing?
 - What is the emphasis across the country?
- D. How the Bible influences prophecy, prophetic prayer.
- Read, study, memorize, meditate on the Word.
 - The Spirit of God uses the Word in us to draw from for prophecy.
 - The translation people read can many times be identified in their prophecy.

IV. What are some tools or sources we can use to help us study the Bible?

- A. Bible with good, plain print so that you can mark in it and take notes in the margins. Also, use many translations in your study.
- B. A Bible Dictionary is helpful to understand background and history.

C. A Concordance. (A chain reference Bible can also be helpful.)

V. Why should we study the Word of God?

A. Study means to apply oneself to gaining knowledge. The devotion to gaining knowledge. Set yourself, determination. The pursuit of knowledge, as by reading, observation, or research.

"For Ezra had devoted (prepared his heart) himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel." (Ezra 7:10)

B. We study to gain knowledge; to observe the law? We study not just for head knowledge but for heart knowledge and to observe and do; to teach and to share so others can share.

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2)

C. Proverbs 2:1-6

vs. 1 if you accept - store up (hear, read, memorize God's Word)

vs. 2 if you turn your ear to wisdom

_____ if you apply your heart to understanding

-listen to God, to preachers, teachers - determine to hear for yourself not for someone else - don't always be thinking: I sure wish so and so had heard that.

vs. 3 if you call out for insight

_____ if you cry aloud for understanding

-Prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide and lead us.

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (John 16:13)

vs. 4 if you look for it (silver - mine for it) _____

_____ if you search for it (hidden treasure, dig for it)

Study - dig it out. Don't just assume everything you hear is right. Bereans - heard and checked it out.

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17:11)

vs. 5-6 Then God/you will:

- understand the fear of the Lord
- find the knowledge of God

vs. 6-10 God gives wisdom and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

- victory; shield; guards the course; protects; right and wrong

D. How does wisdom benefit?

verses 10-22

vs. 10-15 1. delivers us from the evil ways of men.

vs. 16-19 2. keeps us from the adulteress (a woman outside the circle of a man's proper relationship) - can apply not just to the physical.

vs. 20-22 3. preserves one's life and character.
Not only delivers but benefits.

Chapter 3:1-12

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| vs. 1-2 | 1. Long life and peace |
| vs. 3-4 | 2. Favor with God and man |
| vs. 5-6 | 3. Guidance |
| vs. 7-8 | 4. Health and refreshment |
| vs. 9-10 | 5. Prosperity |
| vs. 11-12 | 6. Proper response to discipline |

VI. What are some methods of Bible study?

A. No matter which type or method of Bible study you choose to use, there are three basic steps to follow:

1. Observation -- What is this passage about or what does it say?
2. Interpretation -- What does this passage mean?
3. Application -- How can I apply the meaning of this passage to my life?

B. Read with a purpose (5 W's and an H)

1. **Who** wrote it? Who said it? Who are the major characters? Who are the people mentioned? To whom is the author speaking? About whom is he speaking?

2. **What** are the main events? What are the major ideas? What are the major teachings? What are these people like? What does he talk about the most? What is his purpose in saying that?
3. **When** was it written? When did this event take place? When will it happen? When did he say it? When did he do it?
4. **Where** was this done? Where was this said? Where will it happen?
5. **Why** was there a need for this to be written? Why was this mentioned? Why was so much or so little space devoted to this particular event or teaching? Why was this reference mentioned? Why should they do such and such?
6. **How** is it done? How did it happen? How is this truth illustrated?

C. Look for: if/then/therefores/wherefores

1. I Chron. 28:9 if you seek He will be found
2. What we have just done in Prov. 2 is an example of this type of study. Look for an order to things. For instance, if I do something, what is the result? Or how does God say to do it and then move towards doing it that way.

D. Word Study

Know what the word means before building your whole study on it. Use dictionaries - Bible and English - other translations. Some recommended books are Vine's *Word Studies of the Old and New Testaments*, *All the Men of the Bible* and *All the Women of the Bible* by Lockyer.

Examples:

Likewise, ye wives, [be] in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; (1 Peter 3:1 AV)

Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, (1 Peter 3:1)

Conversation - really means lifestyle, behaviour

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. (Gal 6:6 AV)

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. (Galatians 6:6)

But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (Heb 13:16 AV)

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. (Heb 13:16)

Communicate - really means sharing, giving

_____ Caleb's name means "dog". Rather than looking at this negatively, we can see he was loyal to his Master's voice.... *"he wholly followed the Lord."*

E. _____ Cross-reference

Don't stop with just one scripture that says what we want it to say. If your Bible does not have it's own cross-reference in it begin to make your own. As you read something that is similar, says the same thing, jot the other reference beside it.

1. Example:

Psalms 40:6	I Samuel 15:22
Hosea 6:6	Proverbs 21:3
Matthew 9:13, 12:7	Hebrews 10:6-7
Psalms 51:16	

2. Mark your Bible: Color code; Symbols; Date; Specific answers; specific promises. Use margins to make notes

F. _____ Thoughts, themes, or subjects (Luke 24:27)

1. When using this method:

- a. Set a goal. Study subjects that God is dealing with you about, subjects that your pastor is dealing with, a thought that has come up in conversation, or subjects or themes you may have opportunity to teach.
- b. With the help of a concordance, list scriptures from Genesis to Revelation on a pad of paper, skipping several lines between each. Next, in your own words, write out the meaning next to the scripture reference.

- c. After covering your subject in the Bible, arrange your scriptures into a logical order. ie. The Blood of Jesus: show how God progressively revealed truth about Redemption.
 - d. Result: You will have a good understanding of the flow of a certain subject through the Bible. Your teaching will flow and study in this method will aid you also in the prophetic realm.
2. Example: Putting on, clothing ourselves, wearing a garment, ornament, etc.
Prov. 3:3,21-22; Prov. 1:9; Prov. 6:20-21; Prov. 7:3; Col. 3:12-15; Eph. 6:10-18; I Peter 3:3-4
 3. Personalize by listing the things talked about in the scriptures and begin working on the ones necessary or missing in your life.

G. Book Study--for general knowledge. Here are some helpful hints:

1. Outline each chapter. Do your own and / or compare with one that might be in your Bible.
2. Go verse-by-verse, applying the principle of "subject study".
3. Underline important memory verses.
4. Make note of author, dates, location, to whom written.
5. What is the message, the promise, the shadow of Christ, the Church?

H. Character Study

1. Choose heroes of the Bible and study their lives. (Use your concordance as in subject study to locate all the verses where they are listed. Also, use book study outlines to locate more detailed stories.)
 - Why did God choose to use them?
 - What character qualities did they have?
 - How did God prepare them?
 - What were their weaknesses?
2. Perhaps start a notebook, "Heroes of the Bible"
 - your own studies

- teachings you hear
- reports on books you read.

I. Old Testament type - New Testament fulfillment

Examples:

Passover - Communion
 Crossing the Red Sea - Water Baptism
 David's Tabernacle - Praise and Worship

J. Lists

Examples:

Galatians 5:16-26 (fruits of the spirit)
 Colossians 3:5-17 (put off, put on)
 II Peter 1:3-9 (add to)

K. Law of First Mention

Examples:

Genesis (beginnings) Genesis
 Prayer - Genesis 4:26
 Blood Covenant - Genesis 3:21 (Skins of animals indicated shedding of blood.)

L. New Testament quotes with Old Testament original

1. Example: Romans 15:9-12 contains quotes from:
 II Sam. 22:50
 Psalm 18:49
 Deut. 32:43
 Psalm 117:1
2. Go back and see where and why from the Old Testament - how does it fit in the New Testament?

M. Exposition (Explaining)

-
- word by word
 - verse by verse
 - chapter by chapter

N. ABC Bible Study

1. A -- Analysis: Give each paragraph a title. Then give a title to the entire passage.

2. B -- Best Verse: Pick a verse that summarizes the theme of the passage and memorize it.
3. C -- Contract: Write out a prayer (a contract with God), mentioning specific ways you want to apply this passage to your life.

O. Extra ideas:

1. Study of Prayers in the Bible.
 - a. Who was praying? Were they a child of God?
 - b. What caused them to pray?
 - c. How were they praying, on their knees, standing, on their face?
 - d. To whom did they address their prayer?
 - e. Did the prayer show the one praying knew god's power?
 - f. Was it a prayer of Praise, Supplication, Petition, or Intercession?
 - g. How long did they pray?
 - h. Did the answer come at once?
 - i. What was the revealed result of the prayer?
2. Finding Christ in the scriptures.
 - a. Luke 24:27 - gives us the clue that Christ can be found in many places besides the New Testament.
 - b. Find types of Christ in the OT sacrifices.
 - c. See Him shadowed in the OT leaders.
 - d. List the names given Him by scripture.
 - e. Make an outline of the different works He performed.
3. Study the questions asked in the Bible.

The scripture covers all types of people and situations. Many of the problems we face are covered and answers given that are of great value to us. Jesus asked lots of questions. He was asked questions.

BTC STM2
PERSTUDY.MSG