

How to study the Scriptures

3 Bible Study Methods:

Pastor Donnell Bouie

A Topical Bible Study Method:

- ▶ A topical bible study purpose is to find what God's word has to say regarding a specific topic. It is similar to a word study but far more comprehensive. The advantage of a topical study is that it gives the total picture of what the Word of God has to say on a particular subject. The advantage of this method of study is to know God's word more intimately and accurately on the subject matter.
- ▶ 1. Look up every parallel and relative passage on the subject you are studying.
- ▶ 2. Have a literal, word for word translation of the Bible, a concordance, a dictionary to make sure it is the same word or a derivative of it.
- ▶ 3. Look up all related words and concepts. Note what is first (primary meaning) and then secondary. Look up any contrasting passages. Consider any contrasting passages that may affect the conclusion. How often is a particular teaching or word repeated. Study each passage thoroughly, examining it to discover the author's intended meaning, always check the context.
- ▶ 4. Always look for the passage and where the subject is first mentioned in the Bible and see if it has changed. See if there was any development in the doctrine. What has changed and what has stayed the same. Was it affected by another covenant?
- ▶ 5. Do not build your own doctrine on tradition or extra-biblical sources. If a doctrine is important, or a core doctrine the Bible will cover the subject thoroughly. Greater attention should be given to teachings in the New Testament on the subject over the teachings of the Old Testament; unless the subject matter is smaller. The New Testament is the completed revelation and should always be paid attention to over the Old Testament.
- ▶ 6. Application- Make sure you have put the emphasis where God puts the emphasis, after this you can then apply what you have learned to have its effect on your life.

COME CLOSER!

- ▶ I believe that the word of God is best understood and made most effective when it is spiritually discerned as we study the scriptures.
- ▶ 1 Cor 2:14 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
- ▶ Context: Is the circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed.
- ▶ Also it is the parts of something written or spoken that immediately precede and follow a word or passage and clarify its meaning.

The Word Study Method:

- ▶ The purpose of a word study is to discover the themes of biblical thinking and not as a mere linguistic or lexicographical exercise. There are a number of strategies to be followed in order to ensure a productive approach
- ▶ Job 23:12

Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth, more than my necessary food.

- ▶ What is the word saying: the old testament was written in the Hebrew language.
- ▶ New Testament: was written in the Greek language. Therefore, the language and meanings are written from their perspectives.
- ▶ Hence we get a greater understanding when we use a Greek and Hebrew dictionary and concordance to define and give clarity on the words written and the context in which it is written.

The Word Study Method:

- ▶ Tools of the trade: if you're not a Greek and Hebrew scholar get yourself a Hebrew and Greek dictionary and concordance.
 - a. Analytical Concordance ex. Robert Young's *Analytical Concordance to the Holy Bible*
 - b. Compare Different Translations
 - c. Use New and Old Testament
 - d. Choose Words Carefully