

Bible Study Methods (1)

Introduction

- A. Reflect on the amazing truth: God has revealed Himself to us.
Deuteronomy 4:32-40
- B. A second amazing truth is that we now have this revelation in our own language – with many books to help us understand it.
II Timothy 3:16,17
- C. A third amazing truth is that God has designed the Bible to be the channel through which the sinner learns of salvation and the saint becomes the recipient of ultimately every good thing.
II Timothy 3:15; Psalm 1
- D. A fourth amazing truth is how to explain the way the Bible is neglected. Wisdom, logic, and even our selfishness would lead us to read and practice it. Hebrews 2:1-3

I. Some Reasons for Studying the Bible.

- A. It is through understanding the Scripture that we can know God and His will for our life. (Summarize the following.)
 - Psalm 119:105 –
 - Psalm 119:130 –
 - Ezra 7:10 --
 - Hebrews 1:1-3 –
 - Romans 1:16 –
- B. It is through Understanding the Scripture that we have been given many important promises. (Summarize the following.)
 - Isaiah 55:10,11 –
 - John 15:3 --
 - John 15:7 –
 - John 17:17,19 --
 - Romans 10:17 --
 - I Thessalonians 2:13 –
 - II Timothy 3:16,17 –
 - I Peter 2:2 –
 - I John 1:4

II. Understanding the Bible through Word Study.

Introduction: One profitable way of gaining a knowledge of the message of the Bible is through the systematic study of its themes, topics, or basic teaching. One of the easiest methods of doing this is through the study of various words.

- A. The book to be used in this study is the concordance. There are many on the market. Make sure you buy one that is based on the version you plan to study. Cruden¹ Complete Concordance has been a favorite. However, it does not give you an exhaustive listing of the words nor does it tell you the root meaning of the word. An English word, for example, may be a translation of more than one Hebrew or Greek word.
- B. A good concordance to use is Strong's Exhaustive Concordance. This is based on the King James Version. The following suggestions may help you to understand how to use this important tool.
1. Look up the word "power" in the main concordance. Note how many reference there are! Go to John 1:12- Note in the right hand column the designation is followed by a number - 1849. Now turn to the section in the back of the book entitled Greek Dictionary of the New Testament and look up the number. The first item is the Greek word, the second is the English transliteration of the Greek, and the third is the phonetic pronunciation. The designation 1832 tells you the root word from which the one in 1849 is derived. Then you have a presentation of the various words suggested as a translation. This word should be translated "right," "authority," or "privilege."
 2. Go back to "power" in the main concordance. Note the numbers following Acts 1:8 and Col. 1:11 are different. Check out how they are different by use of the Greek Dictionary. What lesson does this teach us?

John 1:12 - 1849 - exousia - right, authority, or privilege.

Acts 1:8 - 1411 - dunamis - miraculous might, or ability.

Colossians 1:11 - 2904 - kratos - vigor, strength.

Write out your conclusion -

- C. Using the above suggestions note the difference in the word "love" in John 21:15-17. What does the use of these two words teach us? Write out your conclusion.
- D. Using the above suggestions look up the word "able" and write out a list of the passages which indicate what God states He is able to do. Find at least 12. Write a sentence of interpretation for each passage and then a conclusion.