

## Bible Study Methods (4)

### Introduction

- A. The goal in Bible study is to glorify God through coming to an understanding of the basic message of the Scripture in both thought and practice.
- B. We have considered the importance of words, the historical context, and how to search out the main theme of a passage.
- C. In this lesson we wish to learn how to use parallel passages to clarify the meaning of Scripture.

### V. Understanding the Bible through Parallel Passages.

#### Introduction

- . "The Bible is its own best commentary." is a true statement .
- . The Scripture is not a group of unrelated verses, or chapters, or books. There is a profound unity to the Word of God and its basic message is found in many different settings – each with a different facet.
- . We are reminded how the Lord Jesus, when the Devil quoted the Bible, replied "*It is written/again.*" Matthew 4:7 His response indicated the necessity of knowing parallel passages.

#### A. An example of parallel passages regarding single words.

- . It is important to know how a writer will use a word or what the word means in a variety of settings.
- . Illustration: The words "joy" and "faithful."

The first step, as we have seen, is to find the meaning of the word by use of the concordance. Then look up the parallel passages as follows:

#### **Joy --**

John 15:11 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:24 \_\_\_\_\_

John 17:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 14:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 15:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Gal. 5:22 \_\_\_\_\_

I John 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Faithful --**

I Cor. 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_

I Cor. 10:13 \_\_\_\_\_

I Thess. 5:24 \_\_\_\_\_

II Thess. 3:3 \_\_\_\_\_

II Tim. 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 2:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 10:23 \_\_\_\_\_

- B. An example of parallel passages 'regarding a subject or topic.
- . The truths taught in the Bible are found in a variety of places. A knowledge of what is said in these different settings will be of great help.
  - . A problem here is finding the many passages. A good margin reference is a help as well as the books. The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (Revell), and Topical Index and Digest of the Bible, by Harold E. Monser (Baker).
  - . Illustration: The names of God.
    - a. The word "God" - Elohim - "All-powerful."  
Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 54:5; II Corinthians 6:16,18
    - b. The word "Lord" - Adonai - "Sovereign."  
Genesis 15:1,2; Joshua 7:7,8; Isaiah 6:1,8
    - c. The word "LORD" - Yahweh - "Covenant-Redeemer."  
Exodus 3:10-15; Exodus 6:1-8; Isaiah 54:5  
(Note Psalm 38:15; Jeremiah 32:16-19.)

- C. And example of parallel passages regarding an event.
- . As a rule the more important an event is the more "comments" there are in the Scripture which reveal its meaning.
  - . Illustration: Israel's failure to enter Canaan.
    - a. The event: Numbers 13,14
    - b. The comments:
      - . Deuteronomy 1:19-46  
V26 rebelled; V27 murmured; V32 unbelief; V35 judgment
      - . Deuteronomy 9:23
      - . Psalm 78:41
      - . Hebrews 3:7-4:3

Conclusion: Do not overlook the value of finding parallel passages which relate to prophecy-fulfillment (Isaiah 53 - Acts 8); type-antitype (Exodus 8 - John 1:28); symbol-fulfillment (Numbers 21:4-9 - John 3:14,15), as well as persons (Moses - Hebrews 11:24-28).