Studying the Scriptures

Core 52

Joshua 1:8; Luke 12:48

PURPOSE OF BIBLE STUDY

The doorway to a new domain

Ephesians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 4:18

The pathway to a better life

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:2-8

Romans 12:2; Psalm 5:11; 16:5-8; 105:3-4; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Matthew 6:33; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Philippians 1:21; Colossians 1:10-12; Proverbs 4:10-27; 5:1-23; 1 John 2:15-16; James 1:12-17; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 6:10-18; Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 1:2-5 James 1:5; Psalm 139; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Samuel 16:7; James 1:21-25

PREREQUISITES OF BIBLE STUDY

A Plan

Discipline

Dependence

John 16:13-15; 1 Corinthians 2:6-

Responsiveness

Mark 4:23-25; 2 Timothy 3:15; 1 Corinthians 2:14; John 15:14-15; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

Light obeyed increases light, Light rejected brings night.

Honesty

Exposure

Acts 20:27

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY

Hermeneutical Rules

1. Treat the Bible as a complete book; it is a unity in diversity.

2. The Bible is a unified book, but as we study its pages, we should also remember that it is a progressive revelation.

3. Do not regard the Bible as a textbook

Jeremiah 30:2; Matthew 5:17-18; 15:4; John 10:35; 17:17; Acts 28:25; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 3:15-16; Revelation 22:19.

4. Let the Bible speak for itself.

a. Interpret unclear passages in the light of those which are clear

b. To be truly biblical, specific doctrines must include everything the Word has to say about it.

5. Interpret every passage in light of its immediate context

6. Take the text at face value and interpret it in its plain or literal sense.

7. Be sure to consider the cultural and historical setting.

ASK: IS THERE

WHO? -- The persons
A key word? — Important to meaning
WHAT? -- The problem, plot
A comparison? — Often introduced by "like"
WHEN? -- The time
A contrast? — Often introduced by “but”
WHERE? -- The place
A repetition? — Indicates emphasis
WHY? -- The purpose, reason
An atmosphere? — Joy, anger, fear, etc.
HOW? -- The solution, resources
A clear literary form? — Poetry, prophecy, narrative, etc.
A progression? — Events, ideas
A climax? — Lesser to greater
A significant point of grammar? —Tense, sentence structure, number (singular or plural)

Here are some basic study tools you should consider adding to your library:

Modern Translation: English Standard Version, New American Standard Version, Bible Gateway

Study Bible: ESV Study Bible

Concordance: Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible

Bible Survey: Talk Thru the Bible, Explore the Book

Bible Handbook: Unger's Bible Handbook

Bible Dictionary: New Bible Dictionary

Bible Commentary: Wycliffe Bible Commentary, New Bible Commentary

Bible Encyclopedia: Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible