



ON THE WORD OF GOD

By

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Importance of Bible Study

[These notes are from 40 years ago when I spoke to a group of pastors. The notes are in outline form.]

God exists and has revealed Himself through His Word. It has been called the –

- Book of the Law (Nehemiah 8:3)
- Law of the Lord (Psalm 1:2)
- Scriptures (John 5:39)
- Holy Scriptures (Romans 1:2)
- Word of God (Hebrews 4:12)
- Word (James 1:21-23)
- Word of life (Philippians 2:16)
- Book (Revelations 22:19)

God has revealed Himself completely as well as His eternal plan through His Word. It has been described as –

- pure (Psalm 19:8)
- restraining (Psalm 119:11)
- perfect (Psalm 19:7)
- trustworthy (Psalm 111:7-8)

- true (Psalm 119:142, 151, 160)
- enduring (Isaiah 40:8)
- effectual (Isaiah 55:11)
- sanctifying (Ephesians 5:26)
- harmonious (Acts 15:15)
- inspired (2 Peter 1:21)
- living and active (Hebrews 4:12)

It has been compared to a –

- lamp (Psalm 119:105)
- fire (Jeremiah 5:14)
- hammer (Jeremiah 23:29)
- seed (Matthew 13:18-23)
- sword (Ephesians 6:17)

The Word of God –

- heals (Psalm 107:20)
- makes free (John 8:32)
- illuminates (Psalm 119:130)
- bears witness (John 20:31)
- produces faith (Romans 10:17)
- makes wise (2 Timothy 3:15-17)
- convicts (Titus 1:9)
- rejoices the heart (Jeremiah 15:16)
- regenerates (James 1:18)

We as believers are called upon to –

- stand in awe of it
- search it thoroughly (Acts 17:11)
- speak it boldly (Acts 4:29-31)
- teach it (Acts 18:11)
- glorify it (Acts 13:48)
- obey it (1 Peter 1:22)
- do it (James 1:22-23)
- handle it correctly (2 Timothy 2:15)
- suffer for it if necessary (Revelation 1:9)

It is not to be –

- preached in the wisdom of man (1 Corinthians 2:14, 13)
- used deceitfully (2 Corinthians 4:2)
- altered in any way (Revelations 22:18-19)

The Word of God is

- holy, complete and without error
- the greatest insight to life and how to live it with success
- the authoritative statement of man as a spiritual, physical, mental, emotional and social creature

Studying and applying the Word of God is my greatest personal joy!

Methods of Bible Study

One of the best classes you can take in Bible college is Biblical Hermeneutics – how to study the Bible for correct interpretation and application of God’s Truth.

A. The Bible is worth studying.

B. Certain factors are involved in basic study of the Scriptures.

- 1 It should be inductive (objective and impartial) rather than deductive (subjective and prejudicial).
- 2 It should be direct and independent.
- 3 It should be personal in nature.
- 4 It should be comprehensive.
- 5 It should be sincere.
- 6 It should be assimilated into life.
- 7 It should be reverent.

C. The first step of inductive Bible study is Observation.

It is the act or faculty of taking notice; the act or result of considering or marking attentively; the art of seeing things as they really are.

D. There are three requisites of Observation.

- 1 The will to observe.
- 2 Exactness in observation.
- 3 Persistence in observation.

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Correct “observation” is vital to handling the Word of Truth accurately. In these Teaching Notes we look at what follows Observation.

A. The Greek word *methodos* literally means “a way or path of transit.” The word implies orderly, logical and effective arrangement.

B. Methodical Bible study is concerned with the proper path to be taken in order to arrive at Scriptural truth. It involves the discovery of those steps necessary for achieving its goal and their arrangement in a logical and effective manner.

C. There are two main approaches open to the Bible student –

- 1 Deduction — begins with generalizations and moves for their support to the particular .. it is subjective and prejudicial
- 2 Induction — it is objective and impartial .. inductive Bible study demands that the student first examine the particulars of the

Scriptures and that conclusions about the Bible be based on those particulars

We will use the inductive method of study in our approach to Bible truth. There are five basic steps that form this method –

- 1 Observation — “the act or faculty of taking notice; the act or result of considering or marking attentively” .. it is the art of seeing things as they really are
- 2 Interpretation — the determination of the meaning of what is being observed .. questions, answers, integration and summarization are the steps to interpretation
- 3 Evaluation — the assessment of the worth, relevance and usefulness of the Scripture to contemporary man .. the primary task of evaluation is to analyze the statements of a passage in order to determine which its truths are timeless or for today
- 4 Application — truths need to be applied personally and to others .. truths need to ring true in the words and actions of our lives
- 5 Correlation — the concluding step of inductive study .. it represents the generalizations which are the outgrowths of the examination of particular passages .. the Bible student should always look for connections between Scriptural passages and statements

[Thank you for reading these teaching notes from 40 years ago. My prayer is they will be a blessing to you and your ministry.]