



General Topics :: How to "study" the Bible, looking for help

How to "study" the Bible, looking for help - posted by dougr777 (), on: 2012/3/6 14:36

I'm looking for help on how to properly study God's word.

Right now I'm just reading it like a book, getting the word in my mind and heart but I really want to take things to a new level and "study" it, but really don't know how to...

My 'fear' is studying it correctly so I don't fall into some Biblical error and take verses out of context or other incorrect study methods.

If anybody has read a book they could suggest please help.

Thanks for adding to this thread.

Doug

Re: How to "study" the Bible, looking for help, on: 2012/3/6 15:10

Hi Brother. If you don't mind me giving my opinion, I'd say that if you have a computer and you download www.e-sword.net and then download as many Dictionaries as you can - and get as many Bible versions that are numbered to the Strong's and a few in the Commentary Section - such as Robertson's Word Pictures, Vincents, JFB, K&D and any others that focus more on individual word studies rather than just opinionated commentary and Definitely - Torrey's Treasury of Scripture Knowledge that cross-references every verse with as many as he could find - then you'd have more than some Bible College students get in these days.

We know that GOD never wastes one word of His Word, so that's how we should read His Words - Word by Word.

Examples -

Rom 8:1 There is thereforeG686 nowG3568 noG3762 condemnationG2631 to themG3588 which are inG1722 ChristG547 Jesus,G2424 who walkG4043 notG3361 afterG2596 the flesh,G4561 butG235 afterG2596 the Spirit.G4151

Torrey's TSK -

Rom 8:1

no: Rom_4:7-8, Rom_5:1, Rom_7:17, Rom_7:20; Isa_54:17; Joh_3:18-19, Joh_5:24; Gal_3:13

in: Rom_16:7; Joh_14:20, Joh_15:4; 1Co_1:30, 1Co_15:22; 2Co_5:17, 2Co_12:2; Gal_3:28; Phi_3:9

who: Rom_8:4, Rom_8:14; Gal_5:16, Gal_5:25; Tit_2:11-14

Word study on "condemnation" -

G2631

κατάκριμα

katakrima

Thayer Definition:

1) damnatory sentence, condemnation

Part of Speech: noun neuter

A Related Word by Thayer's/Strong's Number: from G2632

KJ Concordance - shows where else that particular Grk word is used ...

G2631

κατάκριμα

katakrima

Total KJV Occurrences: 3

condemnation, 3

Rom_5:16, Rom_5:18, Rom_8:1

Robertson's and others will give the grammar of the words - etc.

Before computers - one would have to spread all of these books all over a table.

Word-by-word study with cross-referencing related verses elsewhere in the Bible and finding where-else that particular word is used and how it's used, is the best form of "study" that I know of.

"Study" has to include knowing the meaning and context of each word from the original language and though that used to be difficult to do - anyone can now with the Bible Programs available.

Hope you get fired up with your studies. I've spent whole days doing just this process to one verse. I Love it - because as you cross-reference a verse - the cross-reference you go to will have more cross-references for that one and the next and the next. Easy to spend a whole day on just one verse :)

GOD Bless you!

Re: - posted by dougr777 (), on: 2012/3/6 19:58

wow, thank you brother for sharing these suggestions.

Doug

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/3/6 20:07

You can likely get these used for a reasonable price:

"How to Study your Bible" by Kay Arthur (~150 pages)

"Grasping God's Word" by Scott Duvall (~460 pages)

"The New Joy of Discovery in Bible Study" by Oletta Wald (91 pages)

I like them all - especially the first two. They are well worth owning.

Diane

Re: , on: 2012/3/6 20:29

A word of caution regarding commentaries. In your post you said that you didn't want to get into error or miss translate a word or what have you. Do what your doing now, read the bible and as you read it your going to see words lift off the page as if God is highlighting them and He wants to show you something. Mull them over in your mind and begin to speak out what you've just read and you'll be surprised as to what comes out of that. What you do get out of that write it down. What you write down doesn't mean it's set in stone, you have to compare scripture with scripture. As for commentaries, use them only as a guide to the thought that you have already garnered from your current study, don't let them replace the Holy Spirit leading. Remember, just because they are old and those men are dead doesn't mean they have cornered the market on truth, they too can fail.

Reading the bible is study in itself. All the New Testament saints had were the Old Testament writings and the testimonies of men who claimed that Jesus was alive. We have much much more but the whole idea of study is revolved around knowing Jesus Christ in the scriptures. If what we draw out of the scripture don't point to Him and the knowledge of Him, it's not a true study. Abandon all studies that lead away from Him. For example, the study of "Where did Cain get his wife" has absolutely no bearing on the Lordship of Christ. It only leads to frivolous knowledge and wives tales.

God Bless you in your studies man.

Re: How to "study" the Bible, looking for help - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2012/3/6 21:10

On YouTube, John MacArthur has a two part message about how to study the Bible that I found very helpful. You can search for the videos (15 min. each) called:

How to Study the Bible, Part 1 (John MacArthur)

How to Study the Bible, Part 2 (John MacArthur)

Re: How to "study" the Bible, looking for help - posted by Elibeth, on: 2012/3/7 10:08

Dear Brother,

First of all,I am not saying,the things that are being offered here,is not Good material,..at all.
But if one is just starting out with the Lord,..then ...

I feel like I might need to share a testimony on your subject ?

Many years ago, when the Lord started woo-ing me by His Grace,
This is how He delt with me about this :

* As He was drawing me unto Himself,...His Spirit drawed me to NOT get any material, ..just get the WORD,and He would teach me,...

* He wanted to teach me,..

(He is the plumb line in all things.) Also He wants us to be able to discern, what is His interpretation, of the Word,...How He sees it.)

I guess He did not want me to be all mixed-up.

(He said, ' The Words that I speak unto you,they are

Spirit,and they are Life.'... (Jn,.)and I did not even know,at that time,about this next verse,. In 1Jn.2:27,that the anointing will teach ...are you familiar with that verse,? maybe you might want to read that ?

So if they are are Spirit(and they are) then they need to be Spiritually decerned ?

I was VERY hungry for His Word,..so I would read, ..a lot,
And if anyone would come in,I would stick my Bible under something,
and hide it,...I didnt want them to be worried about me,..they loved me.

At that time,(in the beginning) I was searching ,...concerned about my sins, because my sins had become 'excedingly' sinful, in my heart.

The Lord was showing me how much I needed a Saviour.

If we will,not be afraid and give our whole heart to Him,..He will open up our understanding,..not that we will know all things,....it is so vast,..we could never learn all about Him,..but we all know,it is so rich,..good Bread,..Food,for us to eat.

Bless you, as well as all here,
elizabeth

Re: How to "study" the Bible, looking for help - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/3/7 10:32

Doug,

Back in 1967 I took a course at Bible School titled "Inductive Method of Bible Study". This was so good I think it should be mandatory to every BS student! (But then, if it were it might put the Bible Schools out of business??)

I have used these methods in my reading and studying of the WORD where it has become first nature. It has even taught me how to think!

I suggest you go online and read all you can about it and then go at it. All you need is to do is pray for illumination and then you need the Bible, paper, pen, Bible dictionary. No commentaries allowed until you are done with a book...then you may feel like you could write your own.

God bless..

ginnyrose

Re: How to "study" the Bible, looking for help - posted by Sree (), on: 2012/3/7 12:18

The best method that worked for me is this. I used to read 1 chapter and then meditate on it. Read it carefully to find exactly what the spirit behind each verse is. Then I listen to Brother Zac Poonen's Bible study audio that has 1 hour on every chapter. I see the revelation that he gets out of the same verses that I just skipped unknowingly, because of negligence. Also how he pictures each verse and then have a practical application to it. Then I read it again the way he read focusing every verse. I did this few times and after that I got the same spirit of carefully analyzing the scriptures and how to compare scripture with scripture automatically. It is more a gift of God, but to get this gift you need to know what this gift is, and I got it by listening to Zac Poonen. Once you understand this gift you can seek it and believe that you are blessed with it.

You can find his verse by verse study here:-

http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/verse_by_verse.php

Re: , on: 2012/3/7 13:19

Brother Sree, I'm not trying to pick on you personally, but the method you describe is not the way to go and not because of the man that you mention. But "reading" The Word so that we KNOW it is wonderful - but "studying" The Word is something much more intensive and we should never depend on a man - any man - to 'teach' us what The Word is saying.

When we stand before Jesus, we'll give an account for ourselves and will not be able to say to Him that we learned a faulty belief that He's questioning us on, from a man or woman.

He holds us to this - Joh 16:13,14 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

We need to draw from The Spirit of Truth, when just reading The Word to know it and when Studying as well.

I mentioned above that I don't depend on Commentaries - only those books that define the original languages when 'studying'.

I agree that prayer must go hand-in-hand with reading The Word - asking that GOD remove all or any preconceived notions that I may have and anything that I've believed that someone has 'taught' me and then ask that HE Alone lead through every verse.

I was saved in the mid-70's when there weren't as many "teachers/authors/preachers" out there teaching 'junk', so I was very open to be taught during the first 9 yrs that I was saved - but once I went to studying on my own - I did find that I had been taught things that weren't quite accurate. I was like a dry sponge wanting to be saturated but I thought that I HAD TO BE taught by men. I regret it now and am still finding a crumb here and there of things that I had picked up from some

a good man that I had allowed to 'teach' me. Very convicting when I find that no man is 100% inerrant and that I hadn't known enough when young in Christ to trust those verses above and hadn't yet learned back then, how to actually 'study hard' on my own with HIM alone.

I don't listen to sermons to 'learn' - but am benefited now when I hear something that aligns itself with the truth that I first learned alone and that expounds on those same truths.

I don't want to be found "lazy" when I stand before Him and giving Him any excuses for whatever errors I've believed, saying, "Well LORD, _____ taught me that error."

He won't buy that excuse. He'll ask me, "What did you do with The Word that I left for you and MY Spirit of Truth that I gave to lead you?"

I don't want to be found lacking because I was too lazy to study and search out every Word He left for us and I see that depending on others to teach me is laziness on my part.

I went to Bible college - not to be taught "doctrine" or what the Bible says - but to learn how to 'study' the Bible for myself - because I know He holds me personally responsible for what I personally believe - with no one else to blame for what I believe.

Blessings to you!

Re: - posted by pilgrim777, on: 2012/3/7 13:41

Quote:
-----I don't listen to sermons to 'learn' - but am benefited now when I hear something that aligns itself with the truth that I first learned alone and that expounds on those same truths.

Jesus-is-God,

Did you ever hear something in a sermon that corrected some faulty thinking that you had? Or have all the sermons that you listened to just confirmed all the truth that you already had?

Pilgrim

Re: , on: 2012/3/7 14:32

Hi Pilgrim, I don't want to sound as if I think I'm super spiritual - I consider myself a helpless lamb before Him. I used to have 'brains' but I had to be shown in the last 10 years or so, that He doesn't need my former brain. My family are all very proud of being mensa types and I swore as a little kid that I never wanted to be like them - using language that the majority of people can't understand and talking over people's heads - so I vowed as a kid to speak street language and that will remain my native tongue.

I can read any level but I won't relate it back with the same choice of words that the author used.

What I'm trying to say is - 'before GOD', if I don't depend solely on John 16:13 - to have Him be 'the brain' and lead this helpless sheep into what to listen to or 'who' to listen to - I'm a sitting duck. What I'm trying to say is - HE is Faithful! He will guide our every move and direct us what to listen to and what not to listen to - so that - as it turns out - He protects our minds and spirits from junk-food. So, as it turns out - He uses sermons to confirm the Word of truth that He's already seeded into us - as we are walking the walk of the helpless totally dependent child that knows nothing of what to do and who to listen to and what to do from minute to minute and must of necessity and Biblically listen for His Voice, The Good Shepherd Who won't allow us to waste our minds and spirits on listening to error. "Nothing of ourselves", I believe is what He's after.

Yes, I do believe in the 5 ministerial gifts - in the teachers and pastors etc within - but if we become like a little child, as He commanded we do - He will direct us to which to listen to and which to avoid without us having to get burnt first. Some call it "that check in our spirit" to avoid or to go to one of these messengers. But we need to empty ourselves of self/autonomy as He did while He was here, being our perfect example of how to live in 100% dependency on The Father.

I've benefited much from certain men that are now in Heaven - yes - but whenever correction of doctrine was necessary - it was Him alone, driving me into His Word because of that check in the spirit that something was wrong and Him

driving me to study it out, from His Word alone - so that HE gets all the Glory - confirming once again His Words from John 10, as well - "MY sheep hear my voice and will not follow another." I trust Him 100% to lead through His Own Spirit and Word.

There are some men that I listen to and enjoy very much - yet knowing that no man is 100% omniscient or innerant - we must always be Bereans first. I feel that I need to depend on Him as much as a blind person needs a guide through a crowded subway. I know that HE and His Word combined as One is 100% Faithful - not me or any other human being. I reckon that's why I like the literature ministry that uses mostly just scripture to lead folks to Him and 'HIS' doctrine. Less of our own words and more Scripture. Let The Word tell us what The Word is saying! The more of our own words spoken - the more we are raising ourselves above His Word and "adding or subtracting" from It somehow.

When I listen to a sermon - I either hear Scripture being quoted in the man's paraphrased delivery or I hear Scripture coming from the Spirit that contradicts what the man is saying. We deposit His Word into our spirit, read it in the spirit - so that when we hear the words of men - Scripture comes up out of our spirits to our mind that either confirms His Word being spoken in the person's message or Scriptures will come up from our spirit or even those Scriptures that we know in our mind will come up that debunk something in the person's message.

No glory to us at all in knowing that we know nothing unless The Word of GOD including His Spirit be our only Teacher - ESPECIALLY in these days when error comes disguised or covered within 99% truth.

Dependency on Him for dear life to lead us completely as only the Good Shepherd is capable of doing for those who know that they know nothing of themselves.

We don't even know the secrets of our own motives unless we candidly pray that He show us, moment by moment. Laying ourselves prostrate before Him, to lead us into all truth, even about ourselves - HE is Faithful - not us.

GOD help us all. Amen?

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2012/3/7 15:06

Quote:

Brother Sree, I'm not trying to pick on you personally, but the method you describe is not the way to go and not because of the man that you mention. But "reading" The Word so that we KNOW it is wonderful - but "studying" The Word is something much more intensive and we should never depend on a man - any man - to 'teach' us what The Word is saying.

When we stand before Jesus, we'll give an account for ourselves and will not be able to say to Him that we learned a faulty belief that He's questioning us on, from a man or woman.

I understand what you are trying to say. May be I did not make it clear. I never said we need to interpret the Bible the same way as he interprets. It is not about theology or something. It is about reading, giving importance to every scripture. Also the original poster wanted some book suggestions, I know a book written by Watchman Nee but more than books, when you practically see how a person of the spiritual status as Zac Poonen studies the Bible we get better understanding. Also these are not Sermons, they are verse by verse Bible study.

But what I learned from him is how to give importance to every verse. His study is so detailed, giving thought about small things that I would have normally ignored. Jesus had a thorough understanding of every verse and he used verses to balance the argument when devil tempted him with scripture.

Quote:

I don't want to be found "lazy" when I stand before Him and giving Him any excuses for whatever errors I've believed, saying, "Well LORD, _____ taught me that error."

I agree with what you are saying. We cannot blame anyone on that day. That is why I advised the poster to read this way, comparing Zac's study few times and once you get the idea about how to read the Bible, go ahead with what God per

sonally speaks to you. I am not saying every time one needs to use his Bible Study.

Re: - posted by pilgrim777, on: 2012/3/7 15:46

Thank you Jesus-is-God.

I think this answered my question:

Quote:
-----I've benefited much from certain men that are now in Heaven - yes - but whenever correction of doctrine was necessary - it was Him alone, driving me into His Word because of that check in the spirit that something was wrong and Him driving me to study it out, from His Word alone - so that HE gets all the Glory

What I get from your reply is that God has never corrected you through a man teaching or preaching the Word. He has always, only corrected or adjusted you DIRECTLY "from His Word alone".

Don't you think God would still get the glory if He transmitted truth through a man? Of course, it is up to us who give the glory, who we give it to, right?

Thank you for your gracious reply.
Pilgrim

Re: , on: 2012/3/7 15:56

Hi Pilgrim. I did say that I do believe in the 5 ministerial gifts. Yes, GOD does use humans to transmit truth - but the "dependency" was what I was trying to stress ... being on John 16:13,14 - John 10 - and being Bereans - always.

You're welcome :)

Re: - posted by pilgrim777, on: 2012/3/7 17:10

I appreciate that you are trying to stress something else, but what about a direct answer for my question?

Has the Lord ever used a teaching by a man or woman to correct erroneous thinking or doctrine on your part?

Blessings,
Pilgrim

Re: , on: 2012/3/7 17:38

Quote:
-----Pilgrim asked: "Don't you think God would still get the glory if He transmitted truth through a man? Of course, it is up to us who give the glory, who we give it to, right?"

I 'did' answer this question, Pilgrim.

The question you are now posing is not the same question but I'll answer it.

1Pe 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which

God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to Whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

And again - the 5 ministerial gifts but adding their "purpose" ...

Eph 4:11-16 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

****that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;****

but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

When I was newly saved by The LORD, I was misled by some books that I had read on demonology and about three yrs later - men of GOD brought me to The WORD of GOD and showed me where that teaching was dead wrong ... so, Yes, to your question - but it was still The Word of GOD that corrected the teaching and erroneous thinking, not the words of these wonderful teachers of The Word.

That is the Only way that these 5 ministerial gifts should operate by leading His Sheep 'to' and giving His Sheep a hunger for and dependency upon The Word of GOD -- BOTH, The Word of GOD made flesh and the written Word and His Spirit of Truth and not to any dependency upon themselves or attention to their 'own' words.

{eta} Heb 13:13

Re: , on: 2012/3/7 18:14

Quote:

----- As He was drawing me unto Himself,...His Spirit drew me to NOT get any material, ..just get the WORD,and He would teach me,...

Elizabeth, you's a talkin my language. Amen!

Re: - posted by pilgrim777, on: 2012/3/7 23:03

Thank you Jesus-is-God,

Yes, God raises up Teachers to rightly divide the Word, giving His Church understanding.

Pilgrim

Re: How to "study" the Bible, looking for help - posted by mguldner (), on: 2012/3/8 5:40

Very cool Doug, I am glad you find just reading inadequate when it comes to scripture. It's good but as you eluded to could be better.

First off I can tell you IF done properly and with the correct heart attitude you will avoid many issues that I personally ran into when I became a heavy hitting bible thumper :).

The major lesson God's Word has taught me and how God has shown to me through the Holy Spirit and just speaking to my heart is handle with care. The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom. Remember it is a sword after all.

Open each study with prayer, if you are studying correctly you will have times of breaking where something inside you is revealed. Remember God should be showing more stuff in you than in others in your life when you read the Word. Meaning, (and this is one of my major mistakes I.E. religious pride) reading a scripture and thinking in your mind "Oh so and

so really needs to hear that, it will surely get them on the right path"

The method I have used and really have enjoyed is pretty simple, I never use a commentary that outright says this is wh at this means, I mainly use commentary for Historical background to understand where the author is coming from. From there I simply answer ALL of the Who, What, When, why, and Where? Writing each down.

If you are wanting a nice read on Bible Study I highly recommend "Living By the Book" by Howard Hendricks. He is the one that I adopting my methods from and this book will give you a great start in foundational Bible Study.

http://www.amazon.com/Living-The-Book-Howard-Hendricks/dp/0802408168/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1331203137&sr=8-3

Hope that Helps :)
God Bless,
Matthew