



Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psm 119:105

## BASICS OF BIBLE STUDY

The Word of God is a key element in becoming a MATURE disciple of Christ. The Christian life is impossible without knowledge, understanding and application of the Scriptures. Just as our physical lives need nourishment from food, so to our spiritual lives need nourishment from God's Word. (Matt 4:4)

### **I. What is the Word of God?**

-To properly value the scriptures we must have a good grasp of what they are.

The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 outlines what Southern Baptists hold about the Scriptures.

"The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation."

Scripture puts forth many descriptions of itself.

- God-Breathed and Useful for teaching, rebuking, and training in righteousness-----2 Tim 3:16
- Lamp to our feet, light to our path -----Psm 119:105
- living and active-----Heb 4:12
- Sword of the Spirit-----Eph 6:17

## II. How do we study the Word of God?

Prayerfully! A little prayer written in the front of my bible is, “Lord, open your word to me and open me to your Word.” Ask God to give us wisdom as we seek to know Him better. Remember to have a pen handy to write down thoughts, questions, or specific ways God is speaking to you through the text.

The following steps are called an Inductive Bible Study method. They seek to draw the original meaning from the text for what it is, not making it say whatever we want, and allow that meaning to change us.

1. **Observation:** What does it say?
  - a. Setting Questions: Who wrote it, What is the history, Why was the book written, Where was it written, Who were the original recipients?
  - b. Context Questions: What is the literary genre? What is the overall message of the book? How does this text fit into the overall message?
  - c. Structural Questions: What are the or are there any; repeated words? comparisons? rhetorical questions? progression of thought? figures of speech? action verbs?
2. **Interpretation:** What does this mean?
  - a. Although there may be many different applications, there is one correct interpretation of a passage. The correct interpretation is what **the AUTHOR intended the reader to understand**. (not... “what it means to me is...”)
    - i. Keep in mind:
      1. The entire unity of Scripture, because it will never contradict itself.
      2. The surrounding context and what the big picture is.
      3. The customary meaning, or that natural reading.  
Beware of spiritualizing or reading into a text. If the natural sense makes sense, go with it! Let the Word speak for itself!
    - b. Generalization: The Big Idea
      - i. Bridging the gap from the ancient setting the author was in to the modern setting we are in.
      - ii. Always ask yourself:
        1. what is the subject the author is talking about
        2. and what is he saying about that subject.
  3. **Application:** What difference does it make?

- a. How is God’s Word relevant (notice: NOT “how do I make the Word relevant”)
- b. What questions should follow from this text
  - i. Is there a teaching here to be learned and followed?
  - ii. Is there a correction to be noted?
  - iii. Does the passage give a rebuke to be heard and heeded?
  - iv. How does this passage train us to be righteous?
- c. In what ways should I change in light of Scripture, and what steps will do this?
- d. Remember: We always allow the Bible to change us, not the other way around.

### III. Tips for meditation on Scripture

Good analogy - Marinate: The way meat marinates in spices and sauce we should marinate in the Word. Like that meat, we begin to take on the “flavor” of Godliness in our lives when we marinate in His Word! This is meditation!

Read through Psalms 119 – see all the refernces to meditating on the Word!

Don’t allow any confusion associated with eastern/new age version of meditation.

- In eastern/new age forms of meditation, the individual seeks to empty one’s self; in Christian meditation the believer seeks, rather, to be filled.
- In eastern/new age meditation, the object is self, albeit the higher self, whereas in Christian meditation the object is God, who is high above all, and His Word.

Meditation is deep reflection and contemplation. The Bible calls all Christians to meditate regularly on God and His Word. It is not easy but it is beneficial.

- Results of meditation-----Psalms 1
- Promises of meditation-----Josh. 1:8
- Meditation brings Joy-----Jer. 15:16
- Mental discipline of meditation-----Phil 4:8

DIVE IN AND SEE WHAT  
GOD HAS IN STORE!!!

REMEMBER: QUALITY NOT QUANTITY!

GO FOR IT! TASTE AND SEE!