

How to Study the Bible

(Lesson 9)

Introduction:

1. Two primary methods are generally used when studying the Bible:
 - a. "the book method" [studying individual books of the Bible]
 - b. "the subject method" [studying subjects or topics addressed in the Bible].
2. Lessons 5-8 mainly dealt with "the book method" of study.
3. This lesson offers suggestions for using "the subject method" of study.
4. Since both methods have their advantages, both should be used.

Discussion:

I. STEP 1: SELECT THE SUBJECT

A. Possible topics include:

1. Bible characters (ex.: Jesus, Abraham, Moses, David, Paul)
2. commands (ex.: repentance)
3. principles (ex.: inspiration).

B. When selecting a topic, be as specific as possible.

II. STEP 2: COLLECT BIBLE REFERENCES

A. A concordance is extremely helpful in this step.

B. A study Bible with references is also helpful.

C. A topical study Bible provides useful information.

III. STEP 3: STUDY THE BIBLE REFERENCES

A. Bible verses must be studied in their contexts.

B. Make notes from the verses you wish to use.

IV. STEP 4: ORGANIZE YOUR FINDINGS

A. Scriptures that supply information on the selected subject need to be grouped into categories.

B. An outline will begin to develop at this point.

V. STEP 5: ILLUSTRATE AND APPLY

A. To aid us in understanding various topics,:

1. Bible stories are excellent sources of illustration
2. sermons, books, articles, and tracts are very helpful.

B. Information collected on subjects must be applied to one's life.