

SESSION 6 – Topping Off the Tank - How to study and teach the Bible

Part 2.

MEND AND RESTORE

None of us have a perfect understanding of Scripture.

We are all fully dependent upon the Holy Spirit to write Scripture on our hearts, and to give us “eyes to see and ears to hear.”

We will always, on this side of Heaven, “see through a mirror darkly.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

STEP 1: Understand the objective

We can approach building a Bible Study in a few different ways:

1. A book or passage study.
2. A topical study.

STEP 2: Assess the audience

STEP 3: Consider the context

Good ‘hermeneutics’ begins with understanding “What did this mean to them, then?” and then moves toward translating into “What does it mean for us, now?”

STEP 4: Connecting with the concept

STEP 5: Take them to Scripture. Explain what you’ve learned. Then back off...let them own their own work on it. “Chew the cud.”

STEP 6: Do not insist everyone agree on the same conclusion or your conclusion. Remember...it's the Holy Spirit doing the work.

STEP 7: Focus on the application of a verse today. How could that verse be applied to a believer this very minute, this very day, this very week?

Terms:

Parallel Bible – A parallel Bible shows parallel translations of a verse. In a Gospel Parallel Bible, the 4 Gospel accounts of various parables and teachings will be shown across the 4 Gospels.

Interlinear Bible – An interlinear Bible will show (usually an over-under) word by word, or phrase by phrase, English and Greek or English and Hebrew texts. This allows a reader to see what Greek or Hebrew word is used in a translation, and often shows a link to Strong's Concordance or Thayer's Lexicon.

Bible dictionary – Bible dictionaries will explain terms based upon anthropology and archaeology. For example, a Bible dictionary will give a definition of a "denarius" or a "cubit" in understandable, modern terms.

Commentary – Bible commentaries will give you (usually) a verse-by-verse or chapter-by-chapter explanation, based on a certain theological tradition, of the meaning of words, phrases, or principles. These are "comments" of a certain author or set of authors, based on a certain theology.

Concordance – tells you where and how many times a word is used in a given translation of the Bible. Sometimes tells you how it is used. Many will give context, and some will tell you all the different references where a derivative of the word is used.

Lexicon – shows the uses of a word in certain languages. Some lexicons will show how a word was used in Greek or in Hebrew or in various other languages or cultures.

Online Bible tools:

Start with a Google search for a topic

Biblehub.com (comes as an app as well)

Interlinear text, Parallel Bibles, Bible dictionaries, commentaries, lexicons,

BlueLetterBible.org