

Principles, Preparation and Tools

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: John 8:31-32, II Timothy 3:16-17, Matthew 22:29.
- B. One of the characteristics of a disciple is that he is in the Word and knows the Scripture.
- C. The Word of God is good for salvation and sanctification.
- D. The reasons for error are not knowing Scripture or the power of God.
- E. People do not study God's Word because they do not know how, they have not experienced the personal joy of discovery and they do not like to study.

II. Basic principles for Bible study.

- A. Knowing how to ask the right questions.
- B. Writing notes.
- C. Applying the Word as the ultimate goal.
- D. God's Word deserves to be studied systematically.
 - 1. Observe.
 - 2. Ask questions.
 - 3. Correlate the material.
 - 4. Summarize findings and draw conclusions.
 - 5. Apply the results.
- E. One can never exhaust truth from a passage.

III. Preparation.

- A. Lock out a time for Bible study every week.
- B. Bible study should not happen every day—quiet time should happen every day.
- C. The best time to study the Bible is one at his best.
- D. Keep a notebook.
- E. Get the right tools.

1. A good study Bible.
2. Several translations.
3. A concordance such as Young's.
4. A Bible dictionary such as Eardman's.
5. A topical Bible.
6. A Bible handbook.
7. A word study set.
8. Some commentaries such as Tyndale.

F. Spend time in prayer before Bible study. (I Corinthians 2:10-3:3, Psalm 119:18)

Application questions:

1. Which of the basic principles surprised you or stood out to you the most? Explain.

2. Why is it important to separate one's quiet time from his Bible study time?

3. What are the most important tools for Bible study? What do they do?
