

Bible Study Methods - Part 2

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Introduction.

- A. We need to learn to synthesize truth into a meaningful whole.
- B. We began by setting for the procedures

I. Procedures.

A. Ransack the text in three ways :

1. Continued reading.
2. Continued meditation.
3. Continued questioning.

B. Analyze and catalogue the distinctive structure,

1. Follow the text in terms of paragraphs.

a. Look for things that repeat.

b. Look for things that contrast and similarities etc.

1) Identify the content of a passage as a unit.

2) Identify a relationship between paragraphs.

3) They may take place in the same time or deal with the same person.

4) They may be related by similarities or by contrasts.

5) Place paragraphs into larger divisions.

i. Mark 4:5 the parable of the soils leads into an interpretation.

ii. This is followed by a series of parables.

iii. They all emphasize the process of hearing, the emphasis of the book.

iv. Mark 4:1-3 Jesus teaches and tells them to listen.

v. Listening determines their ability to hear and understand.

vi. Response determines if we have really heard.

vii. In Mark 4:35 Jesus begins to do miracles.

- Stilling the storm
- Casting out legion.
- Healing the woman with the issue of blood.
- Raising the girl from death.
- The climax is that we need to believe that Jesus has power over all realms of human experience.
- Before the miracles Jesus sent the disciples across the sea and Jesus rebukes them for their lack of faith when the sea began to threaten them.
- After the miracles Jesus says, “Only believe” (Mark 5:36).

2. That Jesus teaches by object lessons is a distinctive structure here.

C. Discover the organizing principle of unity in three ways.

1. What is in the mind of the author?
2. How does he develop the argument?
3. What key scripture states this argument?

D. Distinguish the subordinate items, which develop the central purpose and form a textual outline.

1. Four items.

a. Is there a stated purpose as in John 20:29?

1. Acts 1:8 is a purpose statement.
2. Jude changed his purpose at the outset of his book.

b. Is there a repeated phrase?

1. Ephesians; “Unto his glory.”
2. Matthew; “the kingdom of heaven.”
3. Genesis; “these are the generations.”
4. 1 Corinthians; “Now concerning.”

c. Are there chronological divisions?

1. Samuel and kings are organized around the reigning leader.
2. John is organized around seven signs.

- b. Are there abrupt changes.
 - 1. Jude changes his purpose.
 - 2. Romans changes subject, moving from justification to sanctification.
 - 3. Change of form as in moving from narration to poetry, or from doctrine to application.

- i. Habakkuk

- ii. John is not written chronologically because he has a Christological purpose.

- 2. The speaker takes questions here that are difficult to hear.

- a. Verse divisions sometimes make it difficult to see whole paragraphs.
 - b. The verse divisions are not inspired.

E. Relate the book to other cognate portions of Scripture.

- 1. This is the analogy of faith.

- a. Studying Ephesians should be studied with Colossians.
 - b. Study Joshua with a view to the covenants.
 - c. Revelation must be studied with Daniel.
 - d. Gospels must be studied with the synoptics together.
 - e. Study for comparison. The feeding of the 5000 is the only one in all four Gospels.
 - f. Kings and Chronicles should be studied together.
 - g. Ruth should be studied with Judges.
 - h. Minor prophets should be studied with the historical books.
 - i. 1 Thessalonians should be studied with Acts 17 where the church was founded.
 - j. The epistles must be studied with Acts.

- 2. Study each book in the historical framework.

- a. Synthesize the book then synthesize it in light of Biblical history.
 - b. Old Testament books are difficult:

1. The order is not chronological; Ezra is contemporary with Nehemiah, but Esther is not. Job is hundreds of years before Esther.

2. The average person never gets through Leviticus in reading straight through it.

c. I put the Old Testament together chronologically and Nehemiah is the end of the Old Testament chronologically. When we can identify where we are chronologically things make more sense. Enrich your study.

F. Articulate the book in the Bible as a whole as to its distinctive contribution.

1. Each book is essential to our understanding of truth.

2. Ephesians is not more important than Hosea.

3. We need to be exposed to the whole revelation which is profitable for doctrine, reproof, and for instruction in righteousness.

4. Always be working on a book of the Old and the New Testaments.

5. Study for a lifetime of ministry.

6. I study one book for a month, one hour each day, other than what I am teaching and I cover the entire Bible each year.

7. We should be able to give an overview of each book of the Bible.

8. Dr. Hendricks comments on the bibliography he has provided.

a. Hendricks takes the ideas of others and reasoning backward to see how he arrived at his conclusions.

b. Irving Jenson's Bible Self Study Series is excellent.

1. He is most helpful by taking one book and providing a guideline by which I can test my ideas. Studying in this way is comparable to a seminary education.

2. Use language tools to supplement Hebrew and Greek studies.

3. A little knowledge is dangerous.

4. Wuest has a book on work studies; Vines is also helpful.

II. Dr. Hendricks talks about the students' homework on 1 Peter.

A. What does the first paragraph say? How does it relate to the second paragraph?

B. Order emerges from confusion if you're asking the right questions.