

Bible Study Methods - Part 4

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Introduction.

A. Ransacking the text is essential to understanding it.

1. Read and read again.
2. This process never ends.
3. Read, think, and write.
4. Confirm your impressions.

B. This is the beginning of Bible study but today we will proceed on to the next step.

II. Analyzing and catalogue the distinctive structure of the book

A. How do the parts of a book contribute to the whole?

1. Utilize a paragraph analysis.
2. How do the paragraphs relate to one another?
3. Intensive analytical work in each paragraph gives understanding of the whole.

B. Introduction usually begins a book, identifying various aspects. (1 Peter 1:1-2)

1. Greeting.
2. Names author.
3. Identifies recipients.
4. Setting.
5. Prepositions summarize much in the New Testament epistles.
 - a. Exiles.
 - b. Chosen.
 - c. A cause and effect relationship is established here.
 - d. The vertical relationship determines the horizontal relationships.
6. Obedience is emphasized there.

7. The trinity is introduced here also.
 8. The introduction ends with grace and peace conferred on Peter's hearers.
- C. The body of chapter one.
1. Peter begins by looking at the future hope of resurrection. (1 Peter 1:3-5)
 2. At present, however, we suffer. (1 Peter 1:6)
 3. In the past the prophets studied these things. (1 Peter 1:10-12).
 - a. This structure works itself out throughout the book.
 - b. This is practical theology.
 4. Based on the above summary of God's work believers need to be holy. (1 Peter 1:13-25)
 - a. Ask yourself why the editors broke up the chapter as they did.
 - b. Look for connecting thoughts and see if you agree with the editors' decisions.
 - c. What component parts combine here?
 - 1) Verses 13-25 are applications of the previous verses.
 - 2) Verses 13-25 can also be a response to the revelations received.
 - 3) Peter is out to change the lives of his hearers and this will never happen until he makes them understand what Christ has done for them.
 - 4) Verbalize this to the people you are ministering to.
 - 5) Peter is not speaking theory but practical theology.
 - 6) Some key terms are here.
 - i. Hope.
 - ii. Holy.
 - iii. Fear.
 - iv. Love. New Testament love is based on salvation, which is contrary to the worldly idea of love.
- D. "Therefore" in verse 1 of chapter 2 is based on the previous paragraph.
1. The Christian life is a process of learning and doing.

2. The paragraphs here are closely related.
 - a. Peter is narrowing his focus here.
 - b. His readers are encouraged to long for the milk of the word and to offer up sacrifices.
 - c. They are to grow up and produce the four attitudes of hope, holiness, fear, and love.
 3. Verse 11-12 summarizes Peter's exhortation.
 - a. These alien Christians are living temporarily here on earth.
 - b. While here they are to abstain from fleshly lusts that war against their souls.
 - c. Peter has a negative command and a positive command here.
 - 1) Unbelievers are to turn from evil.
 - 2) Believers are to continue in good deeds.
 - d. Each paragraph points back by way of summary and points ahead in the ways of instruction.
 4. Verse 13 of chapter 2 begins with "submit."
 - a. The salvation already introduced produces this submission, though we don't like submitting to hostile forces.
 - b. Salvation produces supernatural changes.
 - c. Believers submit to government, and the "for" in verse 15 explains why.
 - 1) Submission is a mark of God operating in a life.
 - 2) The Gospel affects our beliefs and our actions.
 5. Verse 18 of chapter 2 encourages "Servants" to submit to masters.
 - a. Christians should be good employees.
 - b. Christ gave us the example of submission to hostile authorities.
- E. Verse 1 of chapter 3 begins "In like manner" wives are to submit to husbands.
1. In verse 7 husbands are to live with their wives in an understanding way.
 2. Verse 8-12 summarizes the idea of submission in all of life.
 - a. Government.

- b. Employee relations.
- c. Family.
- d. All of life.
- e. Living in this way pleases the Lord.
 - 1) I am attracted to the Navigators because they exist to serve the world they minister to.
 - 2) This is evidence of genuine salvation.
 - 3) When we understand what God has done for us, what he is doing for us, and what he promises to do for us in the future we become freed to submit in love.
 - 4) Hostile aggression is really a sign of weakness and poor understanding.

F. Conclusion:

- 1. Tomorrow we will pull this book together.
- 2. We are beginning to see how Peter wrote his epistle.
- 3. Beginning with the first chapter we are now able organize Peter's argument.
 - a. Salvation places believers in a new relationship with God.
 - b. This relationship creates a new relationship with others.
 - c. This new relationship enables believers to live in submission.
 - d. Submission is a life style that pleases Christ.
 - e. If you can think your way through these structural markers you have a grasp on the book.
 - f. This will enable you to communicate truth better.
- 4. Next Session we will be putting a teaching chart together.