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Hephzibah, GA 30815
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Sunday Worship
1030 am
www.foclc.org

How to Study Your Bible – Part II

Elder Ricardo M. Piña Sr.

Introduction: This lesson is part of a two part series designed to provide the members of Faith Outreach Christian Life Center with practical information that will enhance their personal Bible study regimen. Portions of these lessons are drawn from Kay Arthur's "How to Study Your Bible."

The key areas covered in these two lessons are:

1. **Observation:** What does the passage say?
2. **Interpretation:** What did the passage mean back then?
3. **Application:** What does the passage mean to me today?
4. **Organization:** How to prepare for Bible study.

In part I we covered observation and interpretation. In this class we will cover application and organization. All of this is aimed at providing you – the believer – with tools to enhance your personal Bible study time at home.

Foundational Scripture: (II Timothy 2:15 KJV) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Let me preface this by saying that this is not a comprehensive class, but rather an overview. In two lessons you will not learn everything there is to know about studying your Bible, but you will learn enough to start the process that will develop for the rest of your life.

Application: Discovering what it means

- **The transformed life:** Bible study is more than an intellectual classroom exercise, it is a life-transforming process. The Bible is more than merely a textbook to study, it is a life-book to live. Once you know what the passage meant and what it means today, you are responsible to LIVE it!
 - No matter how much you know about God's Word, if you don't apply it to your life, it will never benefit you.
 - If you are a hearer and not a doer you are deceiving your own self (James 1:22-25). Application takes you from hearing to doing.
- Applications answers the questions:
 - How does this passage apply to me?
 - What truths am I to embrace, believe, or order my life by?
 - What changes should I make?
- Paul said, "**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness**" (2 Tim 3:16 NIV).
- **Teaching (doctrine):** This is what the Word of God says on a certain subject. God's teaching on any given subject is always truth.
- **Reproof:** Exposes areas in your thinking that do not line up with the Word of God. Reproof is finding out where you have thought wrongly and having been doing what God's Word teaches. The only way to apply reproof is to accept God's Word and to make the correction in your life.
- **Correction:** Many times you can see what is wrong, but you are reluctant to take the necessary steps to correct it. Sometimes accepting the truth and applying it to your life is difficult. Correction oftentimes requires an open confession of sin and reluctance to God; enabling Him to empower you to bring about the change.
- **Training in righteousness:** More than just a handbook for reproof and correction, but Bible is also a handbook what living; for doing what is right. The Bible teaches you how to live a long and prosperous life.

- *You will never know the truth found in the teaching, reap the benefits of making the proper changes (reproof, correction) or learn the principles to live by if you do not take the time to apply the scriptures to your life.*
- **What does the passage teach?**
- Is it general or specific?
- Does it only apply to a specific people?
- Was it addressing a cultural problem of the day? Was it limited to that time in history?
- Has it been superseded?
- Is there a principle I can draw from it?
- **Does this passage expose an error in my beliefs or my behavior?**
- Are there any commandments that I have not obeyed?
- Are there any preconceived notions that I must change?
- Are there any wrong attitudes that I possess that I must now change?
- Is there something I was taught as a child that this passage exposes as wrong?
- Is there some religious practice that this passage exposes as unnecessary?
- **What is God's instruction to you as His child?**
- Are there any new truths (new to me) to be believed?
- Are there new insights to pursue?
- Is there revelation in this passage for me?
- Did God (The Holy Spirit) speak a living Word (Rhema) to me from this written Word?
- Are there any new promises to embrace?
- Are there any new principles to live by?
- **Bottom Line: What does this mean to me, today?**
- How can I apply this to my life today?
- Do I understand it enough to make a change right now?
- What should I ask God to help me with based upon what I just studied?
- If I was at church and I went to the altar for prayer, after hearing this passage preached, what would I ask for prayer for?
- What need has this passage exposed?

Organization: Broadening Your Skills

- There are many ways to study the Bible. We will briefly discuss book-by-book and topic-by-topic.
- **Studying by book:**
- Begin with the facts:
 - Who wrote, when, to whom, for what purpose, etc. You can find this information in most study Bibles.
 - Develop an outline as you study the book.
 - Example (from the Books of the Acts of the Apostles):

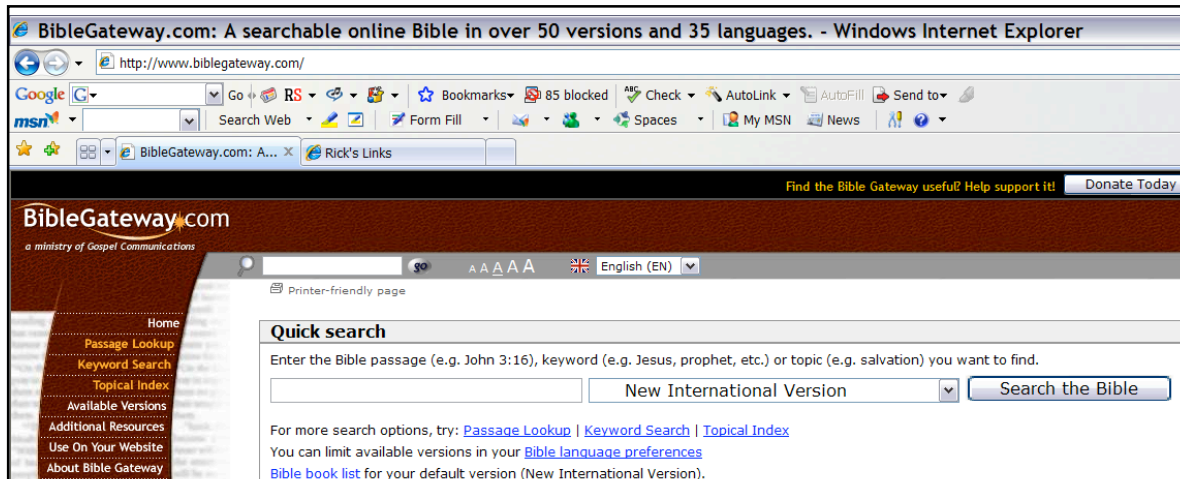
- I. Introduction -- 1:1-2
- II. The preparation -- 1:3-26
 - A. Christ's preparation -- vv.3-8
 - 1. Speaking to the disciples the things concerning the kingdom of God -- v.3
 - 2. Charging them to wait for the baptism in the Holy Spirit -- vv.4-8
 - B. Christ's ascension -- vv.9-11
 - C. The disciples' preparation -- vv.12-26
 - 1. Persevering in prayer -- vv.12-14
 - 2. Choosing Matthias -- vv.15-26
- III. The propagation -- 2:1--28:31
 - A. In the Jewish land through the ministry of Peter's company -- 2:1--12:24
 - 1. The Jewish believers' baptism in the Holy Spirit -- 2:1-13
 - a. The economical filling of the Holy Spirit -- vv.1-4
 - b. The peoples' amazement -- vv.5-13
 - 2. Peter's first message to the Jews -- 2:14-41
 - a. Explaining the economical filling of the Holy Spirit -- vv.14-21
 - b. Witnessing of Jesus in His work, death, resurrection, and ascension -- vv.22-36
 - c. Entreating the Spirit-moved ones to repent, be baptized, and be saved -- vv.37-41
 - 3. The beginning of the church life -- 2:42-47
 - 4. Peter's second message to the Jews -- 3:1-26
 - a. The healing of a lame man -- vv.1-10
 - b. The message -- vv.11-26
 - Testifying of Jesus in His death and resurrection -- vv.11-18
 - Exhorting people to repent and turn that they may partake of the ascended and coming Christ -- vv.19-26

- As I study the book, is there a main topic that I find?
- How did that main topic apply to the person(s) the book was written to?
- How does this apply to me today?
- Are there any key words used in this book?
- What did those key words mean back then?
- How did they apply to the readers?
- How can they apply to me today?
- **Study by topic:**
- Ever wonder what the Bible says about prayer, love, family, marriage, or etc.?
- A topical study give you a total picture of what the Bible has to say about a certain subject.
- If done correctly, this will take time and effort.
- Use a concordance (like Strong's), a topical Bible (like Nave's), or a chain reference (like Thompson-Chain).
- You can also do this online or on your computer.
- Look up all the related words. For example if you are studying prayer then you can also look up:
 - Intercession
 - Petition
 - Ask
 - Cried out (Note: It is easier to look up multiple word references with a computer).
 - Supplication
- Assemble your information.
- Read the scriptures and make observations. Ensure you are not taking the scriptures out of context.
- Let the scriptures say what they are saying, not what you want them to say.
- Capture what you have learned from this study on this subject.
- Pray over your finding. Invoke the teacher – the Holy Spirit.
- Apply the study to your life and make changes were necessary.
- This is time consuming, but it is beneficial.

- **Study by character:**
- Use the same process used for studying a topic, but apply it to a person (Bible character).
- You will be amazed what you can learn from the life of Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Elijah, Peter, Paul, etc.
- Learn from their lives and allow the Bible to come alive to you.

Practical Helps

www.biblegateway.com A searchable online Bible with over 50 versions and 35 languages.



www.blueletterbible.org A wealth of Bible resources (versions, commentaries, Hebrew, Greek, etc.)



Our Vision is to identify, win and train brothers and sisters of all nationalities and denominations into one body of Christ, who in turn will carry the ministry of this church into all the world.



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<http://en.bibleinfo.com/> This site already has lots verses broken down by topic and lots of other information as well. Use this as a tool for Bible study, not as a substitute.

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Your Source for Bible Answers

Bibleinfo.com helps people around the world discover what the Bible says about life's questions. Here you will find counsel, direction, encouragement, and help — all from God's word.

Today's Topic: Belief/Believe

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. *It's in the Bible*, Romans 10:9, NIV. "If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord,² and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

God says we're right with Him if we believe. *It's in the Bible*, Genesis 10:9

www.e-sword.net This site allows you to download esword; a "free" Bible software resource. The following is a list of screen captures from my computer, using esword:

e-Sword - the Sword of the LORD with an electronic edge

File Edit Format Bible Commentary Dictionary Tools Options Window Help

ALT AMP ASV BBE Bishops CEV Darby EMTV GNT GNT-TR+ GNT-V GW HNV HOT KJV+ KJV-1611 KJVR LBLA LITV LXX

MKJV MSG Murdock NBLH SRV Webster WNT YLT Compare Parallel

2Ti 3:16

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

14 But as for you, continue to hold to the things that you have learned and of which you are convinced, knowing from whom you learned *[them]*,

15 And how from your childhood you have had a knowledge of and been acquainted with the sacred Writings, which are able to instruct you and give you the understanding for salvation which comes through faith in Christ Jesus *[through the leaning of the entire human personality on God in Christ Jesus in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness]*.

16 Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience. *[and]*

14 Keep on being faithful to what you were taught and to what you believed. After all, you know who taught you these things.

15 Since childhood, you have known the Holy Scriptures that are able to make you wise enough to have faith in Christ Jesus and be saved.

16 Everything in the Scriptures is God's Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live.

14 But don't let it faze you. Stick with what you learned and believed, sure of the integrity of your teachers--

15 why, you took in the sacred Scriptures with your mother's milk! There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another--showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way.

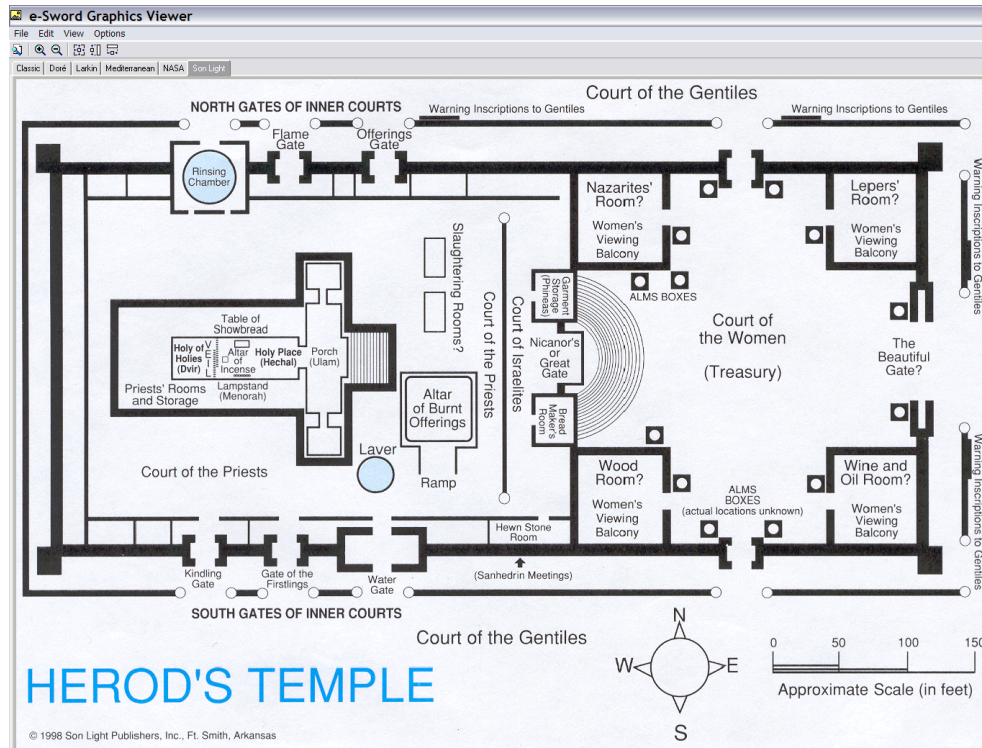
2Ti 3:16 -
All: 2Sa 23:2; Mat 21:42; Mat 22:31; Mat 22:32; Mat 22:43; Mat 26:54; Mat 26:56; Mar 12:24; Mar 12:36; Joh 10:35; Act 1:16; Act 28:25; Rom 3:2; Rom 15:4; Gal 3:8; Heb 3:7; Heb 4:12; 2Pe 1:19-21
and is: Psa 107:11; Psa 119:97-104; Psa 119:130; Mic 2:7; Act 20:20; Act 20:27; 1Co 12:7; Eph 4:11-16
for doctrine: 2Ti 3:16
for reproof: 2Ti 4:2; Pro 6:23; Pro 15:10; Pro 15:31; Joh 3:20; Eph 5:11-13; Heb 11:1 "Gr."
for instruction: 2Ti 2:25; Deu 4:36; Neh 9:20; Psa 119:9; Psa 119:11; Mat 13:52; Act 18:25; Rom 2:20

Scripture
skrip 'tūr (ἡ γραφή, *hē graphē* plural αἱ γραφαί, *hai graphai*): The word means "writing." In the Old Testament it occurs in the King James Version only once, "the scripture of truth," in Dan 10:21, where it is more correctly rendered in the Revised Version (British and American), "the writing of truth." The reference is not to Holy Scripture, but to the book in which are inscribed God's purposes. In the New Testament, "scripture" and "scriptures" stand regularly for the Old Testament sacred books regarded as "inspired" (2Ti 3:16), "the oracles of God" (Rom 3:2). Compare on this usage Mat 21:42; Mat 22:29; Mar 12:10; Luk 4:21; Luk 24:27; Luk 24:32; Luk 24:45; Joh 5:39; Joh 10:35; Act 8:32; Act 17:2; Act 17:11; Rom 15:4; Rom 16:26, etc.; in Rom 1:2, "holy scriptures." See BIBLE. The expression "holy scriptures" in 2Ti 3:15 the King James Version represents different words (*hierá grámmata*) and is properly rendered in the Revised Version (British and American) "sacred writings." In 2Pe 3:16,

Why I use esword:

Our Vision is to identify, win and train brothers and sisters of all nationalities and denominations into one body of Christ, who in turn will carry the ministry of this church into all the world.

- **Versions:** I can pull up several parallel versions of the Bible at once. I have 28 versions loaded and I can view up to four at the same time.
- **Commentaries:** I have 10 commentaries loaded – of which the books would cost thousands of dollars – and they are simply a mouse click away.
- **Dictionaries:** I have 13 dictionaries loaded. If I highlight a word in a scripture, then the dictionaries that have a definition for that word highlight, so I can pull them up.
- **Concordance:** Esword enables me to search the entire Bible (by version) for single or multiple words. It does this in seconds.
- **Graphics:** I oftentimes use graphics in my classes and Esword lets you download a wealth of graphics. Example:



Conclusion: The Bible has everything you need in it to live a long and prosperous life. However, you will only get out of it what you put into it. People have committed their lives to documenting the Word of God, others gave their lives, wars were fought, nations divided, all to ensure the Word of God could make it to your hands. Now that you have it, what are you going to do with it?

This is not just some other book. This is God's Word. This is God's truth. This is God's light. This book is God's will revealed. Its words have survived the ages to make it into your hands so that you could know what God meant and what He means; what He did, what He is doing, and what He will do; what He means to you and what you mean to Him; what His plan for the world was, what His plan for your life is, and what His plan for eternity every shall be. This book has everything you need to live a successful Christian life in the earth, but it will never benefit you if you never read it, study it, apply it, live it, and are transformed by it.

Like everything else, the choice is yours. You can study the Bible and be changed or you can fail to and remain the same. What is your decision? The rest of your life is riding on it?