

Mount Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Personal Bible Study

Rev. Maurice McDaniel, Pastor

Personal Bible study is essential in the life of a believer. If a believer wants to know about God and his ways, they must know the Bible. To know the Bible, you must read and study.

The Bible was written over a period of fifteen hundred years, the Holy Spirit directed forty holy men of God, living on three continents (Asia, Europe, and Africa), to write His words into sixty-six books.

The Bible was written in 3 different languages, Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic.

This is not a book with random articles and letters compiled into one. Prophecy was given in the Old Testament about things that would not take place until hundreds of years later. Nobody can take credit for the continuity of scriptures, but the Almighty God.

One must also prepare their heart and mind for Bible Study.

You should pray before studying. You should meditate after studying.

In studying the Bible there are a few principles that we must remember.

1. The Bible does not contain the word of God. But it IS the word of God.

- a. 2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
 - i. Inspiration means God breathed. Which means God gave them words to say.

2. The Bible is inerrant.

- a. Inerrant means free from error. It does not contain error.

3. The Bible is infallible.

- a. Infallible means, incapable of error; cannot contain error.

Reasons to Study the Bible

1. To settle the issue of our own salvation (2 Timothy 3:15)
2. To grow spiritually (2 Peter 3:18)
3. To receive personal blessing and encouragement (Romans 15:4)
4. To receive personal guidance (Ps. 119:105)
5. To defend ourselves against the devil (Ephesians 6:11)
6. To effectively teach the word of God to the next generation.
(Deuteronomy 6:4-9)
7. To be able to counsel others (Colossians 3:16)
8. To be ready to speak with unbelievers about Christ. (1 Peter 3:15)
9. To verify that the teaching of others is the truth of God. (Acts 17:11)
10. To present ourselves approved of God. (2 Timothy 2:15)

Questions

1. Does the bible only contain the word of God?
2. How should you prepare yourself for studying the Word of God.
3. What continents where the Bible written on?
4. What languages was the Bible written in?
5. How many books are in the Bible?
6. What does inerrant mean?
7. What does infallible mean?
8. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, what is the Bible profitable for?
9. List three reasons to study the Bible.
10. Why do you want to learn to study the Bible?

Observation

Martin Luther said that he studies the Bible as one who gathers apples, “First I shake the whole tree, that the ripest may fall. Then I climb the tree and shake each limb, and then each branch and then each twig, and then I look under each leaf.”

“Most read their Bibles like cows that stand in thick grass, and trample under their feet the finest flowers and herbs.” – Charles Spurgeon

Observation deals with looking at text to find what is there.

In observation you are asking questions of the text.

Who – Who is the author of the text? Who is the audience of the text? Who is the subject of the text?

What – What is the author’s intention for writing? What is the main idea? What is the subject of the text? What is the literary style? (narrative, conversation, parable, prophecy, poetry, epistle)

When – When was this written? What is the culture of this time?

Where – Where geographically was this written? Where was the writer? (temple, Palace, pit, mountain)

Why – Why was this written?

How – How was this received? How was the message delivered? How was it said?

Observation should not be confused with interpretation.

Interpretation deals with what the passage means or what did God mean by what was said.

During observation you are only looking at the text to see what it says. Not trying to explain what it means. During observation you should **NOT** use any other book but the bible

Things that should stand out to you:

Words or phrases that are repeated.

Locations given.

Times given.

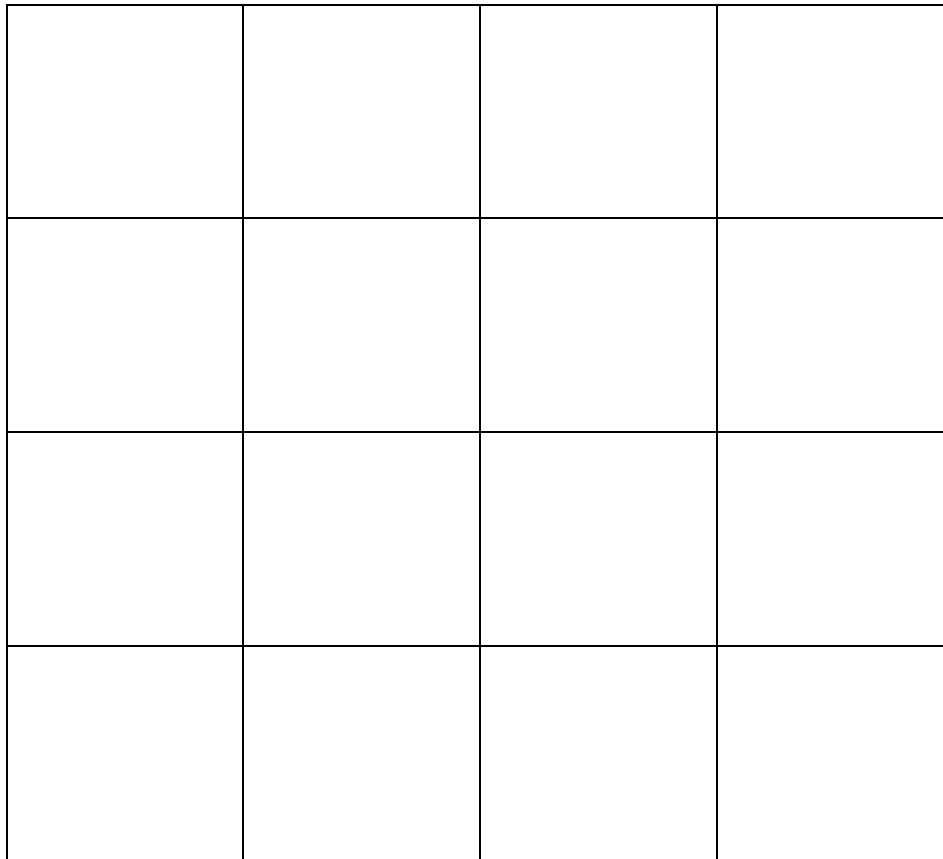
Names given.

Put it to Work:

2 Samuel 11:1-6

Psalms 13

Luke 22:31-34



How many squares do you see?

Observe Psalm 23. Write your observation.

Interpretation

Interpretation is when we find out what did God meant by what He said.

There is ONLY ONE interpretation. There can be many applications. The text has only one meaning, but that meaning could be applied in many ways.

To have correct interpretation, you must have context. Context comes from a complete thought. It is impossible to get the context by only reading in the middle of a complete thought. To get the complete thought, it is necessary to read the entire paragraph. It can be necessary to have to read the entire chapter, a few chapters before it, or even the entire book.

Isolation- when we fail to interpret a single scripture in light of its context. We isolate the scripture from its immediate literary surroundings. Matt. 18:20

Proof texting- stringing together an inappropriate or inadequate series of Bible verses to prove our theology. 1 Sam. 20:41 Mark 14:44-45

Eisegesis- is one adding their own thought or idea to the text. We cannot make the text say what we want it to say. We must practice exegesis.

Exegesis- to draw out. We must only draw from what is in the text and not add to it.

Spiritualizing- when we read a spiritual or historical truth into a text instead of pulling out the truth from the text. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Put it to Work:

Psalms 13

Philippians 4:13

Questions

1. What is interpretation?
2. There is more than one interpretation. True or False?
3. What must you read to get the context of a text?
4. What is eisegesis?
5. What is exegesis?
6. What is isolation?
7. What is spiritualizing?
8. What is the meaning of Philippians 4:13
9. What is the meaning of Philippians 4:19?

Correlation

Correlation is when you use scripture to support scripture. With correlation we can see what other scripture says about the text you are studying. This is also called **cross reference**.

Supporting scripture must support the same thought of the text that you are studying.

Just because scripture shares some of the same words does not mean they share the same context.

Some Bibles contain correlation or cross reference scriptures near the passage you are reading.

Richard Mayhue says in his book, “How to Study the Bible”:

“Correlation allows us to see the part (the text we study) in the light of the whole (the entire Bible). It provides the way to gain a proper biblical perspective – to major on the majors and minor on minors. Once the whole is understood, the part will take on added meaning.”

Put it to work!

Let’s look again at Psalm 13.

John 3:16

Questions

Find correlating/cross reference scripture to support the meaning of each given passage. Read each supporting scripture.

1. Romans 8:28
2. Romans 3:23
3. Psalm 23:1
4. John 14:6
5. What is another term for correlation?
6. Where can you find cross reference scripture?

Application

Application is how we apply the Word of God to our lives.

Application should only be done after the steps of observation, interpretation, and correlation.

It is impossible to know what a passage means to me, before you know exactly what the means itself (interpretation).

While studying the Bible, our goal should not only be to gain information. One of the main things Bible Study should do is cause transformation.

Our goal shouldn't be for us to just get through the Bible, but that the Bible may get through us!

Remember what James, the brother of Jesus said, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James 1:22

Colossians 3:16a says "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..."

In Richard Mayhue's book, "How to Study the Bible", he lists these questions to ask about application:

1. Are there examples to follow?
2. Are there commands to obey?
3. Are there errors to avoid?
4. Are there sins to forsake?
5. Are there promises to claim?
6. Are there new thoughts about God?
7. Are there principles to live by?

Put it to work: Psalm 13, John 3:16

Questions

1. What is application?
2. You can have an application before interpretation. True or false?
3. Bible study should give you information and cause what?
4. What does James 1:22 say?
5. How can you apply Proverbs 3:5 to your life?
6. How can you apply Psalms 23:4 to your life?
7. What questions does Richard Mayhue ask about application?

Bible Study Worksheet

Date:

Scripture:

Observation:

What do you see in the text? Look for answers to questions like: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Also look for names, times, location, key words or phrases, repeated words, and words you don't know.

Interpretation:

What did God and the human author of the text want the original people reading this text to understand/do? Why?

Correlation:

What scripture supports the context of this scripture? You may use cross reference in your Bible or a concordance.

Application:

How can I apply this holy scripture to my life?