



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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“For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9)

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From the Preacher’s Heart

HOW TO GLEAN FROM THE BIBLE AND REAP ITS FRUIT (PART 2)

Introduction

In last week’s article we have considered the benefits for gleaning the Bible, and touching on the various ways to glean the Bible, we have only looked at Devotional Bible Study. For this week concluding article, we want to discover other methods of Bible study which will certainly help us to reap more out of the Word of Life, the Bible.

1. Bible Study by Chapters

There are 1,189 chapters in the Old and New Testaments. In less than over 3 years, a bible student could make an intensive study of the whole Bible, taking one chapter a day. It is good for a start to begin your Bible study in the New Testament.

- a. Read through the chapter carefully, seeking to find its main subject or subjects.
- b. As you read each chapter, give it a title which suggests its main content. For example, if you are reading the book of John, you might title the chapters like this:
 - ch. 1 – “Jesus Christ, the Word of Life”
 - ch. 2 – “The Wedding at Cana”
 - ch. 3 – “The New Birth”
 - ch. 4 – “The Woman at the Well”
 - ch. 5 – “The Healing of the Man at the Pool of Bethesda”
- c. Reread the chapter again and make a simple outline, which will include its main thoughts. Using John 1 as an example, you might make the following outline:

“Jesus Christ, the Word of Life”:

- Jesus Christ was the eternal Word of God, (vs.1-9).
- Jesus Christ came into the world, (vs.10-18).
- John witnesses that Christ is to come, (vs.19-28).

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- John says that Jesus is the Lamp of God, (vs.29-37).
 - Jesus Christ calls His first disciples, (vs.38-51).
- d. Concerning each chapter, ask and answer the questions as suggested in Devotional Bible Study (see last week's bulletin). Take special note of any practical or theological problems in each chapter. Then, using your concordance, look up the keys words in those verses and find out what other portions of the Bible say about this question or issue. Compare scripture with scripture to find its true meaning. Usually, to understand an important Bible chapter, you must study it together with the preceding or following chapters.

2. Bible Study by Paragraphs

A paragraph is several sentences of thought in writing. When an author changes the subject of emphasis in writing, he usually begins a new paragraph. Studying the Bible by paragraphs is often called analytical Bible study.

- a. Read the paragraph carefully for its main thought or subject.
- b. In order to find the relation of the important words and sentences in this paragraph, it is often helpful to write the text on your note book, or you can do it with a word processor.
- c. Using Matthew 6:5-15, which is teaching on prayer as an example – after writing the text out, you can now see the relationship of the various parts of the paragraph, it is then easy to make a simple outline of this passage:

“Jesus’ Teaching on Prayer” – Matthew 6:5-15.

- How not to pray: (vs.5-8)
 - Hypocritically in public (v.5)
 - With useless repetition (vs.7-8)
 - How to pray (vs.6, 9-13)
 - In private to your heavenly Father (v.6)
 - Following the pattern of Jesus’ model prayer (vs.9-13).
- d. It is helpful also to look up in the concordance important words that occur in this paragraph. For example, the words, ‘hypocrites’, ‘heathen’ and so on. By comparing other passages of the Bible that teach about prayer, you will avoid making any mistakes concerning the true nature, conditions, and results of prayer according to the will of God.

3. Bible Study by Verses

In studying the historical passages of the Bible, such as most of the Old Testament or parts of the Gospels, each verse may have only one simple meaning.

But many verses in both the Old and New Testaments are rich with many great Bible truths that will demand more detailed study. There are many ways that you can study a single Bible verse.

- a. Study a verse through the personalities revealed. Taking John 3:16 as an example, these very simple but significant points are brought to light: “God ... only begotten Son ... whosoever ... him.”

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- b. Study a verse by looking for the great ideas revealed in it. The text John 3:16 can be titled, “The greatest verse in the Bible”. The following ideas are found in it:
- “God” – the greatest person
 - “so loved” – the greatest devotion
 - “the world” – the greatest number
 - “he gave” – the greatest act
 - “his only begotten Son” – the greatest gift
 - “that whosoever believeth” the greatest condition
 - “should not perish” – the greatest mercy
 - “have everlasting life” – the greatest result
- c. Sometimes a combination of these various ideas applied to a verse will bring the richest results. Take Romans 5:1 as an example:
- “Therefore” – this verse depends on 4:25. Our justification is based on and is guaranteed by Jesus’ resurrection.
 - “Justified” – made righteous
 - “by faith” – method of our justification (read 3:24; 4:9)
 - “have” – not future, but present tense means we have this now
 - “peace with God” – we were enemies, but now there is peace between us and God because of what Christ has done.
 - “through our Lord Jesus Christ” – The way to peace with God is only through Jesus Christ.

4. Bible Study by Books

To vary our study of the Word of God, the fourth way is to study the Bible by books. This can be done in several ways, and the first is called:

- a. The Inductive Method. This is to studying in detail the contents of a Bible book and then drawing from these details general conclusions or principles concerning the contents and purpose of the book.
- b. Another method of book study is called the synthetic method. This involves reading the Bible book over several times to receive the general impressions of the main ideas and purpose of the book without attention to the details.
- c. In some cases the study of a Bible book becomes historical study, if that book relates the history of a nation or a man in a particular period of time. For example, the Book of Exodus tells the history of the children of Israel from the death of Joseph in Egypt until the erection of the Tabernacle in the wilderness in the time of Moses. This covers approximately four hundred years of history.

Here are some suggestions for Bible study by books:

- a. Read the book through to get the perspective and the general emphasis of the book.
- b. Reread the book many times, each time asking yourself a relevant question and jotting down the answers you find as you read. Below are the most important questions to ask:

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- First reading: What is the central theme or emphasis of this book? What is the key verse?
- Second reading: Remembering the theme of the book, see how it is emphasized and developed. Look for any special problems or applications.
- Third reading: What does it tell me about the author and his circumstances when he wrote this book?
- Fourth reading: What does the book tell me about the people to whom the book was written and their circumstances, needs, or problems?
- Fifth reading: What are the main divisions of the book? Is there any outline apparent in the logical organization and development of the book? During this reading, divide the text into the paragraphs as you see them and then give a title to each paragraph. Draw a line down the right side of the outline and on the other side write any problems, questions, words, or ideas that require further study by comparison with other passages in the Bible.
- Sixth and successive reading: Look for other facts and/or information that your earlier readings have suggested. By now certain words will stand out in the book. See how often they recur. As you read and reread a book, you will find that you begin to see its structure and its outline very clearly. However, there other outlines and subdivision for any given book and it depend on the principles of division that you select.

5. Bible Study by Words

There are two profitable and helpful ways of studying great words or subjects in the Word of God.

- Word Study by Bible books:* Certain words have special significance in certain Bible books. For example, after studying the Gospel of John as a book and by chapters, you will find it instructive and inspiring to trace the words 'believe' and 'belief'. They occur almost 100 times. By reading the book hurriedly and underlining each passage where the words the two words occur, you will understand why Bible scholars contend that the purpose of the Gospel of John, is expressed by the author in John 20:31 *"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."*
- General Word Study:* The concordance will be of great help in this type of study. Through the study of great Bible words, you can soon become familiar with the great doctrines of the Bible and understand the great theological principles which the Bible reveals.

With the concordance you might begin with the study of the word 'grace'. By tracing the occurrences of this word through the Old Testament and then into the New Testament, you will come to see that God has always dealt with His people in grace, and you will find in a concrete way the great truth of Ephesians 2:8 *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."*

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6. Bible Study by Topics

Closely related to the method of study by words is the study according to great topics or subjects: Bible prayers, Bible promises, Bible sermons, Bible songs, Bible poems, and so on.

You might also study Bible geography by reading rapidly through and looking for rivers, seas, and mountains highlighted in Scripture. For example, the mountaintop experiences in the life of Abraham are a thrilling study.

Another challenging study is to read rapidly through the Gospels and Epistles looking for the commands of the Lord to us. The list of Bible topics is unlimited.

- a. For a topical study on prayer, look up the word 'prayer' or 'pray' in your concordance. Look up every form of these words and such related words as 'ask' and 'intercession'.
- b. After you have looked up these verses, study them and bring together all the teaching on prayer that you find. You will conditions of prayer, words to be used in prayer, results to expect from prayer, when to pray, and where to pray.

7. Bible Study through Biography

The Bible is a record of God's revealing Himself to men and through men. The Old Testament as well as the New is rich in such biographical studies. Just to name a few:

- a. The Life of Noah – (Genesis 5:32 – 10:32)
- b. The Life of Abraham – (Genesis 12 – 25)
- c. The Life Joseph – (Genesis 37 – 50)
- d. The Life Deborah – (Judges 4 & 5)

The various ways for studying the great Bible characters are:

- a. Read the Bible book or passages in which this person's life is prominent, e.g. Abraham in Genesis 12-25, including references to Abraham in Hebrews 11 and Romans 4.
- b. Trace a character with a concordance.
- c. Be careful to note indirect references to the person in other portions of scripture.

Conclusion

There are many other ways, or methods of studying this great book, the Bible. Use all the Bible study methods suggested and from time to time, change your method so that you will not become too accustomed to any one method or tired from delving too deeply into one type of study.

The Bible is the greatest storehouse of the greatest truth available to man and it is all that man ever needs to know the true living God, His only begotten Son and the power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is the Word of God, sufficient for our faith and practice in this life.

*In His Service
Preacher Mok*

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

CHURCH THEME: WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE (Romans 6:4)

Our **worship services** begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm**.

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
Morning	<i>Today: 18/11/2007</i>	<i>Next Week: 25/11/2007</i>	<p>We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We specially welcome Chun Yang to the morning worship service last Lord's Day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December Family Worship: The combined YAF meeting and family worship will be held on 7 December at the home of Hubert Wee. For those who would attend, please contact Pr Mok or Hubert. • Memory Verse Exercise for 3rd Quarter: Please note that the deadline for the review is today. • DHW Lessons: Please note that DHW lessons are held at the fellowship hall immediately after every morning worship service. • Those serving on the Lord's Day for both morning and evening worship services: Please gather behind the pulpit area at 10.30am for prayer. • Sabbath School: Please note that class is held at the Library after the morning worship. You are encouraged to bring children of ages 6-12 for the lessons. Children of age 6 onwards are encouraged to sit with their parents during the main service.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	John Poh	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	What Am I Told to Do?	What if I Refuse to Do?	
<i>Text:</i>	Mark 5:19-20	1 Corinthians 9:16	
<i>Organist:</i>	Grace	Joy	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	The Angel of the LORD	Priest of the Order of Melchizedek	
<i>Text:</i>	Genesis 16:7	Genesis 14:18-20	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Hubert	Hubert	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 18/11/2007</i>	<i>Next Week: 25/11/2007</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	John/Esmeralda	Josiah/Evelyn	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Joyce	Carol	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Constance	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	DHW - Genesis	DHW - Genesis	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 23 Nov	7:00 pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Combined Meeting with SGAT	
Sat 24 Nov	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Led by Jonathan	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £466.90		Lunch: £31.85	
<u>Memory Verse</u>			
<i>Previous Week (Nov 07 Wk 2): Acts 2:38</i>			
<p>Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.</p>			
<i>This Week (Nov 07 Wk 3): Mark 5:19</i>			
<p>Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.</p>			