

# How to Do Proper Bible Study

## *Practical Tips for Shewing Thyself Approved*

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” – 2 Timothy 2:15

### 1. Necessities, Tools, and Warnings for Proper Bible Study

<i>What You Need</i>	<i>What Will Help You</i>	<i>What You Don't Need</i>	<i>What Will Hinder You</i>
Faith	Desire to Serve God	Commentaries	Your Flesh & Excuses
King James Bible	Pen & Paper	Time	Chewing Meat w/o Teeth
Time	Routine	Past Experience	Not Talking About It
Exposure	Concordance	To Be a Good Student	Greek/Hebrew/Translations
Effort	Computer/Software	To Be Smart	Bad Influences

### 2. The Correct Frame of Mind for Proper Bible Study

- a. Let God be true (Rom 3:4)
  - i. God wants you to know what He said & you can understand it
  - ii. God meant what He said, and He said what He meant
- b. Let the Bible define its own words
- c. Come to God's word expecting YOU to be wrong, needing correction, reproof, & rebuke
- d. Pray beforehand to put your heart and mind in the right place to learn
- e. Pray afterwards to place what you have learned in your heart and mind
- f. Study for someone else's sake instead of your own

### 3. What Proper Bible Study Looks Like

- a. *To study* = to apply the mind to; to consider attentively; to read & examine closely for understanding; to form or arrange by previous thought (*Noah Webster, 1828*)
- b. Personal Bible study is NOT Bible reading, book reading, blog surfing, sermon listening
- c. You have to read to study, but reading is not studying (though you may start there)

Effective study <b>REQUIRES</b> an outlet for what is going on in your head			
Underline verses	Make your own cross references	Take notes	Write out your thoughts
Sketch concepts	Organize and outline ideas	Compose an email	Design a resource
Keep a blog	Make audio or video recordings	Have a conversation	Teach a group

- d. Good Bible study is not about memorization of facts & verse references, but about familiarity with & understanding of the parts, how the parts work together, & the whole
- e. There are more ways to study the Bible than anyone has time for (*other side of outline*)

### 4. When You Run Into Trouble (*and you will*)...

- a. Hard passages: interpret the hard by the easy/don't change what's clear for what's not
  - i. Go back and study again; list all possibilities and consider; zoom out
- b. Phone a friend before consulting commentaries, books, or even [graceambassadors.com](http://graceambassadors.com)

## A Few Suggestions for Doing Bible Study

<p><b>What doctrinal issues did you struggle with?</b>  <i>Make a list of doctrines you struggled with but now understand because of right division. Study how you would now explain those doctrines to a person or group with the same struggle.</i></p>	<p><b>What Bible issues do the people you know struggle with?</b>  <i>Make a list of family and friends along with the doctrines they need to learn or be strengthened in. Study through each issue on the list so you are better equipped to minister to them.</i></p>
<p><b>What do you want to know more about?</b>  <i>Keep a running list of things you want to find out from the Bible – be specific! Add these into your study routine.</i></p>	<p><b>What do you want to know more about?</b>  <i>Keep a running list of things you want to find out from the Bible – be specific! Add these into your study routine.</i></p>
<p><b>Can you state the purpose of each book of the Bible in one sentence or less?</b>  <i>Read through specific books of the Bible not getting hung up on little details but with the intent of being able to succinctly describe the function of the book as a whole.</i></p>	<p><b>Create your own Bible glossary</b>  <i>Fill a binder with Bible words and your definition of them as defined by the Bible. Remember that words can have multiple meanings specific to the context or dispensation. Note the verse references.</i></p>
<p><b>Summarize books/chapters</b>  <i>Write a one paragraph/sentence summary of each book/chapter of the Bible</i></p>	<p><b>Can you summarize each chapter of Paul's epistles in 5 words or less?</b>  <i>A very worthy exercise to become more familiar with Paul's message and where to find Pauline references.</i></p>
<p><b>Create your own commentary journal</b>  <i>Go through a book of the Bible, a small section each day (a sentence or a few verses). Keep a log where you write down the reference for that day's passage, then summarize or explain it.</i></p>	<p><b>Write a devotional for your spouse/child/friend/etc.</b>  <i>Pick a short Pauline passage (~4-7 verses), divide it into phrases (verses or shorter). Write a paragraph or two containing your thoughts about that day's phrase.</i></p>
<p><b>Make a lesson plan</b>  <i>Choose an age group or specific audience and create an outline or lesson that presents a Biblical doctrine or concept in an appropriate way for that age group or audience.</i></p>	<p><b>Topical studies</b>  <i>Read through all of Paul's epistles through the lens of a specific topic and take note of any verses that apply and how.</i></p>
<p><b>Word studies</b>  <i>Look up a word in the concordance and study all the passages containing that word. Write down your observations including different ways the word is defined or used in different dispensational contexts.</i></p>	<p><b>Keep verse lists</b>  <i>Make separate lists for various topics/doctrines, apparent Bible contradictions, Israel vs. Body of Christ, favorite verses, etc., and add verses to them as you read or do other studies.</i></p>
<p><b>Beware of nitnoids, factoids, dating, genealogies, obscurities, and the extra-biblical</b>  <i>Sometimes keeping a list of interesting Biblical tidbits can be helpful to gain credibility with others regarding your Bible knowledge, but these should never really be the focus of your studies. This is often how shipwrecks and heretics are created (1Tim 1:4 &amp; 1:19, 2Tim 2:16-18 &amp; 4:4)</i></p>	