

TITLE: STUDYING THE BIBLE BY BOOK

Our purpose tonight is to better understand the purpose of Bible study

And then put what we learn into practice

We are going to cover

The Benefits of Book Study

The Approach to an Individual Book

And then I am going to ask you to do a book study

I. THE BENEFITS OF BOOK STUDY

1. A PICTURE OF CHRIST

In a way the Bible is like God's auto-biography.

Unlike a biography which is written about a person by someone else,

An autobiography is written by a person about himself.

In each book of the Bible we should ask

“What does this book tell me about the Lord?” or

“What does God want me to know about Him in the Book?”

2. WE SEE PARTICULAR TEACHINGS, DOCTRINES, PROMISES IN CONTEXT

The more books we study the more we see how they fit together.

We discover that certain ideas and concepts run like threads
throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

3. WE GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE TIME PERIOD OR SITUATION THAT THE BOOK DEALS WITH

For example the setting of the book of Ruth is during the period of the Judges.

Even though Israel was in a backslidden state during most of the time, the book of Ruth shows that some remained faithful to God and that God remained faithful to them.

4. WE SEE GOD'S REDEMPTIVE PLAN UNFOLD OVER THE CENTURIES.

Genesis begins with Creation which God declares to be GOOD.

Revelation ends with Jesus' second coming to restore the earth to its pre-fall splendor.

The books in-between show God's dealing with man.

First through the patriarchs such as Abraham and Jacob then through Israel his chosen people.

Now through His church – Christ's Bride

Great truths become clearer

1. Nothing can impede God's plans not even our failures.
2. God works everything for our Good

5. WE ARE ABLE TO DETECT AND REFUTE FALSE TEACHING

Those who are most vulnerable to false teaching are those who rely on others for information from the Bible.

As we hide God's word in our hearts we are able to recognize false teaching when we encounter it

We are not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine

6. OUR FAITH IS STRENGTHENED

We become like a tree planted by water

No matter what circumstances arise because we feed on the bread of the living word we are safe.

We are able, when problems arise, to turn to scripture and deal with it.

7. WE ARE ABLE TO TEACH AND COUNCIL OTHERS FROM GOD'S WORD.

God intends for us to give out as well as take in,

We can only give what we have received

The more of God's word that is hidden in our hearts, the more productive our ministry will be.

8. WE BECOME LIVING LETTERS OURSELVES.

God's word changes us

When we receive it

Study it

And apply it we grow to be like Christ

We produce the fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

II. THE APPROACH TO AN INDIVIDUAL BOOK

Illustration: (Picture cut into three pieces) If we read a book in pieces we only see part of the picture at a time.

STEP 1 – READ THE ENTIRE BOOK PREFERABLY IN ONE SITTING AND MORE THAN ONCE IF POSSIBLE.

As you read ask the following Key questions

1. What is this book about
2. What is the theme or main idea
3. Why was this book written
4. What words, terms or phrases are used frequently

STEP 2 – INTERPRET WHAT THE AUTHOR MEANS

How can we do this?

We must apply the rules of interpretation

Rule #1

ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PASSAGE

1. who is speaking
2. what is happening or needed
3. when did this happen
4. where did this happen
5. How did God meet the need
6. what does this mean to me

Rule #2

EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF A PASSAGE AS IT RELATES TO THE CONTEXT

Rule #3

COMPARE THE PASSAGE WITH OTHER PASSAGES THAT GIVE RELATED TEACHINGS

Keeping in mind all the while that the Bible is Literature.....

STEP 3 – APPLY WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED TO OUR LIFE

How do we do this?

We can't in our own strength we need the Holy Spirit to help us.

III. NOW I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO A BOOK STUDY

1. you will read through Colossians
2. then apply the steps we have just discussed

You will answer the following questions

1. What is this book about?
2. What is the purpose or theme of the letter?
3. What key words, terms, phrases are repeated?
4. What does this letter tell us about Jesus?
5. How can we apply the teaching of Colossians to our lives?