

THE TYPICAL TOPICAL STUDY

INTRODUCTION

The Bible is a practical book

It deals with life as it ought to be and life as it is.

How extensive and practical is God's word? Let's answer that question by listing some of the topics we have discovered that are covered in the scripture.

Can anyone tell me of a topic that is not either directly or by principle not covered?

The focus of this lesson will be on how to get biblical answers for our questions about living a life of Christianity

What I want you to realize is that if at any time you do not understand something you can go to the scriptures and do a topical study on the subject.

Lets proceed by discussing the benefits of topical study, and

I. AN APPROACH TO TOPICAL STUDY

1. It gives us practical answers for Christian living.

If you are worried about finances you could study about what God's word says about worry and money

Worry is a symptom of doubt about God's desire and ability to take care of us.

God makes many promises about supplying our needs, but we must trust him with that portion of our income that is already His.

2. It strengthens our faith

Sometimes we find it easier to trust God for our salvation and forgiveness of our sins than we do for material things like

Transportation

Health

Finances

When we careful read what the Bible says about a topic will reveal our unbelief

We then have to make a decision...do I accept God's promises that he will provide for my material needs or not?

If I can believe him for salvation which is a greater thing can I not also believe him for a lesser thing like health?

Studying God's word will help us get control over our emotions like fear, anxiety, and tension

Our study should lead us to have a solid conviction that we can trust God concerning a particular matter

3. It exposes us in a systematic way to all that the Bible says on a particular subject.

This qualifies us to share with others what the Lord has shown us on a particular subject

If you have a problem and you study it out in the word and get the victory then you will undoubtedly have an opportunity to share it with the body or with the Lost.

4. It gets the Word into our hearts and our minds

Listening to someone preach and teach on a subject will not have long lasting effect, but personal study will

Can you recall the sermon I preached two weeks ago?

If we have studied something ourselves we will always remember it.

So how do we do a topical study?

II. THE APPROACH TO TOPICAL STUDY

A. Pick a topic

1. pick a topic and then reference it by word in in your concordance...Lets use the topic of forgiveness
2. Each entry in a concordance simply lists the relevant scriptures in order in which they appear in the Bible.
3. To begin a study of a particular topic one should write out each reference.
4. for the word forgive you should note the various contexts

We should forgive others Gen 50:17

We should ask God to forgive us of our sin EX 34:9

Asking God to forgive the sin of his people 1 Kings 8:50

God's conditions for forgiveness to occur 2 CH 7:14

God's promise to forgive Heb 8:12

B. arrange the references into groups of related material with a heading to identify the content of each group

For example

Our forgiveness

Gen 50:7, Mt. 6:14-15, MT 18:21, Mt 18:35, MK 11:25, LK 6:37, LK 11:4, LK 23:34

Jesus forgiveness of those that killed him

2 cor 2:7, Col. 3:13, Eph. 4:32

C. Summarize the main points about the topic relevant to each grouping

Read each verse in its context to get the correct meaning

Luke 6:37

MT 6:14-15

CONCLUSION

NOW LET'S TACKLE A TOPIC

PRAYER

Prayer is one of the largest topics in the Bible. There are over 500 references to it. Narrowing the topic is important with such a large subject.

What are some topics of prayer?

- Praying for the needs of another
- Intercessory prayer
- Who to pray to

Thanksgiving and, before taking food. Joshua 9:14; 1 Samuel 9:13; Matthew 14:19; Matthew 15:36; Matthew 26:26-27; Mark 6:41; Mark 8:6-7; Mark 14:22-23; Luke 9:16; Luke 22:19; John 6:11; John 6:23; Acts 27:35; Romans 14:6; 1 Cor. 10:30-31; 1 Cor. 11:24; 1 Tim. 4:3-5

Here is your assignment for next week

Using the concordance page and the word forgive as your topic

Narrow your topic to one of the following categories of meaning

1. God's command for us to forgive others

2. requesting God's forgiveness of our sins
3. petitioning God to forgive the sins of His people
4. Conditions for God forgiving His people
5. God's promise to forgive

Go through the verses and write out each reference and verse relating to the category you choose.

Read the context for each and summarize the main points