



Giving Oneself to Studying and Meditating

Lesson # 5: From Studying to Meditation

Learning Objectives:

1. Each student will briefly review the information shared on How to Study the Bible.
2. Each student will consider the relevance of proper study of God's Word to proper meditation on God's word.
3. Each student will consider the frequency of bible study and meditation in his or her life.

In lesson one we defined meditation as the act of emptying the mind of random thoughts and concentrating the mind on one particular thing or subject. We also said that it means to think carefully and deeply about something for a lengthy period of time. We agreed to the fact that for the Christian, meditation is about filling the mind with the wonderful and the powerful Word of God. We must ensure that what ever we meditate on is truth. The bible teaches us in John 4: 24 that God is spirit and they that worship him must worship in spirit and in truth. To ensure that we meditate on the truth of God's Word, we must first start with proper and effective **Bible Study**.

Let us review some of the principles mentioned when we dealt with How to study the Bible.

LESSON ONE: Why study the Word of God

1. The Bible is the most studied book in the world
2. The Bible is God's communication with us
3. The Word of God has cause and effect
4. We are a curious people
5. The Bible gives us purpose in our lives
6. The Bible tells us about our Savior, Jesus Christ
7. The Bible tells us about how to resist the sins of this world
8. The Bible tells us about false teachers
9. The Bible teaches us that we must and how to bear fruit

LESSON TWO: How to Study the Bible - Bible Interpretation

- Introduction:**
1. The word must be understood correctly
 2. A lack of proper understanding leads to improper understanding and instruction
 3. Why is it so important to accurately handle the word of God?

Whose interpretation is it?

Not our own: 2nd peter 1:20, Jeremiah 10:23
It is God's understanding

The Formula for Interpreting God's Word

- i. Do your part
- ii. Understand that the bible is not mixture of the human and divine mind
- iii. The Bible is meant to be understood
- iv. The Bible has different covenants
- v. The Bible has different narratives (accounts)
- vi. The Bible has permanent and temporary affairs /conditions
- vii. The Bible has principles and customs
- viii. Understand the spiritual and circumstantial of God's word
- ix. Understand that bible context out of text is a pretext
- x. Understand that the bible explains itself.

LESSON THREE: How to analyze the Bible by books and chapters

The Basics of Analyzing the Bible:

The seven principles of discussion: who, what, why, when, where, how, which (the example of baptism)

How to explore a book in the bible:

Two types of investigations: **broad** and **detailed investigation**

Broad: Assembling of the book into major divisions. For example:
Genesis

Detailed: Involves studying each major division included in the broad investigation.

How to explore a chapter of a book in the bible:

Trying to follow the thought pattern of the author, looking for the beginning and an end of certain thoughts to help you better understand the message being conveyed. For example acts chapter 2

LESSON FOUR: Exegesis

Hermeneutics: Comes from the Greek word which means interpreter. Hermes was the Greek god who interpreted the message of the gods. The term means to correctly interpret the Bible.

Exegesis: the practical application of hermeneutics that leads to an extensive and critical interpretation of the text. Literally it means *to lead out*. Its purpose is to bring out the original meaning intended by the author. (objective)

Not to be confused with **eisegesis**, which means to read one's own interpretation of what the scriptures says. (subjective)

More principles of Bible Interpretation

1. Context
2. Who is speaking in the context
3. To whom the passage is addressed
4. How did the original recipients understand the word of God
5. Determining the circumstances
6. Consider geographical and topographical data

How to approach the text itself

- i. Word order
- ii. Terms used
- iii. Figures of Speech: Parable, Simile, Metaphor, Allegory, Synecdoche
- iv. Synonymous Parallelism
- v. Practical Application

References

1. The Holy Bible
2. Giving Oneself to Studying by Maurice Williams
3. A Study Guide to Greater Bible Knowledge by Wayne Jackson

NOTES

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