

Bible Study

Year 1

Introduction

Why study the Bible?

- We study it as a work of literature.
- We read it for an explanation of the Christian (and Jewish) faith.
- We can study it as a source of high moral teaching.
- In the Bible we learn about God.
- By reading the Bible we get closer to Christ.

How should we study the Bible?

- We must come to the Scriptures with an attitude of reverence.
- Honesty is of crucial importance.
- We must be willing to look at the whole context of Scripture.
- The Bible demands that we take action.

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3-5 Plan

Details

The transmission of the Bible (especially the New Testament)

1. The Oral Stage- The Bible was transmitted by word of mouth.
2. The Written Stage- The stories and teachings were recorded and circulated.
3. The Collection Stage- The various writings were collected and compiled.

What makes it in the Canon?

- It must be written by an apostle or near-apostle.
- There must be evidence of divine revelation.
- It must be accepted by the church at large.
- The literature must be consistent with the rest of Scripture.

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Inspiration and Inerrancy

Inspiration

1. The Liberal position. The authors were inspired like any other author would be. There was no divine contribution.
2. The neo-Orthodox position. The authors were not inspired, the written work was.
3. The Orthodox position. God used men to write his message.

Inerrancy

The Bible is God's perfect, written word. But when did it become perfect?

The authors were given God's inerrant word.

As they heard it, it was perfect.

However,

Copying, translating and distributing could create problems.

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Ground Rules for Bible Study Groups

1. When speaking, always label your opinions as opinions.
2. When making a point, use the Bible for support as often as possible.
3. Anyone is free to express their opinion, or to ask any questions without fear of judgment or censorship.
4. No one is allowed to judge, criticize or ridicule anyone else in the group.
5. Disagreements may occur, but arguments are not allowed.

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The Wesley Study Bible

Features:

- Common English Bible (details in preface, p. xi)
- Maps (Map index begins on p. 1699. Maps follow)
- Concordance (p. 1617)
- Holiness of Heart and Life Articles (index, p. 1615)
- Wesleyan Core Terms Articles (index, p. 1613)
- Study Notes
- Book Introductions

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The Holy Spirit and Scriptures

- The Scriptures inform us
- The Spirit empowers us
- The two of them must work together.

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The Wisdom of God's Word

The LORD gives wisdom;

*From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. **Proverbs 2.6***

Steps to receiving wisdom from God.

1. Receive God's word. v. 1
2. Pay attention to what he says (his wisdom). v. 2
3. Pray for understanding. v. 3
cf. Acts 17.11
4. Treasure his commands. v. 4