

**A WONDERFUL DAY IN THE LORD
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How to Study God's Word

October 4, 2021

We are starting a new series in another week or so. During that series, I want to talk about a biblical worldview. A worldview is how we process and think through everything in life as it comes our way. You cannot have a biblical worldview if you do not know the Bible. You must start by reading the Bible.

Let's start with the fact that if you are going to read the Bible, you must know how to do so. We want to talk about simple methodologies of reading Scriptures, which seems like it would be a simple thing – to read the Bible. You just read like you would read a book, but many people will get really waylaid on that project and find themselves wandering around in the “wilderness” and unable to really know how to approach Scripture in a productive way. So, let's talk about that for this week and see where we go. First, if you are going to read the Bible, you need to get the Scriptures out and find a place that is accommodating for that. In other words, it is very difficult for you to be reading the Bible amid chaos. If you have children or lots of other people running around the house where you are trying to read, it is going to be very difficult to concentrate. The television being on, the computer on, or even your iPhone beeping at you telling you that you have a text or email are all great distractions to concentrating on Bible reading. I encourage you to find a place that is relatively free from distractions. You may need to designate a place. You may need to find a special place in your basement, attic, outdoors, or another room in the house. You may even need to go to another location. Finding a place that is relatively free of distractions is very, very important.

Second, designate a time. Many of us are creatures of habit and have a routine even if we don't like to admit it. We do the same things over and over often in the same way. We sit in the same places in church, we travel the same route to work. We are routine people in many ways. Those patterns can be hinderances and they can be helpful. When it comes to Bible reading, having a pattern, a specific time with which you come to the Lord in His Word every day, hopefully, at the same time, and same place is extremely helpful and productive. You will find that you will read the Bible much more

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often, and more consistently if you have a time that you are going to do so. Pick a time that is best for you and your schedule. For many of us, first thing in the morning is very good. For others it might be lunch, and for others it might be just before you go to bed. Nothing in Scripture says you must come before the Lord in the Word of God at a particular time or place, it is just finding the place and time for YOU! Your goal should be at least 10-15 minutes each day to talk to the Lord in prayer and to study His Word and let Him speak to you. Hopefully, you will be able to carve out even longer periods of time as life allows.

Third, find yourself a project. I have found over the years that if I don't have a project, it is harder to get into the Word, so I am always coming up with projects and reading the Bible in different ways. For example, one year I might want to read through the whole Bible in one year. A lot of people do that. Another time, I might want to read either the Old or the New Testament. Or I might want to use a methodology that, I think John MacArthur has promoted and is quite popular, which is to take a book of the Bible and read it over and over and over for a whole month. So, you take a book like Galatians or a similar small epistle and read the entire book every day for a whole month. Some will take two days to read the entire book and continue doing that for the whole month, and that is just fine as well. Then at the end of the months' time, you really know that book very well, and you are ready to move on to the next one. A lot of people I know, recently, have been trying to read the Bible chronologically. They either get a chronological Bible or an app on their phone or off the internet and you can read the Bible in a chronological manner. Whatever you do here, you have a project that helps you to get into the text! You might find a particular theme that you want to follow even. Find something that really is interesting to you and that you want to follow and something that you know will keep you interested in the Word. A project is very helpful.

I am going to talk to you tomorrow about a little bit more about that and we will pick it up there tomorrow. I hope you are already thinking about ways to get into the Word and a better way for your life.

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October 5, 2021

Yesterday we began by looking at the issue of reading the Bible on a regular basis. I want to follow up on that today. I think I left off yesterday talking about if you are going to read the Bible in a fruitful and productive way that you are going to probably need a project. Just sitting down and flipping through the Bible and trying to find a passage that interests you is not the best method. Some days you could come across a great passage. The Scriptures are filled with wonderful insights, but on some occasions, you are simply going to be "lost in the woods" and not have any cohesion to what you are studying and that is not the best way to study. So, get yourself a project.

I think one of the best ways to do that is, as I talked about yesterday, to read through various books of the Bible. For example, I have read through the Psalms many, many times in many different ways, and one of the projects I used for reading through the Psalms a couple years ago was to study each of the Psalms and give a title for each Psalm. So, when I was done reading that Psalm, I wrote down a title that gave a general description of that Psalm. Another time, I got more ambitious, and you might not want to do this, but I outlined each of the Psalms underneath the heading of the topic that was the subject of that Psalm. Then the last time I read through the Psalms I used a commentary series by Allen Ross. He has a three-volume set. If you attend our church, it is in our library, and you can pick it up and look at it. I read through the Psalms myself and concentrated on it, then I read his material and it was extremely productive and very edifying and encouraging for me to do that. So, there are lots of different ways to create projects for your Bible study.

Another thing you may want to do, and I really encourage this, is to get yourself a journal. I have many journals and notebooks. I will dedicate my new journal I have to my new project that will come up soon which might be a general study of the books of the Bible or several books of the Bible or something along that line, and in this journal, I am going to write down what I am learning. The key verses. The main ideas. A general commentary. This is not meant for anybody else to read. It is not meant to be published in any way. It is just notes for me and that helps me greatly to get into the text of

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Scripture. Writing things down makes me concentrate on the Word of God. This leads me to marking your Bibles. I have found that I must use the right kind of pens to use in my Bible or it will bleed through or smear. I found these micron pens that you can get at Hobby Lobby or bookstores, and they have been very helpful. They don't smear easily. They don't bleed through as much. They are very good for marking your Bible. I have found that marking my Bible is extremely helpful in concentration and keeping my mind focused on the text that I am reading. If you don't want to write in my Bible, some people don't like to do that, you can write the same thing in your journal. The notes, repeated words, comments, thoughts, and cross-references can be written in the journal. By writing something down, it causes me to concentrate, and perhaps you are the same way. It makes all the difference in the world. If I am just reading in general and not marking or notating anything, my mind tends to wander very quickly. Yours probably does the same.

It helps sometimes to read out loud. I often read the Bible out loud if I am in the right setting because that helps me concentrate as well and makes me slow down and look at the words and concentrate. The most helpful though is probably writing things down and marking either in my Bible or my notebook or even both. That should be a very helpful thing for you to do too.

The next thing you need to do if you are going to be a Bible reader and get into the Scriptures is a good Bible! You need a good Bible that you can mark in, or just read if you don't like to mark in it. It needs to be a Bible that you can use every day and leave in your study space. You need to keep that Bible, notebook, and pen all in one location, so you don't have to search all over the house before you get started. You simply get in your spot and dive into the Word of God.

You need a good translation of the Bible, and maybe perhaps a good study Bible. I am going to talk to you about that tomorrow.

How to study the Bible Review:

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- ~ Choose a consistent time to meet with the Lord in the Word daily – beginning goal of 10-15 minutes each day.
- ~ Choose a consistent location free of distraction – no television or computer or radio on to distract you. Leave your phone in another room or put it on do not disturb.
- ~ Choose a project to make it a focused study instead of a “wandering” study.
- ~ Keep a notebook in the location to write down impressions, verses, etc.
- ~ Keep writing utensils in the location you have chosen to use during your study for writing in your notebook or in your Bible if you like to do that.
- ~ A good translation of the Bible or perhaps a study Bible. This may be a great time to treat yourself to a new Bible for this specific purpose if you can!

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October 6, 2021

After the last two times together, perhaps you are all primed and ready to get into the Bible and start reading the Bible in a renewed way! You are excited about it, and you are ready to jump in there, but you run into an issue right away. If you go to the bookstore, for example, you discover very quickly that there are all sorts of translations of the Bible in the English text, and there are all sorts of study Bibles available. So, you start going through all the shelves and looking at the Bible translations and you are overwhelmed almost immediately, and you are left wondering what translation you should use, and if you get a study Bible what one should it be!

Let me first distinguish between translations and study Bibles. A translation is the taking of the Greek and Hebrew text of the Bible – Hebrew in the Old Testament and Greek in the New Testament – and translating it to another language, in our case, English. There are various translations, and I will talk about that in a moment. Study Bibles have nothing to do with translations, they are notes that go into the Bibles that are already translated to try to help people understand what the Bible says.

Let's start with the translations themselves. Again, at the bookstore you are overwhelmed by the options. You know about the King James Version (KJV). It has been around since 1611, but for most people they find the King James to be very difficult to read. Then you will see there are many others such as the New American Standard (NASB), Revised Standard Version (RSV), English Standard Version (ESV), New International Version (NIV). There are just tons of translations out there. There is the Holman, New English Translation (NET), and there are paraphrases and so forth. So which Bible should you get and what is the best choice for you in the reading of the Scriptures?

Let me address this by pointing out that there are three different standards, styles or approaches to the translation of Scripture in the English Bibles that we have.

1. Literal Translation

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There is what is known as the literal translations, or formal equivalent translation. These are the ones that are attempting to be as accurate as they possibly can to the original text. They are trying to go as much as they can word-for-word so that they are not interpreting the Bible so much as they are giving what the text says. That of course is not totally possible. If you have ever translated anything from one language to another word-from-word is impossible, but they are trying as much as possible to be literal and clear and say exactly what the original Greek and Hebrew said. That is the literal translations.

2. Paraphrases

These are the opposite extreme of literal translations. They are not trying to be literal in any sense. They are just trying to give the meaning of the text. So, in the paraphrases, there is a lot of interpretation on the part of the translators, so I don't find paraphrases very valuable. They are simply interpretations of someone else, so I would not recommend using those for reading the Bible. You might use them sometimes to maybe get a "sense" of the text if you are confused, but they have very little value in my opinion. Best known paraphrase translations include: The Living Bible (TLB), The Message (MSG) which has been very popular recently which takes a lot of liberties with the text of Scripture as well. The Phillips' Bible translation was an old paraphrase. Pretty much stay away from those if you want to really get into the study of Scripture.

3. Free Translations or Dynamic Equivalents

These are the attempts to make the text readable for those who are trying to read and at the same time be faithful to what the text is actually saying. It is kind of a blend between the literal and the paraphrase. Some are better than others. The New International Version (NIV) which has a number of versions of its own is trying to make the text readable and at the same time it is trying to say exactly what the text is saying.

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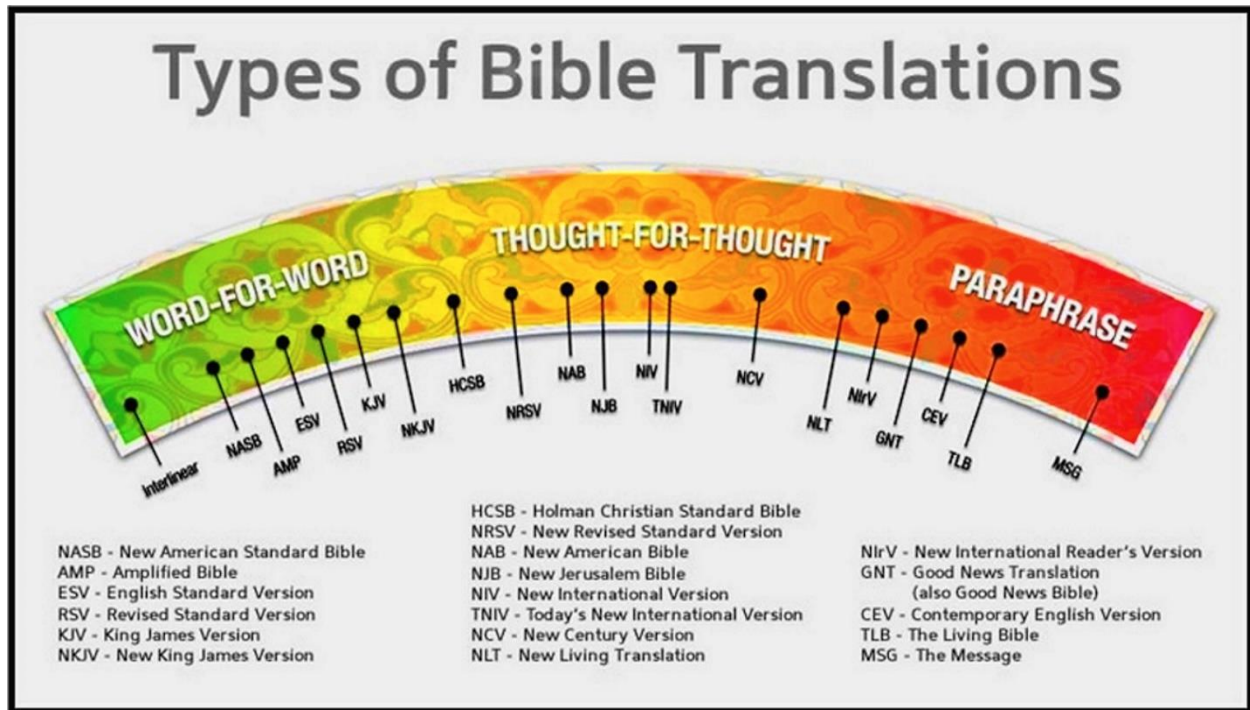
I believe that if you want to really read the Bible well, you want to get a literal translation because that is giving you the actual text of Scripture and what it is really saying. When that happens, we can interpret it for ourselves as we study it. My recommendation is that you look at the translations such as New American Standard Bible (NASB). There has been three of those now: there is the original, there is the 1995, and there is the 2020. Probably the 1995 is the one I would recommend there. The English Standard Version (ESV) is also a good translation. The New King James Version (NKJV) I would also recommend. The Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) and the New English Translation (NET) are also valuable. My favorite is the New American Standard Bible (NASB). There is also a new one coming out by people at the Master's Seminary called the Legacy Standard Bible and that will be bouncing off of the New American Standard but updating certain things. You will not go wrong with any of those translations that I recommend that you look at. My favorite is the New American Standard Bible (NASB), and I think it is superior to the English Standard Version (ESV) for two reasons:

1. It capitalizes the pronouns for God, which I like. It is a not a test of fellowship, but I like that.
2. The New American Standard Bible will put it in italics those words in your English text that are not found in the Greek or Hebrew. The English Standard Version does not do that. I think for study purposes, I want to know what is actually in the text and what is not.

I hope this is helpful. Get a good Bible translation that is literal. I recommend the New American Standard Bible at this point and looking carefully at the Legacy Standard Bible. I do like the English Standard Version and some of these others. Get a good translation that is literal and faithful to the text and enjoy reading God's Word.

I am including a visual chart below for your reference and assistance in choose the best Bible translation for your studies. This chart does not include every translation available, but it does cover the most common ones you will come across.

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We will talk next time about how to actually study the Bible!

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October 7, 2021

We welcome you again today to our broadcast. We have discussed various aspects of getting yourself set up and organized to study the Bible each day. We didn't discuss yesterday about the Study Bibles, so I am going to address that this time.

In recent years, there have been all sort of Study Bibles that have come out. Early on, there were notes with some of the Bibles. In more modern times, especially among Baptists and many conservative circles, the Scofield Reference Bible was well-known for it's study notes, and did a lot of training of people throughout the years in a dispensational approach. Today, you go to the bookstores, and you will find Study Bibles of every stripe possible. There are Study Bibles for: those in 12-step programs, women, children, students, and much more.

One of the questions we must ask is: what kind of study bible do I want? Remember a study bible is just a set of notes that go with the translation, so the first thing you want to do is get a good translation. We talked about that yesterday. My favorite is the New American Standard 1995. I have been using this translation since I was a young man attending Bible College. I used the original that goes back to the 1970s. It was then updated in 1995 with a superior approach. The 2020 version I am not so sure about yet. The Legacy Standard Bible, coming out with Master's Seminary, might be one I turn to later. It looks good and seems to be more consistent with translating the same words the same way. Those are all good translations, however, and you will not go wrong with any of those.

We are looking at study notes. What kind of study notes do you need? First, as you read the Bible on your own, there is a danger with a Study Bible that you are going to let the Study Bible study for you. If you do that, you will miss out on the joy of the Bible itself, and just doing your own Bible study. Don't let someone else rob you of the joy of original Bible study. You do your study first, then look at the notes when you need to.

Nevertheless, Study Bibles can be very helpful especially in places where the text is difficult, the interpretation is hard, or the cultural issues are not

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something we understand. The Bible I have that I have been using for the last eighteen years has no study notes at all. I do have several Study Bibles myself, and I recommend various Study Bibles.

The two I like the best by far are the Ryrie and the MacArthur:

1. The Ryrie Study Bible

This Study Bible is very concise. Charles Ryrie had the ability to say a lot in few words. So, if you go through his study notes with your Bible, you will find that he will put in notes in various places where it is a little bit confusing. He is very good on the cultural issues by telling us what is going on in that culture. There are several things in the back of the Bible such as doctrine, topical guidance, and indexes of that kind. It is a very helpful Study Bible. It is not overwhelming. The notes are there to help you not overwhelm you, and I find it to be very useful.

2. The MacArthur Study Bible

The other one I like is the MacArthur. John MacArthur is a great teacher of the Scriptures and expositor. His study notes in his Study Bible are excellent and very accurate. I really like most of his notes, but the drawback with MacArthur is that he is very verbose. He has a lot of commentary in his Study Bible and that can be very good for studying the bible for someone going through looking for a one-stop place. You've got the Bible reading and commentary. His notes are very good for that. The only drawback again, is that there are a lot of extensive notes and if you are not careful, you will let MacArthur do all your studying for you and miss out on the joy of the actual study of the Scripture yourself.

Try to stay away from these niche Study Bibles that supposedly interpret the Bible based on your life experience. I often find these to be off-key, hobby horses of various kinds that you will really want to stay away from. If you want to get a Study Bible, stick with the Ryrie or the MacArthur.

Let's dig into the text tomorrow as we look at Bible study methods.

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October 8, 2021

All this week we have been looking at how to get started reading the Bible. We have talked about giving ourselves projects, getting ourselves a notebook and a pen. We looked at Study Bibles, and now we are ready to look at the Bible. We will spend a few days talking about some general things about studying the Bible.

I think some people are totally intimidated with the idea of reading the Bible. It is God's Word, so how do we approach the Bible in a way that honors and respects God and His Word. Some people are just totally wiped out by that. One thing that helps a lot as we said last time is to get a good translation that is readable and useful and accurate. It will take away some of the intimidation factor. You read the Bible like you do any other book. Of course, it is God's Word, so it is unique. At the same time the Bible is understood by using the same techniques and approaches – what we often call hermeneutics or interpretation techniques – that you use when reading any other piece of literature. If you look at it from that perspective, it takes away some of the pressure and the intimidation.

There are a few things I want to say about how to approach the Bible:

1. Meaning

When reading the Bible, look for the one meaning in the text of the Scriptures. Each passage of Scripture like any other piece of literature has meaning. Our goal is not to find multiple meanings, our goal is to find one meaning of the Scripture. Don't try to allegorize, or over spiritualize just get into the Bible and find the meaning that is in there. Look for the one meaning in that text. The question that often comes up at Bible studies is: What does that passage mean to you? That is not the right question. *The right question is: What does that passage mean to God?* It brings us to the authorial intent. That means, what did the author mean by writing these words down. The Bible is unique in that it has dual authorship. The Holy Spirit is the ultimate author of Scripture. It is divinely inspired. It is God-breathed. Therefore, it is what God wanted to communicate. His revelation to us. He used about

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forty different people over a period of about fourteen or fifteen hundred years to write the Scriptures over several continents and time periods. When it is all said and done, the Holy Spirit had a plan. Here is what He wanted to say, and He used people as His instrument to write it down. So, as we look at that, what did the Divine author the Holy Spirit intend to say through the human author who wrote it down in these various books?

2. Read in context.

This is probably one of the most important of all Bible study principles. Most mistakes I've found over the years of misunderstanding and misapplying the Bible is because we read it out of context. What happens is we find a verse of Scripture that we like, and we jump on it and interpret it and apply it in ways that it was never intended by the authors. So, read in context. What is the context of that passage of Scripture? That will save us all sorts of problems and it will get us into the accuracy of what God had to say.

3. No contradictions in the Bible.

That is only logical if you realize that the Holy Spirit is the ultimate and Divine author. God cannot lie. God cannot be wrong. God cannot contradict Himself. So, whatever we find in the Scripture, because it is Divine revelation, there is no contradiction. That does not mean there are not times when you must really dig in and see what the meaning is because two passages seem to say something different, but with careful concentration and interpretation, all those apparent contradictions will iron themselves out. People have been spending hundreds of years taking any kind of apparent contradictions and showing why they do not contradict, so don't be intimidated by that. The Bible does not contradict itself.

4. The Bible interprets itself.

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When we find something in the text of Scripture that we don't understand, another portion of Scripture will most likely explain its meaning. So, the Bible is its own interpretation.

5. Application

A lot of people will try to apply the Bible before they understand the Bible. So, before you make application of Scripture, make sure you understand the Scripture in its context and interpretation.

Next time we will go into how to study the Scriptures with an observation, interpretation, and application technique in such a way that the Bible comes alive to you and me. And it does! That should give you a wonderful day in the Lord!

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October 11, 2021

Today we are going to begin looking at some Bible study methods. This is not going to be heavy. This is not going to overwhelm anybody, but it is just simple approaches to the Bible. How do you read the Bible? I don't know how many people have said they just don't know how to read the Bible and so they just don't read it and they get frustrated and discouraged. So, we tried to help in the last week by showing you how to approach the Bible, how to read the Bible, having projects and a notebook. I encouraged you to enjoy the Word of God. Get a good translation, get a good Study Bible if you like. Now, we are ready to get into the Bible itself and look at it.

Turn to 1 Corinthians with me. There are three basic steppingstones to Bible study methods: observation, interpretation, and application. Often people get that backwards and they begin with application and therefore they never really understand what the passage is saying. So, we want to get this in the right order!

1. Observation

A whole lot of Bible study methods and understanding Scripture begins with observation. In many ways it is the most enjoyable aspect of reading the Bible. Just to sit down and read. You don't have to be a scholar or a great reader to do this. You just take your time and enjoy that. What you must do to observe the Scriptures is to take a passage you want to read and study and read it many times. Reading it through once probably is not going to get you much observation. You will get some, but if you take the same passage and read it five, six or seven times, or maybe even more often than that. Then begin to note various things you observe. That's when the passage's context comes alive, and you begin to connect where the passage is headed and what the author meant. Observation is key first.

Let's talk about observation today. In 1 Corinthians 1, I found in 1:20-2:13 in my observations, that seventeen different times Paul writes the word *wisdom or wise*. In other words, his subject is what? Wisdom! He wants to talk to us about the contrast between the wisdom of this world and the

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wisdom of God. That is his context. You don't pick that up the first time through maybe, but when you start noticing over and over and over the word *wisdom* you realize this is the topic of this study. So, in my Bible, because I like to mark in my Bible, I have circled or boxed in every one of the occurrences of wisdom or wise so that I know immediately where they are. That is an observation.

In 1 Corinthians 6, I preached through this chapter recently, and I observed that six different times Paul said, "*Do you not know.*" So apparently, the problem with the Corinthian church is that they did not know a certain thing. I don't think that necessarily means he didn't teach them these things, but they did not assimilate these things into their minds and lives. So, six different times it says, "*Do you not know,*" and that tells us a great deal about that. One of the things they did not seem to know, going to 1 Corinthians 6, was the place of their bodies in their Christian life. The Greek philosophy of the day was that the body was a throwaway. It really didn't matter what you did with your body. These Corinthians had absorbed that philosophy and had not changed their mindset. That was causing them all sorts of problems at Corinth. Starting with 1 Corinthians 6:13 through the end of the chapter, Paul begins to talk about the *body* over and over. Again, this is observation! You could start marking in your Bible the eight different times that he says to them concerning their bodies.

"Yet the **body** is not for immorality..."

"...the Lord is for the **body.**"

"Do you not know that your **bodies** are members of Christ?"

"...the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one **body** with her..."

"Every other sin that a man commits is outside the **body...**"

"...the immoral man sins against his own **body.**"

"Or do you not know that your **body** is a temple of the Holy Spirit..."

"...therefore glorify God in your **body.**"

You are not going to get that if you don't notice that this word *body* shows up over and over. It's a wonderful and fascinating observation. So, if I wasn't marking my Bible, I would take my little notebook, my journal, and I would reference this passage and all the places where the word *body* is used and what it means in each of those individual verses because each verse matters.

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Same thing with 1 Corinthians 7:1, he says, "Now concerning the things about which you wrote..." Apparently, they had written a letter to Paul and asked him a bunch of questions and now Paul begins in chapter 7 to address those. Now, going throughout the rest of the book he says seven different times, "*Now concerning...*" to which he then writes his answer to these questions. That's observation! If you don't see that observation, you don't get the point of why Paul is writing about some of these things. It wasn't just something Paul was writing about off the top of his head. He was answering questions. These are observations.

They are fascinating and it's enjoyable to run down these observations ***before*** we interpret. That is the key. Tomorrow we will look at interpretation.

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October 12, 2021

We are looking at Bible study methods together. Yesterday we looked at the first of the three methods: observation. As I said yesterday, I find observation to be the most enjoyable part of studying the Scriptures. I don't have to engage my mind too deeply. I don't have to wrestle with the terms. I am just observing and looking at it. Some Christians may never get far beyond observation, but you will still be edified, built up, grow, and learn. You will enjoy your Bible just by observing what the Bible has to say. Write it down in your journal, or in your Bible. Whatever you want to do, but these observations are very precious to the heart of the Christian.

We are in 1 Corinthians 6 looking at those observations. Yesterday, I mentioned that in 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 that Paul mentions the term *body* over and over. In 1 Corinthians 6:15 he said, "Do you not know that your *bodies* are members of Christ?" That is an observation. They didn't seem to know that they were connected with Christ. In 1 Corinthians 6:19 it says, "Or do you not know that your *body* is a temple of the Holy Spirit..." Somehow, they had missed the understanding that the Holy Spirit lives within us as Christians. We are the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit, so the *body* is an important part of the Christian life. We observe that here.

Now we look at interpretation. In the context as we look at this passage and read it over and over, we realize that the real issue that Paul is after here is their misuse of their bodies. Because of the Greek philosophy that they had bought into, that the body did not matter and that all that mattered was the soul, they believed with the Stoics that they could do anything they wanted to with their body and still be a Christian. Paul says, no you can't because your body is an extremely important part of the Christian life. So, the direct issue at this point is immorality. Some of these people were using their bodies in immoral ways and Paul is addressing that, not by simply saying it is wrong and don't do it, but by showing them the reason it is wrong is because they are connected with God. They are members of God. The Holy Spirit lives in them and so when they participate with their bodies in immoral activities, the Lord Himself participates with us. That is abominable and extremely ugly to even consider. So, that is his methodology here. That is the interpretation of the passage. This is what he is after and looking at here.

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So, the three major steps of Bible study are:

1. Observation

What is being observed here?

2. Interpretation

What does it mean? We are looking for the meaning and we must wrestle with that sometimes but keep it in context and go carefully through it. Study it. This is where your Bible study methods can be assisted by a good reference Bible that has good study notes. If you get stuck, maybe a good commentary, but use that secondly.

3. Application

How does this apply to every Christian's life? How does this apply specifically to my own Christian walk? What changes need to be made in my life?

That leads us then to application of this passage. There could be several applications here. One that is very clear and practical is 1 Corinthians 6:18, he says, "Flee immorality." So, the application Paul gives here is to get away from immorality. Flee. Run away. Don't try to battle with it. Sometimes it will overwhelm you. Just get away. That is a good application. Let's call that a general application. The general application to immoral issues that we are struggling with is to flee. Get away from it because if you don't you are liable to be overwhelmed by those things. That is a general application that is always true for all Christians. If you are being overwhelmed by these immoral things, then flee. This is broader.

Now let's turn to a specific application. You could also use the same issue of fleeing from any sin that is trying to enslave you or control you, but he is talking here specifically about immorality. So, what specifically in your own life do you need to flee from that is immoral? Look at your own life and in the context of your own living, thinking and temptations, what is it that you might want to flee from? What is it that really tempts you and challenges

How to Study God's Word

you in the realm of morality? That might be certain television programs for you. It might be certain internet pictures or blogs. It might be some streaming service that you need to get away from. If you battle with pornography, it is obvious that is not what God wants you to do with your life and your mind. The only way you can control that is to get away from all forms of pornography. Anything that could seep into your thinking. Even things that seem in some ways more innocent. Things perhaps on TV or on the internet that can capture your mind you might simply have to stop some of those services and put away your iPad and so forth because of that. These are things that you might, specifically, do to apply the interpretation of this passage which says, "Flee immorality."

So, we see the three steps: observation, interpretation, and application. That gets us into some wonderful study of the Word of God. I hope that gives you a wonderful day in Him as you think about those things.