

***HOW TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE:
A Practical Approach to Studying the Scriptures***



***GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST
A Bible Class Study***

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HOW TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE: **Introducing The Bible**

Introduction :

1. Today in the church many of us neglect Bible study and few of us would admit to being the Bible scholars we know that we need to be.
2. Among the greatest blessings God has given His church, one of the greatest is the Holy Scriptures.
3. It is my intent through the next few weeks to get you focused on Christ, excited about Bible study, and show you means and methods that you can use to be a more serious bible student.
4. Of course, our text for this series of lessons will be **II Timothy 2:15**.
5. In this particular lesson we will be introducing the Bible

Discussion :

I. The Bible is a Great Book

- A. In this first lesson we will consider some background information about this fascinating book.
- B. It is a book of amazing diversity: read the Bible and you will find a mixture of enchanting history, beautiful poetry, remarkable prophecy, great wisdom, simple proverbs and difficult teaching.
- C. No one can understand modern society without understanding the history and message of the Bible.
- D. It is a holy book for Christians, Jews and Moslems and it has played a major part in the development of world civilization and social values.
- E. The Bible has played a key role in influencing the world. (Whether you believe it or not, you cannot ignore it.)
- F. Furthermore, it makes extraordinary claims of itself. For example: "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*" (**II Timothy 3:16-17**) - NIV
- G. It is only sensible to test these claims for ourselves.
- H. If its claims are true, we must read the Bible carefully and thoroughly.
- I. This study is designed to help you test the Bible's claims and read it effectively.

II. The Bible is a Unique Book

A. It is a record breaker

1. The Bible is the world's bestseller.
 - a. It has been estimated that between 1815 and 1975, about 2,500 million copies of the Bible were printed.
 - b. Each year about 100 million Bibles or parts of Bibles are distributed.
 - c. These are staggering numbers when compared with the very few books which ever sell just one million copies.
 - d. The best-selling novel ever has only sold about 30 million copies over a period of more than 20 years.
2. What is it that makes the Bible consistently out-sell every other book that has ever been produced?
 - a. It does it every year, and has done so for hundreds of years.
 - b. The Bible also holds the record for being translated into more languages than any other book.
3. At the end of 1993, the whole Bible had been translated into 337 languages and at least one book of the Bible had been translated into 2062 languages.
 - a. This means that almost any person on earth can have access to the Bible and read or hear the words, which have changed the course of history so often.
 - b. The main groups involved in this work of translation, printing and sale have been the Bible Societies.
4. No other book is so widely quoted or so widely studied.
5. More books are written about the Bible than any other book.

B. It has survived

1. The Bible has endured thousands of years of copying by hand, yet it appears to have remained almost unchanged.
2. It has been burned, banned and outlawed many times. (For example, in 1408 England passed the following law: "that no one henceforth on his own authority translate any text of Holy Scripture into English or other language ... and that no book of this kind he read.")
3. Those who did translate it into English (such as William Tyndale) were killed.
4. Others were burnt at the stake for saying the Lord's Prayer in English.
5. Only a few years ago, it was a criminal offence in many communist countries to have a Bible in your possession.

C. It is a library of books

1. The word "bible" comes from a Greek word *biblos* meaning simply writings.
2. The Bible is not just one book-it is one volume but it contains 66 separate books written by as many as 40 different authors.
3. At the front of your Bible you will find a list of these books, but you probably already know many of the book names and some of the stories they contain.
4. In fact, you may have heard of quite a lot of the Bible stories and people.
 - a. Many people will have heard of the 10 commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sermon on the Mount.
 - b. Some will know a few of the stories, like Noah and the Ark, Samson and Delilah or David and Goliath.
 - c. Names like Moses, Elijah, Paul and the Pharisees may be familiar.
 - d. But how do they all fit together?
5. One of the aims of this class is to help you to gain an overview of the Bible.
6. You can build on your knowledge quickly, if you will read and study your Bible, which we will also learn how to do in this class.
7. About 40 different authors of many different occupations wrote the books: kings, shepherds, prophets, herdsmen, teachers, lawyers, doctors, etc.
8. These authors lived in ten different countries and wrote over a 1,600 year time span in three different languages. (Yet their message is consistent.)

D. It has two testaments

1. The 66 books of the Bible divided into two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.
 - a. A testament was a covenant or an agreement.
 - b. So the two parts of a Bible simply record two covenants, each between God and men.
2. The *Old Testament* tells of events from the creation of man to about 400 years before Jesus Christ was born.
 - It gives God's word as it related particularly to the people of Israel.
3. In contrast, the *New Testament* records God working with people through his son, Jesus Christ.
 - In the New Testament it becomes dear to all that God's promises are to all people, not just to Israelites.

4. Many Christians read only the New Testament.
 - a. After all, does not the very name Christians indicate that only records about Jesus Christ are of use to them?
 - b. This is a tragic error because it is not possible to fully understand the New Testament without also reading the Old Testament.
 - c. Don't forget what Jesus said: "*You diligently study the scriptures [the Old Testament] because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the scriptures that testify about me.*" (John 5:39)

III. Reading The Bible & Understanding The Variety

- A. The Bible is a book of amazing diversity: read the Bible and you will find a mixture of enchanting history, beautiful poetry, remarkable prophecies, great wisdom, simple proverbs and difficult teaching.
- B. The divisions of the books in each testament can be placed into categories: law, history, poetry, prophecy, letters, etc.
- C. These are man-made categories but provide a useful aid to help remember what each book contains.

Law: The five law books at the front of your Bible are sometimes called the Pentateuch (meaning five books) and contain the early history of God's people as well as the laws he gave to Moses for Israel.

History: The Old Testament contains much of the history of Israel. In the New Testament, the Acts of the Apostles gives the history of the early Christians.

Poetry: Five of the Old Testament books are largely poetic. For example, you may know some of Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd". Bible poetry does not rhyme (even in the original languages). It is classified as poetry because of its structure.

Prophecy: Human beings cannot foretell the future. If they could, we would not have insurance companies and bookmakers. Yet the Bible is full of forecasts or prophecies. Some books contain mostly prophecy and these are in the section labeled "Major Prophets" and "Minor Prophets" in the bookshelf. (The minor prophets are smaller books, not less important!) In these books, God foretold much of the history of Israel and nearby nations. Revelation, the last book of the Bible, is also a book of prophecy.

Gospels: The four gospels are records of the life of Jesus. They contain parallel accounts of many things Jesus did and said although each of them contains information that the others omit. The word "gospel" means "good news".

Letters: Much of the New Testament consists of letters. Most of them were written by the apostle Paul to churches and individuals.

- D. We should consider the Bible timeline as we read the Bible.
1. The Bible contains quite a lot of information about when events happened.
 2. When archaeological information is also taken into account, a fairly detailed chronology of the Bible can be obtained from about the time of Abraham.
 3. Before Abraham there is insufficient information to accurately date any event.
 4. The historical events described in the Old Testament take place over a period of several thousand years.
 5. A much shorter time is covered by the New Testament (only about 100 years). Bible history is highly selective.
 6. There are long periods about which the Bible says relatively little (such as the time between Adam, and Noah) and short periods about which the Bible says a lot (such as the last week of Jesus' life).
 7. If I had more time I could expound on this more, but not today.
- E. We should consider Bible geography as we read the Bible.
1. When the Bible describes the geography of the events it records, it is helpful to look at a map to see where the places were.
 2. Almost all of the Bible events took place in Israel or neighboring countries in the Middle East.
 3. Of course, modern atlases of the same area aren't particularly helpful because the towns and cities have different names or may have ceased to exist altogether. (Many Bibles contain maps as an appendix.)
 4. You may need to buy a good Bible Atlas (we will cover this more later).

IV. Why Read The Bible?

- A. Although the Bible has 66 different books, and many thousands of verses, a single theme runs strongly through the book from start to finish.
1. This theme is the relationship between God and human beings a theme of love and salvation.
 2. Through the lives of individuals and nations this theme develops.
- B. Most people who set out to read the Bible seriously, find it a disturbing book.
1. The Bible claims to be the actual word of God, who created and sustains the universe, and as a result the Bible lays down rules for living and outlines the consequences of obedience and disobedience.
 2. No wonder the Bible has a real impact on any serious reader.
 3. It makes us wise unto salvation (**II Timothy 3:15-17**), gives us hope (**Romans 15:4**), it is the power of God for salvation (**Romans 1:16-17**), it brings death if neglected (**Proverbs 13:13**), and it provides direction for daily living (**Psalms 119:105; Joshua 1:8**).
 4. Make no mistake-the Bible can change your life. . . . not the Bible itself, of course, but its message.

5. In the Bible, God has revealed himself as righteous and holy.
 - a. By contrast we all are unholy sinners.
 - b. And in the Bible, God offers us the way of escape from our sin, the saving blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - c. Jesus has called people to him for 2,000 years and offered them life in a hopeless world.
 - d. The Lord's invitation and command is: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I Will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (**Matthew 11:28-30**) - NIV
 - e. This invitation has appeared wonderful to many.
 - f. They have seen their lives as being without meaning or happiness and going nowhere.
6. An active conscience is a terrible thing if there is no way out. Anyone who has done anything of which they are later deeply ashamed, knows just how wonderful this invitation is. - If it works. - History shows that it does.
7. People who turn to God in faith and respond to the call of the Lord Jesus Christ and are baptized for the remission of their sins are changed.
8. They are not immediately made perfect, but they are made free. (Free of fear and guilt and sin and etc.)
9. Take the opportunity over the years ahead to read the Bible, learn more of God and His son, and follow Him.

Conclusion :

1. I hope and pray that each of you has benefited from the lesson today.
2. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions that you want to ask me now or later, you are welcome to do so at any time.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE: **Origin of the English Bible**

Introduction :

1. Today in the church many of us neglect Bible study and few of us would admit to being the Bible scholars we know that we need to be.
2. Among the greatest blessings God has given His church, one of the greatest is the Holy Scriptures.
3. It is my intent through the next few weeks to get you focused on Christ, excited about Bible study, and show you means and methods that you can use to be a more serious bible student.
4. Of course, our text for this series of lessons will be **II Timothy 2:15**.
5. In this particular lesson we will be studying about the Bible's origin. . . .

Discussion :

I. The Origin & History of the Bible

- A. How do we know that the 66 books in our Bibles were all inspired?
- B. What about other books?
- C. In this class we answer these questions.
- D. We also look at the manuscript evidence that our Bibles are reliable copies of what God originally caused to be written down.
- E. The Dead Sea Scrolls provide some fascinating and relatively recent evidence of the reliability of the Bible.
- F. Finally, we trace the history of the English Bible through to the most recent versions and discuss the problem of choosing a Bible to suit you.

II. Inspiration of the Bible

- A. The word inspiration literally means God-breathed.
- B. The Bible is "inspired" because the words have been breathed by God himself.
 1. The Apostle Paul described the Bible by saying: "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*" (**II Timothy 3:16-17**).
 2. Peter described the inspired prophets as men who "*spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit*" (**II Peter 1:21**).
 3. Sometimes God seems to have inspired what they said word for word to the point when they did not always understand what they wrote (**I Peter 1:10-12**).
 4. At other times, the writer seems to have had more freedom of expression although the thoughts expressed were inspired by God.
 5. For example, the writings of Paul are distinctive in their style and language used, but were still inspired by God.

- C. The inspiration of the Bible is proven through the fulfillment of biblical prophecies (Messiah, the church, persecution, captivity, etc.)
- D. The fact that the Bible is inspired is a foundation of our Christian faith.

III. The Canon of Scripture

- A. The "canon of Scripture" means those writings, which are inspired.
 - 1. Some may wonder how do we know what books are part of inspired Scripture and what books are not?
 - 2. Some Bible writers stated explicitly: "*This is the word of the LORD*" or "*This is what the LORD says ...*" (**Jeremiah 2:1; Joel 2:1**).
 - 3. Other books do not claim to be inspired but they quickly became recognized as inspired because the person who wrote them was accepted as a prophet of God (Genesis, Song of Solomon, etc.).
- B. The Bible provides two tests for deciding whether a prophet is inspired:
 - 1. He should predict the future accurately (**Deuteronomy 18:21-22**).
 - 2. He should not teach people to turn away from God (**Deuteronomy 13:1-5**).
- C. The Old Testament was well established by the time of Jesus.
 - 1. The books had been accepted for centuries because they were recorded by prophets of God such as Moses, Isaiah and Ezra.
 - 2. These men had visions from God and made prophecies that came true.
 - 3. Therefore, what they said and wrote were accepted as the work of God.
- D. It did not take long for the New Testament writings to be considered "Scripture" also. (see APPENDIX)
 - 1. For example, the gospel of Luke was considered Scripture by the time Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy (**I Timothy 5:18**).
 - 2. Similarly, the writings of Paul were considered Scripture by the time Peter wrote his second letter (**II Peter 3:15-16**).
- E. What about the Apocrypha?
 - 1. Most Bibles contain the 66 books mentioned in our first study.
 - a. But some Bibles, particularly Catholic Bibles, contain several additional Old Testament books.
 - b. Most Catholic Bibles will contain an additional seven books in the Old Testament and several additions to other books.
 - c. Some Bibles add up to seventeen extra books or parts of books.
 - d. These additions to the Old Testament are known as the "Apocrypha" (meaning "hidden" books).
 - e. Protestants reject these books as uninspired-not part of the revealed word of God.
 - f. They were written between about 200 BC and AD 100, well after the Old Testament was completed.

2. Old Testament Apocrypha (see APPENDIX)
 - a. Some of the books of the Apocrypha are mainly historical: for example, 1&2 Maccabees describe the history of the Jews about 150-100 years before Jesus.
 - b. Other books are pure fiction: Tobit tells the story of a man named Tobit who travels with his guardian angel, Raphael, and fights off the demon Asmodeus with the organs of a fish!
 - c. Another fictional story, Judith, contains major historical blunders: it says Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Assyria in Nineveh instead of the king of Babylon.
 - d. Many of the books falsely claim to be written by people mentioned in the Bible: For example, Baruch claims to be written by Jeremiah's friend but was certainly written much later.
 - e. Similarly Ecclesiasticus and the Wisdom of Solomon were written hundreds of years after Solomon, not by Solomon himself.
 - f. It is clear why some of these books should not be considered canonical (i.e. part of the inspired word of God).
 - g. They contain historical and doctrinal errors and were not written by the person they claim.
 - h. But others, like 1 Maccabees, seem reasonably factual and accurate. So why shouldn't these be part of our Bibles? - None of the books of the Apocrypha came from prophets and so they were never accepted by the Jews as inspired. The Jews sometimes quoted from the Apocrypha, but in the same way that we would quote Shakespeare interesting literature but definitely not the work of God.
 - i. It seems that about 100 years after Jesus, some non-Jewish Christians didn't understand that the books of the Apocrypha were not generally accepted, and thought they were part of the Old Testament.
 - j. In this way, they came to be part of the Bibles of some Christians and are still used today.
3. New Testament Apocrypha (see APPENDIX)
 - a. There is also a NT Apocrypha, which is not so well known.
 - b. Few suggest these books are inspired and they are not included in any Bibles, so far as I know.

IV. Old Testament Manuscripts

- A. The OT was written mainly in Hebrew between about 1450 BC and 400 BC.
 1. It has been copied by scribes, many times (there were no printing presses), then later translated into English.
 2. Can we be sure that the Bible we read today is a true record of God's words in the original?
 3. It was the job of scribes to copy out the Old Testament onto scrolls of parchment or animal hides, and later into books.
 4. The process of copying was carried out with extraordinary care.
 5. For example, several copies of the Old Testament have been found dating from about AD 900.
 6. These were produced by a group of Jews known as Masoretes who followed a number of precise rules when copying (see the box on the following page).
 7. As long as such rules were followed, it was highly unlikely that errors crept in, and we know that they were strict about following the rules.
 8. However, there are some places in the Old Testament where there appear to have been minor copying errors.
- B. Masoretic rules for copying the Old Testament
 1. The whole scroll must be carefully ruled before a word is written.
 2. The ink must be black, made from soot, charcoal and honey.
 3. Each line was to contain 30 letters exactly.
 4. Each column was to contain an even number of lines, the same number throughout the scroll.
 5. No letter or word is to be written from memory.
 6. Each word must be studied in the original manuscript and spoken aloud before being copied.
 7. The document was carefully checked using word and letter counts.
 8. The entire scroll was checked by a supervisor.
- C. Dead Sea Scrolls
 1. The Dead Sea Scrolls are a large collection of scrolls discovered in early 1947 by three Bedouin shepherds.
 - a. Eventually, some of the scrolls made their way into the hands of archaeologists and Hebrew scholars who were amazed to find an entire copy of Isaiah, which they dated to the first century BC.
 - b. At that time, this was about 1000 years older than the next oldest manuscript of any part of the Bible.
 - c. About 800 different manuscripts have since been found in this area.
 - d. There are manuscripts or fragments of every book in the Old Testament except Esther.
 - e. Several copies of some books were found including Isaiah, Psalms, Deuteronomy and Genesis.

2. All the manuscripts are dated between 150 BC and AD 250.
 - a. Until this discovery, all translation was based on the Masoretic text, which is a little over 1000 years old.
 - b. The Dead Sea Scrolls are about 2000 years old!
 - c. When compared with the Masoretic text there was hardly a difference.
 - d. Because of their great age, they provide amazing evidence that the Bible has been faithfully copied by scribes for centuries.
 - e. So accurate has this copying been, that it provides compelling evidence that God has preserved his word for future generations.
3. When the Isaiah scroll was discovered, the translators of the RSV had already completed their translation of Isaiah.
 - a. They compared what they had done with the Isaiah scroll and made a total of 13 changes.
 - b. In only 13 places did they think the Dead Sea Scrolls were more accurate than the later Masoretic text. (All changes were minor)
 - c. Since then, many more manuscripts have become available and have been used in more modern versions such as the NIV.
4. The scrolls are also interesting because they help to date prophecies.
 - a. Before the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, some critics said that prophecies about Jesus, such as those in the Psalms and Isaiah, were written after the event.
 - b. The Dead Sea Scrolls proved that they were true prophecies that predated Jesus, and we know they were fulfilled.
 - c. Again, this gives further evidence that God inspired the Bible, and preserved it for us to read.

V. New Testament Manuscripts

- A. The New Testament was written in Greek.
 1. Its accuracy is also well supported by the manuscript evidence.
 2. In fact, there are thousands of surviving New Testament manuscripts from the first few centuries after Jesus.
 3. When compared with other ancient writings from the time of Jesus and before, the evidence for the New Testament is overwhelming.
 4. Testament Documents, 1960, p.15.)
- B. Other support for the reliability of the New Testament comes from early believers.
 1. For example, Ignatius (Bishop of Antioch, AD 70-110) quoted from Matthew, John, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, James, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy and 1 Peter.
 2. Others such as Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement, Origen and Tertullian quoted thousands of times from the New Testament.
 3. These quotes can also be used to check the accuracy of surviving manuscripts.

VI. The First English Bibles

- A. There are several translations of parts of the Bible into English dating back to the 7th century, but few until a few centuries ago were able to translate the entire Bible.
 1. However, English has changed so much that we would not be able to understand many of the prior to 1600's!
 2. And even those are somewhat archaic in style and language.
- B. John Wycliffe
 1. The first translation of the entire Bible into English was in the 14th century by John Wycliffe in 1382.
 - a. Wycliffe did not translate from the Hebrew and Greek but from a Latin edition of the Bible known as the Vulgate.
 - b. For the first time, common people had a Bible in their own language.
 2. They quickly realized that the church leaders were astray from the Bible in both what they taught and how they lived.
 - a. Wycliffe and his followers met with great opposition from the church for their work and many were killed.
 - b. Forty years after Wycliffe died, his bones were dug up, burned, and the ashes thrown into a nearby river.
 - c. This was meant to be a lesson for others who might attempt unauthorized translations of the Bible.
 3. Wycliffe's Bible was handwritten in manuscript form.
 - a. It took about ten months for each copy to be produced and cost an educated man a year's salary.
 - b. Of course, most people could not afford a copy themselves but were thrilled to be able to hear it read by one of Wycliffe's followers.
 - c. Wycliffe's Bible was one of the first to include chapters (but they did not include verses).
 4. In the 1450s, the first printing press was developed by Gutenberg.
 - a. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of printing for believers.
 - b. Suddenly the Bible was widely available to be read by almost anyone.
- C. William Tyndale
 1. Towards the end of the 15th century there was a resurgence of the study of the Greek language.
 - a. By 1500, Greek was being taught at Oxford.
 - b. When Tyndale graduated from Oxford in 1515, he had studied the Scriptures in both Greek and Hebrew.
 - c. He developed a strong desire to translate the Bible into English, from the original languages.

2. Due to Church opposition he was forced to relocate to Hamburg in Germany, where he completed his translation of the New Testament in 1525.
 - a. Bibles arrived in England in 1526, where they were gladly received by the common people, and burned by the Church!
 - b. After finishing the New Testament, Tyndale began work on the Old Testament, but was martyred before he could complete it.
 - c. Tyndale continued to work abroad, revising and reissuing his translation until his arrest and imprisonment in 1535.
 - d. After over a year in prison, he was first strangled, and then burned at the stake, in 1536.
 - e. At the time of his death, he had completed the Pentateuch, Jonah, and some of the historical books.

D. Miles Cloverdale

1. Miles Cloverdale was an assistant to Tyndale.
2. He had worked with Tyndale, on the translation of the Pentateuch. During Tyndale's imprisonment, he continued the work of translating the entire Old Testament (This was completed in 1537).
3. By the time this translation was issued, Henry VIII had broken all ties with the Roman Church.
4. He was ready to tolerate an English translation.
5. He endorsed Cloverdale's Bible without knowing that it was essentially the work of Tyndale, which he had previously condemned!

E. Geneva Bible

1. When King Henry VIII died, his daughter Queen Mary succeeded him.
2. She was a Roman Catholic and instituted a bitter persecution of Bible translators and readers.
3. Cloverdale escaped to Geneva in Switzerland, where he began work on a fresh translation that was to contain explanatory notes, some additional charts, maps and illustrations, and the first use of verse divisions.
4. It is also the first Bible to use our Roman typeface and to have cross-references.
5. The Geneva Bible was published in 1560 and is the one Shakespeare quotes from in his plays.
6. It is popularly known as the "Breeches Bible."
7. In **Genesis 3:7** it states that Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together and made themselves "breeches".

F. King James Version

1. The Geneva Bible was immediately popular and acknowledged as the best translation to that time.
2. However, the marginal notes in the Geneva Bible reflected Calvinist theology that was not welcomed by the Church of England.
3. In 1604 King James I convened a church conference that resolved that a translation be made of the whole Bible, as consonant as can be to the original Hebrew and Greek; and this to be set out and printed without any marginal notes, and only to be used in all Churches of England in time of divine service.
3. In 1611 his resolution bore fruit in the most loved English Bible ever, the King James Version or Authorized Version.
4. It became the universally accepted version for the English-speaking world, and remained so for 350 years.
5. However, the KJV has not been without amendment.
6. A new edition in 1613 contained over 400 such variations (Countless others have been added over the centuries since).
7. We will talk more about this in a future lesson.

VII. Translations & Transliterations

A. Some famous mistakes

1. Some of the most famous early English editions are known for printers' errors or unusual translations.
2. For example, in the very first edition of the KJV in 1611, **Exodus 14:10** is repeated, word for word.
3. Then there was the unfortunate "Adultery Bible" of 1641 where the printer left out the word not from **Exodus 20:14**! He was fined £300.
4. In 1702 a Bible was printed where **Psalms 119:161** read "*Printers have persecuted me without cause*" (it should have read "princes").

B. Modern translations

1. Towards the end of the 19th century it was considered crucial to perform a new translation as so much of the KJV needed explanation.
2. Changes were needed for two reasons: additional ancient manuscripts had come to light since 1611, and many English words had changed meaning so significantly as to cause confusion for the ordinary reader.
3. As a result, many new translations have come out, some good and some not, but scholarship HAS improved.
4. Also, as the years go by we find more and more manuscripts.

Conclusion :

1. I hope and pray that each of you has benefited from the lesson today.
2. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions that you want to ask me now or later, you are welcome to do so at any time.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE: **Making The Most of Bible Study**

Introduction :

1. Today in the church many of us neglect Bible study and few of us would admit to being the Bible scholars we know that we need to be.
2. Among the greatest blessings God has given His church, one of the greatest is the Holy Scriptures.
3. It is my intent through the next few weeks to get you focused on Christ, excited about Bible study, and show you means and methods that you can use to be a more serious bible student.
4. Of course, our text for this series of lessons will be **II Timothy 2:15**.
5. In this particular lesson we will be seeing how to make the most of it . . .

Discussion :

I. Starting To Read

- A. It is always nice to have an organized and planned study of the Bible.
- B. A Bible reading planner can help you read systematically through the Bible and provide some tips to successful Bible reading.
 1. I recommend a regular intake of God's Word.
 2. Just as we have regular meals of physical food, we need regular meals of spiritual food to be in good health.
 3. A fundamental principle of Bible reading is to have a *steady, consistent diet of the Word of God*.
- C. Because your Bible is a big book, and because it is so important, it pays to be systematic in reading it.
 1. After all, it is a textbook, your textbook for life, and if it is worth reading at all, it is worth reading well.
 2. In other words, don't just open your Bible at random each day and read a little; you wouldn't do that to a textbook on an unfamiliar topic.
- D. However, I probably would not encourage you to open the Bible to page one, start, and keep reading day by day till it's finished (unless you are a seasoned Christian).
 1. Some people have read the Bible that way, with success.
 2. But some need a step-by-step approach, which gives important and useful ideas quite early in reading, then progressively consolidates them.
 3. I have several different planned readings that would be helpful (New Testament in a year, the Bible in a year, topical, etc.).

II. Preparing to read the Bible

A. Be comfortable

1. To properly concentrate on the Bible, you will need to find a comfortable, quiet place in which to read.
2. Try to avoid places where there is a lot of background noise from the television or other people talking.
3. In the Bible, God speaks to us and it is worth listening carefully.

B. Allow time

1. Bible reading is most effective if you are not rushed.
2. Set aside 20-30 minutes each day to read the chapter and think about what it means (meditate on it).
3. It also takes time to become familiar with the Bible message and the background in which it is set.
4. Be patient and over time it will all start to fit together like a beautiful jigsaw.

C. Be open to new ideas

1. The people from Berea (in Greece) are described as being of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true (**Acts 17:11**).
2. If we are to gain as much as we can from Bible reading and study, we need to approach it with the right attitudes.
3. We need openness to new ideas.
4. If we approach all ideas with a "fortress mentality" (thinking that our main job is to defend the walls that make up the fortress of Christianity) we have very little space for growth.
5. The Bible is a book of strength that has withstood all kinds of attacks during its history.
6. As in all other areas of study, scholars build upon and re-evaluate the work of earlier scholars.
7. We need not fear examining new ideas and evaluating them carefully in the light of all the teachings of the Bible.

D. Think about it

1. God told Joshua: *"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful"* (**Joshua 1:8**).
2. To successfully understand the message of the Bible, we must spend time thinking about it carefully.

3. So important is this that God said to the nation of Israel: *“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads, Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth” (Deuteronomy 11:18-21).*

E. Ask questions

1. You will inevitably have questions about what you read.
2. Write them down!!! (Maybe you could have a tablet of questions)
3. You can then take your questions to a more experienced Bible reader to see if he/she can help (But don't be dependant upon them for answers).
4. Or you might discover the answer yourself through further reading.
5. Don't ever stop asking questions.

F. Share your ideas

1. We need an attitude of willingness to meditate on what we are learning and to think through for ourselves how our learning can and should be applied in our own lives.
 - a. To do this, it is usually helpful to share our ideas and interpretations with other Bible students for discussion and evaluation.
 - b. We can learn from each other.
2. Bible study is trying work.
 - a. It is also exciting and life changing.
 - b. Study of the Bible can enrich us as no other study can.
3. You will experience a new energy as you learn to make your own judgments based on firm principles, and the Bible will become more alive and powerful.
4. Remember, you are intended to understand this remarkable book!!!

III. Choosing The Bible That Is Right For You

A. Choose the appropriate translation

1. The King James Version was produced in 1611 and is famous for its majestic language and is the most quoted version of the Bible.
2. Consider the following passage (**Psalm 23:1-3**):

The KJV – “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”

The NKJV - *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul: he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”*

The NIV - *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”*

3. Notice the archaic form of verbs used in the KJV.
4. Notice, also, that even the punctuation has changed (the colon [:] is used differently today.
5. However, in this passage, none of the words in the NKJV or the NIV are particularly difficult to understand and the meaning of the passage is clear.
6. This is not true everywhere.
7. They can sometimes be difficult to understand because of other language problems (which we will discuss in a future lesson).

B. Footnotes

1. Consider **Matthew 5:21-22** which is part of Jesus' "Sermon on the mount".
2. If you have a Bible with footnotes you will see letters and numbers scattered throughout the verse (they refer to passages that will help us to understand).
3. In general, footnotes are provided by the translators to explain some words, give alternative translations, or explain some aspect of the text.
4. They are often very helpful in understanding a passage.

C. Cross references

1. There is no better commentary on the Bible than the Bible itself.
2. No source is more appropriate for interpreting God's Word than God himself.
3. It is in this area that the use of cross-references can be so valuable.
4. They are verse 'references' supplied by the publishers, which direct the reader to other locations in the Bible where the same word or the same or similar event or phrase may be found.
5. Bibles, which have cross-references, will usually place them in a center column, after the footnotes, or at the end of each verse.
6. Most cross-references take one of the following forms:
 - a. Quotations of the Old Testament in the New Testament.
 - b. Parallel passage of the same or similar events.
 - c. More detail about a person, place or subject.
7. If you can learn how to use your cross-references your Bible study time will be drastically cut down so that you can focus on the meaning of the text.

D. Commentaries

1. In some of your Bibles you will have a brief commentary at the end of each verse or section or verses.
2. Please remember that these translations are printed from people of various religious backgrounds and many intend to push their doctrine and views by using the commentary in your Bible.
3. However, if you have read the preface and are aware of the translator's intentions these commentary's can still be useful.

E. Other Bible extras

1. Concordance – Helpful if you are away from your exhaustive concordance
2. Dictionary – Helpful if you are in a study and away from your larger one
3. Charts – Great in deciphering the topics covered in the Bible
4. Maps – Should be must in every Bible, in my opinion

Conclusion :

1. I hope and pray that each of you has benefited from the lesson today.
2. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions that you want to ask me now or later, you are welcome to do so at any time.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE: Finding The Right Translation

Introduction :

1. Today in the church many of us neglect Bible study and few of us would admit to being the Bible scholars we know that we need to be.
2. Among the greatest blessings God has given His church, one of the greatest is the Holy Scriptures.
3. It is my intent through the next few weeks to get you focused on Christ, excited about Bible study, and show you means and methods that you can use to be a more serious bible student.
4. Of course, our text for this series of lessons will be **II Timothy 2:15**.
5. In this particular lesson we will be studying about translations

Discussion :

I. Modern Day Translations - How Did We Get Here?

- A. John Wycliffe translated the first English Bible in 1384, not publicly printed.
- B. Then Martin Luther was the next to start translating books in 1522.
- C. Soon after, William Tyndale printed the first English New Testament in 1525.
- D. That same year, 1525, Cloverdale printed the first complete English Bible.
- E. The next Bible, the Great Bible in 1539 was the 1st authorized version of the church.
- F. In 1560 the Geneva Bible was printed, but not authorized for various reasons.
- G. The 2nd authorized English Bible was the Bishop's Bible in 1568.
- H. Then in 1611 the church produced the King James Version, the 3rd and last Authorized Version, specifically by the church in England.

II. The Approach To Translation

- A. Formal Equivalence – A literal word for word translation
- B. Dynamic Equivalence – A thought for thought translation
- C. Paraphrase – Some interpretation is involved

III. Considering Different Translations

King James Version (KJV) – 1611 AD

Readability - Poetic literary style using Elizabethan English. Most universally accepted translation for 4 centuries.

Grade Level - 12

Translation Philosophy - Priority to word translation rather than meaning

Format - Verse for verse

Translators - 54

Notes - Traditionally loved and accepted by all Christians. Purpose in translation was "to deliver God's book unto God's people in a tongue which they can understand."

Theological Affiliation - Church of England, conservative, and evangelical

Sample Passage - **I Peter 3:15** - "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

American Standard Version (ASV) – 1901 AD

Readability - Highly formal, rather choppy reading

Grade Level - 12

Translation Philosophy - Priority to word translation rather than meaning

Format - Verse for verse with poetry

Translators - 54

Notes - A highly respected translation of the Bible. Often called the “church of Christ’s” Bible. The purpose of the work was to make a more accurate and more reliable English translation.

Theological Affiliation - Conservative and evangelical

Sample Passage - I Peter 3:15 - “*but sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: being always ready to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you yet with meekness and fear.*”

Revised Standard Version (RSV) – 1952 AD

Readability - Contemporary for its day. Very dignified with generic language in reference to humans.

Grade Level - 7.2

Translation Philosophy - Balance between word translation and meaning

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - 30 (Herbert G. May for OT and Bruce M. Metzger for NT)

Notes - A widely accepted translation in the tradition of the King James Version and the English Revised Version. Its purpose was to improve upon the King James Version. The New Testament was originally finished in 1946. It was revised in 1971.

Theological Affiliation - Mainline and interconfessional (Protestant and Catholic)

Sample Passage - I Peter 3:15 - “*but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence.*”

The Amplified Bible (AB) – 1964 AD

Readability - Expanded and "amplified" by means of a system of brackets and parentheses, which sometimes make for abrupt reading

Grade Level - 8.5

Translation Philosophy - Priority to word translation, plus additional amplification of word meaning

Format - Verse for verse

Translators - Frances E. Siewert, plus 12 others

Notes - A popular translation used to understand the hidden meaning of Greek and Hebrew words. The New Testament was originally finished in 1958. It was updated in 1987.

Theological Affiliation - Conservative, evangelical, and mainline

Sample Passage - I Peter 3:15 - “*But in your hearts set Christ apart as holy and acknowledge Him as Lord. Always be ready to give a logical defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you, but do it courteously and respectfully.*”

New American Bible (NAB) – 1970 AD

Readability - A clear and straightforward translation that reads very smoothly. Written in basic American English.

Grade Level - 6.6

Translation Philosophy - Priority to word translation rather than meaning

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - 55

Notes - Published under the direction of Pope Pious XII, this Catholic version of the Bible represents more than 25 years of effort by the Catholic Biblical Association of America. All editions include deuterocanonical books. The New Testament was revised in 1986, Psalms in 1992.

Theological Affiliation - Catholic

Sample Passage - I Peter 3:15 - “*but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.*”

New English Bible (NEB) – 1970 AD

Readability - Expanded

Grade Level - 8.1

Translation Philosophy - Priority to word translation, but still a dynamic equivalent

Format - Thought by thought

Translators - Unknown to me

Notes - The first British Bible to be translated from the original languages since the King James Version.

In recent years the Revised English Bible has replaced it. The New Testament was actually finished in 1961.

Theological Affiliation - Church of England

Sample Passage - I Peter 3:15 - “do not be perturbed, but hold the Lord Christ in reverence in your hearts.

Be always ready with your defense whenever you are called to account for the hope that is in you, but make that defense with modesty and respect.”

New American Standard Version (NASV) – 1971 AD

Readability - Highly formal, rather choppy reading

Grade Level - 11.3

Translation Philosophy - Priority to word translation rather than meaning

Format - Verse for verse with poetry

Translators - 54

Notes - A highly respected formal translation of the Bible. The purpose of the work was to update the

American Standard Version into more current English. The New Testament was originally finished in 1963. It was updated in 1995, but it is somewhat gender neutral.

Theological Affiliation - Conservative and evangelical

Sample Passage - I Peter 3:15 - “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always be ready to make a

defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.”

Today's English Version (TEV) – 1976 AD

Readability - Very simple and readable version. Uses a very limited vocabulary.

Grade Level - 7.3

Translation Philosophy - Meaning all important

Format - Paragraphing with poetry and other special indentations

Translators - R. Bratcher in the New Testament and R. Bratcher with six others in the Old Testament

Notes - "A translation intended for people everywhere for whom English is either their mother tongue or an acquired language."

Theological Affiliation - Evangelical and interconfessional

Sample Passage - I Peter 3:15 - “But have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and make him your Lord.

Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you.”

New International Version (NIV) – 1978 AD

Readability - A smooth-reading version in modern English

Grade Level - 7.8

Translation Philosophy - Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - 115

Notes - Recently it has been the best-selling translation and widely accepted by most evangelical

Christians. The purpose in translation was to "produce an accurate translation, suitable for public and private reading, teaching, preaching, memorizing, and liturgical use." The New Testament was originally finished in 1973.

Theological Affiliation - Transnational, transdenominational team of scholars, conservative, as well as evangelical

Sample Passage - I Peter 3:15 - “But in your hearts set aside Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give

an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

New King James Version (NKJV) – 1982 AD

Readability - Easier word usage than the original, but stays true to 17th-century sentence structure

Grade Level - 8.8

Translation Philosophy - Priority to word translation rather than meaning

Format - Verse for verse

Translators - 119

Notes - A modern language update of the original KJV. Its purpose was to update and modernize the original KJV but preserve the KJV as much as possible.

Theological Affiliation - Transnational, transdenominational team of scholars, conservative, as well as evangelical.

Sample Passage - **I Peter 3:15** - “*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.*”

New Century Version (NCV) or International Children's Bible (ICB) – 1986 AD

Readability - Simple and easy to understand

Grade Level - 3.9

Translation Philosophy - Priority to meaning rather than word translation

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - many translators (unknown to me how many)

Notes - The NCV and ICB are both designed for ease of reading and understanding. Some paraphrasing is used to avoid words that are not commonly used today. While the NCV and ICB are very similar, the ICB is a bit more simplistic stylistically. The New Testament was originally finished in 1978.

Theological Affiliation - Conservative and evangelical, non-denominational

Sample Passage - **I Peter 3:15** - “*But respect Christ as the holy Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have.*”

Easy-To-Read Version (ETRV) – 1987 AD

Readability - Very easy to read and understand; uses simple, short words and sentences

Grade Level - 3.2?

Translation Philosophy - Balance between word translation and meaning, with an emphasis on meaning where necessary for simplification

Format - Paragraphs with some poetry

Translators - many stylists and simplifiers (unknown to me how many)

Notes - A thorough simplification specifically designed to help young children and new readers understand the Bible for themselves and create an easy stepping stone from a children's Bible to an adult Bible. Also for deaf people as well. The New Testament was completed in 1978.

Theological Affiliation - Transnational and transdenominational, conservative, evangelical

Sample Passage - **I Peter 3:15** – “*But keep the Lord Christ holy in your hearts. Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have.*”

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) – 1990 AD

Readability - Contemporary, dignified with generic language in reference to humans

Grade Level - 10.4

Translation Philosophy - Balance between word translation and meaning

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - 30

Notes - A widely accepted translation in the tradition of the King James Version. Its purpose was to "make a good one better."

Theological Affiliation - Mainline and interconfessional

Sample Passage - **I Peter 3:15** - “*but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.*”

Contemporary English Version (CEV) – 1995 AD

Readability - Clear and simple English that a child can understand, but with a mature style that adults can appreciate.

Grade Level - 5.4

Translation Philosophy - Meaning all important

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - Over 100 (including reviewers)

Notes - Written at an elementary-school reading level, the CEV is readable and understandable for the modern reader.

Theological Affiliation - Conservative, evangelical, and mainline

Sample Passage - I Peter 3:15 - “Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope.”

God's Word Bibles (GWB) – 1995 AD

Readability - A readable translation; employs natural English expressions to convey the meaning of the original languages

Grade Level - 5.8

Translation Philosophy - Priority to meaning rather than word translation

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - 75

Notes - Using a linguistically based translation method, the work on God's Word was done by a denominationally diverse, 75-member team of translators, linguists, English experts, and independent biblical-language scholars.

Theological Affiliation - Lutheran/evangelical

Sample Passage - I Peter 3:15 – “But dedicate your lives to Christ as Lord. Always be ready to defend your confidence in God when anyone asks you to explain it. However, make your defense with gentleness and respect.”

New Living Translation (NLT) – 1996 AD

Readability - A readable translation with commonly used vocabulary and language structures

Grade Level - 6.3

Translation Philosophy - Priority to meaning rather than word translation

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - 90

Notes - A dynamic equivalent translation with roots in The Living Bible. The purpose of this translation "was to enhance the power and clarity of The Living Bible" and create a "translation as good for study as it is for devotional reading."

Theological Affiliation - Evangelical

Sample Passage - I Peter 3:15 - “Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.”

New International Reader's Version (NirV) – 1996 AD

Readability - Very easy to read and understand; uses simple, short words and sentences

Grade Level - 2.9

Translation Philosophy - Balance between word translation and meaning, with an emphasis on meaning where necessary for simplification

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - 40 (includes stylists and simplifiers)

Notes - A thorough, scholarly simplification of the NIV, the NirV was specifically designed to help young children and new readers understand the Bible for themselves and create an easy stepping stone from a children's Bible to an adult Bible.

Theological Affiliation - Transnational and transdenominational, conservative, evangelical

Sample Passage - I Peter 3:15 - “But make sure in your hearts that Christ is Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect.”

Conclusion :

1. There are many Bible's printed for special needs such as The Promise Bible (CEV), The Companion Bible (KJV), Yearly Reading Bibles, as well as devotional and study Bibles.
 - a. I will not take the time to discuss the Jerusalem Bible (1966), the New Jerusalem Bible (1984), the American Bible (1927), the Modern Language Bible (1959), the Revised English Bible (1989), the 21st Century King James Version (1994), the English Standard Version (2001), or Today's New International Version (2002).
 - b. I have also avoided the one man translations by Berkeley (1959), Phillips (1958), Moffatt (1926), Montgomery (1924), Weymouth (1890), Worrell (1904), Young (1862), and others.
 - c. There is simply not enough time to permit the mention of every version and translation.
 - d. And let me say that it would be ignorant to limit ourselves to only one translation of the scriptures.
2. Putting it all together is important (get a version that is right for you).
 - a. When your child is in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade give them a NIRV.
 - b. When they are in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade give them a NCV.
 - c. When they are in 7th, 8th, and 9th grade give them an NIV.
 - d. When they reach 10th, 11th, 12th grade give them a NKJV or NASB.
 - e. And finally then when reach college age give them a KJV or ASV.
3. I hope and pray that each of you has benefited from the lesson today.
4. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions that you want to ask me now or later, you are welcome to do so at any time.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE: **How To Use A Lexicon & An Interlinear Bible**

Introduction :

1. Today in the church many of us neglect Bible study and few of us would admit to being the Bible scholars we know that we need to be.
2. Among the greatest blessings God has given His church, one of the greatest is the Holy Scriptures.
3. It is my intent through the next few weeks to get you focused on Christ, excited about Bible study, and show you means and methods that you can use to be a more serious bible student.
4. Of course, our text for this series of lessons will be **II Timothy 2:15**.
5. In this particular lesson we will be studying about how to effectively use a lexicon and an interlinear Bible as Bible study tools

Discussion :

I. Understanding Bible Languages

- A. We do not have the time to learn the languages of the Bible in this class.
 1. Nor would we have time to learn it in the remaining time we have in this quarter, or maybe even the next quarter.
 2. However, if you desire to learn at least the basics of the languages the Bible was written in you would do well as a Bible student.
 3. In this class I just want to briefly give you a crash course in the alphabet.
- B. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew. (see APPENDIX)
 1. Some parts were also written in Aramaic.
 2. The Hebrew is a somewhat difficult language to learn.
 3. There are many colleges and universities that have courses in Hebrew.
 4. There are also books on self-studies of Hebrew so that you can learn it on your own at home (If you can do it, may God bless you!).
- C. The New Testament was written in Greek (Koine Greek to be exact).
 1. The Greek, or at least this particular style, is a dead language today.
 2. It is somewhat difficult to learn, but I feel it is easier than Hebrew.
 3. There are many colleges and universities that have courses in Greek, and you would definitely benefit in your personal Bible study if you learned.
- D. By using the Bible helps, we will introduce in this class, you will not have to learn the languages of the Bible.
 1. In fact, you will not even have to learn words or even pronounce words.
 2. The modern day Bible tools provided work very effectively.
 3. Deep, in depth, Bible study has never been easier for a Christian.
 4. Two of the Bible tools that we will cover in this lesson are very helpful for a person that does not know Hebrew or Greek.
 5. If you know Hebrew or Greek they will only get in the way.

II. How To Use A Lexicon

- A. A Bible lexicon is an extended dictionary of the Greek words used in the New Testament or the Hebrew words used in the Old Testament.
 1. We will be studying about English Bible dictionaries in another lesson.
 2. It is an alphabetical arrangement of the words with their definitions and a discussion on how they are used in Scripture.
 3. Before we continue I would like for you to consider the Greek New Testament I have provided for you in the handouts (interlinear covered in a moment).
- B. The principal use of a lexicon is for understanding the precise meaning of a word.
 1. It also provides insight into how the word is used elsewhere in Scripture.
 2. We will be studying about concordances also in another lesson.
- C. Our verse for study throughout this series will be **I Peter 3:15** (six key words).
 1. “sanctify” (Strong’s - 37) **HAGIAZO** { **hag-ee-ad’-zo**} from 40
 - a. TDNT - 1:111,14; v
 - b. AV - sanctify 26, hallow 2, be holy 1; 29
 - c. GK - 39 & 420
 - (1) to render or acknowledge, to be venerable or hallow
 - (2) to separate from profane things and dedicate to God
 - (a) consecrate things to God
 - (b) dedicate people to God
 - (3) to purify
 - (a) to cleanse externally
 - (b) to purify by expiation: free from the guilt of sin
 - (c) to purify internally by renewing of the soul
 - d. NASB, KJV, NKJV = sanctify
 - e. NIV = set apart
 2. “hearts” (Strong’s - 2588) **KARDIA** { **kar-dee’-ah**}
 - a. prolonged from a primary kar (Latin, cor, “heart”)
 - b. TDNT - 3:605,415; n f
 - c. AV - heart 159, broken hearted + 4937 1; 160
 - d. GK - 2840
 - (1) the heart
 - (a) that organ in the animal body, which is the center of the circulation of the blood, and hence was regarded as the seat of physical life

- (b) denotes the center of all physical & spiritual life
 - (i) the vigour and sense of physical life
 - (ii) the center and seat of spiritual life
 - (aa) the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors
 - (bb) of the understanding, the faculty and seat of the intelligence
 - (cc) of the will and character
 - (dd) of the soul so far as it is affected and stirred in a bad way or good, or of the soul as the seat of the sensibilities, affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions
 - (c) of the middle or central or inmost part of anything, even though inanimate
 - e. KJV, NKJV, NASB, NIV = hearts
- 3. “defense” (Strong’s - 627) **APOLOGIA** { **ap-ol-og-ee’-ah** }
 - a. from the same as 626;; n f
 - b. AV - defense 3, answer 3, answer for self 1, clearing of self 1; 8
 - c. GK - 665
 - (1) verbal defense, speech in defense
 - (2) a reasoned statement or argument
 - d. NIV, KJV = answer
 - e. NASB, NKJV = defense
- 4. “hope” (Strong’s - 1680) **ELPIS** { **el-pece’** }
 - a. from a primary elpo (to anticipate, usually with pleasure)
 - b. TDNT - 2:517,229; n f
 - c. AV - hope 53, faith 1; 54
 - d. GK - 1828
 - (1) expectation of evil, fear
 - (2) expectation of good, hope
 - (a) in the Christian sense
 - (b) joyful, confident expectation of eternal salvation
 - (3) on hope, in hope, having hope
 - (a) the author of hope, or he who is its foundation
 - (b) the thing hoped for
 - e. NIV, NASB, KJV, NKJV = hope

5. “meekness” (Strong’s - 4240) **PRAUTES** { **prah-oo’-tace**}
 - a. from 4239; TDNT - 6:645,929; n f
 - b. AV - meekness 3; 3
 - c. GK - 4559
 - (1) mildness of disposition
 - (2) gentleness of spirit, meekness
 - d. KJV, NKJV = meekness
 - e. NIV, NASB = gentleness
 6. “fear” (Strong’s - 5401) **PHOBOS** { **fob’-os**}
 - a. from a primary phebomai (to be put in fear);
 - b. TDNT - 9:189,1272; n m
 - c. AV - fear 41, terror 3, misc 3; 47
 - d. GK - 5832
 - (1) fear, dread, terror (that which strikes terror)
 - (2) reverence for one’s husband
 - e. KJV, NKJV = fear
 - f. NASB = reverence & NIV = respect
- D. There are other ways to prove that a lexicon is useful.
1. A good exercise might also include the word “Satan.”
 - a. What word is translated "Satan" in the Old Testament?
 - b. How else is this word translated?
 - c. How does this help explain the apparent contradiction between I **Chronicles 21:1** and II **Samuel 24:1**?
 2. Another good exercise is a case study of **John 21:15-17**.
 - a. There are two different words are used for 'love' in this passage.
 - b. Jesus uses one and Peter another completely word (Looking it up in Strong's Concordance we see that Jesus uses word 25, Peter uses word 5368.).
 - c. The lexicon at the back of the concordance gives words and meanings:
 - (1) 25. agapao, ag-ap-ah'-o; to love (in a social or moral sense):-(be-) love (-ed.). Comp. 5368.
 - (2) 5368. phileo, fid'-eh'-o; to be a friend to (fond of (an individual or an object), i.e. have affection for (denoting personal attachment, as a matter of sentiment or feeling; while 25 is wider, embracing espec. the judgment and the deliberate assent of the will as a matter of principle, duty and propriety: the former being chiefly of the heart and the latter of the head); spec. to kiss (as mark of tenderness): kiss, love.
 - d. The first word involves a deeper, self-sacrificing love.
 - e. The second is more of a friendly affection. Jesus was asking Peter whether he really loved him in the sense of being prepared to sacrifice his own desires.

- f. Peter was only prepared to say that he felt love for Jesus.
- g. A week or so before this conversation, Peter felt his life was threatened and to save himself he had denied he knew Jesus (**Luke 22:54-62**).
- h. So now he was not prepared to say he was ready to love Jesus in the deeper sense because he felt he had previously let Jesus down.
- j. Without knowing the Greek words translated "love" in this passage, the meaning of the conversation would be unclear.

III. How To Use An Interlinear Bible

- A. Please take a look at the Bible page I have provided for you.
 - 1. Notice that the literal translation varies from the KJV in my interlinear Bible, and probably in yours as well.
 - 2. Notice that the Greek language is in a much different style than English
- B. Please consider the numbers above every word or phrase.
 - 1. Some of the phrases are combined into one Greek word.
 - 2. These numbers key to Strong's Concordance.
 - 3. They are also keyed to Vine's Expository Dictionary.

Conclusion :

- 1. I hope and pray that each of you has benefited from the lesson today.
- 2. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions that you want to ask me now or later, you are welcome to do so at any time.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE: **How To Use A Concordance & A Topical Bible**

Introduction :

1. Today in the church many of us neglect Bible study and few of us would admit to being the Bible scholars we know that we need to be.
2. Among the greatest blessings God has given His church, one of the greatest is the Holy Scriptures.
3. It is my intent through the next few weeks to get you focused on Christ, excited about Bible study, and show you means and methods that you can use to be a more serious bible student.
4. Of course, our text for this series of lessons will be **II Timothy 2:15**.
5. In this particular lesson we will be looking at a concordance

Discussion :

I. How To Use A Concordance

- A. A concordance is simply an alphabetic list of all the different words that occur in a book and where they are to be found.
 1. For many years, Bible students have used Bible concordances.
 2. These large books are invaluable for serious study.
 3. With an exhaustive concordance to the Bible version you read, it is possible to locate any verse in the Bible provided you can remember at least one key word of the verse.
- B. They are also useful in performing word studies.
 1. For example, if you are studying Abraham, a concordance will help you find all the passages in the Bible where Abraham is mentioned.
 2. That will help you navigate a more successful Bible study.
- C. The most useful concordances are "exhaustive".
 1. That is, they contain *every* word in the Bible.
 2. Non-exhaustive concordances contain a selection of the most important words, but not all of them (so look for that word "exhaustive").
 3. Some Bibles contain a limited concordance (non-exhaustive) as an appendix.
 4. Some concordances offer a key verse comparison chart (handout) and a Greek dictionary in the back as well (handout).
 5. I have included them in your hand out so that you may get the full effect.

D. How can we use a concordance in studying **I Peter 3:15**?

1. “sanctify” (Strong’s - 37) **HAGIAZO** { **hag-ee-ad’-zo** }
 - a. Notice how many times that the word “sanctify” is used in the OT.
 - b. In the NT it is only used six times and every time this same Greek word is used in the original text.
 - c. By reading NT passages like **John 17:17, 19** you will learn more about this word “sanctify.”
 - d. Notice the Greek dictionary in the back and the definition that is given for the word “sanctify.”
 - e. You should understand this word better now.
2. “hearts” (Strong’s - 2588) **KARDIA** { **kar-dee’-ah** }
 - a. Notice how many times that the word “hearts” is used in the OT.
 - b. In the NT it is used several times and there are a few different Greek words used in the original text.
 - (1) **Matthew 19:8** has the word numbered 4641.
 - (2) **Luke 21:26** has the word numbered 674.
 - (3) All the rest are the number 2588.
 - c. By reading NT passages like **Colossians 3:16** you will learn more about the word “hearts.”
 - d. Notice the Greek dictionary in the back and the definition that is given for the word “hearts.”
 - e. You should understand this word better now.
3. “answer” (Strong’s - 627) **APOLOGIA** { **ap-ol-og-ee’-ah** }
 - a. Notice how many times that the word “answer” is used in the OT.
 - b. In the NT it is used several times and there are many different Greek word is used in the original text.
 - (1) Matthew & Mark use the word numbered 611.
 - (2) In Luke’s writings he uses the words numbered 611, 626, 470, 2036, 612, and 627.
 - (3) John preferred to use the word numbered 612.
 - (4) Paul used 5538 in **Romans 11:4**, 611 in **Colossians 4:16**, and 627 everywhere else.
 - (5) Notice that there is a blank on **II Corinthians 5:12**, why?
 - (6) Notice that Peter uses the word numbered 627 in the text, but he turns right around and uses 1906 in **I Peter 3:21**.
 - c. By reading NT passages like **II Timothy 4:16** you will learn more about this word “answer.”
 - d. Notice the Greek dictionary in the back and the definition that is given for the word “answer.”
 - e. You should understand this word better now.

4. “hope” (Strong’s - 1680) **ELPIS** { **el-pece’** }
 - a. Notice how many times that the word “hope” is used in the OT.
 - b. In the NT it is used many times and a few different Greek words are used in the original text.
 - (1) Luke and Paul nearly the only ones that used the word “hope” in the NT (if Paul wrote Hebrews).
 - (2) They both used the words numbered 1679 and 1680.
 - (3) Peter uses the word numbered 1680 three times and the word numbered 1679 once.
 - (4) John used the word “hope” only one time in all of his writings and he chose the word numbered 1680 in **I John 3:3**.
 - c. By reading NT passages like **I Peter 1:3, 21** you will learn more about this word “hope.”
 - d. Notice the Greek dictionary in the back and the definition that is given for the word “hope.”
 - e. You should understand this word better now.
5. “meekness” (Strong’s - 4240) **PRAUTES** { **prah-oo’-tace** }
 - a. Notice how many times that the word “meekness” is used in the OT.
 - b. In the NT it is only used a few times and only two Greek words are used in the original text.
 - (1) The word numbered 4236 is used in every example with the exception of James and Peter.
 - (2) James and Peter decided to only use the word numbered 4240.
 - (3) James uses it twice, while Peter only uses it this one time.
 - c. By reading NT passages like **James 1:21, 3:13** you will learn more about this word “meekness.”
 - d. Notice the Greek dictionary in the back and the definition that is given for the word “meekness.”
 - e. You should understand this word better now.
6. “fear” (Strong’s - 5401) **PHOBOS** { **fob’-os** }
 - a. Notice how many times that the word “fear” is used in the OT.
 - b. In the NT it is used several times and many Greek words are used in the original text.
 - (1) Really there is little consistency among the writers.
 - (2) Nearly all of the writers use different words for fear.
 - c. By reading NT passages like **I Peter 1:17, 2:18, 3:2** you will learn more about this word “fear.”
 - d. Notice the Greek dictionary in the back and the definition that is given for the word “fear.”
 - e. You should understand this word better now.

- E. More concordance exercises to enhance your Bible study.
 1. Find references to God as a "Rock" in the Psalms.
 2. Where is the quotation "they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not grow faint"?
 3. Find references to the "Son of Man" in the gospels.
- F. Which concordances are the best to buy (depends on your translation)?
 1. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance – KJV (\$20)
 2. Cruden's Exhaustive Concordance – KJV, ASV, RSV (\$16)
 3. Nelson's NKJV Exhaustive Concordance – NKJV (\$25)
 4. NASB Exhaustive Concordance – NASB (\$25)
 5. Zondervan's NASB Exhaustive Concordance – NASB (\$25)
 6. Zondervan's NIV Exhaustive Concordance – NIV (\$25)
 7. I am sure that there are others for various translations.

II. How To Use A Topical Bible

- A. A Topical Bible lists Bible passages relevant to themes.
 1. You can look up subjects like "money", "covenant", "adultery", "elders", etc.
 2. Unlike a concordance, the passages listed do not necessarily contain the key word if it is implied in the text.
 3. Topical Bibles are very helpful to a preacher or a Bible class teacher.
 4. Everything is placed in lists revolving around the topic you are studying.
- B. How can we use a concordance in studying **I Peter 3:15**?
 1. If you look up the word "sanctify" this is what you would find:
SANCTIFICATION. First of Israelites sanctified, Ex. 13:2. All Israel sanctified, Ex. 19:10,14. Material things sanctified by anointing, Ex. 40:9-11. The Lord the sanctifier, Ex. 31:13; Lev. 20:8; 21:8; 22:9. The altar sanctifies the gift, Ex. 29:37; 30:29. Tabernacle sanctified by God's presence, Ex. 29:43; 40:34,35.
 2. If you look up the word "hearts" this is what you would find:
HEART, seat of the affections. **RENEWED:** Deut. 30:6; Psalms. 51:10; Ezekiel. 11:19; 18:31; 36:26; Romans. 2:29; Ephesians. 4:23; Colossians. 3:10. Regenerated, John 3:3,7. Graciously affected of God, 1 Samuel. 10:26; 1 Chronicles. 29:18; Ezra 6:22; 7:27; Proverbs. 16:1; 21:1; Jeremiah. 20:9; Acts 16:14. Strengthened, Psalms. 27:14; 112:8; 1 Thessalonians. 3:13. Enlightened, 2 Corinthians. 4:6. Tried, 1 Chronicles. 29:17; Psalms. 7:9; 26:2; Proverbs. 17:3; Jeremiah. 11:20; 12:3; 20:12; 1 Thessalonians. 2:4; Hebrews. 11:17; Revelation. 2:2,10. It should render to God obedience, Deuteronomy. 10:12; 11:13; 26:16; 1 Kings. 2:4; Psalms. 119:1,12; Ephesians. 6:6; faith, Psalms. 27:3; 112:7; Acts 8:37; Romans. 6:17; 10:10; trust, Proverbs. 3:5; love, Matthew. 22:37; fear, Psalms. 119:161; Jeremiah. 32:40; fidelity, Nehemiah. 9:8; zeal, 2 Chronicles. 17:16; Jeremiah. 20:9. It should seek God, 2 Chronicles. 19:3; 30:19; Ezra 7:10; Psalms. 10:17; 84:2; be joyful, 1 Samuel. 2:1; Psalms. 4:7; 97:11; Isaiah. 65:14; Zechariah. 10:7; perfect, 1 Kings. 8:61; Psalms. 101:2; upright, Psalms. 97:11; 125:4; clean, Psalms. 51:10; 73:1; pure, Psalms. 24:4; Proverbs. 22:11; Matthew. 5:8; 1 Timothy. 1:5; 2 Timothy. 2:22; James. 4:8; 1 Peter. 1:22; sincere, Luke 8:15; Acts 2:46; Ephesians. 6:5; Colossians. 3:22; Hebrews. 10:22; repentant, Deut.

30:2; Psa. 34:18; 51:17; devout, 1 Sam. 1:13; Psa. 4:4; 9:1; 27:8; 77:6; 119:10,69,145; wise, 1 Kin. 3:9,12; 4:29; Job 9:4; Prov. 8:10; 10:8; 11:29; 14:33; 23:15; tender, 1 Sam. 24:5; 2 Kin. 22:19; Job 23:16; Psa. 22:14; Eph. 4:32; holy, Psa. 66:18; 1 Pet. 3:15; compassionate, Jer. 4:19; Lam. 3:51; lowly, Matt. 11:29. **THE UNREGENERATE:** Is full of iniquity, Gen. 6:5; 8:21; 1 Sam. 17:28; Prov. 6:14,18; 11:20; Eccl. 8:11; 9:3; Jer. 4:14,18; 17:9; Rom. 1:21. Loves evil, Deut. 29:18; Psa. 95:10; Jer. 17:5. Is a fountain of evil, Matt. 12:34,35; Mark 7:21. See **DEPRAVITY.** Is wayward, 2 Chr. 12:14; Psa. 101:4; Prov. 6:14; 11:20; 12:8; 17:20; Jer. 5:23; Heb. 3:10; blind, Rom. 1:21; Eph. 4:18. See **BLINDNESS, SPIRITUAL.** Is double, 1 Chr. 12:33; Psa. 12:2; Hos. 10:2; Jas. 1:6,8; Prov. 28:14; Isa. 9:9; 10:12; 46:12. See **INSTABILITY.** Is hard, Psa. 76:5; Ezek. 2:4; 3:7; 11:19; 36:26; Mark 6:52; 10:5; 16:14; John 12:40; Rom. 1:21; 2:5. See **IMPENITENCE; OB DURACY.** Is deceitful, Jer. 17:9. Is proud, 2 Kin. 14:10; 2 Chr. 25:19; Psa. 101:5; Prov. 18:12; 28:25; Jer. 48:29; 49:16. See **PRIDE.** Is subtle, Prov. 7:10. See **HYPOCRISY.** Is sensual, Ezek. 6:9; Hos. 13:6; Rom. 8:7. See **LASCIVIOUSNESS.** Is worldly, 2 Chr. 26:16; Dan. 5:20; Acts 8:21,22. Is judicially hardened, Ex. 4:21; Josh. 11:20; Isa. 6:10; Acts 28:26,27. Is malicious, Psa. 28:3; 140:2; Prov. 24:2; Eccl. 7:26; Ezek. 25:15. See **MALICE.** Is impenitent, Rom. 2:5. See **IMPENITENCE.** Is diabolical, John 13:2; Acts 5:3. Is greedy, Jer. 22:17; 2 Pet. 2:14. See **GREED.** Is foolish, Prov. 12:23; 22:15; Eccl. 9:3.

3. If you look up the word “answer” this is what you would find:
No topical listing for the word answer.
4. If you look up the word “hope” this is what you would find:
HOPE. Psa. 9:18, Psa. 16:9, Psa. 31:24, Psa. 33:18,22, Psa. 38:15, Psa. 39:7, Psa. 43:5, Psa. 71:5,14, Psa. 78:5-7, Psa. 119:74,81,116,166, Psa. 130:7, Psa. 146:5, Prov. 10:23, Prov. 13:12, Prov. 14:32, Prov. 23:18, Prov. 24:14, Isa. 38:18, Jer. 17:7, Lam. 3:21,24,26, Hos. 2:15, Joel 3:16, Zech. 9:12, Acts 23:6, Acts 24:14,15, Acts 26:6,7, Acts 28:20, Rom. 4:18, Rom. 5:2-5, Rom. 8:24,25, Rom. 12:12, Rom. 15:4,13, 1 Cor. 13:13, 1 Cor. 15:19, 2 Cor. 3:12, Gal. 5:5, Eph. 1:18, Eph. 4:4, Phil. 1:20, Col. 1:5,23,27, 1 Thess. 1:3, 1 Thess. 5:8 Eph. 6:17, 2 Thess. 2:16, 1 Tim. 1:1, Tit. 1:2, Tit. 2:13, Tit. 3:7, Heb. 3:6, Heb. 6:11,18,19, Heb. 11:1, 1 Pet. 1:3,13,21, 1 Pet. 3:15, 1 John 3:3 See **FAITH. OF THE WICKED:** Job 8:13, Job 11:20, Job 27:8, Job 31:24,28, Prov. 10:28, Zech. 9:5, Eph. 2:12.
5. If you look up the word “meekness” this is what you would find:
MEEKNESS. Psa. 22:26, Psa. 25:9, Psa. 37:11, Psa. 76:8,9, Psa. 147:6, Psa. 149:4, Prov. 14:29, Prov. 15:1,18, Prov. 16:32, Prov. 17:1, Prov. 19:11, Prov. 20:3, Prov. 25:15, Prov. 29:8, Eccl. 7:8, Eccl. 10:4, Isa. 11:4, Isa. 29:19, Lam. 3:28-30, Amos 3:3, Zeph. 2:3, Matt. 5:5,9,38-40 [Luke 6:29.], Matt. 5:41,42, Matt. 11:29, Matt. 27:13,14, Mark 9:50, Rom. 12:14,18, Rom. 14:19, 1 Cor. 6:7, 1 Cor. 7:15, 1 Cor. 10:32, 1 Cor. 13:4,5,7, 2 Cor. 10:1, 2 Cor. 13:11, Gal. 5:22,23,26, Gal. 6:1, Eph. 4:1,2, Phil. 2:14,15,

Col. 3:12,13, 1 Thess. 5:14,15, 2 Thess. 3:5, 1 Tim. 3:2,3, 1 Tim. 6:11,12, 2 Tim. 2:24,25, Tit. 2:2,9, Tit. 3:2, Heb. 10:36, Heb. 12:14, Jas. 1:4,19,21, Jas. 3:13,17,18, 1 Pet. 2:18-23, 1 Pet. 3:4,11,15 Psa. 34:14, 2 Pet. 1:5-7, Jude 9. **INSTANCES OF:** Abraham, Gen. 13:8. Isaac, Gen. 26:20-22. Moses, Ex. 2:13; 14:13,14; 15:24; 16:7,8; 17:2; Num. 12:3; 16:4-11. Gideon, Judg. 8:2,3. Hannah, 1 Sam. 1:13-16. Saul, 1 Sam. 10:27. David, 1 Sam. 17:29; 2 Sam. 16:9-14; Psa. 38:13,14; 120:5-7. Paul, Acts 21:20-26; 1 Thess. 2:7; 2 Tim. 4:16. The Thessalonians, 2 Thess. 1:4. Job, Jas. 5:11. The angel, Jude 9. For the meekness of Jesus, see below. See **HUMILITY: KINDNESS; PATIENCE. OF JESUS:** Isa. 42:1-4 Matt. 12:19,20, Isa. 53:7, Matt. 26:47-54 See **JESUS, HUMILITY OF.**

6. If you look up the word "fear" this is what you would find:

FEAR. See **COWARDICE.** Also **FEAR OF GOD,** below

C. Another example of using a Topical Bible in a Bible study (the word money).
 blessings of - Pr 3:2,10; 10:15,22; Ecc 10:19; Lk 16:9. dangers of - 1 Ki 9:4-5; Mk 4:19; 10:21; Lk 12:33. love of - Pr 23:4; Ecc 5:10; Ac 5:1. true wealth - Lk 16:11; 2Co 6:10. using religion for - 2 Ki 5:26; Eze 13:19; 2Co 2:17; 11:7. and the wicked - Ps 49; 73:18-20; Isa 53:9. (Nave's Topical Bible probably the best)

Conclusion :

1. I hope and pray that each of you has benefited from the lesson today.
2. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions that you want to ask me now or later, you are welcome to do so at any time.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE: **How To Use A Dictionary & An Encyclopedia**

Introduction :

1. Today in the church many of us neglect Bible study and few of us would admit to being the Bible scholars we know that we need to be.
2. Among the greatest blessings God has given His church, one of the greatest is the Holy Scriptures.
3. It is my intent through the next few weeks to get you focused on Christ, excited about Bible study, and show you means and methods that you can use to be a more serious bible student.
4. Of course, our text for this series of lessons will be **II Timothy 2:15**.
5. In this particular lesson we will be considering how to use a dictionary and an encyclopedia

Discussion :

I. How To Use A Bible Dictionary

- A. Dictionaries of the Bible give information about a wide range of Bible subjects arranged alphabetically.
 1. Suppose you just read about King Darius in Daniel and you want to know more about him.
 2. Your Bible dictionary will have an article about Darius including the verses you have just read and other Bible references.
 3. It will probably introduce information from history and archaeology as well.
- B. Keep in mind that dictionaries are the work of uninspired men and women commenting about inspired Scripture passages.
 1. Such reference books are very useful, but they should always be read carefully with an eye toward scepticism.
 2. Verify or disprove what they suggest for yourself, from the Scriptures.
 3. Words in a Bible dictionary will often vary from a modern day dictionary.
- C. How can we use a concordance in studying **I Peter 3:15**?
 1. "sanctify" (Strong's - 37) **HAGIAZO** { **hag-ee-ad'-zo** }
 - a. Notice the word "sanctify" in the form of a noun and a verb.
 - b. Both seem to have different meanings and uses.
 - c. Consider the definition(s) of the noun form of "sanctify".
 - d. Consider the definition(s) of the verb form of "sanctify".
 - e. Now you should understand this verse even more.

2. “hearts” (Strong’s - 2588) **KARDIA** { **kar-dee’-ah** }
 - a. Consider the definition(s) of the word “heart”.
 - b. Now you should understand this verse even more.
 3. “answer” (Strong’s - 627) **APOLOGIA** { **ap-ol-og-ee’-ah** }
 - a. Notice the word “answer” in the form of a nouns and a verbs.
 - b. Both nouns and verbs seem to have different meanings and uses.
 - c. Consider the definition(s) of the noun form of “answer”
 - d. Consider the definition(s) of the verb form of “answer”.
 - e. Now you should understand this verse even more.
 4. “hope” (Strong’s - 1680) **ELPIS** { **el-pece’** }
 - a. Notice the word “hope” in the form of a noun and verbs.
 - b. Both seem to have different meanings and uses.
 - c. Consider the definition(s) of the noun form of “hope”.
 - d. Consider the definition(s) of the verb form of “hope”.
 - e. Now you should understand this verse even more.
 5. “meekness” (Strong’s - 4240) **PRAUTES** { **prah-oo’-tace** }
 - a. Notice the word “meekness” in the form of an adjective and a noun.
 - b. Both seem to have different meanings and uses.
 - c. Consider the definition(s) of the adjective form of “meekness”
 - d. Consider the definition(s) of the noun form of “meekness”.
 - e. Now you should understand this verse even more.
 6. “fear” (Strong’s - 5401) **PHOBOS** { **fob’-os** }
 - a. Notice the word “fear” in its different forms.
 - b. All seem to have different meanings and uses.
 - c. Consider the definition(s) of the noun form of “fear”.
 - d. Consider the definition(s) of the adjective form of “fear”.
 - e. Consider the definition(s) of the verb form of “fear”.
 - f. Consider the definition(s) of the adverb form of “fear”.
 - g. Now you should understand this verse even more.
- D. Here is another example of studying with a Bible dictionary using **I Kings 15:9-14**.
1. What was an Asherah pole?
 2. Where was the Kidron Valley?
 3. What were "high places"?
 4. What other Bible passages record the reign of Asa?
 5. How can we explain the apparent contradiction between **I Kings 15:14** and **II Chronicles 14:3**?
 6. What lessons are there for us in this passage?

- E. Which Bible dictionary is best for you?
1. Vine's Complete Expository Bible Dictionary w/Topical index- KJV (\$20)
 2. Nelson's New Illustrated B.D. - KJV, NKJV, NASB, NRSV, REB (\$30)
 3. Smith's Bible Dictionary w/ Concordance (Revised) - KJV, NRSV (\$10)
 4. KJV Bible Dictionary w/ Commentary - KJV (\$30)
 5. Holmon Bible Dictionary - version unspecified (\$20)
 6. Concise Bible Dictionary - version unspecified (\$10)
 7. Zondervan Bible Dictionary - NIV, possibly NASB (\$20)
 8. Zondervan's Pictorial Bible Dictionary - KJV, ASV, RSV (\$30)
 9. The New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible - RSV (\$30)

II. How To Use A Bible Encyclopedia

- A. A Bible encyclopedia is similar to a Bible dictionary except it usually has more detailed articles about more subjects and is published in several volumes.
1. Again I remind you that they are the work of uninspired men.
 2. Such reference books are very useful, but they should always be read carefully with an eye toward scepticism.
 3. Verify or disprove what they suggest for yourself, from the Scriptures.
- B. How can we use an encyclopedia in studying **I Peter 3:15**?
1. "sanctify" (Strong's - 37) **HAGIAZO** { **hag-ee-ad'-zo** }
 - a. Consider the definition given in the encyclopedia.
 - b. Consider the references and topics given for the word "sanctify".
 2. "hearts" (Strong's - 2588) **KARDIA** { **kar-dee'-ah** }
 - a. Consider the definition given in the encyclopedia.
 - b. Consider the references and topics given for the word "hearts".
 3. "answer" (Strong's - 627) **APOLOGIA** { **ap-ol-og-ee'-ah** }

No references given for answer or defense.
 4. "hope" (Strong's - 1680) **ELPIS** { **el-pece'** }
 - a. Consider the definition given in the encyclopedia.
 - b. Consider the references and topics given for the word "hope".
 5. "meekness" (Strong's - 4240) **PRAUTES** { **prah-oo'-tace** }
 - a. Consider the definition given in the encyclopedia.
 - b. Consider the references and topics given for the word "meekness".
 6. "fear" (Strong's - 5401) **PHOBOS** { **fob'-os** }
 - a. Consider the definition given in the encyclopedia.
 - b. Consider the references and topics given for the word "fear".
- C. Here is another study you could do on your own from **Isaiah 40:31**.
1. What does it mean to wait upon the Lord?
 2. Are there other passages that speak of renewal?
 3. What was an eagle known for in the time of this writing?
 4. What other passages refer to fainting in the Bible?
 5. Why was Isaiah so intrigued by eagles in his writing?

D. Which encyclopedia would help me the most in my Bible study?

1. Layman's Bible Encyclopedia – 1 volume – KJV
2. The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge – 15 vol.
3. There are others available but these are the only ones I can recommend.

Conclusion :

1. I hope and pray that each of you has benefited from the lesson today.
2. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions that you want to ask me now or later, you are welcome to do so at any time.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE: **How To Use A Word Study & A Bible Handbook**

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2. Among the greatest blessings God has given His church, one of the greatest is the Holy Scriptures.
3. It is my intent through the next few weeks to get you focused on Christ, excited about Bible study, and show you means and methods that you can use to be a more serious bible student.
4. Of course, our text for this series of lessons will be **II Timothy 2:15**.
5. In this particular lesson we will be studying about word studies and various Bible handbooks

Discussion :

I. How To Use A Word Study

- A. Word studies are similar to a miniature commentary.
 1. They provide a brief look at many of the verses in the Bible.
 2. Most word studies only contain key words in key verses thru the Bible.
- B. Here are eight reasons why the average believer, who knows no Greek, can benefit:
 1. Where a word has no history, you can learn it and its meaning.
 2. You can acquaint this word with other similar Greek words.
 3. You can see picture, or a hidden meaning, in a particular word.
 4. You can learn some Greek synonyms.
 5. You can see how two English words, having no apparent connections, are often expressed by the same Greek word.
 6. You can learn to understand the reasons for changes in different versions.
 7. You can learn about the character usage of words and phrases by different authors, and note, again, how English versions have changed these things.
 8. You can learn the simpler distinctions between Greek tenses, the Greek article, and other basic principles of the Greek language.
- C. When you are entering into a verse by verse study a word study is very helpful.
 1. I was preaching for about five or six years when I purchased my first word study, and now I would never part with it (Vincent's Word Studies of the NT).
 2. By using a word study you can cut down your study time considerably.
 3. When you open it to a particular passage you may find the Greek word, definition, and cross references for that word appear there.

- D. How can we use a word study in studying **I Peter 3:15**?
1. “sanctify” (Strong’s - 37) **HAGIAZO** { **hag-ee-ad’-zo** }
 - a. The KJV (Authorized Version) follows the Textus Receptus, which is one of the oldest and most reliable manuscripts.
 - b. It tells you that there are two renderings of “Lord God”, which includes other manuscripts saying “Christ” or “God.”
 - c. This author prefers the Revised Version in its translation.
 2. “hearts” (Strong’s - 2588) **KARDIA** { **kar-dee’-ah** }
 - a. This particular word is not defined or discussed.
 - b. However, if you choose to consider this word in further study there are other places in scripture where this word is used.
 3. “answer” (Strong’s - 627) **APOLOGIA** { **ap-ol-og-ee’-ah** }
 - a. Literally, this should be phrased, “ready for an answer.”
 - b. Answer does not mean apology or excuse, but it means defense.
 - c. He gives some scriptural references where this word or phrase is used.
 4. “hope” (Strong’s - 1680) **ELPIS** { **el-pece’** }
 - a. This particular word is not defined or discussed.
 - b. However, if you choose to consider this word in further study there are other places in scripture where this word is used.
 5. “meekness” (Strong’s - 4240) **PRAUTES** { **prah-oo’-tace** }
 - a. This particular word is not defined or discussed.
 - b. The only thing he does is give one scripture reference, which will discuss this word and its meaning a little further.
 6. “fear” (Strong’s - 5401) **PHOBOS** { **fob’-os** }
 - a. This particular word is not defined or discussed.
 - b. However, if you choose to consider this word in further study there are other places in scripture where this word is used.
- E. Which word study is best for me?
1. The “Vincent’s Word Studies of the NT” is a 4 volume set.
 - a. It was written based on the old KJV.
 - b. However, it does give reference to the Tyndale, Revised Version, as well as a few others.
 2. A good thing to look for is a word study of the entire Bible.
 3. Again, take into account the version you are using.
 4. I have been told that some word studies work well enough that it does not matter what version you are using.

II. How To Use A Bible Handbook

- A. Bible handbooks are small, handy summaries of the Bible.
1. Many people do not have time to read a commentary.
 2. Others do not feel smart enough to use a word study.
 3. When you simply want to get the gist of a book, a Bible handbook is exactly what you need.

- B. A Bible handbook has many uses.
1. It includes a brief commentary on each book of the Bible.
 2. It includes special facts on each of the books of the Bible.
 3. It includes biblical and historical information.
 4. It also includes helpful articles and stories.
- C. How can we use a Bible handbook in studying **I Peter 3:15**?
1. It includes discussion on the writer, the apostle Peter.
 2. It includes discussion on the recipients, the churches in Asia Minor.
 3. It includes discussion on the place it was penned, Rome.
 4. It includes discussion on the reasons for the letter, persecution.
 5. It includes discussion on each chapter.
 - a. Chapter one focuses on our suffering and our inheritance.
 - b. Chapter two and three focus on our pilgrimage on earth.
 - c. While chapter five and six focus on the fiery trials we will face.
 6. Each chapter includes a brief discussion on key words and phrases.
 7. Each chapter includes a title for several sections in the book.
 8. Unfortunately, not of the words we have chosen, or the verse was discussed in the handout I have given you (Halley's).
- D. Which Bible handbook is right for me?
1. Zondervan has a wonderful handbook to the Bible.
 2. Likewise, I enjoy reading the Halley's Bible Handbook.
 3. There are probably several others that I am not aware of at this time.

Conclusion :

1. I hope and pray that each of you has benefited from the lesson today.
2. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions that you want to ask me now or later, you are welcome to do so at any time.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE: **How To Use An Atlas & A Commentary**

Introduction :

1. Today in the church many of us neglect Bible study and few of us would admit to being the Bible scholars we know that we need to be.
2. Among the greatest blessings God has given His church, one of the greatest is the Holy Scriptures.
3. It is my intent through the next few weeks to get you focused on Christ, excited about Bible study, and show you means and methods that you can use to be a more serious Bible student.
4. Of course, our text for this series of lessons will be **II Timothy 2:15**.
5. In this particular lesson we will be studying about how to use an atlas and a commentary on the Bible

Discussion :

I. How To Use A Bible Atlas

- A. A Bible atlas can be another invaluable tool for Bible study.
 1. Lands and regions have changed since Bible times.
 2. Many cities have even changed their names.
 3. How do we know which have changed?
 4. We must learn to use a Bible atlas.
- B. In a Bible atlas you can research the region in which a book was sent, or where it was penned by its author.
 1. These are things that are usually pursued by a diligent student of the Bible.
 2. However, an atlas is easy to navigate, even if you are just a novice.
 3. Once you look through an atlas you will learn how to use it very quickly.
- C. A Bible atlas includes several valuable things.
 1. It includes maps and charts.
 2. It includes illustrations and stories.
 3. The index will usually include topics and scripture references.
- D. It is often helpful in research to think about the day and time of the writing.
 1. In the handout I have given you, please notice the pictures of Rome.
 2. There are also some important notes about the church in Rome.
 3. The churches in Asia Minor are listed and discussed here.
 4. There is also a reference to the book in which we are studying (**I Peter**).
 5. **I Peter 1:1** says specifically that this book was written to the churches in Asia Minor, which include these churches that are listed.
 6. Now remember that Paul traveled to Rome, but Peter did also.
 7. In fact, Rome is where he wrote the book of **I Peter**, which he called "Babylon" in his writing (John did the same in Revelation).

- E. How else can I use an atlas? (Jerusalem, Damascus, Nazareth, Egypt, etc.)
- F. Which Bible atlas is best for you?
 - 1. There are several of good ones to choose from.
 - 2. I prefer the Baker's Bible Atlas by Charles F. Pfeiffer

II. How To Use A Bible Commentary

- A. A commentary is a book, which follows the Bible order exactly, and adds comment on the interpretation of the text, historical details, etc., as it proceeds.
 - 1. They are helpful in finding out how other people have understood the Bible.
 - 2. There are many commentaries available on the Bible from single books to sets of commentaries each consisting of many volumes.
 - 3. When a passage is unclear, and following cross-references or a concordance has not shed any light on the passage, it is helpful to consult a commentary to see how other Bible readers have interpreted that particular passage.
 - 4. There are dangers in using commentaries, however, because you can end up becoming dependant on one man's commentary of the Bible.
- B. How can we use a commentary when studying **I Peter 3:15**?
 - 1. Notice the handout from the Gospel Advocate Commentary.
 - a. This commentary is not as thorough as other commentaries.
 - b. However, it is written by a member of the church (Guy N. Woods).
 - c. He discusses many of the words we have been studying.
 - 2. Now, notice the handout from Barnes' Notes.
 - a. The writer discusses the entire verse in five pages.
 - b. He considers all of the words we have been considering.
 - c. He offers a good commentary on words and phrases.
 - d. However, it is somewhat dated, and he is not a member of the church, therefore, we would differ on some of his doctrinal positions.
 - 3. Of course, there are other good commentaries we could consider.
- C. How else can we use a Bible commentary?
 - 1. **Matthew 11:28-30** says, "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*"

2. From the Bible Background Commentary: When a man carried a yoke he would carry it on his shoulders (cf., e.g., Jer 27:2); Judaism applied this image of subjection to obedience. Jewish people spoke of carrying the yoke of God's law and the yoke of his kingdom, which one accepted by acknowledging that God was one and by keeping his commandments. Matthew intends Jesus' words about rest as a contrast with Pharisaic Sabbath rules.
3. From the Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: The yoke was sometimes in the Old Testament a symbol of oppression (Isa. 9:4; 58:6; Jer. 27-28), but was also used in a good sense of the service of God (Jer. 2:20; Lam. 3:27). Later it came to be used commonly in Jewish writings for obedience to the law-the 'yoke of the law' is one every Jew should be proud to carry. Such a yoke should not be oppressive, for after all the function of a yoke is to make a burden easier to carry. But ... the law itself had become a burden, and a new yoke was needed to lighten the load. Jesus' yoke is *easy*, not because it makes lighter demands, but because it represents entering a disciple-relationship with one who is *gentle and lowly in heart...* This attractive aspect of Jesus is a vital counterbalance to the sterner side seen in Matthew 7:13-27; 10:34-39; etc. To emphasize either to the exclusion of the other is to miss the real Jesus.

D. Which commentary is best for you?

1. If you would like a commentary to fit your particular version you would do well to visit with someone at the Christian bookstore.
2. Matthew Henry's Commentary – KJV (1 vol \$20, 6 vol \$60)
3. KJV Bible Commentary – KJV (\$20)
4. Believer's Bible Commentary – NKJV (\$20)
5. New Nelson's Illustrated Bible Commentary – NKJV (\$20)
6. Holman's Concise Bible Commentary – NIV (\$20)
7. The Concise Bible Commentary – KJV (\$10)
8. Thru The Bible Commentary – NIV? (\$10-\$20 a piece – several volumes)
9. Barnes' Notes Commentary – KJV (14 volumes – 1 volume no scriptures)

Conclusion :

1. I hope and pray that each of you has benefited from the lesson today.
2. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions that you want to ask me now or later, you are welcome to do so at any time.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE: **How To Use Computer Programs & Internet Websites**

Introduction :

1. Today in the church many of us neglect Bible study and few of us would admit to being the Bible scholars we know that we need to be.
2. Among the greatest blessings God has given His church, one of the greatest is the Holy Scriptures.
3. It is my intent through the next few weeks to get you focused on Christ, excited about Bible study, and show you means and methods that you can use to be a more serious bible student.
4. Of course, our text for this series of lessons will be **II Timothy 2:15**.
5. In this particular lesson we will be considering technology

Discussion :

I. Computer Programs

- A. If you have a computer, or access to one, your study time can be more effective.
 1. There are many software packages, which include the text of the entire Bible, often in several different versions.
 2. They also enable fast searching for words or phrases.
 - a. For example, when consulting the concordance you to find several occurrences of the word "heart", and say you have decided to read each of these passages of scripture.
 - b. This is difficult using a printed concordance but very easy using a computer concordance because you can print them all, or you can look them all up with ease.
 - c. It also allows searching for the whole phrase rather than individual words (i.e. "in your heart" may be the phrase you want to study).
 3. Some computer Bibles also contain lexicons and it is possible to find where the underlying Greek and Hebrew words have been used even when they have been translated differently in different places.
 4. The larger Bible software packages include other Bible study tools such as Bible dictionaries, atlases and commentaries, which are all, linked together.

- B. Which Bible programs are right for you?
1. The Bible Collection Deluxe – 31 Bible translations, 12 commentaries, 8 reference books, 13 maps, etc.
 2. WORDsearch & LESSONmaker products – for preparing lessons
 3. Nelson’s Electronic Bible Library – 3 editions
 - a. Starter Edition – 1 Bible, 1 dictionary, few other resources
 - b. Basic Edition – 4 Bibles, 2 dictionary’s, 3 word studies, 3 commentaries, 4 map books, etc.
 - c. Deluxe Edition – more than double the above material
 4. Multimedia Bible Interactive – Bible’s, books, videos, articles, etc.
 5. Quickverse – concordances, Bible’s, and other Bible helps
 6. I also recommend e-Sword and Gospel Advocate materials.
 7. I am sure that there are many others that I am not aware of at this time.

II. Internet Websites

- A. The negative uses of the Internet.
1. People have wrongly abused the Internet.
 2. There is pornography, graphic videos, ungodly websites, and satanic material all available at the click of a mouse.
 3. Some of this material may even be sent to you unaware.
- B. The positive uses of the Internet.
1. We cannot ignore the fact that the Internet is a powerful teaching tool.
 2. There are many good Christian websites.
 3. Many congregations have websites (www.gulfshoreschurchofchrist.org).
- C. What websites are available throughout our fellowship?
1. www.scriptures.com
 2. www.bibletruths.net
 3. www.bibleweb.org
 4. www.westarkchurchofchrist.org
 5. www.wordsoftruth.net
 6. www.cconline.faithsite.com
 7. www.westbroward.org
 8. www.brasstacks.org
 9. www.church-of-christ-org
 10. www.sermoncentral.com
 11. www.christiancourier.com
 12. www.tcoc.net
 13. www.geocities.com
 14. www.sermons.net
 15. www.gospelgazette.com
 16. www.faithmatters.com
 17. www.focusonyou.com
 18. www.doesgodexist.org
 19. www.bible.com

D. What other good Christian sites should we consider using?

1. www.fhu.edu - Freed-Hardeman University
2. www.hcu.edu - Heritage Christian University
3. www.york.edu - York College
4. www.acu.edu - Abilene Christian University
5. www.southernchristian.edu - Southern Christian University
6. www.harding.edu - Harding University
7. www.lipscomb.edu - David Lipscomb University

Conclusion :

1. I hope and pray that each of you has benefited from the lesson today.
2. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions that you want to ask me now or later, you are welcome to do so at any time.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE: **Putting It All Together**

Introduction :

1. Today in the church many of us neglect Bible study and few of us would admit to being the Bible scholars we know that we need to be.
2. Among the greatest blessings God has given His church, one of the greatest is the Holy Scriptures.
3. It is my intent through the next few weeks to get you focused on Christ, excited about Bible study, and show you means and methods that you can use to be a more serious bible student.
4. Of course, our text for this series of lessons will be **II Timothy 2:15**.
5. In this particular lesson we will be noting how to put it all together

Discussion :

I. What Have You Learned?

- A. In the past few weeks we have been studying how to be a better Bible student.
 1. I hope that these lessons have helped you to study the Bible effectively.
 2. If you study more effectively, and learn how to use the Bible tools we have studied about, you will mature in your Christian faith.
- B. We have discussed many good subjects in the past few weeks.
 1. We studied a lesson called "*Introducing the Bible.*"
 - This lesson was designed to help spark our interest in studying.
 2. We studied a lesson called "*Making the Most of Bible Study.*"
 - This lesson was designed to challenge us to study to the fullest.
 3. We studied a lesson called "*The Origin of the English Bible.*"
 - This lesson was designed to help us to understand how we got the Bible.
 4. We studied a lesson called "*Finding The Right Translation.*"
 - This lesson was designed to help us study different versions.
 5. We studied a lesson called "*How To Use A Lexicon & An Interlinear Bible.*"
 - This lesson was designed to help us learn to use these great Bible tools.
 6. We studied a lesson called "*How To Use A Concordance & A Topical Bible.*"
 - This lesson was designed to help us learn to use these great Bible tools.
 7. We studied a lesson called "*How To Use A Dictionary & An Encyclopedia.*"
 - This lesson was designed to help us learn to use these great Bible tools.
 8. We studied a lesson called "*How To Use Word Studies & Bible Handbooks.*"
 - This lesson was designed to help us learn to use these great Bible tools.
 9. We studied a lesson called "*How To Use An Atlas & A Commentary.*"
 - This lesson was designed to help us learn to use these great Bible tools.
 10. We studied a lesson called "*How To Use Computer Programs & Websites.*"
 - This lesson was designed to make use of more modern day technology.

- C. Can you put all of these lessons and these Bible tools to effective use?
1. In the lesson “Introducing the Bible” we discussed the Bible divisions:
 - a. How many books & divisions in the OT? (39 - 5)
 - b. How many books & divisions in the NT? (27 - 4)
 2. In the lesson “The Origin of the English Bible” we looked at the past:
 - a. How many translations preceded the KJV? (a dozen or so)
 - b. How many have been released since 1711? (hundreds)
 3. In the lessons on “Finding The Right Translation” we considered Bible’s:
 - a. What things are important in choosing the right translation?
 - b. Should we sacrifice accuracy for modern day language?
 - c. Can we find a balance? Which did I recommend?
 4. We have learned about many great Bible helps:
 - a. What is a Lexicon? How would you use it?
 - b. What is an Interlinear Bible? How would you use it?
 - c. What is a Concordance? How would you use it?
 - d. What is a Topical Bible? How would you use it?
 - e. What is a Bible Dictionary? How would you use it?
 - f. What is an Encyclopedia? How would you use it?
 - g. What is a Word Studies? How would you use it?
 - h. What is a Bible Handbooks? How would you use it?
 - i. What is an Atlas? How would you use it?
 - j. What is a Commentary? How would you use it?
 5. We have also learned about using modern technology in Bible study:
 - a. What Computer Programs did we recommend to you?
 - b. What Internet Websites did we recommend to you?

II. Can You Effectively Study the Bible?

- A. When studying the NKJV rendering of this verse what helps should you use?
 1. The answer is, of course, New King James Version. – Why?
 2. Nearly every version has Bible helps that compliment that version.
- B. If you want to consider the original Greek words in this text what should use?
 1. The answer is, of course, an interlinear Bible. – Why?
 2. It will allow us to see the words in English and Greek.
- C. If you want to see the different tenses of the word “*diligent*” what should you use?
 1. The answer is, of course, a lexicon. – Why?
 2. It gives the declension of each Greek word used in the Bible.
- D. If you want to see all of the passages where this word is used what should you use?
 1. The answer is, of course, a concordance. – Why?
 2. It will give you every passage where this word is used, and where other Greek words are used.
- E. If you want to read other passages on the subject of “*diligence*” what should you use?
 1. The answer is, of course, a topical Bible. – Why?
 2. It will have other passages where the word may not be used, but implied.

- F. If you want to know what the word “*diligent*” meant in that day what should you use?
1. The answer is, of course, a Bible dictionary. – Why?
 2. A modern day dictionary may have other definitions.
- G. If you want to do an intense study of each word in this passage what should you use?
1. The answer is, of course, a word study. – Why?
 2. It will probably examine each word in the text, intensively.
- H. If you want to study about the practice of studying the Bible in the early first century what should you use?
1. The answer is, of course, a Bible encyclopedia. – Why?
 2. It will offer you a wide range of ideas on why and how they studied the Bible.
- I. If you want to learn more about the context surrounding this particular verse, as well as the chapter and book, what should you use?
1. The answer is, of course, a Bible handbook. – Why?
 2. A Bible handbook offers a good summary of the text, setting, and context.
- J. If you want to see where the entire phrase “*approved to God*” appears what should you use?
1. The answer is, of course, a computer program. – Why?
 2. You can study many phrases with various words in them.
- K. If you want to see what other people think about this verse what should you use?
1. The answer is, of course, a commentary. – Why?
 2. There are many commentaries written from many different perspectives.
- L. If you want to read studies and books that discuss this verse what should you use?
1. The answer is, of course, internet websites. – Why?
 2. All of the material available on other websites is usually free to be used by the public, unless you want to buy the product.
 3. Many websites may offer sermons and studies of this verse.
- M. If you want to study about the location of the church in Rome, or another Congregation like Ephesus, what should you use?
1. The answer is, of course, an atlas. – Why?
 2. It would tell you about the location of the church and some other facts.
- N. If you want to see the times Paul used the word “*ashamed*” what should you use?
1. The answer is, of course, a concordance. – Why?
 2. It will even show you the different renderings of the words he used (#’s).
- O. If you want to see what the phrase “*rightly dividing*” means what should you use?
1. The answer is, of course, a commentary. – Why?
 2. Several authors will give you their opinion as to what it means.
- P. If you want to consider a summary of this scripture, context, and chapter what should you use?
1. The answer is, of course, a Bible handbook. – Why?
 2. This book offers a brief commentary, but mostly a summary.

- Q. Nelson publishing prints mainly which version and Bible helps that compliment it?
1. The answer is, of course, New King James Version. – Why?
 2. Consider the Nelson's NKJV Exhaustive Concordance, New Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, etc.
- R. Zondervan publishing prints mainly which version and helps that compliment it?
1. The answer is, of course, New International Version. – Why?
 2. Consider the Zondervan's NIV Exhaustive Concordance, Zondervan's NIV Bible Dictionary, etc.
- S. What other Bible study materials would be helpful in your Bible study?
1. The answer is, of course, all of the above. – Why?
 2. All of these are helpful in Bible study.
- T. How often should you read and study your Bible?
1. The answer is, of course, everyday. – Why?
 2. Even if you can only do it for 10-15 minutes, you need to read everyday, and study a passage or book thoroughly every week for an hour.

Conclusion :

1. I hope and pray that each of you has benefited from the lesson today.
2. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions that you want to ask me now or later, you are welcome to do so at any time.
3. Thank you for studying with me.
4. I have enjoyed studying this series with you.
5. I hope and pray that we will all be better students of God's word because of this series of lessons!!!

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE

A Helpful Quiz To Assist You In Bible Study

Directions : You do not have to write your name on this sheet of paper. It will not be returned to the teacher. It is strictly for your benefit and for the strengthening of your own faith. There are only twenty questions, all multiple choice, and all were covered in the classes. Please do not look at your neighbor's paper. When you get home you can review the questions and check the answers. As we begin please consider the following scripture

“Be diligent to present yourself approved unto God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” – II Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

- (1) When studying the NKJV rendering of this verse what version of helps should you use?
 - a. King James Version
 - b. New King James Version
 - c. New International Version
 - d. It does not matter

- (2) If you want to consider the original Greek words in this text what should you use?
 - a. Lexicon
 - b. Interlinear Bible
 - c. Concordance
 - d. Topical Bible

- (3) If you want to see the different Greek tenses of the word “*diligent*” what should you use?
 - a. Lexicon
 - b. Interlinear Bible
 - c. Concordance
 - d. Topical Bible

- (4) If you want to see all of the passages where this Greek word is used what should you use?
 - a. Lexicon
 - b. Interlinear Bible
 - c. Concordance
 - d. Topical Bible

- (5) If you want to read other passages on the subject of “diligence” what should you use?
 - a. Lexicon
 - b. Interlinear Bible
 - c. Concordance
 - d. Topical Bible

- (6) If you want to know what the word “*diligent*” meant in that day what should you use?
 - a. Bible Dictionary
 - b. Encyclopedia
 - c. Word Study
 - d. Bible Handbook

- (7) If you want to do intense studies of each word in this passage what should you use?
 - a. Bible Dictionary
 - b. Bible Encyclopedia
 - c. Word Study
 - d. Bible Handbook

- (8) If you want to study about the practice of studying the Bible in the early first century what should you use?
 - a. Bible Dictionary
 - b. Bible Encyclopedia
 - c. Word Study
 - d. Bible Handbook

- (9) If you want to learn more about the context surrounding this particular verse, as well as the chapter and book, what should you use?
- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|----------------|
| a. | Bible Dictionary | c. | Word Study |
| b. | Bible Encyclopedia | d. | Bible Handbook |
- (10) If you want to see where the phrase “*approved to God*” appears what should you use?
- | | | | |
|----|------------|----|------------------|
| a. | Atlas | c. | Computer Program |
| b. | Commentary | d. | Internet Website |
- (11) If you want to see what other people think about this verse what should you use?
- | | | | |
|----|------------|----|------------------|
| a. | Atlas | c. | Computer Program |
| b. | Commentary | d. | Internet Website |
- (12) If you want to read other studies and books that discuss this verse what should you use?
- | | | | |
|----|------------|----|------------------|
| a. | Atlas | c. | Computer Program |
| b. | Commentary | d. | Internet Website |
- (13) If you want to study about the location of the church in Ephesus what should you use?
- | | | | |
|----|------------|----|------------------|
| a. | Atlas | c. | Computer Program |
| b. | Commentary | d. | Internet Website |
- (14) If you want to see how many times Paul used the word “*ashamed*” what should you use?
- | | | | |
|----|-------------|----|--------------------|
| a. | Concordance | c. | Bible Dictionary |
| b. | Lexicon | d. | Bible Encyclopedia |
- (15) If you want to see what the phrase “*rightly dividing*” means to others what should you use?
- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|-------------|
| a. | Bible Dictionary | c. | Commentary |
| b. | Bible Encyclopedia | d. | Concordance |
- (16) If you want to consider a summary of this scripture and chapter what should you use?
- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|----------------|
| a. | Bible Dictionary | c. | Topical Bible |
| b. | Interlinear Bible | d. | Bible Handbook |
- (17) Nelson publishing prints mainly which version and Bible helps that compliment it?
- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| a. | King James Version | c. | New International Version |
| b. | New King James Version | d. | New American Standard Bible |
- (18) Zondervan publishing prints mainly which version and Bible helps that compliment it?
- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| a. | King James Version | c. | New International Version |
| b. | New King James Version | d. | New American Standard Bible |
- (19) What other Bible study materials would be helpful in your Bible study?
- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------------------|
| a. | Brotherhood publications | c. | Audio or video tapes |
| b. | Lectureship books | d. | Bible class books and class handouts |
- (20) How often should you read and study your Bible?
- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| a. | Once a month | c. | Twice a week (Sunday & Wednesday) |
| b. | Once a week (Sunday) | d. | Everyday |

Appendix A = Major Divisions & Descriptions of the Bible

OLD TESTAMENT

Books of the Law (Pentateuch)

Book	Summary
Genesis	Creation and the establishment of the covenant relationship
Exodus	Deliverance of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt
Leviticus	The ceremonial law
Numbers	Wandering of God's people in the wilderness
Deuteronomy	The second giving of the law before they occupied the Promised Land

Books of History

Book	Summary
Joshua	The conquest and division of the Promised Land
Judges	The nation of Israel is rescued by a series of judges, military leaders
Ruth	A beautiful story of God's love and care
I & II Samuel	The early history of Israel, including the reigns of Saul and David
I & II Kings	A political history of Israel, focusing on the reigns of kings from the time of Solomon to the captivity of the Jewish people by Babylon
I & II Chronicles	A religious history of Israel, covering the same period of time as II Samuel and I & II Kings
Ezra	The return of the Jewish people from captivity in Babylon
Nehemiah	The rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem after the return from Babylon
Esther	God's care for His people under Gentile rule

Books of Wisdom

Book	Summary
Job	An examination of the problems of evil and human suffering
Psalms	The song book or hymnal of ancient Israel
Proverbs	Wise sayings and observations designed to develop proper living
Ecclesiastes	A philosophical description of the emptiness of life without God
Song of Solomon	A love song portraying the beauty of a human love relationship as a symbol of divine love

Books of the Major Prophets

Book	Summary
Isaiah	The prophesy of condemnation and Messianic consolation
Jeremiah	A message of judgment against Judah's moral and spiritual decay
Lamentations	Five poems of lament over fallen Jerusalem
Ezekiel	A prophesy of judgment during the Babylonian Captivity
Daniel	A book of prophesy about the coming of the kingdom (the church)

Books of the Minor Prophets

Book	Summary
Hosea	A message of Israel's condemnation followed by God's forgiveness
Joel	A prediction of foreign invasion as a form of judgment by God
Amos	Pronouncements of judgment against the nations, especially Israel
Obadiah	A book prophesying the total destruction of Edom
Jonah	A story about a reluctant prophet who led Nineveh to repentance
Micah	A prediction of judgment and a promise of Messianic restoration
Nahum	A prophesy of the destruction of Nineveh
Habakkuk	A prophet who questioned God and praised judgment against Judah
Zephaniah	A prediction of destructive judgment followed by tremendous blessing
Haggai	After the return from Babylon, a call to rebuild the Temple
Zechariah	A Messianic prophecy calling for the completion of the Temple
Malachi	A prophecy of destruction followed by Messianic blessing

NEW TESTAMENT

The Gospels

Book	Summary
Matthew	Christ presented as the fulfillment of Old Testament Messianic prophecy
Mark	Probably the earliest of the gospels, focusing on Christ's ministry
Luke	Fullest biography of Christ, focusing on His perfection and ministry
John	The most symbolic gospel, which presents Christ as the divine Son of God

History of the Early Church

Book	Summary
Acts	A history of the expansion of the early church

Epistles (Letters) of the Apostle Paul

Book	Summary
Romans	An explanation of the Christian faith for both Jews and Gentiles, addressed to the church at Rome
I Corinthians	Instructions to the church about dealing with church problems
II Corinthians	Paul's defense and explanation of his apostleship
Galatians	An account of the necessity of justification by faith rather than works
Ephesians	A letter to the church at Ephesus explaining the believer's place in Christ
Philippians	A letter to the church at Philippi, telling of Paul's conquering faith
Colossians	An account of the supremacy of Christ, written to the church at Colosse
I & II Thessalonians	Instructions to the church at Thessalonica about the coming of the Lord
I & II Timothy	Manuals of leadership for the young preacher at Ephesus
Titus	A manual of Christian conduct for church leaders
Philemon	An appeal for Christian unity and forgiveness for a runaway slave

General Epistles (Letters)

Book	Summary
Hebrews	A presentation of Jesus as High Priest, addressed to Jewish believers
James	Practical instructions for applied Christianity
I Peter	Encouragement and comfort from Peter to suffering Christians
II Peter	Peter's warning against false teachers
I John	John's reminder of the full humanity of Christ
II John	John's letter of encouragement and approval
III John	John's personal note of appreciation to Gaius
Jude	A strong warning against false teachers

Prophesy

Book	Summary
Revelation	An encouraging prophesy of the persecution of the early church and God's ultimate triumph

Appendix B = Old Testament & New Testament Apocrypha

Old Testament Apocrypha

<u>Title</u>	<u>Approximate date of writing</u>
Psalm 151	200 BC?
Ecclesiasticus	180 BC
Tobit	180 BC
The Prayer of Manasseh	150 BC
Judith	150 BC
I Esdras	150 BC
Additions to Esther	100 BC
Song of the Three Young Men	100 BC
Susanna	50-100 BC
Bel and the Dragon	50-100 BC
I, II & III Maccabees	50-100 BC
IV Maccabees	AD 40
The Wisdom of Solomon	AD 40
II Esdras	AD 100
Baruch	AD 100

New Testament Apocrypha

<u>Title</u>	<u>Approximate date of writing</u>
The Gospel According to the Hebrews	AD 65-100
Epistle of Barnabas	AD 70-79
Epistle to the Corinthians	AD 96
The Seven Epistles of Ignatius	AD 100
Didache (The Teaching of the Twelve)	AD 100
Epistle of Polycarp to the Philippians	AD 108
Shepherd of Hermas	AD 115-140
I & II Clement	AD 120-140
Apocalypse of Peter	AD 150
Acts of Paul and Thecia	AD 170
Epistle to the Laodiceans	AD 350

Appendix C = Hebrew Alphabet

The Hebrew and Yiddish languages use a different alphabet than English. The picture below illustrates the Hebrew alphabet, in Hebrew alphabetical order. Note that Hebrew is written from right to left, rather than left to right as in English, so Alef is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet and Tav is the last. The Hebrew alphabet is often called the "alefabet," because of its first two letters.

ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
Teit (T)	Cheit (Ch)	Zayin (Z)	Vav (V/O/U)	Hei (H)	Dalet (D)	Gimel (G)	Beit (B/V)	Alef (Silent)
ס	ן	נ	ם	מ	ל	ך	כ	י
Samekh (S)	Nun (N)	Nun (N)	Mem (M)	Mem (M)	Lamed (L)	Khaf (Kh)	Kaf (K/Kh)	Yod (Y)
ת	ש	ר	ק	ץ	צ	ף	פ	ע
Tav (T/S)	Shin (Sh/S)	Reish (R)	Qof (Q)	Tzadei (Tz)	Tzadei (Tz)	Fe (F)	Pei (P/F)	Ayin (Silent)

If this sounds like Greek to you, you're not far off! Many letters in the Greek alphabet have similar names and occur in the same order (though they don't look anything alike!): Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta ... Zeta ... Theta, Iota, Kappa, Lambda, Mu, Nu ... Pi ... Rho, Sigma Tau.

The "Kh" and the "Ch" are pronounced as in German or Scottish, a throat clearing noise, not as the "ch" in "chair."

Note that there are two versions of some letters. Kaf, Mem, Nun, Pei and Tzadei all are written differently when they appear at the end of a word than when they appear in the beginning or middle of the word. The version used at the end of a word is referred to as Final Kaf, Final Mem, etc. The version of the letter on the left is the final version. In all cases except Final Mem, the final version has a long tail.

Appendix D = Greek Alphabet

The Greek alphabet is composed of letters that have withstood the test of time. Learning the Greek alphabet is not difficult. Below is a chart of the Greek alphabet that contains every Greek symbol, their names, and how to transliterate them into the English.

Upper & Lower Case	English Transliteration	Name of the letter
<i>Aα</i>	a	alpha
<i>Bβ</i>	b	bēta
<i>Γγ</i>	g	gamma
<i>Δδ</i>	d	delta
<i>Eε</i>	e	epsilon
<i>Zζ</i>	z	zēta
<i>Hη</i>	ē	ēta
<i>Θθ</i>	th	thēta
<i>Iι</i>	i	iota
<i>Kκ</i>	k	kappa
<i>Λλ</i>	l	lamda
<i>Mμ</i>	m	mu
<i>Nν</i>	n	nu
<i>Ξξ</i>	x	xi
<i>Oο</i>	o	omicron
<i>Ππ</i>	p	pi
<i>Ρρ</i>	r (rh when initial)	rho
<i>Σσ(ς)</i>	s	sigma
<i>Tτ</i>	t	tau
<i>Υυ</i>	u	upsilon
<i>Φφ</i>	phi	phi
<i>Χχ</i>	ch	chi
<i>Ψψ</i>	ps	psi
<i>Ωω</i>	ō	ōmega

The Greek Alphabet - <http://www.greekgrammar.org/>