

KNOW YOUR SOURCE – STEPS THE DAILY STUDY OF GOD’S WORD

OVERVIEW OF STEPS FOR BIBLE STUDY

1. MAKE A PLAN
2. SECURE THE NECESSARY TOOLS
3. USE A SOUND HERMENUTICS

1. MAKE A PLAN

Just like daily Bible Reading, daily Bible study will be most productive when it follows a predetermined plan.

The same 5 steps used to create a Bible Reading plan can be used to create a Bible Study Plan.

For Example (*Reference the Steps for Reading God’s Word Daily Worksheet for More Details*):

1. **Choose a Time to Study Each Day**
2. **Choose a Text to Study**
 - a. It is preferable to choose a book of the Bible to Study, not simply a favorite passage.
 - b. Begin small - with a shorter book or a section of Psalm - to learn the process.
 - c. Begin with a book of the Bible you have interest in studying, and expand to other books you have less familiarity with as you learn the skills of Bible Study.
3. **Commit to Accountability – Find a Study Partner**
4. **Commit to the Plan**
5. **Pray, Read, and Study – Give it Time.**

You can do Bible Reading and Bible Study at the same time – one after the other – but ensure you give yourself enough time to focus on both tasks.

2. SECURE THE NECESSARY TOOLS

Like a home improvement project or competitive sport, Bible study requires certain tools and equipment to succeed. Productive Bible Study requires the right set of tools.

Secure the following before starting your Bible Study plan.

1. A Good Study Bible

- Choose a Study Bible that provides factual commentary and information.
 - Avoid Study Bibles with adjectives like – young man, mother, youth – in the title.
- Choose a Study Bible with a good Essentially Literal (Word-for-word translation).
 - Not every English Bible Translation is created equal. Avoid Dynamic Equivalence (Thought-for-Thought translations).
 - *See the handout of English Bible Translations for more help selecting a good translation*

2. A Notetaking System

- Like any type of study, Bible study requires note taking to be productive.
- Have a journal or notebook – and a writing utensil - on hand to record your observations, questions, and notes.
- Make a notetaking system will help you stay organized in your study.
- Develop a plan that you apply consistently to each day of study. **For example:**
 - You can use a different color highlighter to indicate a question, an observation, or an important point.
 - Or you can use different shapes or icons – like questions marks and exclamation points – to indicate different types of notes and observations.
- Choose a note taking system that works for you and stick to it whenever you do Bible Study

3. Study Resources

- **A Good Bible Commentary**
 - When your study Bible fails to answer your questions or provide the necessary information on a text, a good Bible Commentary is your next step for information and answers.
- **A Good Systematic Theology**
 - When you need to study a specific Bible doctrine or topic in more detail, a good systematic theology will provide the Biblical insights you need.
- **A Good Bible Dictionary**
 - In an age of subjective truth and defining terms based on personal desires and feelings, a good Bible dictionary will help you define terms according to God's Word.

4. The Correct Attitude, Mindset and Heart Posture

You can have all the skills and tools in the world - but if your head and heart are not in the right place – you won't be effective.

The following attitudes are necessary for rightly handling the word of truth in Bible Study.

A. A Hunger and Thirst for Truth and Righteousness

- A willingness to slow down and study for the purpose of learning what is true.
- A deep desire to learn what is true, rather than study for the purpose of supporting what you already think is true.

B. Christ-Like Humility

- A desire to carefully observe what the text is saying without bias.
 - The ability to let go of prior experience and preconceived notions.
 - The ability to ask, “what does the text say” rather than “what do I want the text to say.”

These attitudes are only natural and possible in and through Christ Jesus – through confession of sins and full faith and trust in his name.

Bible Study without confession of sins and reliance on Christ Jesus is an exercise in self-deception and scripture twisting.

BIBLE TRANSLATION COMPARISONS

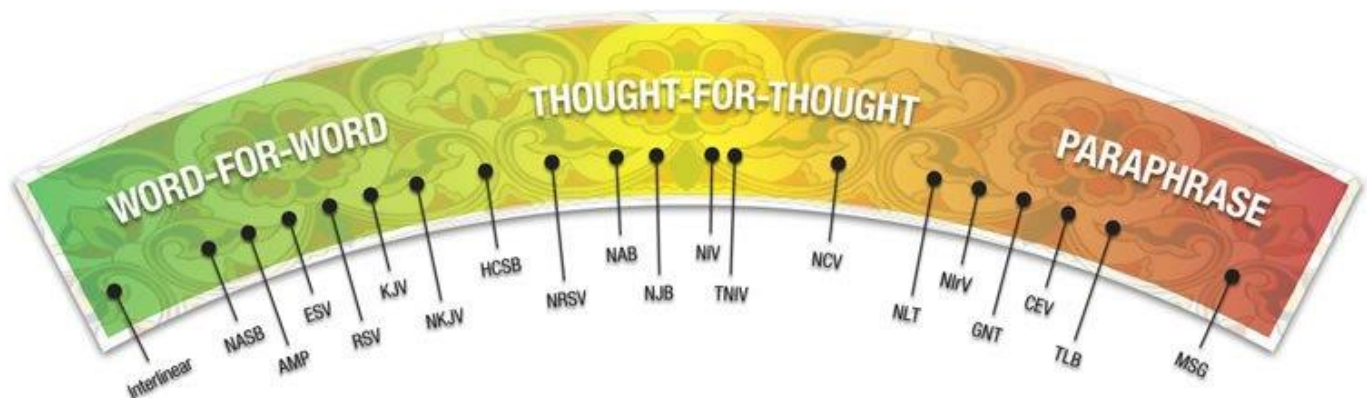
Essentially Literal Translation – Word-For-Word

ESV | **1 Corinthians 4:9** *For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men.*

Dynamic Equivalence – Thought-For-Thought

NIV | **1 Corinthians 4:9** *For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men.*

Types of Bible Translations



NASB - New American Standard Bible
AMP - Amplified Bible
ESV - English Standard Version
RSV - Revised Standard Version
KJV - King James Version
NKJV - New King James Version

HCSB - Holman Christian Standard Bible
NRSV - New Revised Standard Version
NAB - New American Bible
NJB - New Jerusalem Bible
NIV - New International Version
TNIV - Today's New International Version
NCV - New Century Version
NLT - New Living Translation

Nlrv - New International Reader's Version
GNT - Good News Translation
(also Good News Bible)
CEV - Contemporary English Version
TLB - The Living Bible
MSG - The Message

BIBLE STUDY

Reference Books for Every Christian

Below are reference books to aid every Christian in the study of the Bible. Two or three books are recommended in each category. These books are relatively inexpensive and are among the most highly recommended by the elders of Asheville Bible Church. Recommendations for books in subject categories not listed below are also available. Pastor Pat has years of experience in the sale of used, out-of-print, and rare theological books and is always glad to recommend the best of available Christian literature in any subject category.

STUDY BIBLES

For over a decade, the English Standard Version has been considered by many scholars, pastors, and theologians as the best modern English translation available. The elders agree with this and would most highly recommend the *ESV Study Bible*, published by Crossway (especially in large print editions); and the *ESV Reformation Study Bible*, edited by R. C. Sproul.

Other good word-for-word Bible translations include the *New American Standard Version* and the *New King James Version*.

WHOLE BIBLE COMMENTARIES

Matthew Henry's Whole Bible Commentary is published in a one-volume, abridged version that is both excellent in content and affordable.

Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown is another 1,000+— pages, one volume edition that contains a wealth of biblical insight and is still in print and quite affordable.

The Bible Exposition Commentary by Warren Wiersbe.

Preaching The Word Commentary by R. Kent Hughes are larger, but helpful, commentaries that can be ordered one book at a time.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Concise Theology, by J. I. Packer

Bitesize Theology: An ABC of the Christian Faith, by Peter Jeffrey

Everyone's a Theologian: An Introduction to Systematic Theology, by R. C. Sproul.

Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Faith, by Bruce Milne.

Foundations of the Christian Faith, by James Montgomery Boice.

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem.

DICTIONARIES

New Bible Dictionary (IVP), by J. D. Douglas

Evangelical Dictionary of Theology (Baker) by Walter Elwell, Editor

Baker's Dictionary of Theology, by Everett F. Harrison, Editor-in-Chief. Contains excellent definitions of the theological words of Scripture.

BUILDING A BASIC CHRISTIAN LIBRARY

Helps to build a basic, Christian library are available from Pastor Pat who has several suggested links where books can be purchased as either used or out-of-print. He has an extensive *Reference Guide for Building Theological Libraries* that can be copied and given to you.

FREE ONLINE RESOURCES

The following are free online resources for Bible Study – including commentaries, dictionaries, language tools.

Blue Letter Bible (<https://www.blueletterbible.org/study.cfm>) provides numerous study tools, including excellent language resources and tools. It also includes Matthew Henry's commentary for free (<https://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/mhc/>).

ESV Website (<https://www.esv.org/>) provides free Study Bible resources and Original Language tools (On the right side of the screen).

Monergism (<https://www.monergism.com/start-here>) provides resource on the Historic Christian faith from men like John Own, R.C. Sproul, John Calvin, and many others.

Dr. Thomas L. Constable Expository Notes provides the expository notes of the now retired Chairman of Bible Exposition at Dallas Theological Seminary, Dr. Constable. An easy to follow and helpful guide for studying any book of the Bible. (Available online for free at multiple locations like <https://netbible.org/bible/Matthew+1>. Click "Constable's Notes" on the right-hand side to access. Select the ESV translation in the top left).

R. C. Sproul/Ligonier Ministries - <https://www.monergism.com/about-us>
Phil Johnson's Bookmarks - <http://www.romans45.org/bookmark.htm>
Chapel Library - <https://www.chapellibrary.org/>

FINDING BOOKS

For new, used, or out-of-print books, the following websites will help you find the titles listed above and to save money on your theological book purchases. A few of the best websites for locating new, used, out-of-print, and rare theological books are as follows: **AbeBooks.com** **Alibris.com** **Amazon.com** **CVBBS.com** **ChristianBook.com** **Bookfinder.com**