

The Character Study

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. (Rom. 15:4)

A character study seeks to _____ and to _____ the _____ and characteristics of a person or group of people in Scriptures. Sometimes, this type of study is referred to as a _____ study. This type of study is really a type of the topical study. In Corinthians, Paul by inspiration illustrates a preeminent reason for character studies.

But with _____ of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. (6) Now these things were our _____, to the intent we should not _____ after evil things, as they also _____. (1 Cor. 10:5-6)

RESOURCES:

A very good resource for character studies is *The Bible Biography Series* by James G. _____. This series of books covers the lives of 27 individuals in Biblical history.

Additional resource would be J. Sidlow _____'s book entitled: *Mark These Men*. He investigates various Biblical biographies like King Saul, Paul, Lazarus, Simon the Cyrenian, Gideon, Balaam and several others.

DANGERS:

- _____ Into the _____
- _____ of the _____

PROCESS:

- 1) Choose the _____: After soaking this matter in prayer, select the character that you would like to study. If you have never done a biographical study or have only done a couple of them, _____ consider the character that you choose. If you set out to do a biographical study on the Lord Christ, you may be somewhat _____. If you set out to do similar study on Justus, you may see that _____ information exist. If you set out to do a study on Simon or Mary, you will find there are _____ of them!
- 2) _____ the _____: Once the character is selected, collect all of the passages that reference your character or their action. It will be helpful to use a *Strong's Concordance* or a Bible _____/Encyclopedia for this portion of the study.
- 3) _____ the Material: Once your have thoroughly isolated each passage, you should make a list of questions to aid in organizing your material. Consider the following with regard to your selected character:

- * What was their _____ or _____?
- * What was their _____ or _____?
- * What _____ did they overcome?
- * What helped their _____ or _____?
- * What _____ did they abuse?
- * What _____ did they _____?
- * What opportunities did they _____?
- * What perils did they _____?
- * What victory did they _____?

4) _____ the Findings: Once you have organized your material, now is the time to develop your findings. One tried and trusted method is to write a _____ of their life. Include as much detail about their _____ (i.e. Jonah and Tarshish or Nineveh), the _____ that occurred, and the passing of _____. It would also be of great worth to develop their relationship to _____:

- * Were they a _____ of Christ (ex. _____)?
- * Were they a _____ of Christ (ex. _____)?
- * Were they an _____ to Christ (ex. _____)?
- * Were they a _____ of Christ (ex. _____)?
- * Were they a _____ to Christ (ex. _____)?
- * Were they a _____ to Christ (ex. _____)?

5) _____ the Lessons: Once the sketch is finished, summarize the lessons that you have learned. Were they _____? How did God _____ them? What were the personal _____ they had to overcome to be used? (i.e. Jonah could be fear, anger, etc.). Always end a lesson with a _____ question:

- * How am I _____ this person?
- * What are my personal _____?
- * How can I keep from _____ failures like they did?
- * How can I be _____ like them?

Good Studies: Below are some good biographical studies in which to engage.

- * _____ * Stephen * _____ * Timothy/Titus
- * Balaam * _____ * Nehemiah * _____ the Baptist