

D2 Phase 4 — Part 1

How to Study the Bible



Introduction

I. Purposes of This Phase

- A. To give the Christian a working knowledge of the word of God.
- B. To give the Christian purpose and direction in furthering a study of the Bible.
- C. To establish the Biblical authority in all matters of faith and practice.

II. Foundational Principles of Bible Study

- A. The Bible is NOT difficult to understand; the battle is for belief. Wo we make it difficult by not simply believing in the certainty of the words of truth, Prov 22:20-21, 1 John 5:12, 2 Cor 11:1-3, 2 Tim 1:7, 1 Cor 14:7-12.

- B. Anyone can get a working knowledge of the Bible if they want to. There is no special secret. No magic formula. An education is helpful, but not necessary. Knowledge of other languages can be helpful, but not necessary, Rev 2:6-15.

Key 1: View the Bible believingly, not skeptically or critically, and then use languages, grammar and history to explain the Bible as it stands.

C. The Holy Spirit teaches the Bible. God can and does use other instruments (preachers, podcasts, books, etc.), but all truth is God’s truth, and understanding is imparted by the Holy Spirit.

Key 2: How much you learn God’s word depends solely on how much you love God’s word, and your responsiveness to it. John 14:15-26, John 16:13-14, John 17:17, Luke 24:44-46, Luke 23:8-9

Key 3: Just believe what you read (Luke 24:13-32), because the Bible only works for you when you believe it, 1 Thes 2:13.

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Basic Rules of Bible Study

*2 Tim 2:15*¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (KJV)

*2 Tim 2:15*¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (NIV)

*2 Tim 2:15*¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (ESV)

*2 Tim 2:15*¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth. (CSB)

I. Why are there “rules” of Bible study?

THE FOUR D’S OF BIBLE STUDY

A. DUTY – it is a command for every Christian, and no one can do your Bible study for you.

B. DESIGN – the goal is to be approved by God, not by the lost, the scholarly community, or by believers who view their Bible skeptically and critically.

C. DILIGENCE – it takes exertion, because it is work, it requires expertise, because you must develop skill.

1. EXERTION because it is work

2. EXPERTISE because you must develop skill

D. DIVISIONS – the key to rightly understanding the Bible is rightly dividing its dispensations, 2 Tim 3:16

II. The Rules

A. Principles of Personal Preparation

1. The Rule of Proper Approach – always give the Bible the benefit of the doubt, Ezek 14:1-11, Isa 29:9-14, 2 Thes 2:9-12, Mat 13:10-15

2. The Rule of Personal Submission – always give the Bible the benefit of the doubt, Phil 2:5, 1 Cor 2:16, Isa 55:8-11, James 1:5, Rom 12:1-2

B. Flyover Principles for Correlation

3. The Rule of Context – Before you ask what a verse means, always determine the context, 2 Pet 3:15-16, Joel 2:1, James 1:1, Mat 24:13, Psalm 23:2

4. The Rule of Trinitarian Application – Every verse has three simultaneous applications: past historical, present inspirational, and future prophetic (doctrinal)

- a. Historical – the Bible is 100% accurate historically
- b. Inspirational (also called personal, devotional or practical applications)

c. Prophetic (also called doctrinal) Job, Joshua 1

5. The Rule of Trinitarian Purpose – God has three distinct plans revealed in His Word: a cosmic plan for the universe, a kingdom plan for the earth, and an Eternal Purpose for your life, Heb 1:2, 11:3, Gen 1:26, 28, Psalm 105:8-11, Isa 9:7, Eph 3:10-11,21

6. The Rule of Natural Revelation – The invisible things of God can be seen by studying the things God made, Rom 1:20

7. The Rule of Biblical Hermeneutics – The Bible is of no private interpretation, 1 Pet 1:20, Rom 3:4, 1 Cor 2:9-14

8. The Rule of God’s consistency – You can always count on the consistency of God, Mal 3:8, Heb 13:8; Matt 10:6, John 4:4, Mark 10:51-52, John 9:6-7

9. The Rule of Multiple Witness – Never base a doctrine on just one verse or passage, Isa 28:9-10, 2 Cor 13:1, 1 Cor 15:29
