

Effective Bible Study - Eric Parmenter, Fredericton Conference 2009

Time: 30 minutes per day, every day - it takes discipline

Tools: a Bible with good, clear print - no margins, no footnotes: READ THE TEXT
a piece of paper
a pen
Young's Analytical Concordance, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, or Wigram's English, Hebrew & Greek Lexicons
Vine's Dictionary of New Testament Words
a Bible Dictionary
a "telescope" - gives you an overall view of the book
a "microscope" - examines verses, sentences, words (the details)
a "stethoscope" - apply all gleanings to your own heart, your own soul, your own life first

Technique: Bible Outline - The Old Testament:

Starting at Genesis: 17 books of History

Starting at Job: 5 books of Poetry

Starting at Isaiah: 17 books of Prophecy

Bible Outline - The New Testament:

Starting at Matthew: 4 Gospels (The Life of Christ)

Acts: 1 book of History

Starting at Romans: 21 Epistles (church, prison, pastoral, and general epistles)

Revelation: 1 Revelation of Jesus Christ

How to Start:

Start with a small book.

Read it through 10 times at one sitting. Change your translation (suggests Darby) to help keep focused.

Take one week and read through the book, over and over.

Get your paper and look through your telescope. Note the main themes or subjects of the book.

Use 1 pc. of paper per theme. Note divisions / subjects in each chapter.

Now, take 1 week per chapter, 1 week to summarize all notes. Compile & condense notes to 1 pc. of paper and file it.

Look for keys to the subjects of the book. Keys are verses containing words and phrases that align with the subjects covered in the book. They give us a glimpse at the writer's approach.

Now it's time for the microscope. Examine words and phrases used in the book. Use a concordance to find the Book and Chapter where it is used the most. Read that chapter to get an understanding of the word by how it's used. Use a dictionary for a deeper look at the meaning of the words you are studying.

Now, the stethoscope. Apply what you've learned to your own heart, your own soul, and your own life. (This step is most important. John 13:17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.)