

1 How To Study The Bible

Men of Grace

September 23, 2008

Brian Christie

2 Basic Tools & Overview

GOAL

- **A proven METHOD of Bible Study**
- **The joy of personal discovery**
- **Spiritual growth**

3 Goals

- **Key Verse: Psalm 1:2-3**
 - *"But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."*

4 Basic Tools & Overview

BASIC TOOLS

- **Intangible**
 - **Commitment**
 - **Discipline / Routine**
 - **A METHOD**
- **Tangible**
 - **Bible Study Resources**
- **Indispensable**
 - **An open heart**
 - **The guidance of the Holy Spirit**

5 Method – Three Steps

- **Observation**
 - **What does it say?**
 - **What do I see?**
- **Interpretation**
 - **What does it mean?**
- **Application**
 - **How does it work?**
 - **How does it apply to me?**

6 Observation Overview

- **Look for the "Ws"**
 - **Who? What? When? Where? Why? and (w) how?**
- **Look for key terms**
 - **Identify the important words, phrase and clauses**
- **Observe the Structure of the passage**
 - **Grammatical Structure**
 - **Literary Structure**
- **Observe the "Atmosphere" of the passage**
 - **What's happening under the surface**

7 Grammatical Structure

Structure – The Key to Observation


- **Grammatical Structure**
 - **Identify**
 - **Verbs**
 - **Subject and object**
 - **Modifiers**

- *Prepositional phrases*
- *Connectives*

8  Literary Structure


▪ **Literary Structure**

- **Laws of Literary Structure**
 - *Cause/Effect – look for “since...”, “therefore...”, “so...”, etc.*
 - *Purpose/Result – look for “in order that...”, “so that...”.*
 - *Explanation – look for “for...”, “because...”*
 - *Contrast – look for “but”, “yet”*
 - *Comparison – look for “like”, “as”*
 - *Repetition – look for repeated words and phrases (identical or similar)*
 - *General to specific or vice versa*

9  Literary Structure

▪ **Things to Look for:**

- *Things that are Emphasized*
- *Repeated*
- *Related*
- *Alike*
- *Unlike*
- *True to Life*

10  Mechanical Outline

(Diagramming for Dummies!)

- **The most practical way to put your observations together.**
- **Steps:**
 - *Diagram*
 - *Label*
 - *Write*
 - *Summarize*
- *See attached Worksheet/Overhead on Col. 3:1-4*

11  Charts

The Value of Charts


- **So that you don't lose sight of the forest for the trees**
- **See Worksheet/Overhead for charts on Ephesians and Romans**

12  Discussion Time

▪ **Practice Diagramming Romans 5:1-4**

- *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

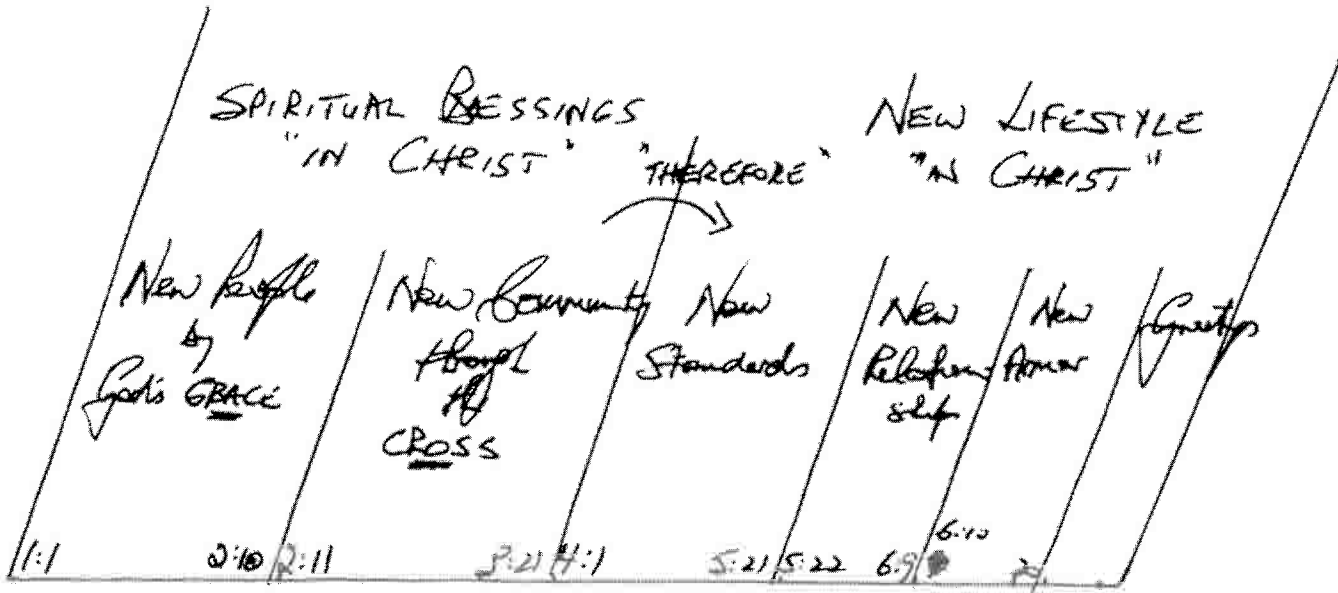
▪ **Compare results**

13  Thank You

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

1. SINCE, THEN,
YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED WITH CHRIST,
SET YOUR HEARTS ON THINGS ABOVE
WHERE CHRIST IS SEATED
AT THE RIGHT HAND
OF GOD.
2. SET YOUR MINDS ON THINGS ABOVE,
NOT
ON EARTHLY THINGS.
3. FOR
YOU DIED,
AND
YOUR LIFE IS NOW HIDDEN WITH CHRIST
IN GOD.
4. WHEN CHRIST, WHO IS YOUR LIFE,
APPEARS,
THEN
YOU ALSO WILL APPEAR
WITH HIM -
IN GLORY.
5. SO,
PUT TO DEATH...

EPHESIANS CHART



- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| BELIEF
DOCTRINE
GRACE | BEHAVIOR
DUTY
CONSUMPTION |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|

ROMANS CHART

1:1-17	GREETING + THEME
1:18-4:25	JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH - LACK OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (1:18-3:20) - GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (3:21-4:25)
5:1-8:39	ASSURANCE OF FINAL SALVATION [6-7 - A PARENTHESIS 6 - NEW LIFE / NEW LIFESTYLE 7 - RELATIONSHIP TO O.T. LAW]
9:1-11:36	WHY HAVE THE JEWS REJECTED THE GOSPEL
12:1-15:13	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
15:14-16:31	PAULS PRAYS + GREETINGS

ROMANS - CHAPTER CHART

1: 1-17	INTROD. + THEME
1: 18-32	REBELLIOUS GENTILES ARE SINNERS
2: + 3: 8	SELF-RIGHTEOUS JEWS ARE SINNERS
3: 9-20	ALL ARE SINNERS - LACK RIGHTEOUSNESS
3: 21-31	GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS - CROSS + FAITH
4	FAITH ALONE
5	ASSURANCE OF SALVATION + ETERNAL LIFE
6	NEW LIFE / NEW MASTER → NEW LIFESTYLE
7	O.T. LAW - NOT APPLICABLE TO BELIEVER
8.	ASSURANCE OF GLORY THROUGH THE SPIRIT
9	GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN JEWISH REJECTION OF GOSPEL
10.	JEWISH STUBBORN UNBELIEF OF THE GOSPEL
11.	FUTURE FOR THE JEWS
12.	TOTAL COMMITMENT
13.	REL. TO GOVT. + OUTSIDERS
14: 1-15: 16	TOLERANCE IN THE CHURCH REGARDING 'MEAT'
15: 17-33	PAUL'S FUTURE PLANS
16	GREETINGS