

DISCIPLESHIP 301

Grow Unto a Mature Man

Grace Mercy Ministry

Discipleship 301

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DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His Infallible Holy Word which gives us all the knowledge, understanding and wisdom we need to be true disciples of His. It is our desire that this book will help Christians bring glory to God.

We also dedicate this book to the greatest disciple of the twentieth century – Dawson Trotman (1906-1956), founder of “The Navigators.” He was too busy serving Jesus to accept an invitation from Billy Graham to form a discipleship ministry for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Yet he developed the B-rations that the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has used ever since. Billy said of him, “I think Daws has personally touched more lives than anybody I have ever known.” Graham interrupted his crusade in Oklahoma City to “preach his funeral” in Colorado Springs. He also devoted a week of his “Hour of Decision” radio program to Trotman’s memory. Charles E. Fuller, founder of Fuller Theological Seminary, did the same with his “Old Fashion Revival Hour” program.

The work and writings of Trotman were the inspiration and instrumental in the foundation of the Campus Outreach Ministry and Grace Mercy Ministry. His two most inspirational quotes are:

“Do what others can not and will not do.”

“The greatest amount of wasted time is the time not getting started.”

We urge you to read his story in Appendixes C and D in *Discipleship 101*.

Our Vision

It is the vision of Grace Mercy Ministry to motivate and help every church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to establish a discipleship program. It is also our vision that every believer on Earth go through a discipleship program, whether it is this one or another so every believer can bring the greatest amount of glory possible to God.

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INVITATION

Believer, we invite you to read through this book slowly. Once you complete Step 15 give serious prayer and consideration to moving on to Steps 16-19 (*Discipleship 401*). Not every believer will be able to complete these steps, but go as far as you can. If you cannot complete a step move on to the next one. Finish whatever steps you can.

Unsaved reader, please read Appendix A before you read anything else.

FOREWORD

Every true believer in Jesus Christ was predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus:

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; (Romans 8.29)

The way we are conformed to His image is by being disciplined. Being disciple is the way to become a mature man or woman in the Lord:

*And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **mature man**, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming. (Ephesians 4.11-14)*

The way to grow “unto a perfect man” and “unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” is to study the Bible on your own. This section is designed to help you study the Bible by yourself. Try to complete as many steps as

possible. If you cannot complete an entire step do as much as you can and go to the next step.

The first step in this section deals with memorizing and meditating on Scripture. There are 139 suggested verses to memorize. If you cannot memorize all of them choose the ones you want to memorize and hide them in your heart. Move on to the second exercise and meditate on as many of the suggested 98 passages as you can.

Remember, these steps are designed to be worked through at the same time. While you are memorizing and meditating on the passages in Step 11 start on Step 12 “How to do an exegetical study.” If you finish Step 12 before you finish Step 11 move on to the next step.

INTRODUCTION

This book and all the books in the *Discipleship* series are designed to assist all believers in Jesus Christ to disciple themselves and others. Discipleship is extremely important because a believer cannot serve God fully and bring the ultimate amount of glory to Him without being discipled first.

We encourage every believer to follow the steps in this book to grow to maturity. We also encourage every father to be discipled and then disciple his wife and children. If you have difficulty in following the steps or need help ask your pastor, assistant pastor or a deacon to help you.

Once you complete Steps 11 through 15 go on to *Discipleship 401*.

INTRODUCTORY QUIZ

Take this beginner's quiz. If you do poorly you need to start right away. If you do well you need to start right away so you can learn how to disciple others.

1. Everyone is conceived and born in sin.
2. No one seeks God apart from His drawing a person.
3. Those who die in their sins get a second chance to be saved.
4. Everyone who dies in their sins will be cast into the Lake of Fire.
5. Those that are cast into the Lake of Fire are punished in that place through all eternity with no hope of parole, pardon or escape.
6. The descriptions of Hell and the Lake of Fire are symbolic.
7. Salvation is by _____ through _____ in Jesus Christ alone apart from baptism, works, church membership or anything else.
8. Members of other religions can be saved if they are sincere in their faith.
9. One who is saved must keep his salvation by abiding in Jesus Christ.

10. A true believer will abide in Jesus throughout his life although he may stumble from time-to-time.
11. If a true believer dies in a backslidden state he will be saved.
12. Not everyone who claims to be saved and profess faith in Jesus Christ are truly born from above.
13. Reading, studying, memorizing and meditating on Scripture every day is important for pastors and Bible teachers, but not the average believer.
14. Parents are not responsible for teaching the Bible to their children. That should be left to the church that has trained pastors and Bible teachers.
15. Every believer should know how to study and teach the Bible.
16. Every believer should know what his spiritual gifts are and should be using them.
17. The commands to make disciples of people in all nations, and to preach the Gospel to everyone on Earth was given to the Apostles, pastors and evangelists. It was not given to every believer.
18. Every true believer in Jesus Christ is a *disciple*.
19. List the eleven things a true *disciple* does every day or on a regular basis
20. If one does not read the Bible daily can his prayers become an abomination to God?

INTRODUCTORY QUIZ

ANSWERS

1. Everyone is conceived and born in sin. (**True**) (Psalm 51.5)
2. No one seeks God apart from His drawing a person. (**True**) (Psalm 14.1-3; 51.1-4; John 6.44; Romans 3.11)
3. Those who die in their sins get a second chance to be saved. (**False**) (Hebrews 9.27)
4. Everyone who dies in their sins will be cast into the Lake of Fire. (**True**) (Revelation 20.11-15)
5. Those who are cast into the Lake of Fire are punished through all eternity with no hope of parole, pardon or escape. (**True**) (Matthew 25.46; Revelation 14.9-11)
6. The descriptions of Hell and the Lake of Fire are symbolic. (**False**)
7. Salvation is by **grace** through **faith** in **Jesus alone** apart from baptism, works, church membership or anything else. (**True**) (Romans 4.3-9; 11.6; Ephesians 2.8-9)
8. Members of other religions can be saved if they are sincere in their faith. (**False**) (John 14.6; Acts 4.12)

9. A believer must keep his salvation by abiding in Jesus Christ. (**False**) (John 5.24; 6.37-40; 10.28-29; Romans 8.38-39; 1 John 5.11-13)
10. A true believer will abide in Jesus throughout his life although he may stumble from time-to-time. (**True**) (John 15.1-8)
11. If a true believer dies in a backslidden state he will be saved. (**True**) (John 5.24; 1 John 5.11-13)
12. Not everyone who claims to be saved and profess faith in Jesus Christ is truly born from above. (**True**) (Matthew 7.13-14, 21-23; Luke 13.24)
13. Reading, studying, memorizing and meditating on Scripture every day is important for pastors and Bible teachers, but not the average believer. (**False**) (Deuteronomy 17.19; Acts 17.11; 2 Timothy 2.15; Deut. 6.6; Psalm 1.2)
14. Parents are not responsible for teaching the Bible to their children. That should be left to the church that has trained pastors and Bible teachers. (**False**) (Deuteronomy 6.6-7)
15. Every believer should know how to study and teach the Bible. (**True**) (Dt. 6.6-7; Prov. 6.20; Acts 17.11; 2 Tim. 2.15)
16. Every believer should know what his spiritual gifts are and should be using them. (**True**) (Romans 12.6-8; 1 Cor 12.8-10)
17. The commands to make disciples of people in all nations and preach the Gospel to all nations was given to the Apostles, pastors and evangelists. It was not given to every believer. (**False**) (Matthew 28.19-20; Acts 1.8)

18. Every true believer in Jesus Christ is a *disciple*. (**True**)
(Acts 6.1-2)
19. List the eleven things a true *disciple* does every day or on a regular basis:
1. Pray throughout each day.
 2. Listen to Scripture.
 3. Read Scripture.
 4. Study Scripture.
 5. Memorize Scripture.
 6. Meditate on Scripture.
 7. Fellowship with the brethren.
 8. Worship YAHWEH.
 9. Share the Gospel.
 10. Be discipled.
 11. Make disciples.
20. If one does not read the Bible daily can his prayers become an abomination to God? (**Yes!**) (Proverbs 28.9)

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

Follow this course at your own pace. Go as far as you can.

XI. Memorize as many verses as you can and do the meditation exercises (p. 21).

Completed _____

XII. Learn how to do an exegetical study (p. 29).

Completed _____

XIII. Do exegetical studies of the sanctification passages (p. 33).

Completed _____

XIV. Do exegetical studies of the misunderstood passages (p. 35).

Completed _____

XV. Start exegetical studies of books (p. 39).

Completed _____

GROW UNTO A MATURE MAN (Part One)

Every believer in Jesus Christ was saved to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8.29) by growing unto a mature man (Ephesians 4.13) so we can perform the good works which God prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2.10).

The only way to grow unto a mature man or woman is to be in prayer and the Word daily and to be discipled. Complete Steps 11 through 15 in this book and then go on to *Discipleship 401*.

Discipleship is the key to living a holy life that will bring glory to God. If you truly want to serve God faithfully be discipled and then disciple others. Keep making disciples until you are called home or the Rapture. Use the books in this series or some other book(s), but make disciples in all the nations (Matthew 28.19-20) starting in your neighborhood.

STEP ELEVEN

MEMORIZING AND MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURE

Memorizing and meditating on Scripture is the most important activity any believer can engage in. Prayer is extremely important but if a believer prays a great deal and rarely memorizes and meditates on Scripture his prayers become an abomination to God:

He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, even his prayer is an abomination. (Proverbs 28.9)

Prayer warriors read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture a great deal. A prayer warrior is a student of the Bible.

If a new-born believer spent a great deal of his time praying and he never studied Scripture he would not grow spiritually. Spiritual growth and faith comes primarily through reading, studying, memorizing and meditating on Scripture. Our faith also grows through trials, tribulations and hardships, but mainly by the intake of Scripture:

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. (Romans 10.17)

To grow in faith and become a spiritual adult one must memorize Scripture and meditate on It. One form of meditation is to study Scripture. Another form is to memorize a verse or

passage and then think about it. Just think and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding. You can also ask questions about the passage or verse. You will gain fantastic insights into Scripture when you meditate on It.

Remember, the key to understanding Scripture more than any Bible teacher, preacher, pastor and theologian is to meditate on Scripture:

I have more insight than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. (Psalm 119.99)

Anyone can have greater understanding than all of the giants of the faith if they memorize and meditate on Scripture more than those giants. The only ones you cannot have more understanding of Scripture are those who meditate on Scripture more than you do. Keep in mind that memorizing Scripture is commendable, but without daily meditation on Scripture it will only produce knowledge of the Bible. There are millions of believers around the world who have great knowledge of Scripture, but very little understanding and wisdom. There are even millions of non-believers who have greater knowledge of Scripture than the average believer, but they do not have much understanding and wisdom. “*Knowledge makes arrogant*” (1 Corinthians 8.1). Yet if one meditates on Scripture he will be given understanding and wisdom.

Memorization Exercise

Exercise One

Set up your spiritual fitness program and increase the amount of time you spend in prayer and Scripture. Start your memorization program with the basic salvation verses. Then memorize the verses suggested below or choose your own. Try to memorize one verse per week. If you cannot memorize all of them memorize as many as you can.

1. Salvation – Matthew 25.46; Mark 8.36-37; John 1.12; 3.16, 36; 14.6; Acts 4.12; Romans 3.23; 5.8; 6.23; 10.9-10, 13, 17; 2 Cor. 6.2b; Ephesians 2.8-9; Hebrews 9.27; Revelation 20.15.
2. Eternal security – John 5.24; 6.37; 10.27-29; 20.31; 1 John 5.10-13.
3. Blessed hope – 1 Thessalonians 4.16-18; Titus 2.13; 1 John 3.2-3.
4. Holiness/Sanctification – Psalm 119.11; Proverbs 8.13; Romans 3.3-5; 12.1-2; 1 Corinthians 10.31; 2 Corinthians 6.14-18; Galatians 5.13-26; Philippians 3.7-10; James 1.2-5; 1.12-17; 2.1-8; 4.1-10; 1 Peter 1.13-19; 2.15-16; 1 Peter 2.11-21; 1 Peter 4.1-4; 2 Peter 1.5-11; 1 John 2.15-17.
5. Humility – Romans 12.16; Phil. 2.1-5; James 4.6-10.
6. Love – Rom. 12.9; 1 Cor. 13.1-13; 1 John 3.16-18.
7. Peace – Philippians 4.7.
8. Prayer – Matthew 7.7; John 14.13-14; 1 John 3.22; 5.14.
9. Prosperity – Psalm 1.
10. Protection – Psalm 23.
11. Spiritual warfare – Ephesians 6.10-18.
12. Strength – Isaiah 40.29-31; Ephesians 3.16; Phil. 4.13.
13. Sufficiency – Philippians 4.19.
14. Temptation – 1 Corinthians 10.13.
15. Tongue – James 3.1-18.

It will take you almost three years to memorize the above 139 verses if you memorize one verse a week. Stay with it and review them daily.

Meditation Exercises

We are commanded to meditate on Scripture “*day and night*” (Joshua 1.8). True disciples of YAHSHUA “*delight in*

the law of God” and they meditate on His Word “*day and night*” (Psalm 1.2). These exercises are designed to help you meditate on Scripture.

Exercise one

Pick a favorite verse and spend some time just thinking about it. Write down what comes to you. After you have spent ten minutes or more doing this – meditate on that verse or passage asking the following questions and write down your answers:

1. What doctrine(s) is found in this passage?
2. What message is being conveyed to me?
3. How should the message change my life?
4. What does YAHWEH want me to do?

Passages to meditate on:

Psalm 1	Psalm 23
Psalm 37.1-11	Psalm 119.9-16, 97-104
Proverbs 1.1-7	Proverbs 2.1-12
Proverbs 3.1-12	Proverbs 3.13-18
Proverbs 6.16-19	Proverbs 8.32-36
Isaiah 43.10-12; 44.6	Isaiah 52.13-53.12
Isaiah 55.6-11	Isaiah 65.17-25
Jeremiah 1.4-12	Jeremiah 17.5-11
Matthew 5.1-12	Matthew 5.13-16
Matthew 5.38-48	Matthew 6.9-13
Matthew 6.19-34	Matthew 7.1-5
Matthew 12.1-8	Matthew 28.19-20
John 1.1-14	John 6.32-40
John 8.31-36	John 10.1-15
John 10.27-30	John 14.1-6
John 14.13-18	John 14.23-27
John 15.1-6	John 15.7-14
John 15.15-21	John 16.7-11
John 17.15-23	John 21.19, 22

Romans 3.10-18	Romans 5.1-5
Romans 6.1-23	Romans 8.28-30
Romans 9.10-24	Romans 12.1-2
Romans 12.9-16	Romans 12.17-21
1 Corinthians 13.1-13	2 Corinthians 5.17-21
2 Corinthians 6.14-18	2 Corinthians 9.6-15
2 Corinthians 11.23-33	2 Corinthians 13.5
Galatians 5.13-26	Galatians 6.1-10
Ephesians 2.8-10	Ephesians 4.11-16
Ephesians 6.10-18	Daniel 10.13, 20-21
Philippians 2.2-8	Philippians 3.7-8
Philippians 4.4-9	Colossians 1.9-12
1 Thessalonians 4.13-18	1 Timothy 6.9-12
2 Timothy 2.15	2 Timothy 4.1-5
Hebrews 2.1-3	Hebrews 3.12-13
Hebrews 4.12-13	Hebrews 5.11-6.3
Hebrews 10.32-39	Hebrews 11.1-40
Hebrews 12.1-17	Hebrews 13.1-9
Hebrews 13.15-17	James 1.2-10
James 1.19-20	James 1.22-27
James 2.14-20	James 3.1-18
James 4.1-12	James 4.13-17
1 Peter 1.13-16	1 Peter 2.20-21
1 Peter 3.1-9	1 Peter 5.5-10
2 Peter 1.5-9	2 Peter 1.4-11
1 John 1.6-10	1 John 2.8-11
1 John 2.15-17	1 John 2.27-29
1 John 3.15-24	1 John 5.10-14
Revelation 20.11-15	Revelation 21.1-7; 22.1-5

If you meditate on one of these 98 passages each week you will complete them in less than two years.

Exercise two

Choose a subject or topic and think about it. Write down the thoughts that come to you. Get your study Bible out and

write down several verses that deal with the subject. Meditate on each verse or passage and write down your thoughts about it. Note what you learned concerning this subject and how it affects your life.

Topics and passages to consider meditating on:

1. Grace (Romans 5.2, 15; 11.6; 12.3, 6; Ephesians 2.8-10).
2. Faith (2 Chronicles 20.20; Habakkuk. 2.4; Matthew 17.20; Luke 17.5; Romans 1.17; 10.17; Ephesians 6.16; Hebrews 11; James 2.17; 1 John 5.4).
3. Discipleship (Matthew 16.24; 28.19-20; Luke 14.26-33; John 15.8; 2 Timothy 2.2).
4. Prayer (Ephesians 6.18; 1 Thes. 5.17; 1 Timothy 2.1-4).
5. Study of Scripture (Deut. 17.19; 31.12; Isaiah 34.16; Hosea 6.3; John 5.39; Acts 2.42; 5.42; 17.11; Romans 15.4; 2 Timothy 2.15).
6. Fellowship of the brethren (Psalm 119.63; Prov. 13.20; Acts 2.42; 5.42; Hebrews 3.13; 10.24-25; 1 John 1.7).
7. Love of the brethren (Leviticus 25.35; John 13.34-35; 15.12-13; Romans 12.9, 13; 1 Thess. 3.12; 1 Peter 1.22; 1 John 3.16-18).
8. Love of all men (Leviticus 19.34; Proverbs 25.21; Matthew 5.43-48; Romans 12.17-21; Hebrews 13.2).
9. Hell and the Lake of Fire, and eternity (Psalm 11.6; 140.10; Luke 16.19-31; Matthew 25.41, 46; Romans 12.20; Revelation 14.9-11; 20.10-15; 21.8).
10. Humility (Proverbs 3.34; 15.33; Romans 12.3, 16; Philippians 2.3-5; James 4.6, 10; 1 Peter 5.5-6).
11. Giving (Exodus 25.2; Leviticus 25.35; Numbers 31.50; Deuteronomy 15.7; 16.17; Proverbs 3.9; 11.24-25; 19.17; 21.13; 22.9; 28.27; Ecclesiastes 5.13; 11.1; Isaiah 58.7; Matthew 5.42; 6.3; Luke 6.38; 12.33; Acts 11.29; Romans 12.13; 2 Corinthians 9.6-15; Hebrews 13.1-2; James 1.27; 1 Peter 4.9).
12. Rewards (Matthew 5.11-12; 25.23; Luke 6.35; 1 Cor. 3.12-15; 9.25; Ephesians 6.8; 2 Timothy 4.8; Hebrews 11.6, 26; James 1.12; Revelation 3.11; 22.12).

13. Sanctification (Leviticus 11.44-45; 19.2; 20.7; Matthew 5.48; Romans 12.1-2; 1 Peter 1.15-16; 1 John 5.21).
14. Spiritual warfare (2 Corinthians 10.3-5; Galatians 5.13-26; Eph. 6.10-18; 1 Thess. 5.8; 2 Tim 2.4; Heb. 4.12).
15. Suffering and persecution (Acts 5.40-42; Romans 8.17; Philippians 1.29; 3.10; 2 Thessalonians 1.5; 2 Timothy 1.8; 2.3, 9; 3.12; 1 Peter 2.20-21; 4.19).
16. Temptation (1 Corinthians 10.13; James 1.13-16).

For those of you who respect the opinions of famous pastors read what these three have said about memorizing Scripture:



“I am convinced that one of the greatest things we can do is to memorize Scripture.” **(Billy Graham)**



“Scripture memory is a habit that most Christians have never even tried, but getting your members to hide God's word in their hearts brings personal revival and renewal.” (Rick Warren)



“I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture...No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified.” (Chuck Swindoll)

STEP TWELVE

HOW TO DO AN EXEGETICAL STUDY

Every disciple should know how to do an exegetical study to be able to teach the Infallible, Holy Word of God accurately. Do the exercises and you will learn how to do a study.

The basic hermeneutical principle that should be adhered to with no variation is:

Take everything literally in context, unless the Scriptures say it is symbolic or unless it is physically impossible for it to be or to take place in a literal manner.

An example of how this principle works is found in Revelation 12:

*Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a **great red dragon** having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. And **his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth...** (Revelation 12.3-4a)*

There never has been nor will there be a literal dragon with seven heads and ten horns. Even if there were such a creature it could not sweep a third of the stars in space and cast them down to Earth. Therefore, the dragon and the stars are symbolic. In verse nine it says the Devil, who is called a “*great dragon*,” and his angels were cast down to Earth. We

can determine from this that the devil is the dragon and the angels are the stars.

We also know from Daniel 8.9-11 that the “*little horn*” (Antichrist) casts some of the stars of heaven down to Earth. These stars are fallen angels that joined the devil in his rebellion. We see that the Devil and the Antichrist together cast down angels to Earth. We know the “*little horn*” is the Antichrist because in verse eleven of Daniel 8 he claims to be equal to the “*prince of the host*” (Jesus Christ). In 2 Thessalonians 2.4 we see the Antichrist will claim to be “*God*.”

In Revelation 9 there are two separate groups of demonic creatures mentioned (9.1-11; 16-19). They are real and not symbolic. It is not impossible for there to be creatures as depicted in these passages. They do not do things that are physically impossible for a creature to do.

Another example is found in Revelation 3.12:

“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.”

Jesus promises to make all believers a pillar in the temple of His God. We know this is symbolic because it would mean no believer would ever be able to move through all eternity. That would be a nightmare. What good would New Jerusalem be if everyone in it was a pillar?

What is it symbolic of? It means that believers will have a permanent residence in New Jerusalem (John 14.2) and we will never be put out of New Jerusalem.

Will all believers have the name of the Father, the new name of the Son and New Jerusalem on our foreheads? It is physically possible to do this and it was done in the Old Testament and also in the Tribulation. One angel went through Jerusalem and put a physical mark on the foreheads of the righteous. Then six angels

of war followed and they killed every man, woman and child they came across who did NOT have a mark on their forehead (Ezekiel 9.1-11). The mark that believers will get when they arrive in New Jerusalem will not be one of protection but identification. There will be several groups of people who will have access to New Jerusalem:

1. Old Testament believers
2. New Testament believers
3. Tribulation believers
4. Millennial Kingdom believers

Yet of these four groups of believers only the New Testament believers are promised to have a dwelling in New Jerusalem (John 14.2). The mark on the forehead with the names of the Father, Son and New Jerusalem identifies New Testament believers as being residents of the city. The other three groups will have homes outside New Jerusalem on the new Earth. The other groups may have the name of the Father and the Son written on their foreheads, but not New Jerusalem. We are not told this in the Bible, but it is a logical deduction.

How to do a study

1. Determine who the message is being given to and why.
2. Determine if the message is literal or symbolic.
3. Determine the context (What is the subject).
4. Determine the dispensation the passage applies to and if the message is for us today or for only those of the Old Testament dispensation or for a later dispensation (Tribulation or Millennial and Eternal Kingdoms).
5. Find as many passages dealing with the subject as you can.
6. Put together the message of all the passages to determine the message.
7. Give clear statements far more importance than unclear statements.
8. Base the message of an unclear statement on a clear one.

For an example of an exegetical study see Step 15. Do exegetical studies of the following passages:

1. Zechariah 14.2; Luke 21.24; Revelation 11.2 (When will the times of the Gentiles cease?)
2. Matthew 7.21-23; Luke 13.24; 2 Corinthians 13.5 (Explain if it is possible for a person who thinks they are saved and are serving the Lord to not be saved.)
3. Matthew 12.22-32 (Explain what the blasphemy of Holy Spirit is.)
4. 1 Thessalonians 5.1-6 (Explain what the “*day of the Lord*” is; what will happen prior to it; and if believers will be here when it comes.)
5. 2 Thessalonians 2.1-3 (Explain what “*the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him*” is. Explain what “*that day*” in verse 3 is, and what two things take place before that day.)
6. Revelation 20.1-3 (Explain whether or not a literal angel takes a literal chain to bind the devil, and if the devil is cast into a bottomless pit.)
7. Revelation 21.10-22.5 (Explain whether or not the description of the New Jerusalem are literal or symbolic and why.)

STEP THIRTEEN

EXEGETICAL STUDIES OF SANCTIFICATION PASSAGES

Do an exegetical study of the following sanctification passages:

Romans 5.3-5
Romans 6.6-18
Romans 12.1-3
Romans 12.9-21
1 Corinthians 13.1-8
Galatians 5.13-26
Ephesians 4.22-32
Ephesians 5.1-12
Ephesians 6.10-18
Philippians 2.1-5
Philippians 3.7-10
James 1.2-8
James 1.12-17
James 3.1-18
James 4.6-10
1 Peter 1.13-19
1 Peter 2.11-21
1 Peter 3.8-17
1 Peter 4.1-4
1 Peter 4.12-19
2 Peter 1.5-11
1 John 2.15-17

STEP FOURTEEN

MISUNDERSTOOD PASSAGES

Do an exegetical study of these misunderstood passages:

Old Testament

1. Genesis 3.16 – Explain whether Eve was cursed to desire to have Adam rule over her or if she was cursed to be ruled over by Adam and that she would hate it and want to usurp his authority over her.
2. Genesis 22.17; 24.60 – Explain what the “*gates of his enemies*” are.
3. 2 Samuel 7.10-16 – Explain what the prophecy is all about and what place God would appoint for Israel to move to and dwell there. At the time of this prophecy the Hebrew people were living in Israel. Where did the Hebrew people move to where they lived in peace and had rest from their enemies? Also explain who sat on the throne of King David (1 Kings 2.4; Psalm 89.29, 36; Jeremiah 33.17) from the time that the last king of Israel, Zedekiah, was deposed by Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 25.1-7; 2 Chronicles 36.11-23) until today.
4. Isaiah 3.12 – Explain whether or not women should be equal to men in the secular world and be able to hold any position, including political office, judge, police, soldier, etc.

5. Isaiah 19.19 – Explain what the altar and the pillar are that will be in the midst of Egypt.
6. Ezekiel 35.10-15; 36.5 – Explain when Edom took possession of the land of Israel and when they were judged or will be judged.
7. Malachi 3.10 – Explain whether or not this promise is a promise to the local church of the Church Age and what the promise is.
8. Zechariah 14.2 – Explain when this happens.

New Testament

1. Romans 5.12-14 – Explain whether or not the death that Adam brought was only to people or to all living things.
2. Romans 8.26-27 – Explain if the intercession by the Holy Spirit is audible or not and what that means for some denominations.
3. Romans 12.19-20 – Explain if a Christian is kind to one who harms him the result will be greater punishment for that person or none at all.
4. 1 Corinthians 2.9-10, 16 – Explain whether or not it is possible to know what God has prepared for those who love Him.
5. 1 Corinthians 11.20-34 – Explain whether or not the warning is to be careful of the manner of partaking of communion or if one must be living a holy life to take it.
6. 1 Corinthians 14.34 – Explain whether or not women can speak in a worship service and give biblical reasons.

7. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 – Explain what specific event takes place in the twinkling of an eye.
8. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 – Explain if we are commanded here to take every thought we have captive to Christ or something else.
9. 1 Timothy 2:9-15 – Explain whether or not women can teach men in a church or home Bible study and if they can be a pastor.
10. Revelation 3:20 – Explain whether or not this passage is talking about salvation or fellowship with Jesus.
11. Revelation 4:10 – Explain whether or not all the saints cast their crowns at the feet of Jesus or just the 24 elders.
12. Revelation 11:2 – Explain when the “*times of the Gentiles*” are fulfilled comparing this with Luke 21:24; Romans 11:25.

STEP FIFTEEN

EXEGETICAL STUDIES OF BOOKS

Start with the General Epistles (James through Jude) in the New Testament, and then do the smaller epistles of Paul (Galatians through Philemon), and finally the larger ones (1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans and Hebrews last). Those two letters are the most complex and you will need much experience before you tackle them. You may also want to do some studies in the Psalms and Proverbs while working on the New Testament. You can do studies in any book of the Bible, but we recommend you start with the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs before tackling the remainder of the Old Testament. You can move on to Steps 16 through 19 while you are working on this step.

When you do exegetical studies do not use commentaries, systematic theology books or any helps, except those noted in Step One. Do your studies using the Bible as your only source relying on the Holy Spirit to teach you (1 John 2.27). Once you have completed your exegetical study you can then compare it with commentaries.

Example of an exegetical study of a book

True love of the brethren

(3.16-24) *We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the*

brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. 19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him 20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. 23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. 24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

(3.16-18) We know that Jesus loves us because He died for us. His death on the cross at the hands of wicked men was the ultimate act of love. Even though there may be times in our lives when we feel as though He does not love us we can look back at His sacrifice on the cross and know for certain that He always has, does and will love us. His love for us is not dependent on our feelings, obedience or faithfulness, but upon His faithfulness.

In the same way we are to love the brethren – with a pure love that is not based on their behavior, but on the faithfulness of Jesus. Since He is always faithful we should be too (2 Timothy 2.13; 1 Corinthians 10.13; 2 Corinthians 1.8; 1 Thessalonians 5.24; 2 Thes. 3.3; Hebrews 2.17; 3.6; 10.23).

Our love should be so strong that we are willing to die physically for the brethren. This is the greatest act of love (1 John 15.13). The opportunity to die for another does not come along very often, but we all have the opportunity to help the brethren regularly.

Anyone who claims to love the brethren should be eager to help them when they have true spiritual and physical needs. Those who fail to help their brothers and sisters do not have the love of God living in them – they are not walking in the SPIRIT. Their faith is dead (James 2.15-17) and they are backslidden – living in the flesh.

Obviously, if there is a sluggard among the brethren who refuses to work and is always in need you should not help him. Instead let him go without food (2 Thessalonians 3.10).

Instead of saying we love the brethren we should show it by our actions. If you rarely have the opportunity to help someone and you would like to become more involved, get to know more brothers and sisters. Once you become a friend they will let you know what their needs are.

(3.19-22) True love of the brethren is positive evidence that we are truly born from above and it gives us assurance in our walk with the Lord. When we sin and feel guilty for what we have done we should not go on a guilt trip. Instead we must understand that God knows we will sin from time to time and He has forgiven and cleansed us of all sins we have and will commit.

When we live a holy life we have greater confidence before God and can come boldly before the throne of grace. We also have confidence to make petitions when we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing to Him.

There are three basic ingredients needed before a believer can make a petition before God and expect it to be answered. They are: you must not be practicing sin or have committed a sin without repenting of it and asking forgiveness; you must obey the commandments that Jesus has given us in His Word; and you must live a life that is pleasing to Him.

The first two requirements are self-explanatory. It is the third requirement, to live a life pleasing to God that is controversial. Some argue they have liberty to do anything that is not forbidden by the Scriptures, but they miss the point of why we are here.

We are ambassadors of God (2 Corinthians 5.20). whose job it is to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and to teach them to observe all that Jesus has commanded us (Matthew 28.19-20). We are not to spend our time seeing how far we can go in “Christian liberty” before we cross the line. Instead we are to love God with all our heart, soul, might (Deuteronomy 6.5) and mind (Mark 12.29) and do everything to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10.31).

(3.23) The primary commandment that God gave us is to believe in His Son Jesus Messiah. We must obey that command before we obey any other. If a person tries to obey every command that God and Jesus have given mankind without believing in Jesus it is all in vain. No one can work their way into Heaven by obedience to the commandments of God. The only way to be saved, born from above, is to trust Jesus to save you. Once you have done that and are redeemed by the blood of Jesus (1 Peter 1.18-19; Revelation 5.9) you should keep the rest of the commandments starting with the second most important commandment, to love the brethren.

Even in the Old Testament dispensation the second commandment after loving God with all your being was to love your neighbor (Deuteronomy 6.4-5). We are to love the brethren first and then the wicked so we can lead them to Jesus.

(3.24) All believers who abide in Jesus as He commanded us to (John 15.4-7) do so by keeping His commandments. If you do not obey Him you are not abiding in Him and are in danger of being taken home early (John 15.2, 6). He abides in us no matter what we do. He does not leave us when we disobey Him for He said He and His Father would make their home in us (John 14.23). The Holy Spirit also lives in us and cannot leave us no matter how much we sin (Romans 8.9-11; 1 Corinthians 3.16; 6.19-20; 2 Cor. 5.5; 6.16; James 4.5). Jesus promised the other Helper will be with us forever (John 14.16).

All three members of the Trinity live in us and none of Them ever leave. If we lead a life of sin and refuse to repent They will

take us home early, but never leave us. You cannot lose your salvation for when you are born anew from above you passed out of death into life and were given eternal life (John 5.24). Eternal life is not eternal if you can have it taken away.



DISCIPLESHIP 401

The fourth book in the *Discipleship* series will show you how to do topical studies so you can study to show yourself approved to God (2 Timothy 2.15). To order your copy of *Discipleship 401* email the DOV Book Shoppe – dovbooks@yahoo.com

APPENDIX A

THE GOSPEL

The most important thing any person can ever do is know where he/she will spend eternity. The Creator of the universe said there are only two places where a person can go when he dies – Heaven or Hell:

Everyone is a sinner in need of salvation:

For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.
(Romans 3.23)

Those who die in their sins will be judged and suffer punishment in the Lake of Fire for all eternity:

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment. (Hebrews 9.27)

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal. (Matthew 25.46)

He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him. (John 3.36)

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20.15)

All the riches and pleasures of the world are not worth eternal punishment:

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mark 8.36-37)

Yet even though all have sinned, one can escape eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire, and have eternal life through Jesus Christ:

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in **Christ Jesus** our Lord. (Romans 6.23)*

Salvation is available to all because:

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ** died for us. (Romans 5.8)*

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. (Eph.1.7)

Belief in Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved:

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." (John 14.6)

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4.12)

Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone:

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. (Ephesians 2.8-9)

What must one do to be saved?

*That if you confess with your mouth **Jesus** as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved: for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. (Romans 10.9-10)*

If you believe God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, call upon Jesus Christ to save you right now:

*For “**WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.**” (Romans 10.13)*

Today is your day of salvation:

*Behold, now is “**THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,**” behold, now is “**THE DAY OF SALVATION.**” (2 Corinthians 6.2b)*

Receive Jesus today for you do not know what tomorrow may bring:

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. (John 1.12)

SHORT GOSPEL PRESENTATION

Everyone is a sinner in need of salvation:

For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3.23)

Those who die in their sins will be judged:

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment. (Hebrews 9.27)

Yet even though all have sinned, one can escape eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire, and have eternal life through Jesus Christ:

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in **Christ Jesus our Lord.** (Romans 6.23)*

Salvation is available to all:

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ** died for us. (Romans 5.8)*

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If you believe God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, call upon Jesus Christ to save you right now:

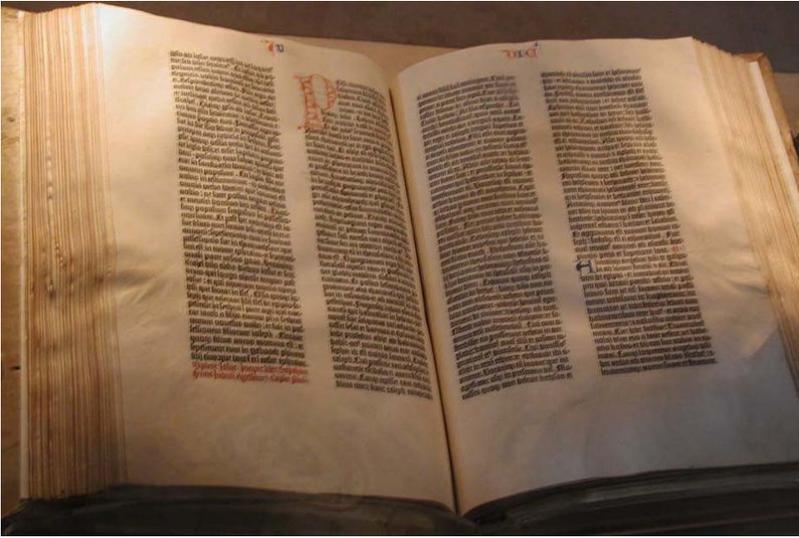
*For “**WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.**” (Romans 10.13)*



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