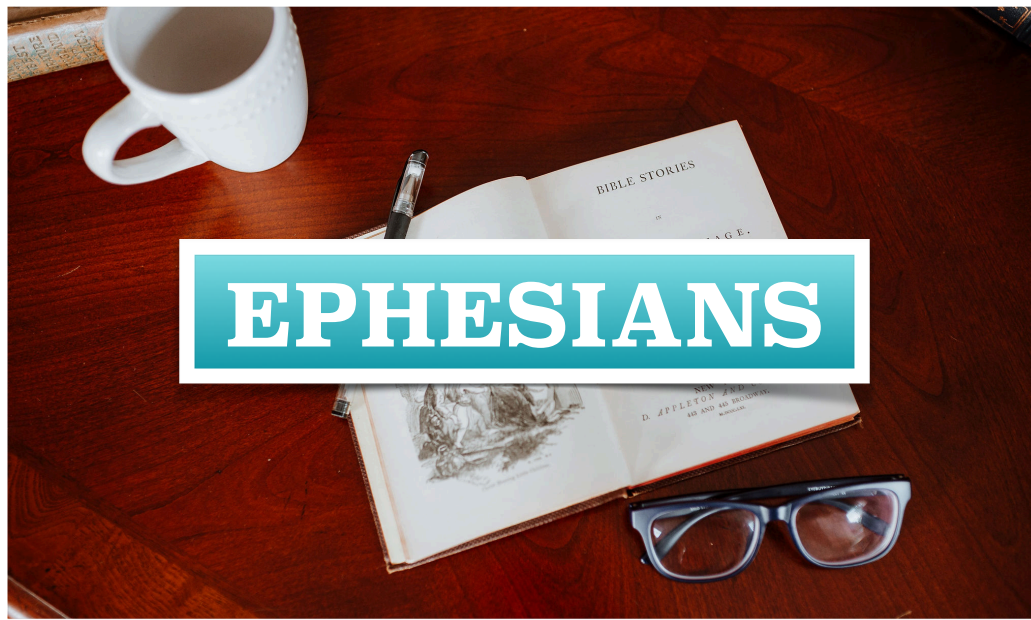


STUDY METHOD

How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts & Our Minds



During our study of God's word, it is important to remember these truths:

Let the Bible Speak of God

The Bible is not a book about me but a book about God (pp. 23-27).

Let the Mind Transform the Heart

The heart cannot love what the mind does not know. See 1 Kings 8:48-49, 1 Chron. 22:19, Isa. 26:3, 1 Cor. 14: 14-15, Luke 24: 44-45, Rom. 12: 2-3. (pp. 28-34)

1. Purpose

"From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is telling us about the reign & rule of God" (Wilkin 50).

Thus, it is good practice to keep in mind "the comprehensive explanation or guiding theme that illumines all other themes," i.e. the metanarrative, when we study God's word (53). In the case of the Bible, we will see the themes of creation, fall, redemption, & restoration throughout the Old & New Testaments (55).

2

PERSPECTIVE

Study the culture & historical perspective (Ch. 4).

3

PATIENCE

We are life-long learners (Ch. 5).

4

PROCESS

Comprehension, Interpretation, & Application (Ch.6) .

5

PRAYER

Before, During, & After Your Bible Study (Ch. 7).

When you are beginning a Bible study, these are the steps that you can take:

1. Pray

2. Perspective

- Who wrote it?
- When was it written?
- To whom was it written?
- In what style(s) was it written?
- Why was it written? What is the central theme of the book?

3. Read, Read, & Read Some More

Read (or listen to) Ephesians at least 2-3 times, not looking to understand all the details, but to gain a big picture of what is going on. This can be done by reading or listening to an audio Bible app.

4. Outline

Make an outline of the book to recognize the overall structure & purpose of the text. Focus on main points and supporting subsequent points. Since we are all still new to this practice, feel free to copy from the outline that is in your Study Bible's Introduction to Jude.

Then, you can mark up the text by using this study method:

1. Pray

2. Process

Comprehension (*What does it say?*)

Step 1: Read the specific passage 2-3 times

Step 2: Annotation

A. Repeated words, phrases, ideas

B. Attributes of God

C. Number points stated in a row

D. Mark words you don't understand with a ?

E. Connect transitions (if/then, therefore, likewise, but, because, in the same way, etc)

F. Write questions if an idea is confusing ()

Step 3: Use a dictionary for unfamiliar words

Step 4: Read another Bible translation (ESV, NASB, NIV, CSB, etc.)

Paraphrases like The Message or New Living Translation should only be consulted after careful study.

Interpretation (*What does it mean?*)

Step 1: Look up cross-references

Step 2: Paraphrase difficult ideas/passages after checking a dictionary, cross-references, and context

Seek 3: Seek reliable commentaries like the ESV Study Bible, NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible, blueletterbible.com, thebibleproject.com, podcasts like “Help Me Teach the Bible” or “The Naked Bible Podcast”

Application (*How should it change me?*)