

Personal Bible Study Lessons

Introduction

The purpose of this course of study is for you to find out what the Bible says about itself, not what people say about the Bible. There is no need for a commentary or other study tools. This is consistent with what Jesus himself said: "Search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." (John 5:39) Every person should search the Scriptures, but time and opportunity are often not available. The Bible can be an imposing and intimidating book to those not familiar with it. Many are bewildered as to how or where to start. These lessons address the main theme of the Bible - salvation. What does the Bible itself say about salvation?

During this study many questions may arise which are not covered by the lesson. Rather than be distracted by them, and be led away from the main theme, write those questions down for a later time. You might be surprised how they may very well become answered in the process of study. Never let that which you don't understand disturb that which you already know. As someone said, "It is not what I don't understand in the Bible that unsettles me, rather it is what I understand."

Instructions

A - - - **Read** the question carefully until you understand it.

B - - - **Look up** the Bible reference or references indicated in the question and read it slowly several times until its meaning is clear in your mind.

Example - - - A typical question might be:

"According to John 3:16, who does God love and want to save?"

Find the Bible reference by identifying the following three parts:

- ▶ Book - in this case, John (you can use the table of contents to find the page number of the beginning of each book in the Bible)
- ▶ Chapter - the first number after the name of the book, in this case, "3"
- ▶ Verse - each chapter is divided in verses, usually consisting of one or two sentences, and are identified by small numbers at the beginning, in this case, "16"

Use of a comma and hyphen in the Bible references indicate multiple verses:

John 3:16,17,20 means chapter 3, verse 16, 17, 20

John 3:16-20 means chapter 3, verses 16 through 20