

Bible Study Part 3

Rick Warren

I. Introduction.

- A. The key to good Bible study is asking the right questions.
- B. A thematic study is a limited topical study. The questions are limited because themes in the Bible are often expansive.

II. Steps.

- A. Choose a theme.
- B. List words related to the theme.
- C. Select the questions to ask with regard to the theme using a maximum of five questions.
- D. Answer the questions.
 - 1. List your references and then answer your questions in order.
 - 2. If your question is not answered in your study, change your question.
- E. Draw some conclusions.
- F. Write some personal, possible, practical and provable applications.

III. The Christian “mind.”

A. Questions.

- 1. What types of mind are described in the New Testament?
- 2. What am I to do with my mind?

B. How to think about the mind.

- 1. Our thoughts determine the way we feel. The way we feel determines how we act.
- 2. It is easier to think one’s way to an action than do one’s way to an action. Love is more than a feeling
- 3. The way to change one’s feelings is to change one’s thoughts. (Romans 12:2)

C. Five practical steps on how to change your life.

- 1. We must become a Christian. (Ephesians 6:17)

2. Put off the old thought patterns and put on some new ones. The mind is changed by filling it with the Word of God. (Ephesians 4:22-24, Psalm 119, Ephesians 5:26)

3. The mind must be transformed by rejecting the pattern of the world, replacing it with good thoughts, and reinforcing it. (Romans 12, Philippians 4:8, Romans 16:19, Joshua 1:8)

a. One should reject poison and “stuffing.”

b. Life change happens through constant meditation on the Word of God.

4. We must not slack in what we allow to enter our minds. (I Peter 1:13, II Corinthians 10:3)

5. Evil is to be replaced with good. (Romans 12:21)

Application questions:

1. What are the key steps to doing a thematic Bible study?

2. What role do predetermined questions play in this kind of Bible study? Why is limiting them so important?

3. What did you learn from the study of the Christian “mind?”
