

Bible Study Methods - Part 5

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Introduction.

- A. Analytical work is necessary in order to refine your synthesis.
- B. We will discuss this now.

I. Ransack the book.

II. Determine the structure of the book.

- A. Do this by means of paragraph organization.
 - 1. What is essential content of each paragraph?
 - 2. How do paragraphs relate?
 - 3. Move from parts to whole.
- B. First Peter 2:10 to 11 changes from salvation to submission.
 - 1. These changes are marked by key terms.
 - 2. Look for key terms.
- C. After observation I must move to analysis.
 - 1. I must confirm or change my initial impressions.
 - 2. The first two steps comprise the initial approach to synthesis but the remaining five steps confirm synthesis.

III. I want to teach the principles of chart making today.

- A. First Peter synthesis summary is important here.
 - 1. Communicators must multiply their ideas.
 - 2. You can tame an idea down but you can't pump one up.
- B. There are three major divisions in First Peter.
 - 1. Salvation occurs 3 times in the first section.

2. Submission occurs 6 times in the second section.
3. Suffering occurs 18 times in the third section.
 - a. Fortify suffering to saints by first emphasizing their salvation.
 - b. Suffering will not make sense outside of suffering.
 - c. There is a cause effect relationship here stating that suffering makes sense to the saint who submits to God.
 - d. Suffering comes before the crown.
4. I have labeled these three divisions in several different ways, but you will want to name them yourself.
 - a. The destiny of the Christian is salvation.
 - b. The duty of the Christian is submission.
 - c. The discipline of the Christian is suffering.
 1. The first section is our relationship with God.
 2. The second section is our relationship with others.
 3. The third section is our relationship to circumstances.
 - i. The first is our beliefs
 - ii. The second is our behavior.
 - iii. The third is our buffet.
 - a. Relationship.
 - b. Responsibility.
 - c. Rejoicing.
 - d. We move from the propositional to the personal.
 - e. Two Scriptures I have included here:
 1. Jesus prays that Peter's faith fail not, and charges him to strengthen his brethren when he is converted. (Luke 22)

2. Jesus asked Peter “Do you love me.” (John 21:15-17)

3. First Peter is an epistle that shows how Peter did not fail and that he loves Jesus.

C. Dr. Hendricks takes questions here.

1. He discusses how Peter moves from general to specific back to general.

2. Scripture does not always make logic sense on an initial reading.

3. You must analyze each book, and even James has a great argument if you analyze it carefully.

4. The more I know about a subject the easier it is to synthesize.

5. If I have only a superficial understanding of something my synthesis will be lacking.

D. Chart making has three types.

1. Horizontal, that I use primarily when I synthesize

a. I use this to get the sweep of a book.

b. It is broad.

c. Studying Nehemiah I can divide paragraphs according to each paragraph.

2. Vertical, that I use to analyze.

a. I use this to look more closely at a text.

b. It is narrow and helps me to focus.

c. Studying Acts 1:8 I use a vertical chart to zero in on the text.

3. A grid chart is used for topical study.

a. Mark 4:35-5:44 is the miracle section of Mark.

b. Storm, legion, woman with issue of blood.

c. Now I include the things I want to compare.

1. People. The people who should have believed Jesus had no faith, while the poor believed in him.
 2. The means Jesus used. I observe that Jesus used simple means to achieve profound results.
 3. Results.
4. Charts have value.
- a. Personal.
 1. They are valuable to you.
 2. A mist in the pulpit is a fog in the pew.
 3. If you want people to bleed you must hemorrhage.
 4. Your enthusiasm must be contagious.
 - b. For others.
 1. They help me boil down theology for others to understand.
 2. The Four Laws booklet is deep but clear.
 - i. Many people have learned to share Christ with others by using the Four Laws.
 - ii. Many people have become fruitful in this way.
 3. Charts are tools to aid education.
 4. People who study the word of God in serious manner experience changed lives.
 5. I have a summary of the Old Testament done by seminary students.
 6. I have a chart of the Gospel of John by a man in China.
 7. I have a chart on Genesis and Jeremiah.
 8. I have a chart on spiritual life.

9. I have a chart on the Reformation.
10. I have a chart on the Pentateuch.
11. I have a chart on Jeremiah done by a landscape architect.
12. If you have artistic ability you can do much with charts.
13. There is no limit to what you can do.

c. Suggestions for chart making.

1. Make excessive use of color.
 - i. I am praying that the Navigators will create a communications department that will create visuals like these charts.
 - ii. Evangelicals are 5 to 15 years behind the world in communicating.
2. Make use of symbolism.
 - i. Identify cause and effect.
 - ii. Make up your own symbols for literary connections.
3. Make more extensive use of summarization.
4. Make more extensive use of art.
 - i. Cartoons can be effective. I used Peanuts cartoon ideas to communicate ideas.
5. Some suggested books.
 - i. Independent Bible Study by Irving Jensen.
 - ii. Methodical Bible Study by Robert Traina.
 - iii. The Joy of Discovery by Wald.
 - iv. Creative Bible Teaching is another helpful book.