

EXEGESIS OF THE EPISTLES

Donald Townsley

1. "EXEGESIS" means: A critical explanation of a portion of Scripture.

I. RULES

1. By whom, and to whom, was the epistle written?
2. The circumstances of the writer.
 - (1) Where he was when he did the writing?
 - (2) The time of the writing.
 - (3) His surroundings.
 - (4) Why he wrote.
3. The circumstances of the party addressed.
 - (1) The place they lived.
 - (2) Their surroundings.
 - (3) Their problems.
4. Break the book down into its general sections.
 - (1) This is done by distinguishing the several leading topics in the book.
 - (2) This requires reading the book several times.
5. Learn the meaning of the words used in the book.
 - (1) By Lexicons
 - (2) Bible Dictionary
 - (3) English Dictionary

II. THE SUBJECT METHOD OF BIBLE STUDY

Introduction:

1. There are two principle methods of study for the average Bible student.
 - (1) One is the intensive study of a book.
 - (2) The other is the study of a subject or topic.
2. Each method has its advantages:
 - (1) The book method gives us an understanding of the text, and helps us avoid interpreting Scripture out of context.
 - (2) The subject method gives us a comprehensive view of a given topic which one might be very slow to acquire by the book method.
3. The subject method consists simply in gathering all the Bible teaches on a given topic, studying it carefully, and then organizing it.
 - (1) A Bible and a concordance are essential.

SUBJECT METHOD

1. Step One: Select the Subject
 - (1) Many kinds of topics lend themselves to this method.

(2) Examples:

1. Persons, Paul, Moses, Jesus. . .
 2. Commands -- Baptism, repentance . . .
 3. Principles -- Inspiration
 4. Church
 5. Sin
2. Step Two: Collect Bible references.
 3. Step Three: Study the Bible references.
 4. Step Four: Organize your findings; outline.
 5. Step Five: Apply.