

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

The textbook has been divided into three main sections.

Section I — Introduction to Research

Section II — Tools for Research

Section III — Methods of Research

This course has been designed to assist the Bible student in developing his research skills.

SECTION I is to be read and received as a challenge to study and to become the best communicator of the Scriptures possible.

It sets in outline form the various Methods and Principles of Bible Research.

SECTION II sets out fifteen reference books that may be used as “tools”. These study aids have been selected as being basic to Bible study and as representing major areas of Bible Research. The design, purpose and use of each book is explained, followed by its respective Workshop Assignments.

SECTION III sets out “methods” of study, each being explained and demonstrated. The student will find these to be keys that will unlock the meaning of Scriptures to him.

The joy of discovery comes, not only through KNOWING THE KEYS but in the USING OF THE KEYS!

HOW THIS COURSE ORIGINATED

After lecturing for some years in Portland Bible College, Bible Temple, Portland, Oregon, U.S.A., several students about to graduate came with questions, and out of the discussion came several very challenging statements.

We get so much good information and so much material from the various teachers, but when we graduate, we still do not have the “keys” as to how to study the Bible for ourselves. How can we avoid becoming “*an echo*” of others and become “*a voice*” for God?

The end result was that time was given, first on a personal basis, providing these “keys” that opened the Scriptures. In due time a course was developed among the Faculty and this became an important part of the College curriculum. This course (*Bible Research*) has been a tremendous blessing and inspiration to many students and more especially, to ministers and potential leaders in the U.S.A., as well as Australasia. It is in the using of these keys that there comes the great joy of discovery.

It will be found that the same keys, if they are right keys, will work for anyone. It matters not whether they are called to ascension-gift ministries of evangelist, teacher, apostle, prophet or pastor. Elders, deacons or teachers of any level and age-group in the Body of Christ can use these keys. Each will develop according to their place in the Body of Christ but the same keys will work for anyone who sincerely desires to understand and communicate the Word of God.

“*Methods and Principles of Bible Research*” is a course consisting of a twofold approach. i.e., Instruction Classes where the student is “*taught the keys*”, and Workshop

Assignments where the student will “*use the keys*”. By this twofold approach the student experiences the joy of discovery for himself.

Fundamental and foundational, yet inter-twined with “*Principles of Biblical Research*” is the twin course on “*Principles of Biblical Interpretation*”, or Hermeneutics.

Kevin J. Conner and Kenneth P. Malmin spent two years in research and in the production of a textbook on Hermeneutics. Their opinion, generally speaking, is that Bible-believing Christians are united in accepting the facts of revelation and of inspiration. However, the problem is not over *revelation* and *inspiration* so much as it is over *interpretation* and *application* of the Scriptures.

The authors believe that the Lord Jesus Christ gave to the apostles definite “keys” of Biblical interpretation. It was out of a burning desire to rediscover what might be called “Apostolic Hermeneutics” that this textbook was written.

The textbook, “*Interpreting the Scriptures*” (Conner/Malmin) has a separate Work-Assignment Course that will be of great profit to the student who desires to work at his own pace through the course.

These twin courses above are so closely related that the student will find that he can hardly do one without doing the other.

Of course, the greatest approach is that of Instruction Classes where the student is “*taught the principles*” and Workshop Assignments where the student can “*apply the principles*”.

The alternative is that the student can set his own pace of study through both Textbook and Workbook.

The textbook is strongly recommended in conjunction with this present course.

CHALLENGE AND CHARGE TO STUDY

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing — rightly handling and skilfully teaching — the Word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15. Amplified New Testament.

According to this verse from the Amplified New Testament, the believer is challenged:

- * TO STUDY —
- * TO BE EAGER OR DILIGENT —
- * TO DO HIS UTMOST TO PRESENT HIMSELF TO GOD, APPROVED, TESTED BY TRIAL —
- * TO BE A WORKMAN UNASHAMED —
- * TO CORRECTLY ANALYZE —
- * TO ACCURATELY DIVIDE —
- * TO RIGHTFULLY HANDLE —
- * TO SKILFULLY TEACH THE WORD OF TRUTH

These Scriptures also present a challenge to study God’s Word.

John 5:39, Proverbs 25:2, Deuteronomy 29:29, Acts 17:2–3, 11, Job 28:1–2