

Bible Studies

Exegetical Bible Study Methods

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This curriculum is designed to teach you how to study the Bible with the tools a good pastor would learn to use in a top level seminary.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible is a collection of books in various literature forms, written over a 1500 year period to people 2000 years ago; it speaks to history, and it speaks to our inner soul. To get the most out of our reading and teaching, we must learn to use the tools needed to dig out these precious prospects. This is called the science and art of *Exegetical Method*.

What is *Exegetical*, *exegesis*, *so...*what? *Exegesis* or the *Deductive Approach* to Bible study simply means "to lead out" or "draw out," extracting objectively, in a systematic study, what a text is actually saying to its original intended readers in their language, culture, and setting before we can discover what it means. In practice with the Bible, it is finding the true meaning of the passages of Scripture from word meanings and context. It is a tool and a discipline which enables us to get more out of what we read, so we can see a text in its background and then gain a better grasp of it by knowing the intended meaning, rather than just what we want it to mean. As a tool, it is an examiner and a detective that interviews a passage in a comprehensive, extensive, and serious manner. This enables a better understanding of the Bible that helps draw out more of the meaning for our personal understanding and spiritual growth. In this way, we can better internalize a passage for our personal conviction and explain it better to others, too. In other words, *I want to know Him and His Word, what He is saying to me.*

The Exegetical method or *exegesis* does not mean going to a passage with a presupposition, idea, or agenda and looking for it, although sometimes in preparing a topical study, one may do this. However, it is always, always best to go to the passage to look for what it actually says and not what we want to find. We never want to try to get from the passage what is not there, and then think we have found something. This is what the cults and false teachers do!

Why should I bother with this? Because, we can gain so much more from His Word, precepts, and call if we just desire to take the time to learn more of His Word. No serious Bible student wants to be naïve or wants things boiled down to only the basic, simple, non-convicting bullet point; we want meat and depth that can be applied to life and taught to others as God has called. Exegetical Bible study is learning how to systematically analyze and apply the Bible for all its worth with our best efforts. You can be a person who is skilled in learning His Word, something that must be done before engaging in teaching people the Word. If we do not know how to dig out the meaning and then apply it to our own lives, how can we ask others to do it for their lives?

There is also a counteraction by some who cry "foul" to Exegetical study, saying it

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The word "method" comes from the Greek word methodos, which literally means "a way or path of transit." Methodology in Bible study is therefore concerned with "the proper path to be taken in order to arrive at Scriptural truth."

[The Inspiration, Inerrancy, and Authority of the Bible](#)

Biblical inspiration may be defined as God's superintending of the human authors so that, using their own individual personalities (and even their writing styles), they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in the words of the original autographs.

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