

## **The Purpose of Bible Study—What Does a Church Leader Seek to Accomplish in Personal Bible Study?**

**By Bob Young**

As church leaders, teachers and preachers, our Bible study easily gets “off track.” When our Bible study process gets off track, our lessons and sermons get off track. What is required of those who would seek to explain the message of the Bible? How does one preach a certain text, seeking to communicate the message of the text?

Understand the organization, structure, outline of the biblical book

Be able to analyze the book, using grammar, syntax, parallel forms, vocabulary

Avoid dividing natural paragraphs, 1 Cor. 12, 2 Cor. 6

Understand the content when you read, be able to understand the Bible, what it says and what it means

Understand the themes or topics of the books of the Bible

For example, when we teach or preach certain themes, what passages are most applicable?

Preach the Bible, do not preach the concordance

Christian ministry, 1 Tim, 2 Tim, Titus, **2 Cor.**

False teaching, false teachers, Matt. 15, 2 Tim. 3, other passages, **2 Cor.**

Instructions on the offering, read 1 Cor. 16 or **2 Cor.**

Be able to explain the message (in a general way)

Be able to explain difficult verses or passages

Be aware of the content so you can identify preaching and teaching themes, understand valid applications

Read and study the text in context

“Right doctrine, wrong text”

Be aware of the content so you can use the text in context for illustration and cross-references

Be aware of the value of language studies for giving clarification