



**Northeast
Regional**

Ministry Training Centre

Digging for Silver in the Word Student Workbook

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Digging for Silver in the Word General Course Outline

COURSE OBJECTIVE: For many years, much of the focus in the Church has been on teaching believers *what* to think, not *how* to think for themselves. As a result, many know what they believe, but they don't know why they believe it! Our objective in this course is to deepen the student's ability to study the Scriptures for himself, which will in turn increase his ability to "rightly divide the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). A believer who has mined the treasures of Scripture for himself will be one who walks in personal revelation (Ephesians 1:17-21), will not be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14), will be able to try the spirits (1 John 4:1), and will not easily be led astray by deceptive teaching or the doctrines of men (Matthew 24:24; Mark 7:6-8). He will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. (Psalm 1:3) He will be a person of great faith, as faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word (Romans 10:17). He will be filled with life (Deuteronomy 8:3), continually cleansed (John 15:3), a disciple of Jesus (John 8:31), resistant to sin (Psalm 119:11; 1 John 2:14), and confidently guided through the snares of the evil one (Psalm 119:105). He will know *why* he believes *what* he believes, being able to give reason for the hope that is within him (1 Peter 3:15) and able to overcome the enemy (Matthew 4:1-11). In short, the most formidable enemy to the deceiver of the brethren, is a believer who knows the Scriptures for himself!

- **Week 1 - The Bible is the Word of God!**
- **Week 2 - Benefits and principles of systematic Bible study**
- **Week 3 - Methods of Study - to include:**
 - synthetic study
 - inductive study
 - exegetical study
 - word studies
 - character studies
 - topical studies,
 - cultural and historical study
 - type studies
- **Week 4 - Study tools and resources**
- **Weeks 5 and 6 - Principles of Bible interpretation**
- **Week 7 - Types, shadows, emblems, and symbols**
- **Week 8 - Knowing the Word by personal revelation**

The Word

The Word is:

1. The Word of the Lord - to reveal (1 Thessalonians 4:15)
2. The Word of the Lord - to inspire (Colossians 3:16)
3. The Word of the Gospel - to gladden (Acts 15:7)
4. The Word of reconciliation - to communicate (2 Corinthians 5:19)
5. The Word of salvation - to deliver (Acts 13:26)
6. The Word of grace - to invigorate (Acts 20:32)
7. The Word of faith - to assure (Romans 10:8)
8. The Word of truth - to arm (2 Corinthians 6:7)

It is:

1. Holy in its nature
2. Powerful in its utterance
3. Living in its composition
4. Pure in its character
5. Righteous in its structure
6. Christ-honoring in its revelation
7. Separating in its tendency
8. God-glorifying in its aim
9. Inspiring in its working
10. Consecrating in its influence

As that Word lives in and operates through us, we shall be:

1. Holy in nature
2. Powerful in utterance
3. Living in God's purpose
4. Pure in heart
5. Righteous in action
6. Christ-honoring in life
7. Separate from evil
8. God-glorifying in conduct
9. Inspiring in service
10. Consecrated to God

Digging for Silver in the Word The Bible is the Word of God!

The vision of our spiritual life will be in exact proportion to the place held by the Bible in our life and thoughts. I solemnly state this from the experience of fifty-four years.... The first three years after conversion I neglected the word of God. Since I began to search diligently the blessing has been wonderful. I have read the Bible through 100 times, and always with increasing delight. Each time it seems like a new book to me.... I believe that the one chief reason that I have been kept in happy useful service is that I have been a lover of Holy Scripture. It has been my habit to read the Bible through four times a year; in a prayerful spirit, to apply it to my heart, and practise what I find there. I have been for sixty-nine years a happy man; happy, happy, happy.... Great has been the blessing from consecutive, diligent, daily study. I look upon it as a lost day when I have not had good time over the word of God.

George Muller

I. What the Scripture says about itself

A. _____ by God

B. _____ by men

C. Under the _____ of the Holy Spirit

D. To _____ Jesus Christ

E. It is _____

F. It is _____

G. What is meant by plenary-verbal inspiration?

1. Plenary -

2. Verbal -

3. Literally _____

H. The Testaments

1. Contrary to popular belief, Jesus didn't come to _____
_____ with the Old Testament!

2. Some New Testament writers acknowledged other portions of the New Testament as Scripture -

3. Neither Testament can be fully understood without a general knowledge of the other:

New is in the Old _____

Old is in the New _____

New is in the Old _____

Old is in the New _____

New is in the Old _____

Old is in the New _____

II. Authorship

A. About _____ different writers, spanning about _____ years -
_____ generations

1. Different _____

2. Different _____

3. Variety of _____

B. All fit together to _____, with no contradiction about the central figure - the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

C. _____ books in all - _____ Old Testament, _____ New Testament.

D. Written in _____ languages

1. _____ for the oldest - Job

2. _____ for most of the Old Testament.

3. _____ for the New Testament.

III. Extra-Biblical Evidence

A. Manuscript accuracy

B. Law of Compound Probabilities

IV. Canonicity - what makes it Scripture?

A. _____!

B. Guidelines for determining the canon

1. Does it show a clear “_____?”
2. Was it written by _____ intimately associated with a named apostle?
3. Was it _____, collected, preserved, distributed, and read by God’s people either in the Old Testament period or New Testament period?
4. Do its contents and message _____ with the standards of sound biblical teaching?
5. Does it possess a dynamic, life-transforming _____ which has a universal impact upon men?
6. Was it endorsed and accepted by _____ of believers, such as the early church fathers? Is there a consistent prevailing witness of the overwhelming majority of the church concerning a book’s divine inspiration?

V. The Origin of the English Bible

VI. Translations vs. Paraphrases

A. What makes it a “Translation”

1. Attempt to keep as literally _____ as possible
2. Agreed upon by a _____

B. Interpretive translations

1. More interested in communicating _____ than “word for word”

C. What is a Paraphrase?

1. Saying something in _____ than the original author used.