

“How to Enjoy Your Bible,” No. 5

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by W. S. Sadler

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Source for “How to Enjoy Your Bible,” No. 5

- (1) R. A. **Torrey**, *How to Study the Bible for Greatest Profit: The Methods and Fundamental Conditions of the Bible Study That Yields the Largest Results* (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1896)

Key

- (a) **Green** indicates where a source author first appears, or where he/she reappears.
- (b) **Yellow** highlights most parallelisms.
- (c) **Tan** highlights parallelisms not occurring on the same row, or parallelisms separated by yellowed parallelisms.
- (d) An underlined word or words indicates where the source and the Sadlers pointedly differ from one another.
- (e) **Red** indicates an obvious mistake.

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Topical Method of Bible Study.

III: TOPICAL STUDY. (Torrey 57)

5.1 THE topical method of Bible study means a study of the Bible by subjects. To engage in this method you will need the following books:

5.2 (1) Either Strong's or Young's Concordance; (2) Smith's Bible Dictionary;¹ (3) some topical text-book, Johnson's for instance.²

5.3 By this method of study, you will learn how to make your own Bible readings; how to prepare truth fresh from the Bible to teach to others.

It is said of Mr. Moody, that many years ago he took up the study of “Grace” ... Day after day he went through the Bible, studying what it had to say about “grace.” As the Bible doctrine unfolded before his mind his heart began to burn, until at last, full of the subject and on fire with the subject, he ran out on to the street, and, taking hold of the first man he met, he said: “Do you know grace?” “Grace who?” was the reply. “The grace of God that bringeth salvation.” ... If any child of God will study “Grace,” or “Love,” or “Faith,” or “Prayer,” or any other great Bible doctrine, his soul too will become full of it (T 58).

Take some subject such as Faith, Grace, Truth, Life, or Death

and look them up in these reference books, getting all your scriptures together, arranging them, classifying them, rearranging them, grouping them, and regrouping them, and so after a few hours' study of this kind, you will have a splendid Bible reading, prepared on the subject in hand. Save it. Some time when you are re-studying that same subject, revise it, improve it, and thus preserve the fruits of your Bible studies. They will be useful to you some day when you wish to refer to them.

5.4 Let us take for instance, the subject of Death, and associated with death, would be “die,” “dead,” “grave,” etc. Turning to our concordance, we gather an interesting collection of scriptures; then we can arrange into a Bible-reading. I will select some on the subject of death, and while space will not permit them to be quoted here, I will give references, and the reader can group them together into a Bible-reading.

[*Note:* These references are neither in book order or subject order. Further, a few of them don't contain the words “die,” “dead,” or “grave.” It is difficult to see how Sadler could have gleaned these references from a concordance in the order presented here.]

5.5 Gen. 2:17; Rom. 6:23; I Thess. 4:13; Ps. 13:3; Job 14:12-15; Ps. 6:5; Isa. 38:13; Ps. 115:17; Ps. 146:4; Eccl. 9:5, 6, 10; Job 17:13-16; Acts 2:29; Acts 2:34; I Thess. 4:14-16.

5.6 Each Sabbath afternoon, as you take up your Bible to study, instead of reading it merely in a desultory sort of fashion, take pencil and paper, and dig out truth on some special subject. Here is a list of subjects that might be studied to great profit; and you can think of many more:

5.7 Conversion, Repentance, Justification, Forgiveness, Grace, Holy Spirit, End of the World, Angels, Prayer, the Overcomer, etc.

SOURCE

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5.8 After having studied out one of these subjects in this way, it will be impressed upon your mind, so as always to be available for use when dealing with others, and unfolding the Bible to those who are searching for truth.

5.9 To do original study along this line, do not search for texts to prove merely points you already have in mind, but get together all you can in the Bible on that subject; then, by classifying, and arranging and studying them, you will learn new truths which the Bible teaches on that topic, and new views will come to you of the old truths. In this way you will be able to find out more and more what the Bible teaches.

1. Smith's *Dictionary of the Bible* is a source book for Part IV (“The Life and Teachings of Jesus”) of the Urantia Book.

2. I have not been able to identify “Johnson’s” topical textbook. *Johnson’s Universal Cyclopædia: A New Edition*, an 8-volume encyclopedia published in 1898-1899 by the Johnson Publishing Co., is not a topical Bible textbook. At the time of Sadler’s writing, popular topical Bible textbooks included *Nave’s Topical Bible* and R. A. Torrey’s *The New Topical Text Book*. Torrey recommends Inglis’ *The Bible Text Encyclopedia* as “[i]ncomparably the best Bible text book” (p. 65).