

Lesson 9:

Comparative Bible Study

Effective Bible Study

2 Timothy 2:15

Read It, Explain It, Apply It

Lesson Summary: Psalm 119:160 says, “The sum of your word is truth” (ESV). This means that God’s word is true in each of its individual parts. When studying a passage of Scripture, it is extremely important to determine whether the Bible gives more information about that passage elsewhere in Scripture. This is called comparative Bible study.

Three Benefits of Comparative Bible Study:

1. Comparative Bible study argues for the inspiration of Scripture.

- Embalming materials (John 19:39; Genesis 50:3, 26; 37:25)
- Where did Philemon live? (Colossians 4:9; Philemon 2; Colossians 4:17)

2. Comparative Bible study explains the meaning of certain words or phrases.

- Moses was “a beautiful child.” – Exodus 2:2; Acts 7:20; cf. Jonah 3:3 (ESVfn).
- Hate father, mother, and others?? – Luke 14:26; Matthew 10:37
- What does it mean to “repent... and turn back” (Acts 3:17, ESV)? – cf. Acts 2:38

3. Comparative Bible study often sheds more light on a particular subject in Scripture.

- Genesis 39:20 is further illuminated by the extra details in Psalm 105:18.
- Exodus 2:11 says that Moses grew up. How “grown up” was he? – cf. Acts 7:23
- What is represented by the thorny soil (Matthew 13:23)? – cf. Mark 4:19; Luke 8:14
- What does it mean that Barabbas was a “notorious prisoner” (Matthew 27:16)? – cf. John 18:40; Mark 15:7; Luke 23:19; John 19:12
- How did Judas purchase a field with the wages of iniquity (Acts 1:18)? – Matthew 27:3-8



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