



THE ACADEMIC PROCEDURE FOR THOSE MINISTERING THE WORD OF GOD

The success of Word ministry is the product of **Three** factors:

1. **Grace**, through the agency of the Holy Spirit, to illuminate men's minds and hearts to understand the things of God.
2. **Insight**, into the human dilemma, by means of living, observation, and love.
3. **Information**, relating to Biblical knowledge.

Much insight can and does take place on the basis of general observations from the Scripture, but, much more relies upon systematic, accurate interpretation by means of solid research.

The purpose of this class is to provide insight & tools for the preparation of a message.

ACADEMIC ELEMENTS THAT ARE ESSENTIAL:

I. The Ability to **Study**.

The individual minister must possess certain mental qualities that enable the study process to reach the desired goal of something to say.

- a. He must value the place that his **Mind** plays in sermon preparation.
- b. His mind must be being **Renewed**. Rom.12:2
- c. He must possess a **Sound Mind**. 2 Tim.1:7
- d. He must diligently **Develop** his abilities to accumulate and synthesize information.
2 Tim.2:15
- e. He must be **Intellectually** Honest. Rom.12:3

II. The Ability to **Interpret**.

The Word of God was originally given to men in a world much different than our twentieth century environment. When God communicated to them it was done in such a way that they understood what was being said. A problem arises, however,

when modern man reads the words of the Bible, tries to understand what they mean, and yet lacks the **Frame of Reference** that they had.

The following chart demonstrates the gaps man often has in understanding the Bible and the world in which it was given.

	GAPS	
	2,000 - 6,000 Years	
	1. Linguistic	
Biblical Writers	2. Cultural	Modern Interpreters
	3. Geographical	
	4. Historical	

To help bridge these gaps, there are available many study aids to inform the diligent student. The following list contains suggestions of books in each of the areas above. They range from basic information to very specialized subject matter. For the sake of those having limited training, space, and finances the books are arranged in order of what might be better to purchase first so as to provide the basic materials initially and then develop in specialization and difficulty from there.

THE LINGUISTIC GAP:

Concordances:

1. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (Abingdon). For those who study from the KJV Bible.
2. Zondervan's Exhaustive Concordance (Zondervan). For those who study from the NIV Bible.
3. The NASB Exhaustive Concordance (Thomas Nelson). For those who study from the NASB Bible.
4. New Englishman's Greek Concordance (Baker)
5. New Englishman's Hebrew & Chaldee Concordance (Baker)
6. Young's Analytical Concordance (Eerdman's)

Lexicons:

1. Greek - English Lexicon, Arndt & Gingrich (University of Chicago Press)
2. New Thayer's Greek - English Lexicon (Baker)
3. Hebrew - English Lexicon, Gesenius (Baker)
4. Analytical Greek Lexicon (Zondervan)
5. Greek - English Lexicon, Liddell & Scott (Oxford)

Word Studies:

1. The Expanded Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, John R.

- Kohlenberger III (Bethany House)
2. Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, Harris, Archer, Waltke (Moody)
 3. Dictionary of New Testament Theology, Colin Brown (Zondervan)
 4. Linguistic Key to the Greek New Testament, Rienecker & Rogers (Zondervan)
 5. Word Studies in the New Testament, M.R. Vincent (Eerdman's)
 6. Expositor's Greek Testament, W. Robertson Nicoll (Eerdman's)
 7. Word Pictures in the New Testament, A.T. Robertson (Broadman Press)
 8. Christian Words, Nigel Turner (Nelson)
 9. Synonyms of the Old Testament, R.B. Girdlestone (Eerdman's)
 10. Synonyms of the New Testament, R.C. Trench (Eerdman's)
 11. Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek, Bruce Metzger (Theological Book Agency, Dist.)
 12. Grammatical Insights into the New Testament, Nigel Turner (T&T Clark)
 13. Syntax of the Moods and Tenses, E. Burton (T&T Clark)
 14. Figures of Speech Used in the Bible, E.W. Bullinger (Baker)
 15. The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament, Moulton & Milligan (Eerdman's)
 16. Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Kittel, Ed. (Eerdman's)

Grammars:

1. New Testament Greek for Beginners, Machen (MacMillan)
2. Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament, Dana & Mantey (MacMillan)
3. Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew, J. Weingren
4. Grammar of the Greek New Testament, A.T. Robertson (Broadman Press)

THE CULTURAL GAP:

1. The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times, Gower (Moody Press)
2. Manners and Customs of the Bible, J. Freeman (Logos International)
3. Harper's Encyclopedia of Bible Life, Miller, Miller, Bennett, Scott (Harper & Row)
4. Sketches of Jewish Social Life, A. Edersheim (Eerdman's)
5. Life and times of Jesus the Messiah, A. Edersheim (Eerdman's)
6. Insights into Bible Times and Customs, Weiss (Moody)
7. Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus, Jeremias (Fortress Press)
8. All the Holy Days and Holidays of the Bible, H. Lockyer (Zondervan)
9. All the Trades and Occupations of the Bible, H. Lockyer (Zondervan)
10. The Bible and Archaeology, J.A. Thompson
11. Ancient Israel, R. DeVaux (McGraw Hill)
12. The Temple, A. Edersheim (Eerdman's)
13. Eerdman's Handbook to the World's Religions, (Eerdman's)
14. The Land and the Book, W.M. Thompson (Harper & Brothers)

Bible Dictionaries:

1. The New Bible Dictionary, M.C. Tenney (Zondervan)
2. Unger's Bible Dictionary, (Moody)
3. Pictorial Bible Dictionary, M.C. Tenney (Zondervan)
4. International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, (Eerdman's)
5. Bible Dictionary, Smith (Holt, Rinehart, Winston)

Biblical Interpretation:

1. Interpreting the Scriptures, Conners & Malmin (Bible Temple Press)
2. Biblical Hermeneutics, Terry (Zondervan)
3. The Protestant Biblical Interpretation, Ramm (Baker)

THE GEOGRAPHICAL GAP:

1. The Oxford Bible Atlas, (Oxford Press)
2. The Wycliffe Historical Geography of Bible Lands. Pfeiffer & Vos (Moody)
3. All the Animals of the Bible Lands, G. Cunsdale (Zondervan)
4. Geography of the Bible, D. Baly (Harper & Brothers)
5. The MacMillan Bible Atlas, (MacMillan)

THE HISTORICAL GAP:

1. New Testament History, F.F. Bruce (Anchor)
2. Survey of Israel's History, L. Wood (Zondervan)
3. New Testament Times, Tenney (Eerdman's)
4. Jerusalem in the Times of Jesus, Jeremias (Fortress)
5. The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, A. Edersheim (Eerdman's)
6. Old Testament Bible History, A. Edersheim (Eerdman's)
7. The Archaeology of Cities in Western Asia Minor, Yamauchi (Baker)
8. Archaeology and the Old Testament, Unger (Zondervan)
9. The Archaeology of the New Testament, Unger (Zondervan)
10. The Works of Flavius Josephus, (Kregel)
11. Bible Archaeology, G.E. Wright (Westminster Press)
12. General Bible Introduction, H.S. Miller (Word Bearer Press)
13. Bible Survey, Wm Hendriksen (Baker)
14. The Books & The Parchments, F.F. Bruce (Pickering & Inglis)
15. Introduction to the Old Testament, E.J. Young (Eerdman's)
16. Introductory Guide to the Old Testament, Unger (Zondervan)
17. Introduction to the New Testament, Thiesen (Eerdman's)
18. Introduction to the New Testament, Vols., Zahn (Kregel)
19. New Testament Survey, Tenney (Eerdman's)
20. The Progress of Doctrine in the New Testament, Bernard (Pickering & Inglis)

Commentary Sets:

1. Keil & Delitzsch, Commentaries on the Old Testament, (Eerdman's)
2. The Pulpit Commentary, 23 Vols., (Eerdman's)
3. New Testament Commentary, (Baker)
4. Commentary on the New Testament, R.C.H. Lenski (Augsburg)
5. Cambridge Bible for Schools & Colleges, 54 Vols., (Cambridge University Press)
6. The New International Commentary on the New Testament, Set, (Eerdman's)

Commentaries by Books:

GENESIS:

1. Exposition of Genesis, Leupold (Augsburg)
2. Commentary on Genesis 2 Vols., Candlish (Zondervan)
3. Genesis, A Devotional Commentary, W. Griffith Thomas (Eerdman's)

EXODUS:

1. The Expositor's Bible (Exodus), Chadwick (Eerdman's)
2. The Devotional Commentary (Exodus), F.B. Meyer (Christian Literature Crusade)
3. The Gospel in the Hebrew Tabernacle, Priesthood, & Offerings, Miller (The Word Bearer Press)
4. The Tabernacle of Moses & David, Kevin Conner (Bible Temple Press)
5. Made According to Pattern, Slemmin (Van Kampen Press)
6. The Holy Vessels & Furniture of the Tabernacle, Soltau (Kregel)

LEVITICUS:

1. The Expositor's Bible (Leviticus), Kellog (Eerdman's)

NUMBERS TO ESTHER:

1. Consult commentary sets and books on Bible Characters by Whyte, Meyer and others.

JOB:

1. The Remarkable Record of Job, Henry Morris
2. Commentary on the Book of Job, Cox (London)
3. Cambridge Bible for Schools & Colleges, Davidson (Cambridge University Press)

PSALMS:

1. Cambridge Bible for Schools & Colleges, A.F. Kirkpatrick (Cambridge University Press)
2. Book of Psalms, Perowne (Bell & Daldy)
3. Treasury of David, Spurgeon - 8 Vols. (Zondervan)
4. Exposition of Psalms, Leupold (Augsburg)

PROVERBS:

1. Cambridge Bible for Schools & Colleges, Perowne (Cambridge University Press)
2. Laws from Heaven for Life on Earth, Arnot (Thomas Nelson)

ECCLESIASTES:

1. Exposition of Ecclesiastes, Leupold (Augsburg)

SONG OF SOLOMON:

1. Chords from Solomon & Song, Horton (Redemption Tidings Bookroom)
2. Song of Songs, Watchman Nee (Christian Literature Crusade)
3. Union and Communion, Hudson Taylor (Moody Press)

ISAIAH:

1. The Prophecies of Isaiah, Alexander, 2 Vols. (Scribner)
2. Studies in Isaiah, E.J. Young (Eerdman's)
3. Biblical Commentary on the Prophecies of Isaiah, Delitzsch (Eerdman's)

JEREMIAH:

1. Studies in Prophecies on Jeremiah, G.C. Morgan (Revell)
2. Jeremiah, Prophet & Priest, F.B. Meyer (Revell)

EZEKIEL:

1. An Exposition of Ezekiel, Fairbairn (The National Foundation for Christian Education)
2. Cambridge Bible for Schools & Colleges, Davidson (Cambridge University Press)

DANIEL:

1. The Prophecy of Daniel, Young (Eerdman's)
2. Daniel the Prophet, Pusey (Baker)
3. The Seventy Weeks & the Great Tribulation, Maure (Bible Truth Depot)
4. Daniel's 70 Weeks, Kevin Conner (Bible Temple Press)

MINOR PROPHETS:

1. The Minor Prophets, Laetsch (Concordia)
2. The Minor Prophets, Pusey, 2 Vols. (Baker)
3. Voices of Twelve Hebrew Prophets, Morgan (Pickering & Inglis)
4. The Expositors Bible (The Book of the Twelve Prophets), Smith

GOSPELS:

1. Gospel Records of the Message & Mission of Jesus Christ, Wieand (Eerdman's)
2. Notes on the Parables & Miracles, Trench (Eerdman's)
3. The Parables & Metaphors of our Lord, Morgan (Revell)
4. The Training of the Twelve, A.B. Bruce
5. Expository Thoughts on the Gospels, Ryle, 4 Vols. (Zondervan)
6. The Crises of the Christ, Morgan (Revell)
7. The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, Edersheim (Eerdman's)
8. The Life of our Lord upon the Earth, Andrews (Zondervan)
9. The Life of Jesus Christ, Stalker (Revell)

MATTHEW:

1. A Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew, Broadus (Harper & Row)
2. The Gospel According to Matthew, Morgan (Revell)
3. The Gospel According to Matthew, Lange (Scribner)

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT:

1. Studies in the Sermon on the Mount, Lloyd-Jones, 2 Vols. (Eerdman's)
2. An Exposition of the Sermon on the Mount, Pink (Bible Truth Depot)
3. New Order, Guy H. King (Marshall, Morgan, & Scott)

MARK:

1. The Gospel According to Mark, Morgan (Revell)
2. The Interpretation of St. Mark, Lenski (Augsburg)
3. The Gospel According to Mark, Swete (Eerdman's)

LUKE:

1. The Gospel According to Luke, Morgan (Revell)
2. The Interpretation of St. Luke's Gospel, Lenski (Augsburg)
3. A Commentary on the Gospel of Luke, Godet (Zondervan)
4. Commentary on the Gospel of Luke, Geldenhuys (Eerdman's)

JOHN:

1. Commentary on John, Westcott (Eerdman's)
2. Gospel of John, Hendriksen (Baker)
3. The Gospel According to John, Morgan (Revell)
4. The Interpretation of St. John's Gospel, Lenski (Augsburg)
5. Commentary on John, Snackenburg

ACTS:

1. The Acts of the Apostles, Morgan (Revell)
2. Acts of the Apostles, Alexander (Reiner)
3. The Acts of the Apostles, F.F. Bruce (Eerdman's)
4. The Acts of the Apostles, Raekham (Baker)

PAUL AND HIS EPISTLES:

1. The Life and Epistles of St. Paul, Conybeare & Howson (Eerdman's)
2. The Life and Work of St. Paul, F.W. Farrar (Dutton)
3. The Life of St. Paul, Stalker (Revell)
4. The Cities of St. Paul, Ramsay (Baker)

ROMANS:

1. Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans, Hodge (Eerdman's)
2. Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans, Godet (Zondervan)
3. The Epistle of St. Paul to The Romans, Moule (Zondervan)
4. The Epistle to the Romans, Murray (Eerdman's)
5. Romans, 3 Vols., Griffith Thomas (Eerdman's)

I CORINTHIANS:

1. Commentary on St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, Godet (Zondervan)
2. The Corinthian Letters of Paul, Morgan (Revell)
3. Commentary on First Corinthians, Hodge (Eerdman's)
4. Commentary on the First Epistle to the Corinthians, Grosheide (Eerdman's)

II CORINTHIANS:

1. Commentary on Second Corinthians, Hodge (Eerdman's)
2. The Second Epistle to the Corinthians, Denney (Expositor's Bible)

GALATIANS:

1. St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians, J.B. Lightfoot (Zondervan)
2. Galatians, Hendriksen (Baker)
3. Commentary on Galatians, Martin Luther (Eerdman's)
4. The Epistle of Paul to the Churches of Galatia, Ridderbos (Eerdman's)
5. The Epistle to the Galatians, Findlay (Expositor's Bible)

EPHESIANS:

1. The Book of Ephesians, Miller (The Word Bearer Press)
2. Commentary on the Epistle to the Ephesians, Hodge (Eerdman's)
3. Ephesians Studies, Moule (Zondervan)
4. St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians, Westcott (Eerdman's)

PHILIPPIANS:

1. Exposition of Philippians, Hendriksen (Baker)
2. Philippians Studies, Moule (Zondervan)
3. St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians, J.B. Lightfoot (Zondervan)
4. Joy Way, Guy King (Christian Literature Crusade)

COLOSSIANS & PHILEMON:

1. The Epistles of St. Paul: Colossians & Philemon, J.B. Light foot (Zondervan)
2. Colossians Studies, Moule (Revell)
3. Colossians & Philemon, Hendriksen (Baker)
4. Christ Pre-eminent, Griffith Thomas (Moody Press)

5. Crossing the Border, Guy H. King (Christian Literature Crusade)

I & II THESSALONIANS:

1. I & II Thessalonians, Hendriksen (Baker)
2. The Epistle to the Thessalonians, Denney (Expositor's Bible)

PASTORAL EPISTLES:

1. Timothy & Titus, Hendriksen (Baker)
2. Commentary on the Pastoral Epistles, Fairbairn (Zondervan)
3. A Leader Led, Guy H. King (Marshal, Morgan, Scott)
4. The Second Epistle to Timothy, Moule (Baker)
5. To My Son, Guy H. King (Marshal, Morgan, Scott)

HEBREWS:

1. The Epistle to the Hebrews, Westcott (Eerdman's)
2. The Epistle to the Hebrews, Davidson (T&T Clark)
3. The Holiest of All, Andrew Murray (Randolph)
4. Hebrews, Thomas (Eerdman's)

JAMES & JUDE:

1. St. James & St. Jude, Plummer (Expositor's Bible)
2. The Epistle of St. James, Mayor (Zondervan)
3. Studies in the Epistle of James, A.T. Robertson (Broadman Press)

I & II PETER:

1. Tried by Fire (I Peter), F.B. Meyer (Marshal, Morgan, Scott)
2. The Epistles of Peter, Lumby (Expositor's Bible)
3. The Redeemed Family of God, Jowett (Hodder & Stoughton)
4. The Apostle Peter, Griffith Thomas (Eerdman's)

EPISTLES OF JOHN:

1. First Epistle of John, Candlish (Zondervan)
2. Fellowship in the Life Eternal, Findlay (Hodder & Stoughton)
3. The Epistles of John, Westcott (Eerdman's)
4. The Fellowship, Guy H. King (Christian Literature Crusade)

REVELATION:

1. Nothing particularly recommended.

BIBLE CHARACTERS:

1. Bible Characters, Alexander Whyte
2. Bible Biographies, F.B. Meyer (Revell)

III. The Ability to **Receive the Mind of the Lord.**

1. Topical Message?

- a. Various Scriptures surrounding a Theme.
- b. Exposition of a passage that embodies the Theme.

2. Verse by verse analysis of a book of the Bible?
3. What is God saying to you lately?

Many times your best topical messages will come from a sensitivity to what God is doing in your own life.

Note this principle in Ezekiel's life - Ezk.24:15-21

The preacher must learn to watch his own life experiences carefully. God often takes you through experiences so you will have a message that He wants you to have.

This is not meant to be a contradiction to what we have said earlier. It is unwise to preach to satisfy your own doctrinal preferences, but it isn't wrong to preach what God has been preaching to you so that you could pass it on to your congregation.

4. What is God saying to your nation?
5. What do you sense are the needs of your audience?

IV. The Ability to take the **Parts** and build the **Whole**.

A. The Process: Thesis, Analysis & Synthesis

1. THESIS - The Text or Texts that you will be studying.
2. ANALYSIS - The learning of the text by separating its significant parts and studying them respectively.
3. SYNTHESIS - The putting of the knowledge learned in Analysis into a new correlated whole which communicates the text effectively.

The following Chart illustrates this

THESIS	ANALYSIS	SYNTHESIS
TEXT	Word Studies	EXPOSITORY TEXT OUTLINE
	Historical/Cultural Significance	
	Contextual Significance	
	Geographical Significance	
	Prophetic Significance	

B. The Procedure:

1. THESIS - Choose your passage or passages.
2. ANALYSIS - Analysis of the text must be accomplished by means of a thorough comprehension of the text in its significant parts.
 - a. **Word Studies** - Study the *significant* words found in the text as to their Etymological (Historical/Cultural Usage), Grammatical, and Syntactical (Word and Clause relationships) significance.
 - b. **Historical/Cultural Significance** - Determine the historical events both Biblical and secular as well as the cultural setting surrounding the passage under consideration, such as customs and manners of the time that are relevant.
 - c. **Contextual Significance** - Identify the situation, the author's thought development, and problem, if relevant, within the context.
 - d. **Geographical Significance** - Learn the basic geographical significance, if relevant, regarding places within the text, (city, mountain, nation, etc.)
 - e. **Prophetic Significance** - Discover any symbolic usage of words in Scripture, persons, places or events within the text. Determine the nature of any typological or prophetic import within the text.
3. BRIDGE - The Bridge from:
 - a. The Analytical process of the text to the Synthetical process of the final outline is accomplished through the establishing of **Principles** of truth gleaned from the research.
 - b. These Principles are concisely reduced to one Theme which captures the central thrust of the text.
4. SYNTHESIS - The outline is generally constructed from the principles gleaned from the research of the text, yet woven together by the thread of the Central Theme. Each main point is in some way connected to or developing a principle that supports the Central Theme.