

University Heights Church
of Christ
445 Columbia Ave.,
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is
immediately followed by a
short worship period)

First Friday of Each Month

Singing: 7:30 PM

LEADERSHIP

Elders

Garry Banks
David Collins
John Thompson

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Troy Antle
Richard Brundige
Matt Thompson
Adam Litmer
Bill Morelan
Jim Parsons
Pat Seabolt
Adam Daniels
Jamie Powell

Adam's Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday (8:30-4:00)

The scriptures introduce Apollos in a very complimentary way. Acts 18:24-25 says, *He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John.* Now this glowing report was not given directly to Apollos, but he would have known about it not long after Luke was inspired to write the book of Acts and it began to be circulated among the churches. Apollos was not the kind of man to have received the information in a prideful way. Remember, he was the one who Priscilla and Aquila took aside and explained the way of God more accurately. He did not allow his eloquence and his fervor to stand in the way of growing in his knowledge and understanding of the will of God. Who can doubt that he graciously and humbly accepted compliments, striving all the while to be appreciative of them, encouraged by them, and motivated to continue to let his light shine before men that they might see his good works and give glory to God in heaven. And so should we.

NOTE—There will be an information meeting for the congregation today at 5.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Richard Brundige, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Tony Tyree, Andrew Westphal, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, Alleen Terrell, The Shadburne family, the McDonald family

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How I Study Scripture (4)

Adam Litmer

In the last article in this series I offered some tips and suggestions for making Bible study easier and more fruitful. In this article I will describe how I do topical (specific) study in Scripture. This is different than textual (general) study though every bit as important.

What's my topic?

Topical studies come about for different reasons. Perhaps someone asked a question that prompted it. Maybe reading the text caused me to desire a deeper understanding of a specific topic contained within. Whatever the reason I've chosen that particular topic, this is how I study it.

The process

1. **Set my goal.** I used to just go in determined to learn everything I could on a topic without stating specific goals. There's not anything wrong with that, though I find setting more specific goals for my study works best and keeps me more focused. Let's say my chosen topic is God's grace. My goal will be to learn the following: What is God's grace? Why is it important? How does God give it? How do I receive it? How does it impact my life? What does it require of me?
2. **Prepare my tools.** For a topical study I use my Bible (topical, such as Nave's, and regular), and notepad. I also keep resource material handy (lexicon, dictionary, concordance, etc.). I pray for wisdom before engaging in any study (James 1:5).
3. **Organizing the material.** I start by reading selected verses that mention my word specifically. Afterward, I'll move to passages that may not mention the word yet are clearly about it. As I do this I write verses down under the headings of my specific goals. There is a sense in which this is all part of the preparation phase. This is about organizing the passages on paper and in my

mind. It can easily take more than a single sit down to accomplish this depending on the subject under consideration. If you choose to incorporate these methods do not be intimidated by the sheer amount of information devoted to certain topics. You're not doing it wrong if it takes you days or weeks to get your organization done. I find my study to be significantly more efficient once organization has occurred.

4. **Carefully and prayerfully begin the study.** To the very best of my ability, I strive to approach God's information on the topic under consideration with absolute objectivity. As He describes the topic I use my notepad to write down my findings, further thoughts, continuing questions, as well as a chain reference to help me more quickly navigate this topic in my Bible. As with the organizational phase do not expect this to be completed in a single sitting. If it takes you a month or more to feel as though you grasp God's truth on a topic more fully than you did before it was a month well spent. Of course, the growth process lasts a lifetime so your understanding on this topic will increase ever further as you faithfully study God's Word.
5. **Avoid soundbites.** What is grace? Unmerited favor! I cringe when brethren state those two words as though the entirety of the topic can be properly explained by them. Why do I need God's favor? Why does God extend it at all? Why does it have to come from God? Why is it unmerited? Does it *have* to be unmerited? Must I do anything to receive it? Must I do anything *after* I've received it? Grace, along with pretty much every other great doctrine revealed by God, cannot be contained in a soundbite. It cannot be "nutshelled." God uses the entirety of His Book to answer all those questions and more. "Unmerited favor" is a phrase that leads to many more questions than answers and it is unwise to assume those who hear us use it know the answers to them. For that matter, they often do not even know the questions. It is not wrong to use such simple definitions provided we use them to begin a discussion, not end one.

That is how I do a topical (specific) Bible study. Remember to pray and use brethren you have confidence in to help you talk things out.

Some Complimentary Thoughts

John Thompson

Are you uncomfortable receiving compliments? Many people are uncomfortable and consequently do not receive them well. In my experience, some of the most humble people are the ones least skilled at hearing themselves praised. They do not do the things for which they are complimented in order to be praised. They find innumerable opportunities to serve because their very being resonates in perfect harmony with Philippians 2:3-4: *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.* And so, surprised when someone approaches them with a compliment, they fumble for a response which usually results in the one complimenting to repeat the compliment more vigorously.

The act of complimenting is one of those giving/receiving activities. A compliment well received gives back to the one doing the complimenting. A compliment graciously received communicates back to the one complimenting that his or her feelings of having been encouraged, uplifted, understood, etc. are legitimate feelings that now inspires him to recognize, by way of a compliment, the one who so benefitted them. Truly, a compliment graciously received is a gift to the one complimenting.

Have you ever noticed how complimentary the scriptures are of certain individuals who lived to please God? Consider Cornelius. Acts 10:1-2 says, *At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.* I don't know if any of those to whom he gave alms ever approached him complementing him for his generosity, but Luke was inspired to record God's own compliments of this Gentile who quickly became a Christian once he was taught the truth.

The Moabite woman, Ruth, received a very unanticipated compliment from Boaz, the man she later married. He said to her, *"All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. ¹² The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!"* (Ruth 2:11-12) Ruth's response is indicative of a well-deserved compliment well- received. She said, *"I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants."* (Ruth 2:13)

