How To Study the Bible. *Bible Class*

G. The Seventh Step In Bible Study Is To Identify The Immediate Context Of A Passage.

1. The word "context" is composed of two Latin elements, con ("together") and textus ("woven").
Therefore, when we speak of the context, we are talking about the connection of thought that runs through a passage, those links that weave it into one piece.
2. Finding the context of a passage is very important because it brings an understanding of the underlying thought of the passage. When we discover the context, we discover the thought that the writer had in mind.

3. How do you identify the immediate context of a passage?

a. Read the passage thoroughly from beginning to end and study it until you become familiar with its basic thought.
(1) The worst mistake a Bible student can make is interpreting a portion of a passage while neglecting the context.
(2) 1 Corinthians 5:6-7 "Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed."

If you read these two verses without looking at the context your initial interpretation may be that it is a sin to allow yeast to make its way into a batch of dough.

To understand the context of these two verses you must start reading and studying (5:1-13). A man in the church was having a sexual relationship with his father's wife. Paul told the church to disfellowship this man, so that his sin would not spread through the church and influence others.

The yeast in verse 6 is sin and the batch of dough is the church.

H. The Eighth Step In Bible Study Is To Conduct A Topical Study.

1. Once we determine what a passage is teaching, we should find out what other passages say about the same subject.
2. How can we find other passages related to a topic?
a. Use Bible study tools.

(1) 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
If you want to find out more about confession of sin, go to specific resources and look up the information.
Thompson Chain Reference Bible. Naves Topical Bible.
The International Bible Encyclopedia.

3. Once you discover what the Bible says about a *topic*, it will help you better understand the passage you are studying.

I. The Ninth Step In Bible Study Is To Conduct A Biographical Study.

1. In Bible study, when we come across names of characters, we should find out more about them.
2. How do we conduct a biographical study? Use a Bible Dictionary.

(1) Acts 10:1 "Now there was a certain man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment,"

Who is Cornelius?

According to The Unger's Bible Dictionary, Cornelius was a devout Roman proselyte, a Gentile introduced to the gospel of grace.

For us to truly appreciate Acts 10, we need to know that Cornelius was the Gentile convert--a significant theological implication.

We can learn a lot of information by conducting biographical studies.

J. The Tenth Step In Bible Study Is To Apply The Passage.

1. Once we have studied a passage carefully, it is then time to determine its application.
2. To apply a passage carefully, we need to ask several important questions.

**** Does this passage apply to me today? *****

(1) We need to realize that some passages are cultural in nature. Some passages do not directly apply to us today.
(2) 1 Timothy 5:23 "No longer drink water only, but use a little wine on account of **your** stomach, and **your** frequent illnesses."

Some people take this passage as a Bible command to drink wine.

Why do you think Paul told Timothy to drink a little wine?

Perhaps contaminated water had led to Timothy's illness and that is why Paul wanted him to stop drinking water only and drink a little wine.

This passage is not an invitation for us to drink wine. It is a passage that applied directly to Timothy and not us.

(1) Acts 19:1-7 "And it came about, while Apollos was in Corinth, that Paul, having gone through the interior regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit, having believed?" So they said to him, "We have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 But Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the One coming after him, that is, in Christ Jesus." 5 And when they heard this, they were **baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. 7 Now all the men were about twelve."

How would you apply this passage? To me, the example I would follow is that if you feel that your first baptism was not for the right reasons, then you should be re-baptized for the right reasons.

This passage gives an example of re-baptism.

(2) 1 Corinthians 7:29-35 "This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, 30 and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, 31 and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. 32 I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. 33 But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, 34 and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. 35 I say this for your own **benefit**, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord."

How would you apply this passage? Paul urges all believers to make the most of their time before Christ's return. Every person in every generation should have this sense of urgency about telling the Good News to others. Paul is saying, "Don't spend all your time and energy on your family.

Some of your time must be devoted to the Lord and His Will.