

B. Some Practical Steps ---just stated, not developed

1. Lay aside misconceptions:
 - the Bible is such a big book
 - the Bible is hard to understand
 - the language of the Bible is obsolete
 - the Bible requires too much technical knowledge for the average Bible reader.

2. Then, get a grip on language usage:
 - a. *Literal language* is the best understanding of most speech...it means the words used accurately describe the subject or action mentioned. Cooper's rule says..."When the plain words of Scripture make common sense, seek no other sense. Therefore take every word at its primary meaning unless the immediate context in the light of related passages suggests another meaning." Literal language does allow the use of speech figures and illustrations.
 - b. Other language expressions are allegorical (sometimes called "spiritual" or "mystical", typical, as well as letterism, a concreted form of literal language.
 - c. And read the Bible as you would any book for an initial encounter. Read it before coming to a deep study of it. Later you will want to read it meditatively and prayerfully remembering the truth of 1 Corinthians 2:9-16. Do not imagine you must master every word before going on, but read, pray, and look to the Spirit of God for help. Talk with others and share with them the blessing of your reading. There is a lot more to this but.....

II, Very quickly, What is the Bible?

A. The simple facts:

1. It is a book given by God through human writers led by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20, et al)
2. As such it is a history of God's work in creation, and of His establishing man in a relationship with Him and mankind in general while being a revelation of God's plan and work..