

dictionary, a Bible geography, a concise Bible commentary, and a small Bible Handbook. There is a wealth of this sort of material in every Christian bookstore in the country and in a few words I will try to explain the importance of each.

3. You will certainly need a notebook in which to keep track of your study. You may organize it by Bible book and chapter and in time you will really need several notebooks!
4. First read! Just read: Familiarize yourself with a biblical passage or book by reading it many times. You are ready to dig in when you have a good idea of the content of the whole portion in your consideration.

B. When you have done this the procedure is to adopt a very simple approach to the passage in which you notice carefully what the passage teaches in these three areas:

1. Teaching about God (Father, Son, Spirit)
2. Teaching about God and His people
3. Teaching about God's program and how we fit in.

You will need to jot these observations down and remember this is a beginning of the study not the total project.

C. There are some things related to interpretation you will need to discern and keep in mind. Here are a few simple things;

1. The Bible is not contradictory, all passages agree that discuss a common matter to the same end.
2. No Bible teaching is complete until all passages that relate to it have been consulted
3. More difficult passages are studied in the light of the more clear and obvious passages.
4. All passages must be studied in regard to context, both near and far and there should be an understanding of their historical/societal positions as well.
5. Be careful to observe all the features of language---and this is more of a problem than many of us realize...we do not know English well enough (in many cases) to distinguish adverbs from adjectives, let alone infinitives and participles! But the Bible student needs to see verbs,