

We have been studying this chapter in our brief work with regard to the study of the Bible and we have been viewing it analytically in a way that is practical as it tells about God, His relationship with His people, and His program. But many Bible readers prefer to study shorter segments: a verse, a thought expressed in a verse -maybe even half a verse--or a few verses, or an idea that arises in the passage. Of the latter I can say very little now. I think exposition is the best form of teaching and whether it is a single verse or a chapter seems to make little difference to me. But in working with a single verse one needs to keep some key things in mind.

II. Discussion:

- A. The verse must always be kept in its context...it is possible to make some outrageous interpretations if this is not true...and the immediate context is very important while the distant context (other passages that discuss the same general ideas) are also important.
- B. One must have a clear definition of every term in the passage in the Bible translation one is using. If the King James is used in verse 10, for example, one must know what is intended by "brethren", "same thing", "division", "joined together", "mind", and "judgment".
- C. One must ask significant questions about the text or idea in order to clarify the meaning; Example: Why should they speak the same thing? How can they do it---we are all different. What is wrong with schism? How can we be perfectly joined?
- D. One should reduce the passage or idea to the simplest\ thought expression possible but it must clarify the text and present a working aspect to faith or life. When this\\ is done the student will see that the worth of the Lord Jesus is such as to overpower my personality in order that I may completely loyal to Him
- E. One must then apply the concept or principle derived to one's students or hearers. No amount of study means much until it is shared.