

1

Why Study the Bible

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Two Myths | 13 |
| The Clarity of Scripture | 15 |
| The Problem of Motivation | 17 |
| The Biblical Basis for Bible Study | 19 |
| The Bible as Revelation | 23 |
| Theory and Practice | 25 |
| The Sensuous Christian | 27 |
| A Matter of Duty | 30 |

2

Personal Bible Study & Private Interpretation

| | |
|--|----|
| Martin Luther and Private Interpretation | 33 |
| Objectivity and Subjectivity | 37 |
| The Role of the Teacher | 40 |

3

Hermeneutics: The Science of Interpretation

| | |
|---|----|
| The Analogy of Faith | 46 |
| Interpreting the Bible Literally | 48 |
| Literal Interpretation and Genre Analysis | 49 |
| The Problem of Metaphor | 53 |
| The Medieval Quadriga | 54 |
| The Grammatico-Historical Method | 56 |
| Source Criticism | 57 |
| Authorship and Dating | 58 |
| Grammatical Errors | 60 |

4

Practical Rules for Biblical Interpretation

| | |
|---|----|
| Rule 1. Like Any Book | 63 |
| Rule 2. Reading Existentially | 65 |
| Rule 3. The Historical and the Didactic | 68 |
| Rule 4. The Implicit and the Explicit | 75 |
| Rule 5. The Meaning of Words | 79 |
| Rule 6. Parallelism | 85 |
| Rule 7. Proverb and Law | 89 |
| Rule 8. The Spirit and the Letter | 90 |
| Rule 9. Parables | 94 |
| Rule 10. Predictive Prophecy | 97 |

5

Culture & the Bible

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Cultural Conditioning and the Bible | 101 |
| Cultural Conditioning and the Reader | 104 |
| Principle and Custom | 106 |
| Practical Guidelines | 108 |

6

Practical Tools for Bible Study

| | |
|--|-----|
| Bible Translations | 113 |
| Annotated Bibles | 115 |
| The King James Bible | 116 |
| Commentaries | 118 |
| Concordances, Bible Dictionaries and Atlases | 119 |
| Foreign Translations | 120 |
| Bible Reading Program for Beginners | 120 |
| What about Greek and Hebrew? | 123 |
| Conclusion | 125 |
