

HELPS TO TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY

If you seriously want to involve in solemn Bible Topical Study (you may also study books or certain passages), then the following outlined resource will help you with that. It is important to determine study topics and then to mark each subject with a code.

Study Topic	Topic Code
Prayer	P
Hindrances to prayer	H2P
Scripture	SB
Faith	F
Unbelief	U
Forgiveness	FS
Law	LW
Grace	GC
Bible Study	BS
Mouth	MH
Tongue	TG
Sin	SN
Lawlessness	LL
Suffering	SF
Temptation	TMT
Trials/Tests	TT
Jesus Christ	JC
Divinity of Jesus	DJC
Humanity of Jesus	HJC
Prophecy concerning Jesus	PCJ
Work of Christ	WJC
The Cross	CS
Blood	BD
Devil	DL
Angels	AG
Heaven	HN
Hell	HL
Repentance	RP
Sorrow	SR
Confession	CF
Restitution	RS
The Holy Spirit	HS
Work of the Holy Spirit	WHS
Personality of the Holy Spirit	PHS
Gifts	GHS
Judgment	JM
Judgment of believers	JMB
Judgment of unbelievers	JMU
Church	CC
Deception	DT
Being deceived	BDT
Judge	JG
evangelism	EM
discipleship	DS
Study	SY

Jerusalem	JER
Prophecy	PPH
Israel	IS
Kingdom of God	KOG
Prophets	PHT
Pastors	PAS
Marriage	MAR
Divorce	DIV
Government	GOV
Nations	NS
Eschatology	ESC
Wisdom	WM
God's Will	GW
Guidance	GD
Qualifications	QF
Principles	PS
Conscience	CS
Worship	WS
Sanctification	SF
Holiness	HLS
ETC	

As you go through your Bible, (Topical Study) determine the topic in the passages that you go through. If you have determined a topic, then give that topic a code. You can also give it a sub division with a related code. Keep these codes ready to determine its relationship. As you go through each text, you can now write that text within a certain topic category and also put the code next to the text for cross-reference of certain texts, back and forth as texts or topics relate to each other!

Example:

John 15:7 refers to prayer. Under the subject "Prayer" you would tag John 15:7 (P)

Prayer ^(P)	Hindrances to Prayer ^(H2P)	Qualifications ^(QF)
John 15:7 ^{(H2P)(GW)(GD)(QF)}	John 15:7 ^{(P)(GW)(GD)(QF)}	John 15:7 ^{(H2P)(P)(GW)(GD)}

If you deal with extensive Topical Studies, you will profit much to mark out "codes" with its respective meaning. When going through Scripture encode these codes in your Bible Study Journal in its reference frame. In this way you will include and more readily access each text with its respective reference point and how they relate to each other.

As time progresses, these codes will be linked to previous texts and be cross referenced to its related Scriptures. In this way, your discernment and knowledge of God's Word will greatly increase. Remember to leave enough space in each column to cross-reference and mark out your codes!

You can now mark these codes in your Study Bible next to the text you are studying for cross-reference. As you come across other texts, mark these with the specific code. This will help you keep the Scripture in its proper relationship without taking it out of its immediate or Scriptural context. Remember that Scripture must always be interpreted within its immediate contextual setting as well as in its relationship to the whole of other Scriptures. For this reason it is good if you do not formulate or adopt doctrinal preferences so to put Scripture in that confines of human endeavor. Instead Scripture should become its own advocate in matters of faith and truth. Let Scripture interpret itself.

For Example:

You may read in Revelation 21-22 about the New Jerusalem coming down from Heaven and being referred to as the “bride of the Lamb”. Having only this text, you may easily assume that the New Jerusalem is the “bride” of Christ and not the Church! This happens quite naturally if you let only one or two passages interpret itself. But if you would let other passages that also refers to the bride speaks, and you would put them alongside each other or you let it be interpret in the light of the whole of other Scriptures, you will find it something wholly different and your interpretation of Rev 22 in error or in wanting. If for example the Scripture refers to that the Church is the bride in certain verses and passages and then you almost find it refers to something else as the bride, then you need to interpret it in the light of all the revealed Truth. If you do that, you would conclude that the Church and the New Jerusalem has many things in common – the Bride of the Lamb, unless it refers to two brides!!!

This type of topical study using an encoding helps you to “rightly divide” the Word of Truth. It brings Scripture into its contextual and right relationship with each other, especially in topical studies. In this way you will be able to divide the line between grace and Law, etc. You will also be able to “rightly divide” between two different topics that are used in Scriptures almost synonymously, for example, the word “baptism” in Scripture. When dealing with topical Study and using a code to cross reference you will find Scripture refers to several different kinds of baptisms so that we need to discern which one is referred to in any given Scriptural reference!

Example of its use:

(Getting a Journal or study book you can easily set up columns to articulate topical studies)

Thoughts ^(TH)	Repentance ^(RP)	Forgiveness ^(FS)	Sorrow ^(SR)	Qualifications ^(QS)
Isaiah 55:7 ^{(RP)(FS)(QS)}	Acts 3:19 ^{(FS)(RC)(QS)}	Prov 28:13 ^{(RP)(QS)}	2 Cor 7:10 ^(RP)	Gal 6:7-8 ^{(P)(HS)}
Rom 8:5-8 ^{(HS)(RP)}	Luke 13:3,5 ^(HL)	Eph 1:7 ^(QS)	Hebr 12:17 ^(FS)	Rom 12:1-2 ^{(SF)(WG)}
1 Pet 4:1-2 ^{(WG)(RP)}	Matt 3:8	Hebr 9:22 ^(QS)	John 16:20 ^(FS)	John 4:24 ^(WS)
Rom 2:15 ^(CS)	Mark 2:17	Luk 24:47 ^(RP)	Rom 9:2 ^(P)	John 15:7 ^(P)