

# ***Reformed University Fellowship*** **Leading Bible Studies Conference**

## **Session 2: Perspectives on Bible Study**

- I. Introduction.
  - A. My experience at Virginia Tech.
    - 1. The disaster of untrained and unsupported Bible study leaders in InterVarsity.
    - 2. The transferable concepts of Campus Crusade.
    - 3. The thoroughness of Navigator training.
  - B. My experience at Hopkins: success in training Bible study leaders.
  - C. My experience as staff: success in training staff and student Bible study leaders.
  - D. Conclusion: Staff and students can be trained to lead excellent Bible studies, but without training most will be mediocre.
- II. The Essence of Scripture.
  - A. False (incomplete) evangelical views of the Bible.
    - 1. Guidance for life.
    - 2. Directions for getting saved.
    - 3. Moral instruction and example.
    - 4. Instruction for ministry.
  - B. True evangelical view of the Bible.
    - 1. The word of God (2 Tim. 3:16).
    - 2. The source of life (Ps. 119:50; John 6:68).
    - 3. The gospel of Christ.
  - C. As ministers of God's word we want to avoid a completely utilitarian view of scripture, but in our ministry bring the dead to life, give hope to the hopeless, and enable people to encounter the living God.
- III. Receiving Scripture.
  - A. The Navigator Hand: hearing, discussing, reading, memorizing, meditating.
  - B. Hearing.
    - 1. The unique benefit: clear, accurate explanation and application of scripture.
    - 2. Thus the preacher must strive for careful exegesis and thoughtful application.
  - C. Reading.
    - 1. The unique benefit: personal focus.
    - 2. Thus the individual can freely pursue his own personal interests.
  - D. Discussion.
    - 1. The unique benefit: individual verbalization.
    - 2. Thus the leader must strive to involve everyone in discussing the passage.

- E. Accuracy in Bible study groups.
  - 1. Accuracy of interpretation and application must be pursued in Bible studies, but it is not the highest goal.
  - 2. The highest goal is to get everyone involved in talking and struggling with the passage.
  - 3. If accuracy were the highest goal, we would lecture.
  - 4. Bible studies can never be the only source of biblical input; preaching and teaching are necessary to provide that clear, accurate exposition of scripture.
  - 5. In the Bible studies, people will at times say things that are wrong.
  - 6. Mark Lowrey: if there isn't some heresy being articulated in your small groups, something isn't right.
  - 7. In the process of talking, their own thoughts become clearer.
  - 8. Sometimes people will leave the study with wrong views.
  - 9. We trust God to correct this in His time, using preaching, teaching, etc.
  - 10. If you can't do this, let someone else lead the Bible studies.

IV. The Goal of Bible Study.

- A. To be transformed (Rom. 12:2).
- B. Renewing of the mind comes first.
- C. Moving from knowledge to assent to trust.
- D. A changed mind changes the will, body (behavior), emotions, and conscience.
- E. Interaction: changes in the will affect the behavior, emotions, and conscience – etc.
- F. Feedback loop: changes in will, behavior, emotions, and conscience promote further changes in knowledge and belief.

V. The Nature of Scripture.

- A. Scripture is literature.
- B. The process of studying the Bible is no different than the process of studying any piece of literature.
- C. The difference is in the spiritual impact scripture has and the moral requirements it lays upon us.