



CHAPLAIN, C.L. WYATT  
**Chaplain's Corner**

**The Tools Of Bible Study Part 2**

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEKS ISSUE

is coming to, what happens after death, if there is an afterlife. The best man can produce is speculation: the Bible offers revelation. Speculation is the sum of what man thinks might happen; revelation is God's statement of what will happen!

There we have four big facts about the Bible which, when understood, become four big motivating factors. Of course, there are many others, but we'll settle for these four as sufficient to lead you to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it, as the Book of Common Prayer says. If you have not been moved to do this till now, I hope you will change.

Second, you need some materials. The Bible is the first material. Its amazing at the number of people who don't deem that its necessary to study the Bible, altho they are ready to give Bible study. They remind me of the Englishman who, when the ball was lost in the middle of a firey Rugby match, said, "Don't bother about the ball. Get on with the game." There's as much chance of a good Bible study experience without a Bible as there is of a good Rugby match without a ball!

In the English-speaking world we have so many editions of the Bible to choose from that some people become confused. Two basic kinds versions are available- those that seek to be a strict translation of the original Greek and Hebrew texts and others that give the sense by way of paraphrase. I have copies of both kinds and use them both. The difference between the praphase and translation is rather similar to the difference between a photograph and a water-color sketch. The photograph is exact in every detail. The paraphrase type of Bible is often easier to read than the more strict translation, so I use the former for general reading and the latter for detailed study. The former gives me the overview of what the Bible is saying, but the latter gives me material from which I can make a careful study.

The question-which should I have I strongly recommed a copy of the Living Bible for general reading and either a King James Version. (The King James Version had not written by him-but was commission him in 1511, or the new International Version, New Testament for study" You may even want to purchase all copies.

The important thing about your Bible is that you are going to study it, the print must be big enough. This is an elementary point, but necessary, because many Bibles have apparently been designed more beauty than use. It also helps if there is a margin in which to make some notes, and you may even wish to invest in a loose-leaf Bible. Notes are very important, because fro one thing they, (notes) preserve your great thoughts, and great discoveries.

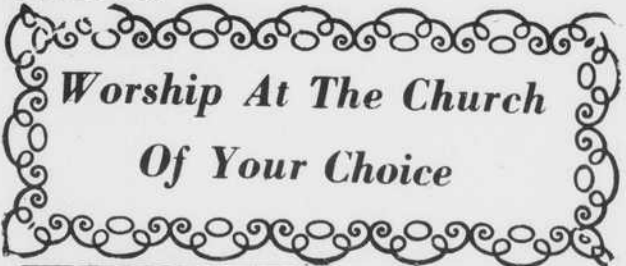
You may find it helpful to mark each page with the days date, and the entire something daily. You must have a concordance; This is a glorified index of the Bible. It list every word in the Bible alphabetically, and under each word a reference is given for every place that word occurs. There are different styles of concordance; the most famous are Young's Strong's and Cruden's. You need a box of colored pencils. to mark areas so that they will stick in your memory. Use red for salvation, blue for Christian experience, green for Holy Spirit, black for Judgement, orange for heaven and brown for God the Father, and terra cotta for the Son.

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Having mentioned motivation and materials, I will talk about methods before doing that, however, I must say something very important. Some things are so important to our approach to Bible study that if they are missing, even the finest methods in the world will not make our study profitable. The first of these things is our attitude toward the Scriptures. Some people approach the Bible as a masterpiece or literary achievement, which it certainly is. Others love its poetry and so they should, and still others revel in its historical detail and well the night. But the Bible will yield little of lasting value if it is approached purely as a literary or historical document.

What really counts is the attitude that study of the Word of God leads us into truth. Yes, there is literary beauty. Yes, there is historical data. But above all this, there is eternal truth to be found nowhere else. Therefore, the approach of both the most humble Bible reader must be one of reverent anticipation that God will speak through the pages to the readers.

This leads naturally to the second point. When you study, pray. Ask the Holy Spirit who inspired the Word of God to interpret it to your own understanding. I know of no better prayer with which to approach the study of the Bible than "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law". (Ps. 119:18)



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**Black  
Poetry**

A POEM FOR MYSELF

*Society allows for a child to become an adult;  
Society feels that life makes sure of it.*

*I wonder if there are any adults at all*

*To me everyone of us, no matter what age is still a babe.*

*A baby needs; so do we.*

*A baby wants; as we all do.*

*A baby crawls and walks and so we must*

*Crawl before walking as we climb the ladder of life.*

*A baby must be fed with not only what is good for the body but for the mind and soul as well.*

*A baby must be loved in order to feel secure and valuable.*

*We are no more than babies but no less than sheep.*  
—Letha Joyce Perkins

(Here, a thoughtful black poetess speaks autobiographically as all expressions of thought do, whether we recognize it or not. We are always children to some extent, so Letha Joyce Perkins would happily remind us.)

*Black poets, who may wish exposure to our reading public, may send copies of their poetry—for editing and with permission to use—in groups of 12 poems or more to C. May Associates, Box 157, Selkirk, N.Y. 12158. Poetry selected should normally appear within 12 to 20 weeks. Because of staff limitations, no copies are returned.*

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