

Overall Scheme of Study

The basic philosophy behind this study is to saturate ourselves with the Word of God through meditation and prayer, being illumined by the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit. The whole theory of the Reformation was that even a peasant with the help of the Holy Spirit could gain insight into the Word which would profit his spiritual life. Biblical study and interpretation was not the sole privilege of the Pope. It is this privilege, that is, free access to the mind of God through the teaching ministry of His Spirit that we intend to capitalize on in this Trudy. It is for this reason that we will refrain from reference to commentaries until the end of our own study of the book. We wish to look into His Word afresh, without our minds cluttered with previous notions about various portions of Scripture. In order to reach this goal, our study will be conducted in four stages:

1. **Preview.** This step consists in becoming familiar with the general contents of the book before a detailed analysis is begun. To do this simply involves reading through the book several times to acquaint ourselves with the overall thrust. A very brief historical study of the book (author, date, destination) may also be helpful.
2. **Commentary.** This step involves preparing personal notes on the text from beginning to end, based on one's personal meditation without the aid of commentaries by other men.
3. **Commentaries.** The two best are selected. Our method of study in no way disparages of the insight of men who have spent years specializing in a particular book of the Bible. In this step we make full use of their study by revising our personal notes as we learn of our mistakes or gain help in solving certain problems. But we turn to the commentaries only after we have done our own study of the book and reached certain tentative conclusions through personal meditation and reliance on the Holy Spirit.
4. **Outline.** At this point all our study is synthesized into an alliterative (when possible) outline of the book. The purpose of the outline is to give us some easily remembered pegs on which to hang our ultimate view of the book we have studied.
5. **Memorize the Book.**

Such a study should give us a working knowledge of God's Word which will be profitable not only in our own lives, but also in the lives of those to whom we minister.