

Grace OPC High School Sunday Class Topic Summary			
Year:	1 of 4		Date: Weeks 4-6
Quarter:	2 of 4	Bible Study/Survey	
Lesson Title:	Bible Transmission, Translation and Bible Versions		
Lesson Purpose:	To examine the tools that are available to us to help us study the Bible, to understand their strengths and weaknesses and how to use them.		

Lesson 1 – Commentaries

- Commentaries range in character from technical to devotional and each type has its use.
- Commentaries on the scriptures can be invaluable to the student of the scriptures.
 - o In preparation for teaching/preaching.
 - o For devotional reading.
 - o For a deeper understanding of the scriptures.
- We need to take care to select commentaries that are Orthodox and from reliable sources. Liberal and heretical commentaries can be dangerous to use, but for the advanced student may be useful.
- Orthodox commentaries can be extremely useful but should be used with an understanding that they are the words of fallible men.
- Other tools, such as dictionaries, may be important to use especially when using a technical commentary.

Lesson 2 – Concordances and Language Tools

- Concordances come in three major types: general, Englishman's, and topical.
 - o General concordances allow us to look up verses quickly and to do English language word studies.
 - o Englishman's concordances allow us to do original language word studies without needing to know the original languages.
 - o Topical concordances allow the student to study topics in the scriptures and do topical studies.
- Language tools allow the student some access to deeper meanings of Greek and Hebrew words.
- Special care must be taken in using original language tools as a lack of knowledge of Greek and Hebrew grammar and usage can hinder the student in finding the correct meaning of a word for a text.

Lesson 3 – Other Study Aids – Bible helps, Atlases, Dictionaries

- Our Bibles often contain some very helpful tools for understanding the passages if we understand them and make use of them
- Dictionaries can also give us some very useful information to understand Bible places, events, times and teachings better but we need to be alert for the leanings of the authors and/or editors
- Likewise Atlases and maps can provide extremely valuable insights into the geography and history of Bible places and Bible events.

Further reading:

Commenting and Commentaries. Charles H. Spurgeon. ISBN 0-8254-3749-0

Strongs Exhaustive Concordance

Thayers Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament

Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon of the Old Testament

Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (Abridged in One Volume) Geoffrey W Bromiley

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament Harris, Archer and Waltke

New International Dictionary of the Bible J D Douglas and Merrill C Tenney (eds)

New Bible Atlas – ISBN 0-8423-4675-9