



The law & Gospel method of Bible study is the Church's traditional way to study the Bible, which was popularized by Martin Luther. Law & Gospel Bible study makes a distinction between God's two main Biblical themes: law & Gospel. God's law theme identifies our sin, by revealing what God wants us to do that we don't do. God's Gospel theme identifies our need for Jesus the Savior, and reveals how God's love offers us salvation through Christ.

STEP ONE PRAY FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO REVEAL GOD'S VOICE THROUGH THE TEXT:

"Father, let your law and Gospel voice renew our love, faith, and hope."

STEP TWO READ THE TEXT REPEATEDLY UNTIL YOU CAN TELL IT IN YOUR OWN WORDS:

Luke 18:9-14 (See the reverse side of the worksheet for the printed Gospel text)

STEP THREE REVIEW A STUDY BIBLE TO DETERMINE THE TEXT'S THEOLOGICAL MEANING:

This parable of Jesus presents a contrast between a Pharisee and a tax collector. If ever there was a self-made, self-assured man it would be the Pharisee. A pharisee's accomplishments went above and beyond the call of duty. They fasted at least twice a week. They gave a weekly double tithe (10%) - a tithe offering on their income and a tithe offering on their accumulated wealth! They were outwardly the best example of how a child of God should live their life. Pharisees were honest, hardworking, and exemplary citizens. They were maybe most known for their prayer life. Many Biblical scholars today believe that Jesus was himself a member of the Pharisees. If ever there was a class of people that we categorically despised, it would be the tax collectors. They were looked down upon as those without any piety, and worst of all, they were morally corrupt, sending into bankruptcy the poor who could not pay. In this Gospel, the tax collector even breaks all the prayer customs of the day - his eyes looked down and his prayer was crude and did not follow a prescribed pattern. If ever there was a story with a surprise ending, this is it! Jesus announces that it is the tax collector who leaves the temple justified and not the Pharisee. Jesus uncovers the arrogance of the Pharisee who justified his life before God by comparing himself with other people. And yet, the Pharisee's worst offense is his belief that a person can make their relationship better with God by the way they live their life. In contrast, Jesus insists that the tax collector had a good relationship with God because he depended upon God's forgiveness above to renew his relationship with God. The challenge is not to measure ourselves against others (especially those who are living in sin). Christ calls us to measure ourselves against the standards of God's moral Law, and then repent

BOY, I'M REALLY *GLAD* I'M NOT LIKE THAT PHARISEE.



Luke 18:9-14 ⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.” ¹³But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.

STEP FOUR COMPLETE A LAW & GOSPEL BIBLE STUDY TO *Restore Hope in the Savior*

Law Question: How does this text reveal our sin (self-centeredness) and how we do not live as God desires?

Answer.....
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Gospel Question: How does this text reveal God’s gift of Jesus as the Savior who freely offers us salvation?

Answer.....
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Please send your “answers” to Pastor Bob: Schmalzle@yahoo.com which he likes to incorporate into the sermon.

STEP FIVE PRAYERFULLY MEDITATE UPON GOD’S GOSPEL VOICE: *Restoring Our Hope*

A. Quietening Our Inner Sanctuary: We quiet our hearts (souls) by focusing on our breathing. Breathe in slowly to the count of five (J-E-S-U-S)...hold your breath to a count of six (C-H-R-I-S-T)...exhale to a count of seven (T-H-E-L-O-R-D). Repeat this pattern of breathing until you are relaxed.

B. Dwelling within Our Inner Sanctuary: We meet the Lord Jesus in the sanctuary of our hearts (souls), which is a place created within our mind’s eye for us to be with the Lord. Using our favorite sights, sounds, smells and feelings, we visualize our inner sanctuary as a place of peace where the Lord Jesus meets us.

C. Listening to God’s Voice in Scripture Speak to Us through Jesus: As Jesus meets us in our inner sanctuary, he lovingly shares God’s Gospel message of hope from the Scripture text we have just studied. Listening to God’s Gospel voice restores our trust and hope that Jesus’ death and resurrection freely offers us eternal Salvation. When Jesus speaks to us, our souls are nourished and refreshed.

STEP SIX SHARE THIS LAW & GOSPEL BIBLE STUDY WITH A FRIEND:

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