



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:

Matthew 16:21-28 (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 Gospel is a call to be a follower of Jesus, as a gracious act of God. Following Jesus is something we are able to do because God loves us and has forgiven us. God's love and forgiveness enable us to be like Christ, and with his own Spirit change our lives from one of self-serving to serving as a servant. The challenge of being a disciple of Christ involves a complete change in our lives. Jesus speaks plainly about what it will mean to be one of his followers; we must deny our tendency toward living a self-centered life to living a Christ-centered life. No longer are our personal concerns of primary importance. As a disciple, our concerns are consistent with God's will. God becomes the guiding force in our lives. No longer can we set the conditions for our lives and the lives of others. As a follower of God, it is God's will that rules. A disciple of Christ must be willing to "take up their cross." That is to say, we must be willing to adopt the principle of self-denial. A disciple's life involves sacrificial service. Each day a disciple has the opportunity to renew the character of their baptism; we have the challenge to put aside self-service in order to take up self-sacrifice. Each day we have the opportunity to let Christ live through us and to take seriously the demands of God and the needs of others. Self-concern gives way to the greater concern of the love of God. The disciple is to learn from and follow Christ. This means we will regularly be renewed by forgiveness, have love for one another, and care for those who need our help. As a disciple, we are involved with a new way of life. When we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, our entire lives are affected. Christ enables his disciples to lose, to give up, desires that do not reflect who we are as people created in God's image. Christ empowers his disciples to live life as the Creator originally intended us to live our lives.



Matthew 16:21-28 ²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?²⁷For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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. Quieting 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:

Forward this via email, give a printed copy, or post on social media