

A ROADMAP to Rich Bible Study

Mine for Meaning

1. Diagramming options:
 - a. Linear phrasing.
 - b. Diagramming tools.
2. How to do a word study:

Question: *What did the original author mean by this word?*

 - a. Common mistakes:
 - i. English Only Fallacy
 - ii. Root Fallacy (“nice” and butterflies)
 - iii. Time-Fame Fallacy (cf. Romans 1:16 and *dynamite*)
 - iv. Overload Fallacy or Totality Transfer (“sozo saved”)
 - v. Word-Count Fallacy (“resurrection”)
 - vi. Word-Concept Fallacy (“hell” or “agape”)
 - vii. Selective Evidence Fallacy
 - b. Determine what the word *could* mean (range of meaning).
 - i. Lexical meanings (from a dictionary).
 - ii. Concordance studies.
 - iii. Remember: word meanings change over time (cf. “conversation” in KJV).
 - c. Contextual study:
 - i. Is there a contrast or comparison in the context (cf. “unwholesome” in Ephesians 4:29)?
 - ii. Does the context dictate or suggest a meaning (cf. “head” in Ephesians 5:22-33)?
 - iii. Are there uses of the word in similar contexts that help determine the meaning (cf. “door” in John 10:1, 7, 9)?
 - iv. Does the author’s line of reasoning or argument support a particular meaning (cf. “justified” in James 2:21)?
 - v. Does the historical/cultural situation suggest a meaning (cf. “household” in Acts 7:10)?
3. Grammatical study.
 - a. What parts of speech are the words or word phrases?

Nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, interjections, interrogatives.
 - b. Syntactical observations:

Tense, voice, mood, number, case, etc.
 - c. Syntactical relationships:

Objects (of verbs or prepositions), indirect objects, predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives, etc.
Antecedents and modifiers
Conjunctions