

Five Minute Revival: William Miller's Bible Study Method

Many Bible truths are simple. They may not be easy, but they are simple. Five Minute Revivals focus on truths that will change your Christian experience. Embrace truth that will bring adventure to your walk with God.

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When I joined the church in 1980, I learned that William Miller's Bible study method took a topic starting in Eden, and then proceeded through the Bible. This study method is what makes Adventists Adventist. If you study a topic in this manner, you have different results than looking at texts in any order.

What people do not understand is William Miller accidentally found the method Jesus used with His disciples on the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:27 "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."

I have had issues face me as a pastor that I refer as "useful irritations". Useful irritations are the issues that I felt were wrong but did not have a reason for that feeling at the time. I would start studying these issues using William Miller's Bible study method. As I did, I would find out if the feeling was accurate or if my own prejudices were misleading me.

In addition to starting with Genesis and proceeding through the Bible, James White had these statements about William Miller's Bible Study method. I believe we must intentionally teach this method to our members.

1. Every word must have its proper bearing on the subject presented in the Bible.¹
2. All scripture is necessary.
3. Nothing is hidden from those who ask.
4. Use all scripture; if your theory does not contradict any, it is sound.
5. Scripture must be its own expositor.
6. Combine all visions and parables on a subject.
7. Visions are always mentioned as such.
8. Figures always have a figurative meaning.
9. Parables must be explained as figures.
10. Figures may have two or more significations: day may be indefinite, one year, a 1000 years, but the key is that the interpretation harmonizes with other scripture.
11. If words do not violate good sense, take them literally.
12. Figures will be explained elsewhere in the Bible.
13. History will agree with prophecy.
14. Most important is "have faith".²

¹ Pastor Ron Nickerson found this list from James White.

² White, James. "Life Incidents", Battle Creek: Steam, 1868 p. 35