

**Preparing the Written Research Paper
For A Biblical Research Project
At The Way International**

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PREFACE

A guideline for preparing a Biblical research project has been needed for a number of years. The research project is a requirement of the leadership training programs of The Way International and serves as a measurement of application in the cognitive domain of research learning.

This paper provides an example of how the work is to be done, as well as telling the reader how to do it. Examples from other works published by the American Christian Press are also cited throughout the work. There are some variations between this example and what is expected by the student. For example, the research project should be typed on only one side of a sheet of paper whereas this paper is printed on both sides. Other variations may be brought to the student's attention by his advisor.

I am grateful to all the students who have paved the way in the past who have been instrumental in ironing out the rough edges of the research paper format. I also appreciate the editorial help from Karen Martin and Elena Whiteside in putting this paper together. My great thanks also goes to the Board of Trustees of The Way International who have given me the responsibility of coordinating the research seminar.

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Chapter One

INTRODUCTION

Many students are terrified at the thought of a research paper. Although years of learning have adequately prepared them for the task, the thought of putting their knowledge together in acceptable written form appears as a monumental, perhaps insurmountable, task. Even doctoral students who have fulfilled all other requirements have stopped short of their goal because they will not write a dissertation.

Background of the Problem

The problem does not necessarily occur because of a lack of knowledge of subject matter but rather by a mental impasse at being overwhelmed by such a large undertaking and not knowing how to approach it in workable parts.

For many students, the major hurdle to overcome in writing a paper is just getting started. Instead of concentrating on what to do first, the student tends to dwell on the task as a whole; he is overwhelmed by the seeming magnitude of the assignment.

Since his fall in the Garden of Eden, man has experienced a lack of success in his life because he has not understood how to do that which is necessary to be successful. One cause of the problem is that the student does not understand what he is trying to achieve. In the Nazi prison camps, men who could not focus their imaginations toward an ultimate goal in life ceased living for the future. Often, with nothing to live for they gave up. In contrast, the prisoner who had a goal or purpose for getting out

of prison, generally survived. His goal may have been a chance to see his family, a book he wanted to write or any other opportunity which gave him hope.²

Without a goal, man has nothing to work toward and to be motivated by. Once he establishes a goal, he has a purpose to work. When man can clearly see his goal and becomes concerned about it, he goes into action.³

When you are focused on the picture of what you want, keep your mind stayed on it. If you allow something else to come in and take precedence over that picture you will get a blurred answer to prayer; you will not get the results you desire; you will not get release from the prison which is encasing you.

Similarly, students without a clear goal in mind will never finish a project so demanding as a research project. This is one of the most significant causes of the unfinished research paper: no clear goal.

A second major cause of the unfinished project is a person's attitude.⁴

There is no value-judgment more important to man--no factor more decisive in his psychological development and motivation--than the estimate he passes on himself.

The man who says he can and the man who says he cannot are both right in their statements. The "I can do" attitude is vital to success. Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." In the spiritual realm, the Christian has even greater capabilities for success. His power is limitless. Then his failure can only be due to his lack in his attitude toward utilizing available potential.

An "I can do" attitude is due to two factors: knowledge and experience in utilizing the knowledge. If he lacks knowledge,

it is certain he will not succeed. If he acquires the knowledge but has no experience and "fears the unknown," he will likely not succeed. Confidence is developed with knowledge and experience combined.⁵

The student who lacks the knowledge of putting the research project together will not succeed. But once he has the knowledge, even without experience he can write a successful paper with an "I can do" attitude.

Other contributing factors to an unfinished research project include the following: (1) the student may put off selection of a problem until late in his schedule; (2) the first suggested research idea may be accepted without critical evaluation; (3) the problem is sometimes too broad to handle in the time allotted; (4) the student may not develop clear, specific objectives for his project. These factors along with lack of technical knowledge about format, lack of a specific goal, lack of a positive attitude and lack of concern to reach one's goal breaks down the attainment of a research project.⁶

Delimitation

Many books have been written and tapes made which are designed to help the student improve his self-esteem and attitude. A sufficient number of publications offer information on form and style for writing research projects dealing with experimental, developmental, historical, descriptive, case and field, correlational, causal comparative and action research. But there remains a general lack of knowledge in designing and completing a Biblical research project in acceptable academic format.

Definition of Terms

Because of theological differences and variance in culture, certain terms may be misleading. The following terms are defined according as they are used in this study.

"Biblical research" is the investigation of the scriptures as the only primary center of reference for truth utilizing basic keys of language and historical study. The Bible is the revealed Word and will of God in Biblical research. A "Biblical research project" refers to the entire work done by the student from the choosing of the topic through to the final paper submitted to the college. The "written research paper" refers specifically to the paper constructed in acceptable format.

"Biblical research keys" or "basic keys to research" are the keys found in the Foundational and Advanced classes on Power for Abundant Living taught by The Way International, as well as all other rules of logic and research. The Bible is treated as the only primary source. All secular and religious sources are considered secondary.

The Way International includes not only its main campus but all its associated campuses and affiliated organizations. The Way Corps includes all arms of that leadership training program.

The "practical research study" is a project involving Biblical research but focusing on the practical application of the material covered.

Objectives

There are slight variations among the suggested research formats. The Biblical research project has a format similar to

the generally accepted academic format. The introduction is somewhat mechanical having seven distinct parts similar to all research format. The review of literature is similar to most reviews but limited to a selected bibliography of pertinent information treated as secondary sources and the Bible as the only primary source. It may take the appearance of a "historical background" or a discussion of "what it is not." The thesis chapter is the heart of the paper in which the student covers all vital information central to the goals of the study. Related and supporting material is relegated to subsequent chapters or appendices depending on the nature of its relationship to the thesis. The final chapter contains a summary, conclusions, and recommendations similar to other formats. Footnotes and bibliography are essential to the academic success of the project. All forms of Biblical research may be written successfully in the suggested academic format except a practical research study.

Overview

In chapter two of this study, the generally accepted formats for various research papers are discussed. These formats are evaluated for vital components necessary to Biblical research projects.

Chapter three presents the format for Biblical research projects showing examples from previous works. It verifies the similarity between the suggested format and other academic projects. It also shows its usability for various types of Biblical research.

A brief discussion of a suggested format for a practical research study follows in chapter four. This unique format is

offered because of the special nature of a practical application study.

A summary, conclusions, recommendations for future study and recommendations for future action are presented in chapter five.

The appendices contain information on research project style.

Significance of the Study

Although there are recommended formats for research, no specific format has been given for Biblical research material at The Way International. Students are expected to write in acceptable form and need a set of guidelines for producing a project which demonstrates excellence. Once the knowledge becomes available, the student no longer needs to feel overwhelmed by the assignment. But rather he knows how to approach his project with confidence in writing a successful paper. He can become clear and concerned toward a viable goal and produce a solid study.

¹William Giles Campbell and Stephen Vaughn Ballou, Form and Style, "Thesis, Reports, Term Papers/4th Edition" (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1974), p. 1.

²Victor E. Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning (New York: Pocket Books, 1959), pp. 110-120.

³Victor Paul Wierwille, The Bible Tells Me So, "Release From Your Prisons" (New Knoxville, Ohio: American Christian Press, 1973), p. 6.

⁴Nathaniel Branden, The Psychology of Self-Esteem (Toronto: Bantam Books, Inc., Nash Publishing Corporation, 1969), p. 109.

⁵Ibid., pp. 127-132.

⁶Stephen Isaac and William B. Michael, Handbook in Research and Evaluation (San Diego, California: Edits publishers, 1971), p. 6.

Chapter Two

PROBLEMS WITH PREVIOUS FORMATS

The purpose of this review of secular literature is to give the student a brief idea of the content of such a chapter. Normally much more could and should be said on the subject to portray fully the problem of conflicting ideas and the need for a solution. However, the students utilizing this material have a greater need to understand the Biblical research format rather than the several others. For the sake of economy of space, the review is limited to a brief discussion of the various methods of research and the problems encountered with formats.

Methods of Research

Most methods of research in use today employ a purely scientific means of instrumentation. Experimental groups are often used under controlled or semi-controlled conditions to determine the cause and effect relationships between treatment and control groups where the former receives a special "cause" treatment and the effect is observed. A new drug may be used on one group of patients while the other group is treated by traditional methods. In such cases, the results of the new drug can be compared with the results of the traditional method.¹

Other methods employing scientific means include:

1. Descriptive (surveys, opinionnaires)
2. Developmental (longitudinal studies)
3. Case and Field (case history)
4. Correlational (relationships between numerical factors)
5. Causal Comparative (cause and effect through past data)

Each of these methods of doing research employs its own unique means of measuring factors which determine the outcomes. Any relationship shown to be significant can only be used as a generalization among the population.²

Historical research is a form of research which does not employ any of the above scientific means but is indeed scientific. The goal is to reconstruct the past objectively. To accomplish this task, the researcher considers two types of sources: primary, which are eyewitness records; and secondary, which are second, third and fourth hand accounts. Naturally, the closer to the primary source he gets, the better his evidence.³

Biblical research treats the Bible as the only primary source for God's Word and will. Men who wrote extracanonically about the events of the Bible are at best secondary sources. God gives his own eyewitness account of the world in the Scriptures for all scripture is "God-breathed."⁴ The purpose for the Scriptures is that God's people can be perfect.⁵ The purpose for putting it in a book is for preservation for the time to come.

Isaiah 30:8:

Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:

The written Word preserves the spoken Word of God. When a word is spoken, it is made known, but when it is written or published, it can live and relive its existence.

Proverbs 22:20, 21a:

Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,
That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth...."

Similarly, the gospel of Luke was written "that thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed." (Luke 1:4) The written Word makes the spoken Word much more definite in the minds of people. Although spoken words and tradition have an effect on the mind, the written Word is God's eyewitness account which is much more certain and trustworthy than the words of man.

So in Biblical research, a person approaches all secular and religious sources with caution while the Word of God itself is one's only primary center of reference for truth.

Formats

The general format for a research paper using the scientific means of instrumentation includes five chapters.⁶

1. Introduction
2. Review of Related Literature
3. Methodology or Procedures
4. Analysis and Evaluation
5. Summary, Conclusions, Recommendations

Historical research also has an introduction, review of literature and summary, but the interim may take on various forms in analyzing the literature available.

Biblical research does not require a chapter on methodology which describes the scientific method of acquiring and testing numerical data. Consequently, it does not require analysis and evaluation of numerical data. The format required for biblical research is therefore most closely associated with that of historical research in which the introduction, review of literature, an analysis of literature, and summary are needed. But the

emphasis in the analysis is placed on Biblical evidence rather than religions and secular sources.

Introductions

Every school of higher education requires an introduction to be written in its own specialized format. Among the items which have been required are the following:⁷

- Introduction
- Background of the Problem
- Statement of the Problem
- Purpose of the Study
- Questions to be answered (Objectives)
- Assumptions
- Delineations
- Delimitations
- Rationale
- Hypotheses
- Importance of the study
- Definition of terms
- Overview

Not all of the above are included in every introduction and the order may vary from school to school.⁸

The hypotheses are an essential part of any introduction. However, a hypothesis is an idea believed by the researcher which must be verified by experiment or documentation from pertinent sources. However, once a principle is located in God's Word, it is an established truth and cannot be considered a mere hypothesis. So a better term is needed to describe what the researcher is going to show.

In choosing a format appropriate for Biblical research, one must consider which of the items God has used in His Word and which are necessary to produce an honest, academic approach to the paper.

Problems With Reviews of Literature

A review of literature often starts with an introduction which gives the organization of the chapter and a historical background. The remainder of the chapter is categorized systematically according to the material covered. The goal is to acquaint the reader with that which has been done relevant to the problem and to establish the need for new significant results. It also provides a basis for the author's hypotheses. The review, therefore, encompasses all major sources on the subject.⁹

The Biblical research project treats the Bible as the only primary source. Nevertheless, a problem often exists in understanding the original God-breathed Word. Furthermore, the secondary sources often add to the complexity of the problem rather than offering possible solutions, though not in every case. At any rate, the major works on the subject must be reviewed but with an emphasis on the Bible itself.

Conclusion

In developing a format which is academically acceptable and appropriate for Biblical research, one finds it necessary to consider the previous formats as well as Biblical writing itself. Problems with overall content, introductions, terms and the reviews of literature must be considered to determine a paper's structure. If Biblical research students are to become comfortable with study and format, that format must be agreeable with the method of research.

¹Isaac, op. cit., pp. 14,15.

²Ibid.

³Ibid., p. 17.

⁴Victor Paul Wierwille, Power for Abundant Living (New Knoxville, Ohio: American Christian Press, 1971), pp. 68-73.

⁵Ibid., pp. 88-92.

⁶Isaac, op. cit., pp. 157,158.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Ibid.

⁹Ibid.

Chapter Three

THE BIBLICAL RESEARCH PAPER

The Biblical research paper is not unlike the formats used for other research. It does, however, require some uniqueness because of the emphasis placed on scripture.

All types of Biblical research may be written successfully in the suggested academic format at The Way International campuses except a practical research study. The other types include topical research, expository research, word studies and historical research in Biblical areas of concern. Each of these may be written in accordance with the structure recommended in this paper. However, the practical research study requires a unique structure which eliminates certain chapters and focuses on the application of Biblical principles.

The format for the Biblical research project may be seen in some of the writings of The Way International. Each of these will be demonstrated in this chapter. The format is systematic, logical and acceptable with academic standards.

The paper begins with a somewhat mechanical introduction which briefly sets the stage for the rest of the study. The review of literature in a Biblical research paper is similar to most reviews but is limited to a selected bibliography of pertinent information treated as secondary sources and the Bible as the only primary source. It may take the form of a "historical background" or a discussion of "what it is not." It places a unique emphasis on the scripture. The thesis chapter is the heart of the paper in

which the student discusses all vital information central to the goals of his study. Other material relating to and supporting the thesis is relegated to subsequent chapters or appendices depending on the nature of its relationship to the thesis. The final chapter contains a summary, conclusions and recommendations, similar to other formats. Footnotes, bibliography and vita are essential to the academic standards of the project.

There are ten parts generally recommended for the Biblical research paper:

1. Title page
2. Table of Contents
3. Chapter One: Introduction
4. Chapter Two: Review of Literature or "What It Is Not"
5. Chapter Three: Thesis
6. Chapter Four and following: Supporting material
7. Last chapter: Summary
8. Appendices: Indirectly related material
9. Selected Bibliography
10. Vita

Each of the above parts will be discussed in detail except the title page and table of contents. The style for these two parts, as well as the rest of the paper, is presented in Appendix A. As with most research writing, only the third person (he, she, it) will be used as the first and second person often tend to make it less objective.

Doing the Research

The Biblical research project is the culminating work of all the research the student does while in the college program. A student's project, which is due prior to graduation, is an independent and original work demonstrating mastery of a topic of vital concern, interest and need to him.

In choosing his topic, the student first considers what topic will benefit him the most in the future and discusses it with friends and faculty advisors. He gets a clear picture of it in his mind so he can keep the end goal before his eyes throughout the entire project.

In order that the project does not become too broad, the student should limit the topic to a specific problem to be solved. For example, if the topic "prayer" were chosen, it needs to be limited to a specific problem of prayer: For example, believers are not speaking in tongues in their private prayer life enough; believers are not making valuable use of prayer with the understanding; believers are praying but not getting results; some gross exegetical errors have been made with the prayer in John 17; or the full meaning of the Greek word for prayer has not been understood in light of the context of its occurrences. Once a specific problem is identified, a solution can be sought.

Next, the student decides how he is going to approach the study, record the information and organize the information. He also decides what materials he needs for gathering the information. Then he goes to work obtaining all pertinent truths and facts from the following:

1. The Bible, all significant scriptures. Various translations and versions may be considered.
2. Secular and religious sources, the major books and articles on the subject. These sources give knowledge of what has been done in the field. A selected bibliography is essential.
3. Bible Atlas
4. Concordances
5. Lexicons
6. Dictionaries
7. Encyclopedias
8. Commentaries

9. Handbooks, history books and general study books on the Bible
10. Way Magazines
11. Tapes
12. Seminars and classes
13. Previous Corps projects
14. Religious and secular periodicals, research documents and unpublished sources

The Bible is the only primary (God's eyewitness account) center of reference for truth. All other sources are secondary (second, third, fourth, hand accounts). No scripture may be expounded as to be incongruous to any other scripture. One essential to understanding God's Word is scope, the range within which an activity displays itself. To develop scope of the Word, one must read related sections over and over. As the researcher reads and rereads, he develops a clear view of the whole subject within which a specific verse is expounded.

The Introduction

Chapter one is the introduction to the paper and should be entitled, "Introduction." It is mechanical in that it has seven recommended sections which are similar to most formats:

1. Statement of the Problem
2. Background of the Problem
3. Delimitation
4. Definition of Terms
5. Objectives
6. Overview
7. Significance of the Study

Except the "Statement of the Problem," each of the above phrases should appear as a subtitle before each section. Chapter one of this paper provides an adequate example for both style and format.

The statement of the problem is a paragraph which fully identifies the problem to the reader. The background of the

problem goes into greater detail showing to the reader that a serious problem does exist. Most good writing begins with a problem. Too often, they do not offer solutions. Genesis starts with the creation of the heavens and earth and the establishment of mankind. Then it plunges into the problem: the fall of man. God immediately offers a solution by promising to send the Messiah (Genesis 3:15). Romans, the first doctrinal epistle to the Church, offers the problem in the first three chapters: the serious condition to which mankind had fallen (Romans 1:18 - 3:19). God again immediately provides the solution to the problem in Romans 3:21 and 22.

Romans 3:21 and 22:

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;
Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.

Likewise, a research paper begins with a problem and its background.

But before suggesting a solution, the problem is limited to a specific area of need which has not been handled well previously. This section is called the delimitation. Next, terms which have a unique usage are defined. These are not simply dictionary definitions but rather an explanation of unique usages of key words and phrases found in the study. The incorporation of these two sections into the paper may depend on the specific nature of the study

Once the problem is delimited and terms are defined, the paper demands a solution. This section is called the "Objectives " Although the secular researcher calls them hypotheses, God's Word offers no hypothetical solutions. The Biblical researcher strives

to find Biblical solutions and states them as objectives or that which he is going to show or prove from the scripture in his study. The objectives, therefore, should be specific and definite.

Now that the researcher has definite solutions to work toward (clear goals with which he is concerned), he can give the overview of the rest of the paper. In this section, he tells what he is going to say in each chapter and the appendices. These descriptions are brief but give the reader a good idea where the study is heading. Finally, the significance of the study tells why the study is important. Why should the reader be concerned with solving this problem?

A great example of this format is found in Jesus Christ Is Not God. The first paragraph of the "Introduction" is the statement of the problem. The next seven paragraphs are the background of the problem. The delimitation is stated in a unique manner in the next paragraph. Several terms are clearly defined in the four paragraphs following the delimitation. Then the objectives of the study are given in four paragraphs. Five paragraphs give a concise overview of the rest of the book. The final four paragraphs state the significance of the study.

Once the reader has read the introduction, he knows in brief form what the entire study will handle, and he can decide if the material is what he really wants to read.

The Review of Literature

The second chapter is a review of literature, though it may have a more descriptive title as chapter two of this study does. The review of literature may list solutions proposed by

various authors and evaluate them in accordance with God's Word. Chapter two of this paper follows this method. Ecclesiastes is similar in that it reviews all the experiences of the preacher and concludes that all is vanity.

This chapter may also take the form of a historical background like Jesus Christ Is Not God, chapter one: "Origin of the Three-in-One God." It could also be classified as a description of "What it is Not."

At any rate, chapter two shows the conflict involved with the problem and the lack of an appropriate solution outside of God's Word.

The structure of chapter two is less mechanical in that it should start with a strategy or introduction which reemphasizes the problem and tells the reader the structure of the rest of the chapter. The chapter also closes with a conclusion showing the need for a better solution. The structure of the rest of the chapter should be systemic and logical. Some topics may require the review of literature to be incorporated with the thesis and supporting chapters. The exact form is left to the discretion of the author.

The Thesis

The third chapter is the heart of the study. Again the title is left to the author. It should not be "thesis." This chapter covers every essential scripture and any related literature which proves the objectives of the study.

The chapter again starts with a strategy or introduction which reiterates the objectives given in chapter one and lists any

keys vital to understanding the rest of the study. These are not a listing of all PFAL keys but any specific keys which will be mentioned in the chapter as vital to understanding specific items.

At the close of the chapter, the results of the study should be given. The subtitle "Results" should be used and the objectives should be restated as results.

The rest of the chapter is to be systematic and logical. Subtitles again appear before each major division. The second chapter of Jesus Christ Is Not God and the first part of Are the Dead Alive Now? provide excellent examples of the thesis.

Additional Material

Perhaps one mistake commonly made is that of relegating essential material which belongs in the thesis to subsequent chapters. The writer needs to cover the problem area sufficiently in order to fully show his proposed solutions are substantial. Then any additional material may be relegated to the subsequent chapters or the appendices.

Any material which is directly related to the problem but not central to the solution may be added to one or several chapters following the thesis. All of this material needs to be subdivided in a systematic order. Nothing that relates directly to the problem should be overlooked.

In this study, the information on writing a practical research study has been assigned to chapter four since it is not central to the objectives involved in putting together a Biblical research project. Yet, some of the projects are more practical in nature and require a set format. Chapters three and four in

Jesus Christ Is Not God are good examples of support material.

The legal ramifications of Christ's ministry and the exegesis of John 1:1 certainly relate to the problem but do not directly validate the proposed objectives. Similarly, chapters three through ten of Are the Dead Alive Now? offer good examples of support material not central to the solution.

Additional material which is indirectly related to the problem may be relegated to one or several appendices. Often this material is capsulized in brief outline form. In this study, all information on style has been briefly given in the appendices since it is not central to the problem relating to format. Many books offer good information on style. However, a brief summary and specific items relative to The Way International style are listed in Appendix A. The other two appendices give information on writing and abstracts. In Jesus Christ Is NOT God and Are the Dead Alive Now?, there are several good examples.

The Summary

The final chapter of the paper is entitled "Summary." It has three sections as follows:

1. Summary
2. Conclusions
3. Recommendations

All except the first section should be preceded by the appropriate subheads given above.

The summary is a brief capsulization of all the points made in the paper. It summarizes the material given in the review of literature, thesis and supporting chapters tying everything together.

Then the conclusions are given which should restate the objectives and how they were verified in the study. Here the author tells what he has shown to be the case.

Finally, two kinds of recommendations are given to the reader. The first is recommendations for future action. As a result of the conclusions reached, the writer recommends certain actions which ought to be taken by people. Secondly, he makes recommendations for future study. In other words, his study covered certain facets of the problem, but additional study needs to be done of other facets. Perhaps, these recommendations will trigger future research projects.

The summary in this study offers an adequate example of the form and content of the last chapter of a research paper.

Documentation

Three items are involved in documenting a research project.

1. Footnotes
2. Bibliography
3. Vita

The style for these items are mentioned in any good manual on research papers. There are three possible places to put footnotes: at the bottom of each page, at the end of each chapter and at the end of the book. The one preferred in these projects is at the end of each chapter so that the documentation may be evaluated along with the content of each chapter.

Footnotes are used when information is directly quoted from another source, when an idea found in another source is used or when further comment on a point is made. A good research project is documented. Although footnotes generally appear

throughout the paper, they are often more frequent in the background of the problem, the review of literature and parts of the thesis. Scriptures are never footnoted unless they are quoted from a version other than the King James Version.

A listing of articles and books related to the study at hand is listed in the bibliography. It should be selective and need not cover every work related to the topic as a dissertation would. It should list every work noted in the footnotes as well as all other sources studied for the project even though they are not quoted. The bibliography shows that the researcher has done his homework and is not simply throwing ideas off the top of his imagination. It gives credence to his position.

The vita gives the author's credentials. It tells in brief form the academic accomplishments which give the researcher the right to write on his subject.

The Suitability of the Format

The four kinds of Biblical research are all adaptable to this format. (1) Topical research is the study of a given topic in the Word. Jesus Christ Is NOT God and Are the Dead Alive Now? are both examples of topical studies. Once a topical problem has been identified and a solution proposed, the study can be set up in the prescribed format.

(2) Expository research is the expounding of a given passage in light of all information on the passage. Chapters 6 through 14 of Receiving the Holy Spirit Today are all good examples of expository research, although the book as a whole is a topical study. The problem to be identified in expository

research is misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the passage. The solutions would relate to the correct expounding of the passage in the light of Biblical research principles. The thesis in this case would center on the passage and place related passages in support chapters.

(3) A word study is the study of an individual word throughout the Bible in light of its Biblical usages. Examples of word studies may be seen in chapters 1 and 11 of The New, Dynamic Church and chapter 15 of The Bible Tells Me So. The problem in this case is the understanding of the term while the solution relates to its proposed meaning. The thesis carefully evaluates each use of the word in light of its context.

(4) Historical research in a Biblical area of concern is a specific type of topical research which focuses on historical facts and truths. Was Jesus a Jew? and The Thirteenth Tribe give adequate examples. Again, the problem can be identified as a misunderstood fact or truth and a solution proposed. Many more secondary sources are generally considered in this kind of study.

Results

The Biblical research paper has many traits similar to other research formats as seen in the introduction, review of literature, summary, bibliography, footnotes and vita. Some variations are necessary in Biblical research because God's Word is the only primary source. The variations are seen predominantly in the objectives, thesis and supporting material. The format suggested here can be used for all types of Biblical research except a practical research study which will be dealt with in the next chapter.

Chapter Four

PRACTICAL RESEARCH STUDIES

Some problems and their solutions relate to the practical utilization of Biblical principles rather than an understanding of the scripture itself. Although many problems may be treated as Biblical research or practical research, some students prefer to offer solutions in a practical manner based on Biblical study. Therefore, another format is designed to handle this approach.

Jesus Christ Is Not God is an excellent example of a Biblical research project written in the format discussed in chapter 3. The Word's Way contains 17 examples of shorter Biblical research studies which contain many of the elements of the larger project but in a condensed form. A condensed format is often necessary for publication. However, the format used in chapters 1 through 5 of The Bible Tells Me So is a condensed version of the practical research study. For example, chapter 2, "How to Avoid Being a Failure," starts with a brief introduction followed by a study of the woman who lost one of her ten pieces of silver. Then it discusses how to avoid being a failure today and closes with a brief conclusion.

The title page, table of contents, appendices, bibliography and vita are used with the practical research study as they are with the Biblical research project. However, the chapters have a new design. There are four chapters recommended in the practical study:

1. Introduction
2. Biblical Study
3. Practical Application
4. Summary

The format for these four chapters is systematic and logical. The Bible is again treated as the only primary center of reference for truth. All other sources including experience are secondary. The first (I, we) and second (you) person may be used in this study.

Introduction

Chapter one is again entitled "Introduction" and is similar in format to the previous project. It contains the same seven sections. However, the background of the problem may add personal experiences to the problem shown from God's Word and other literature. The definition of terms may or may not be needed depending on the author's usage of words and phrases. Terms that have unique usages need to be carefully defined.

The objectives need to be stated in terms of how to apply practically the Biblical principles covered in the study. This differs from the Biblical research project in which the objectives are geared toward what the study intends to prove to be a Biblical viewpoint. For example, a Biblical research project's objective may read: "Believers in the Old Testament and gospels were sons of God by adoption, but believers in the New Testament are sons of God by birth." But a practical research study's objective may read: "A son of God today increases his demonstration of power as he recognizes his sonship rights."

The other sections of the introduction may follow the same format as the format mentioned in chapter 3, although some variation may be necessary because of the nature of the topic.

1. Statement of the Problem
2. Background of the Problem
3. Delimitation
4. Definition of Terms
5. Objectives
6. Overview
7. Significance of the Study

Biblical Study

Once the problem is identified and solutions proposed, the writer shows the Biblical viewpoint. Chapter two is a Biblical study which covers all scriptures relevant to the specific problem. The title should be descriptive, not simply "Biblical Study."

Chapter two again begins with a strategy or introduction which restates the problem and some Biblical principles which will later be necessary to the solution. Here the structure of chapter two is again left to the discretion of the writer. It must be logical and systematic showing the seriousness of the problem and the importance of the Word's solutions (which are, of course, Biblical principles).

This chapter closes with a section subtitled "Results." In it the author reiterates the Biblical principles necessary for the solution.

Practical Application

Chapter 3 is designed to show the reader how to apply practically the Biblical principles. The title is again the author's choice.

The chapter opens with a strategy restating the objectives from chapter one, the Biblical principles from chapter two and any keys necessary to understand the study. At the close of the chapter, the results of the study should be given. The subtitle "Results" is used and the objectives are restated as results. The rest of the chapter is to be systematic and logical according to the author's approach.

The content of chapter three may state a position the author is taking, a list of "How to..." or any number of forms. Any claims need to be backed up with evidence. It should inspire as well as instruct the reader. Great freedom is permitted in this section of the paper provided it flows with the Bible. On occasions, students may even want to develop this section into a novel, play, short story or other artistic masterpiece.

Summary

The summary should again contain the three sections with appropriate subtitles: Summary, conclusions and recommendations. This is the fourth and final chapter and is entitled "Summary." The summary dwells on the Biblical study and the conclusions are drawn from the practical application with a restatement of the objectives. Recommendations for future action and study are stated at the end.

Chapter Five

SUMMARY

The material presented in this study shows the need for two specific formats for Biblical research papers, one for academic Biblical research and one for practical Biblical research. The existing formats for the various secular research methods are not appropriate for Biblical research. Most methods employ the scientific means of instrumentation for methodology. Since the Bible is the only primary source in Biblical research, certain changes need to be made in terminology and in the format of the review of literature.

The Biblical research paper has traits similar to other formats although some variations are necessary. These variations are seen predominantly in the objectives, thesis and supporting material.

Conclusions

The first format suggested in this study is appropriate for Biblical research and academic in nature. The paper has five chapters: introduction, review of literature, thesis, supporting chapters, and summary. The introduction has seven sections similar to most introductions:

1. Statement of the Problem
2. Background of the Problem
3. Delimitation
4. Definition of Terms
5. Objectives
6. Overview
7. Significance of the Study

A review of literature is limited to a selected bibliography of pertinent information treated as secondary sources and the Bible is the primary source. It shows the need for a different solution.

The thesis shows from the Scriptures the validity of the objectives. The thesis is the heart of the paper developed systematically and logically by the author. Every scripture central to the objectives is covered in the chapter.

The supporting chapters contain additional information which is directly related to the problem but not central to the solution. This material needs to be divided systematically by the author. Additional material, which is indirectly related to the problem, may be relegated to appendices.

The final chapter is the summary which not only summarizes the material but, more importantly, states the conclusions of the whole study. It also makes recommendations for future action and for future study.

Other essential parts of the paper include the title page, table of contents, footnotes, bibliography and vita. The entire paper is finally typed in acceptable academic style.

This format can be used for topical, expository, word and historical studies. However, practical research studies require another format containing four chapters: introduction, Biblical study, practical application and summary. The first and last sections in design are the same as those found in a Biblical research project. However, the Biblical study shows the seriousness of the problem, the need for a solution and solutions

from God's Word. The practical application focuses on the objectives stated in terms of how to apply the Biblical principles covered in the Biblical study. This chapter can take on a variety of forms.

Recommendations

Any Biblical research student who sees the importance of the written Word will also see the value in presenting biblical research material for posterity in order that others may know the certainty of the things taught. The research project makes known new discoveries in God's Word. The student with a knowledge of a topic of concern, interest and need to him and with a knowledge of the correct format as presented in this study can produce a project demonstrating mastery. Laying aside all fears and developing an attitude of success, he can say, "I can do a Biblical research project."

Although this study presents an acceptable Biblical research project format, it does not limit the student from using variations for his specific needs. In any plan, there must be flexibility to meet such needs. Nevertheless, the two formats stated in this paper are designed to give a guideline for developing successful research projects.

Further study is needed in the areas of writing styles. Effective methods of expounding scriptures as well as organizing the writing in logical form are subjects for future study. A student also needs to consider these specifics in writing a meaningful paper, although a major stumbling block in completing a research project is easily overcome by following the guidelines of format presented in this study.

Appendix A

RESEARCH PAPER STYLE

- I. Title page (See title page of this study for an example)
 - A. Lines 11, 13, 15--Title of paper centered in all capital letters. Use inverted pyramid style. Use a long, descriptive title.
 - B. In the center of your paper, type "by" on line 32. Then double-space and center your name on line 34.
 - C. On lines 46, 48 and 50, type in inverted pyramid style:

A Biblical Research Project Submitted in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for
The Way Corps Graduation

Line 46 will start "A Practical Research Study..." if that format is used.
 - D. On line 56 center the name of your institution, e.g., The Way College of Emporia or The Way College of Biblical Research.
 - E. About one inch from the bottom of the paper on line 58, center the date submitted (March 30, 1978).
- II. Table of Contents (See Table of Contents of this study for example)
 - A. Line 10--TABLE OF CONTENTS--centered.
 - B. Line 13--the word "Page" near right-hand margin.
 - C. Begin chapters on line 15. Type chapter titles in all caps but subtitles in caps and lower case. Indent subtitles two more spaces than titles. Double space before and after all titles but single-space between subtitles. List page numbers at right and connect them to titles and subtitles with dots.
- III. Chapter Titles
 - A. All chapters should have the chapter number on line 10 and the title on line 12.

- B. Title pages should not be numbered unless it is centered at the bottom.

IV. Page Numbers

The first page of chapter one is page "1." All pages before this are counted "i," "ii," etc. All pages after that are counted "1," "2," etc. Page numbers appear in the upper, right-hand corner (check Form and Style to see exactly how to do it). All pages are counted; however, a page with a title is either left without the number on it or the page number appears at the bottom center of the page.

V. Margins

Left-hand margins are 1½ inches. Top, bottom and right-hand margins are 1 inch. On a page with a chapter title, the top margin is 1½ inches.

VI. Scripture

- A. Never abbreviate references.
- B. If scripture quoted is three lines or longer, use indented quotation style. Single-space and indent four spaces.
- C. Do not double-space between verses. The first line of each verse starts on the left. The reference goes before the quote followed by a colon; then single space.
- D. Observe God's Magnified Word for examples. It is done correctly.

- VII. Greek, Aramaic and Hebrew words are not in all capital letters. They are underlined. Transliterate into English letters. Be sure to indicate long and short vowels (as that signifies the difference between two different Greek letters).

- VIII. Refer to "yourself" in the third person, author, writer, researcher. Never use the first or second person in the Biblical research project. However, all three persons are permitted in the practical research study.

- IX. - Examples of bibliography and footnotes appear in this paper. Refer to Form and Style for complete details.

Appendix B

RULES FOR GOOD WRITING

1. Prefer the familiar word to the unfamiliar.
2. Prefer nouns and verbs to adjectives and adverbs.
3. Prefer picture nouns and actions verbs.
4. Never use a long word when a short one will do as well.
5. Master the simple declarative sentence.
6. Prefer the simple sentence to the complicated.
7. Put the words you want to emphasize at the beginning or end of your sentence.
8. Vary your sentence length.
9. Use the active voice.
10. Put statements in a positive form.
11. Cut needless words, sentences and paragraphs.
12. Use plain language.
13. Avoid imitation. Write in your natural style.
14. Write clearly.
15. Avoid gobbledygook and jargon. Communicate in layman's language.
16. Write to be understood, not to impress.
17. Revise and rewrite. Improvement is always possible.
18. Give yourself a project, a goal and a deadline.
19. Use living figures of speech.

Appendix C

WRITING AN ABSTRACT

An abstract is a brief statement of the essential parts of the research paper. Each project should have an abstract which can be used in publications to show others what is available in research work. An abstract for The Way International is to be styled as follows:

1. It cannot be longer than the front and back of one page (8½" x 11").
2. The title appears on lines 7 and 8 (starting at the left-hand margin).
3. The author appears on line 9 (starting at left).
4. The name of the school appears on line 10 (starting at left).
5. The date the paper is submitted appears on line 11 (starting at left).
6. On the right hand on lines 9, 10 and 11 should appear topic key words used to identify the paper by subject matter.
7. The body of the abstract is single spaced except between paragraphs. It starts on line 13 of the front page. It contains five sections without subtitles.
 - a. Statement of the problem
 - b. Delimitation
 - c. Overview
 - d. Summary
 - e. Conclusions

Most of these sections can be lifted right from the study itself although it may have to be condensed somewhat.

8. See the page following for an example of an abstract.

Preparing the Written Research Paper For A Biblical Research Project At
The Way International

Walter J. Cummins
The Way College of Emporia
April 1, 1979

Research
Writing

Many students are set back at the thought of producing a research paper. Although years of learning have adequately prepared them for the task, the thought of putting their knowledge together in acceptable written form appears as a monumental task. Even doctoral students having fulfilled all other requirements have stopped short of their goal because they will not write a dissertation.

Many books have been written and tapes made which are designed to help the student improve his self-esteem and attitude. A sufficient number of publications offer information on form and style for writing research projects dealing with experimental, developmental, historical, descriptive, case and field, correlational, causal comparative and action research. But there remains a general lack of knowledge in designing and completing a Biblical research project in acceptable academic format.

In chapter two of this study, the generally accepted formats for various research papers are discussed. These formats are evaluated for vital components necessary to Biblical research projects.

Chapter three presents the format for Biblical research projects showing examples from previous works. It verifies the similarity between the suggested format and other academic projects. It also shows its usability for various types of Biblical research.

A brief discussion of a suggested format for a practical research study follows in chapter four. This unique format is offered because of the special nature of a practical application study.

A summary, conclusions, recommendations for future study and recommendations for future action are presented in chapter five. The appendices contain information on research project style.

The material presented in this study shows the need for two specific formats for Biblical research papers, one for academic Biblical research and one for practical Biblical research. The existing formats for the various secular research methods are not appropriate for Biblical research. Most methods employ the scientific means of instrumentation for methodology. Since the Bible is the only primary source in Biblical research, certain changes need to be made in terminology and in the format of the review of literature.

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A review of literature is limited to a selected bibliography of pertinent information treated as secondary sources and the Bible is the primary source. It shows the need for a different solution.

The thesis shows from the scripture the validity of the objectives. The thesis is the heart of the paper developed systematically and logically by the author. Every scripture central to the objectives is covered in the chapter.

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The final chapter is the summary which not only summarizes the material but, more importantly, states the conclusions of the whole study. It also makes recommendations for future action and for future study.

Other essential parts of the paper include the title page, table of contents, footnotes, bibliography and vita. The entire paper is finally typed in acceptable academic style.

This format can be used for topical, expository, word and historical studies. However, practical research studies require another format containing four chapters: introduction, Biblical study, practical application and summary. The first and last sections in design are the same as those found in a Biblical research project. However, the Biblical study shows the seriousness of the problem, the need for a solution and solutions from God's Word. The practical application focuses on the objectives stated in terms of how to apply the Biblical principles covered in the Biblical study. This chapter can take on a variety of forms.

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VITA

The author graduated from the Power for Abundant Living class in 1962 while in high school. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Ohio State University in 1968. After graduation, he was ordained to the Christian ministry by The Way International.

He served as a high school English teacher in Waynesfield, Ohio for one year, a high school mathematics teacher in New Bremen, Ohio, for two years while helping The Way International as a part-time Biblical research and teaching assistant. In 1971, he assumed the full-time position of assistant to the president of The Way International.

In 1974-75, he worked nine months at the Institut für Neutestamentliche Textforschung in Münster, West Germany, studying microfilm of Greek manuscripts. He received a Master of Education degree in educational administration in 1978 from Wright State University. The author is a member of Kappa Delta Pi, an educational honor society.

He has served as senior faculty advisor for the Biblical research projects for The Way International and its campuses since 1975. New Testament Greek, Advanced Keys to Research and various Biblical studies are among the courses he has taught under the auspices of The Way International.