

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

The material presented in this study shows the need for a specific format for Biblical research papers. 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.

The format suggested in this study is appropriate for Biblical research and academic in nature. The paper has four chapters: introduction, review of literature, thesis 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 as 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 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, appendixes, bibliography and vita. The entire paper is finally typed in acceptable academic style.