

go through hours of classes so they can approve. If you want to be a member, you must sign a contract or a statement of theological belief. Now many wonderful churches do this sort of thing, but when there is a manipulative leader, you'll normally find an endless number of hurdles to jump over. They want to test you, over and over, to make sure you're being submissive.

• They will never let you off the hook. A manipulative leader can never, ever let you be fully free in Christ. There must always be something wrong with you or else you will no longer need them and will no longer have to submit.

[The original article is at <http://storylineblog.com/2013/09/19/>. The writer incorrectly uses the word "pastor" quite frequently; which I try real hard to not reprint.]

News:

October 25 is the Fall get-together at the Cunninghams. Around 6 P.M. until they're tired of us.

Ladies Bible class will actually be held (as it's been scheduled in the bulletin but not held for several months) beginning September 26 at 10 A.M. The lesson will be #3: Taking off the Old Self – Putting on Love, in the Fruits of the Spirit study.

Next Sunday, 29, is \$1 Million Sunday in which participating churches will have special contributions for the support of Eastern European Mission (eem.org). We too will have a special collection next Sunday.

Prayer List:

Healing: *Jerry Robinson's mother Norma. Mike and Sandy Cavasos, Ben Atchley, Faye Atchley, Nicolas and Annie Self, Jonda Gardner, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.*

Back issues are posted at
<http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>



Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

22 September 2013

Topics

A.M. Bible Class: Seal of Ownership

A.M. Lesson: Christ Jesus Our Lord and Master

Romans 6:15 ff

P.M. Lesson: Man Did Not Create Yahweh!

Isaiah 44:1-23

Wednesday: The Good King Asa, and

Religious War Against King Baasha

1 Kings 15:9 ff

Notes

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Ben Atchley: 428-2246

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Services

Sunday Bible Class 10:00 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.

Sunday Evening Worship 6:30 P.M.

Wednesday Evening Class 6:30 P.M.

Thursday Ladies Bible Class 10:00 A.M.

My Favorite Three Bible Study Methods

Andy Deane, author of *Learn to Study the Bible*

This article appeared on September 18, 2013 on blog.olivetree.com

Studying the Scriptures is supposed to be exciting! That's why King David tells us in Psalm 119:103: "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey my mouth!" Like me, I hope that you have found this verse to be true. Maybe, like me, you have also discovered that having plain honey multiple times a day can get repetitive. I'm not saying that God's word becomes boring over time. Actually, it's quite the opposite. I love that God's word is so diverse and continues to excite and bless the reader taste after taste. The Scriptures are not to blame if we lose our taste for them. The

Bible is designed to be a continual blessing to the believer. But believers may sometimes need to mix up how they study the Scriptures to make sure to avoid the ruts that their method of extracting the honey can bring about. Sometimes when we use the same approach to studying each and every day, the approach can become repetitive. It's not God's word that needs new spice, it's the method of study that needs variety. That is why I wrote *Learn to Study the Bible*. With forty different ways to study the Scriptures, you always have a fresh way to prepare and digest your daily manna from heaven.

I'd like to share briefly the three ways that I personally enjoy studying the Bible.

FAVORITE VERSE BIBLE STUDY METHOD:

To start, please consider buying a new Bible to use with this method, or at least a new color highlighter. Begin by reading one to four chapters of the Bible a day. Remember that reading one chapter a day will get you through the entire New Testament in a year with one hundred make up days for when you miss a day of reading. Four chapters a day will get you through the entire Bible in a year in less than 25 minutes of reading time. The key is that each day you underline only one favorite verse from each chapter you read. That's easy when you are in Leviticus but extremely difficult when you are in Matthew! After you are finished reading the entire book, go back and circle one favorite verse from the verses you underlined in the whole book. Write a few sentences in your Bible about why that is your favorite verse for that book. After you've read the whole Bible, you'll have 1,189 favorite verses underlined (one from each chapter) and 66 all-time favorite verses (one from each book). Think about how valuable that Bible will be to you because of this investment. As you turn to any page in Scripture you will remember which verse spoke to your heart the most. You might even consider putting the date next to the verses you choose to connect them to your daily journal to enhance the experience even more. These will become the verses you choose to memorize since they have meaning to you. It's a simple but fruitful and personal way to study the Bible.

TRANSLATION COMPARISON BIBLE STUDY METHOD

Not every student of God's word is going to have the blessing of learning the original biblical languages. But that doesn't mean that we can't stand on the shoulders of scholars who spend their lives steeped in these languages, and this is the beauty of the Translation Comparison Bible Study Method. Every translation of the Bible represents the understanding and choice of dozens of skilled language scholars. When you see a unique word

in a verse, you can be sure an important decision was made to choose that word over another word. This method helps you notice the different word selections that scholars made when creating English translations of the Bible. You'll also learn how to prayerfully meditate on why these words were chosen over other words and how that can impact your understanding of the text.

DAILY BREAD BIBLE STUDY METHOD

Sometimes our biggest problem is rushing our reading of a passage of Scripture. If we simply slow down and chew on God's word then we would be blessed by it. Slowing down is exactly what the Daily Bread Bible Study Method will force you to do. With this method, you'll learn techniques that invite you to take the time to make sure you're squeezing all the meaning you can out of the Scriptures. If you've struggled with understanding what your [preacher] means when he tells you to "meditate on God's word," then this method is for you. [In brief, the steps to this method are: 1) Choose a passage, paragraph or chapter to study. 2) Pray for spiritual guidance. 3) Meditate upon the meaning of the text and how you can apply it to your life. 4) Plan one application. 5) Carry your favorite verse with you on a small piece of paper.]

I hope these three Bible study methods that I use personally will bless you as you experiment with them. Remember that however you mix it up, keep it exciting—don't let your Bible study time become dull or a duty. I hope you'll enjoy and use one of these methods, but don't forget that you should never become devoted to the method—only to the Savior to whom the methods lead!

How to Spot a Manipulative Church Leader

storylineblog.com

Here's how to smell out a manipulator in a religious setting:

A Christian leader who is manipulative will:

- Never be truly vulnerable. They will never tell stories about their weaknesses. If they do, those stories will be about how they are too strong, too devout and too many other things that are more or less humble brags.
- Always have the true answer, and truth is truth because they said it. The truth is the Bible is complex, but a manipulator knows they can't get you to submit if they don't have ALL the answers. Certainly, educated leaders have answers, but nobody has all the answers. Manipulators do. They want to tell you how to live.
- They make you jump through hoops. If you want to get married, you must