

Mining for Gold: Discovering God's Truth for Yourself. By Ken Hemphill. Tigerville, South Carolina: Auxano Press, 2016. 138 pages. Paperback, \$9.99.

Without overwhelming the reader, the author describes the benefits of, and attitudes for, enriching Bible study, getting to know your Bible, reading your Bible for all its worth (a worthy borrowing and citing of a 1982 publication by this title done by Fee and Stuart), discovering the plain meaning of the text, digging deeper by studying an entire book, and discovering gold in topical studies.

Also, helpful appendixes explain how to begin a relationship with Christ, tools for gold mining, reading plans, a sample of what must be asked of the text utilizing 1 Peter, and, finally, a detailed outline of Ephesians.

The “Top Ten Reasons for Studying God’s Word” are golden, beginning with “studying the Bible allows us to know God intimately” (p. 2). The author rightly emphasizes the necessity of an authentic conversion experience “in order to enjoy effective and profitable Bible study” (p. 14).

Moreover, the author rightly contends that it is a faithful and trustworthy saying that studying the Bible will keep us from sin, or sin will keep us from studying the Bible, to paraphrase him (p. 7). He also asserts that “it is central to all knowledge and provides the grid by which we evaluate all other knowledge” (p. 25), an essential tenet for establishing and maintaining a Christian worldview in any culture, especially one hostile to Christianity. Likewise, the author declares another seemingly unnoticed or forgotten truth: “The Bible is not a story about humanity trying to find or explain God; it is the story of God explaining Himself to humanity” (p. 26). He similarly explains inspiration (pp. 29-30), infallibility (p. 31), and inerrancy (p. 31), along with canonization, selection of a good Bible and translation, types of reading the Bible, as well as providing extremely helpful instructional checklists for doing biblical exegesis (pp. 92-3) and hermeneutics (p. 93), along with supplying excellent steps on studying an entire Bible-book and doing topical studies.

One would be hard-pressed to find a better, more readable, basic, systematic explanation of how to do Bible study than *Mining for Gold*. I highly recommend it.

Michael A. Cox, B.A., M.Div.B.L., D.Min.
Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church
Pryor, Oklahoma