THE INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY METHOD

<u>Introduction</u>

"Some years ago Professor Charles G. Osgood of Princeton wrote a little book called <u>Poetry as a Means of Grace</u> in which he recommended an intimate acquaintance with any one of the great poets as an antidote to modern materialism. " Choose this author," he said, "as friends are chosen... think of him daily in odd moments. Read a bit of him as often as you can, until at least parts of him become part of yourself. Do not consult other books or people by way of explaining him any more than you can help. Know him first. Let him explain himself. What you thus come to know in him will every day seem new and fresh; every recourse to him brings forth new thought, new feeling, new application, and new aspects of things familiar. He becomes an antiseptic agent against all the agencies that tend to make life sour, stale, and insipid." (<u>Poetry as a Means of Grace</u>, Charles G. Osgood, Princeton, 1941, page 22). In this plea for living fellowship with some great poet, Professor Osgood has also expressed the way in which we Christians should use our Bible. "We might add, if for a student of literature poetry can exercise this remedial effect, how much more will the Bible do for the Christian who learns to live in its pages " (Frank E. Gaebelein, <u>The Pattern of God's Truth</u>, pages 45, 46).

The method which we are going to follow in this course is "the inductive method." I call this method "The Discipline of the Diligent."

1A   Definition: "The inductive approach is a methodical approach (orderly procedure) with a view to becoming receptive and reproductive by means of a first-hand acquaintance with the Word of God."

2A   Delineations

1C   Methodical. Inductive Bible study follows a standard procedure. It is systematic and objective.

2C   Personal. It is also personal. It requires that you interact personally with the text.

3C   Biblical. The Bible is the primary source. The focus is on studying the Bible.

THE FOUR STAGES OF INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

OBSERVATION: "What do I see?"

INTERPRETATION: "What does it mean?"

CORRELATION: "How does it fit?"

APPLICATION: "How does it relate?"